

Influence of Unemployment on Quality of Life among the Youth of Jammu and Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This research paper is a bid to study the effect of gender and birth order on quality of life among unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir. **Design:** This study is based on sample of 200 subjects equally divided into two equal groups gender (male and female) further these two groups are equally divided into two more sub groups on the basis of birth order (first born and second born). Quality of Life Scale was used for data collection. For statistical analysis Mean and Two way analysis of variance (ANOVA) were applied. **Findings:** The findings from this study indicate that gender and birth order have significant effect on quality of life. Results also show that male and second born unemployed persons have good quality of life than female and first born unemployed persons. **Conclusion:** It is concluded that both gender and birth order are influential factors of quality of life.

Keywords: *Quality of life, Unemployment, Gender, Birth order*

Quality of life refers to person's perception to his position in life in the context of his culture and value systems in which he live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. This considers individuals' satisfaction towards every aspect of life. The term quality of life is most popularly used to convey an overall sense of well-being. It is not only defined as one's general health but also by psychological well-being, social relationships, functional roles and subjective sense of life satisfaction. It is a multidimensional concept whose definition and assessment remains controversial. It is conceptualized in terms of an absence of pain or an ability to function in day to day life.

It is well known fact that unemployment is a big challenge throughout the world. In India 116 million people are jobless among which 84 million are educated and 32 million are illiterate. About 7.2 million people having technical diploma or certificate other than a degree are also without job. Kerala state had the highest graduate unemployment rate at over 30%. (Census report 2011).

World Economic Forum (WEF) highlighted that youth unemployment is one of the major threats in 2014; experts warn that youth unemployment can lead to extremism, outbreaks of social unrest and destroy the hope of sustainable economic growth. Unemployment is not only responsible for economical backwardness but various psychological problems like

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anxiety, stress, depression, poor quality of life, high criminality, suicidal tendencies and suicide ideations are found among unemployed youth.

Gender differences in the correlates of employment status have been interpreted as the cumulative reflection of gender-asymmetric roles across the life course. In the 1940s, women began to join the men in the labour force, in a time of traditional gender norms with regard to male breadwinning and female homemaking. Quick (1998) reported that men experienced a well and more continuous employment career in the breadwinning role, in which employment was recognized as their central role in their families' lives. However, in the second half of the twentieth century, the women's participation in the labour market increased. In 2014, the overall global female labour force participation rate stood at 50.3 percent, which means that half of all women of working age were either employed or looking for work (International Labor Organization 2009).

There are various studies reporting that unemployment is associated with adverse health conditions and low life satisfaction among modern youth like Bell and Blanch flower (2010) reported that unemployment is mainly associated with unhappiness, both for those who are experiencing it as well as those who are employed but fear unemployment in a time of high job insecurity. Also, it been recognized that unemployment is associated with a series of negative health consequences, both physical and psychological which tend to grow disproportionately with the duration of unemployment. Bell *et al.*, (2009) stated that governments are rightly concerned about rising levels of youth unemployment and underemployment, because of it not only the direct economic costs, but also due to the social impact of joblessness as manifested by increased crime, mental health problems, violence, drug taking and social exclusion. Brereton *et al.*, (2008) revealed that unemployed males and females are equally dissatisfied. Results also reveal that part time employment had a significant negative impact on life satisfaction among males. Bruce (1997) examined that crime was on its peak among unemployed society. Fougere *et al.*, (2009) established that increased youth unemployment causes an increase in burglaries, thefts and drug offences. Gallie *et al.*, (1998) found that unemployment led to lower levels of life satisfaction. Jin *et al.*, (2015) investigated gender difference in relationship between health related quality of life and work status. Results revealed that quality of life was better among working adults than non working adults. Khurram *et al.*, (2013) found a highly significant association between family income of the respondents and psychological impact of unemployment. Lars *et al.*, (2007) revealed that unemployed youth shows principally negative experience and lower levels of quality of life than the reference group. Findings also indicate that unemployed young adults reported good quality of life. Stankunas *et al.*, (2006) found that that sadness and depression is common in unemployment. Waheed (2002) concluded that joblessness is a countless socioeconomic problem. It is a great cause of individual poverty, due to unemployment, corruption and crimes increased.

Objectives

1. To investigate the effect of gender on the quality of life among unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. To examine the effect of birth order on the quality of life among unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. To inspect the interaction effect of gender and birth order on quality of life among youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Hypotheses

1. The gender has significant effect on quality of life.
2. The birth order has significant effect on quality of life.
3. There would be significant interaction effect between gender and birth order.

