

## **Thematic Question-5 (Sample Solution)**

The World Bank's latest report on Bangladesh draws a grim picture of the country's employment scenario, especially among the tertiary-educated youth. It shows that the unemployment rate has tripled among graduates in the last nine years. Moreover, job losses and wage cuts may push nearly 12 lakh people below the poverty line this year.

The report points to the lack of job creation in the formal private sector as a major reason for joblessness among the educated youth. Even the readymade garment sector—which generates nearly half of the country's total firm revenues—provides only 1 out of every 12 formal private-sector jobs. While employment stagnation in large industries is a crucial factor, many employers also do not find the skills they look for among the graduates. Unfortunately, we have not seen any significant shift in our education policy to produce graduates with up-to-date and industry-specific skills. Over the years, private and public tertiary educational institutions have mushroomed without much thought as to the demands of the local and global industries.

Obtaining a tertiary-level degree remains largely a path to social status, rather than one to help in a specific career.

There is also little encouragement for the educated youth to become entrepreneurs. Too many bureaucratic obstacles, combined with financial constraints, corruption, nepotism, and political instability, are also discouraging entrepreneurial pursuits. These also prevent small and medium enterprises from expanding and creating lucrative job opportunities for the educated youth. The employment situation is even worse for female graduates, as per the WB report. It is, therefore, not a surprise that a large section of graduates look for government jobs that offer better security and benefits.

Unfortunately, government jobs absorb only less than five percent of the total workforce, and as such, cannot be the solution for our unemployment crisis. While this may address some concerns among the educated youth, providing them with upskilling opportunities in collaboration with industries would be the better way to tackle the perennial unemployment problem. In the long run, the objective should be to initiate reforms that lead to job creation in the private sector, encourage entrepreneurship, and restructure the education system to better prepare graduates and align their skills with the demands of employers.

## Questions:

1. According to the World Bank report, how has the **unemployment rate among graduates** changed over the past nine years in Bangladesh?
2. What are some of the key **reasons for joblessness among tertiary-educated youth** in Bangladesh, as highlighted in the report?
3. Why is the **readymade garment sector insufficient in** addressing the unemployment problem despite its large contribution to firm revenues?
4. What **factors discourage entrepreneurship** among the educated youth in Bangladesh, according to the report?
5. What **solution does the passage suggest** to address the issue of unemployment among graduates in the long term?

## **Sample Answers:**

### **1. Unemployment Rate Change:**

The unemployment rate among graduates in Bangladesh has tripled in the last nine years, highlighting a serious issue in the job market. Despite completing higher education, many young people are unable to find employment due to limited job creation, especially in the private sector. This rising unemployment among the educated is leading to increased frustration and financial instability.

### **2. Reasons for Joblessness Among Educated Youth:**

Several factors contribute to joblessness among educated youth in Bangladesh:

- A lack of job creation in the formal private sector.
- Limited opportunities in key sectors like the readymade garment industry, which doesn't generate enough jobs relative to its size.
- A mismatch between the skills employers seek and those that graduates have.
- An education system that isn't aligned with industry needs, resulting in graduates who are not ready for the current job market.

### **3. Readymade Garment Sector's Role:**

Although the readymade garment industry is a major economic force in Bangladesh, it provides only a small portion of formal jobs. Its employment growth has decayed, and it mainly offers low-wage positions, leaving few opportunities for highly educated graduates. As a result, the sector's job creation doesn't meet the needs of the growing number of educated youths.

### **4. Factors Discouraging Entrepreneurship:**

Educated youth are often discouraged from starting their own businesses due to several obstacles:

- Excessive bureaucratic hurdles.
- Financial difficulties and lack of access to capital.
- Corruption and nepotism.
- Political instability, which creates an uncertain environment for new ventures.

## 5. Suggested Long-term Solutions:

To solve the unemployment problem, several steps are recommended:

- Reforming the education system to equip graduates with skills that match industry demands.
- Creating more job opportunities in the private sector.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship by removing barriers and supporting small and medium enterprises.
- Offering upskilling programs through partnerships between educational institutions and industries.

**Write a summary of the passage within 100 words without copying from the passage:**

**Sample:** The World Bank's report reveals a sharp increase in unemployment among educated youth in Bangladesh, particularly graduates. Despite higher education, there aren't enough jobs, especially in the private sector. The garment industry, while large, provides few positions for graduates, and many employers find graduates lack needed skills. Entrepreneurship is discouraged by financial obstacles, corruption, and political instability, with female graduates facing additional challenges. Long-term solutions include reforming the education system to align with industry demands, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating more private-sector jobs, as government employment can only absorb a small fraction of the workforce.

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