Variables

In the present study:

- Independent variable was quality of life.
- Dependent variable was gender and birth order.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

In this study total number of samples 200 was collected from Jammu and Kashmir and has equally divided into two groups on the basis of gender 100 males and 100 females. Further these two groups were equally divided into two more sub groups on the basis on the basis of birth order (first born and second born) each group consists of 50 subjects; selected through random sampling method.

Materials

Quality of Life Scale (QOLS) constructed by Sarika Sharma and Dr. Nakhat Nasreen was used for data collection. This scale consists of 42 items to measure the quality of life of the subjects.

Procedure

In the present study the researcher investigated the level of quality of life among unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Sample of 200 subjects was selected through random sampling method. The whole data was obtained using Quality of Life Scale (QOLS). The whole procedure of filling the inventory was explained to subjects very clearly. Also, the instructions given on the inventory were clearly explained to the subjects. The scores were assigned for different responses according to the items. The scores were arranged in tabular form first than Analysis of Variance was applied. Also mean and SD value of every group was calculated as shown in the following tables.

RESULTS

Table-1 Mean scores of male and female unemployment subjects

Gender	N	Total Score	\bar{X}
Male	100	8887	88.87
Female	100	7520	75.20

Table-2 Mean scores of first and second born unemployment subjects

Birth order	N	Total Score	\bar{X}
First born	100	8030	80.30
Second born	100	8850	88.50

Figure: 1 Mean scores of Male, Female, First born and Second born subjects.

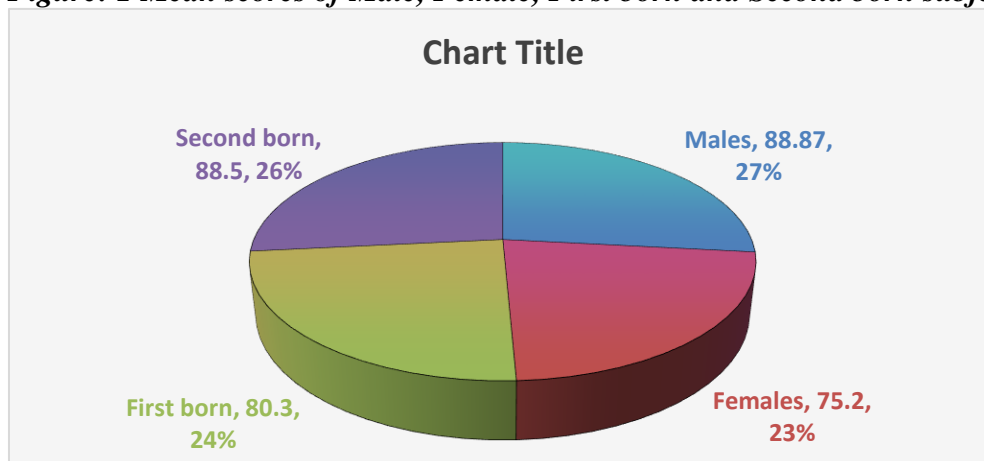


Table- 3 Summary Table of Analysis of Variance

Sources of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F. Ratio
(A) Gender	10150.45	1	10150.45	32.16*
(B) Birth Order	1231.45	1	1231.45	8.25*
interaction effect (AB)	13.15	1	13.15	0.05
Within group error	2365.25	1.96	122.69	0
Total	13760.3	199		

*significant at 0.05 level

DISCUSSION

The findings of this present investigation showed that unemployed females have low quality of life than unemployed males as the obtained mean of males ($M=88.87$) is more than mean score of females ($M=75.20$). Results also indicated that first born children have low quality of life than second born child because we found that mean score ($M=80.30$) of first born children is less than the mean scores ($M=88.50$) of second born children.

According to the ANOVA table the obtained F-value (32.16, df 1/196) of gender variable is found significant at 0.05 level of significance. Similarly, F-value (8.25, df 1/196) of birth order is also found more than tabulation value at 0.05 level. Therefore, our first and second hypothesis is partially accepted. Thus, we can say that both gender and birth order is influential variables in quality of life.

Interaction Effect

Our third hypothesis is rejected as the obtained F- value [0.05, df 1/196] of the interaction effect of gender and birth order is found insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore we can say that there is no significant interaction effect of gender and birth order on quality of life among unemployment youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of our findings of the present study it is conclude that male and second born unemployment youth of Jammu and Kashmir have good quality of life than female and first born unemployment youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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