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Social And Economic Status Of Educated Youth In Agra

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Abstract: *Employment is a crucial aspect of economic stability and social development. In India, the employment scenario for educated youth has been a topic of concern due to the mismatch between education and job availability. Agra, a city known for its tourism and handicraft industry, has witnessed changes in employment patterns, especially among its educated youth. This paper deals with the study of socio-economic status of educated youth belonging to the age group of 22-35 years of Agra district. This focuses on age, gender, family structure, education, occupation and income of educated youth..*

Key words: Employment Pattern, Educated Youth, Socio-Economic, Job Market, Income.

Introduction- The youth of a country are its future. Only if we can capitalize on the current demographic dividend will the adage that India's growing youth are the world's future hold true. It was necessary to study the many determinants that control their development at the root level. They fall under the category of socioeconomic status. It is an all-encompassing phrase used by researchers, social scientists, sociologists, economists, and others to characterize the social and economic status of a person or group. There is a well-established and well studied correlation between a person's social level and their growth. It can have either a positive or negative impact and is determined by a variety of characteristics, including age, gender, income, occupation, and education. It can have a beneficial or bad effect on a person's life and is determined by a variety of circumstances, including age, gender, income, occupation, and education. They significantly affect academic performance, which in turn predicts an individual's level of performance in the job market. Key socioeconomic factors, including as occupation, education, income, age, gender, and family structure, influence the economic circumstances and social standing of the populace. All of these factors influence users' present and future strategies, therefore academics should pay attention to them.

Literature Review

Yoshifumi Usami, Vikas Rawal (2018) : The study found that although bulk of workers with little or no education were employed in agriculture between 2004-05 and 2011-12, contraction of agricultural employment caused workers with higher secondary education to leave agriculture, in addition to some of the workers with low levels of education. Construction sector employed workers with the lowest educational attainment.

Sandhya Mahapatro (2017) examined the determinants of choice of sector of employment among women. The findings revealed that instead of increase in the level of education, women participation was higher in informal employment, the major reason being absence of jobs in the formal sector.

Study Area- Agra District, located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, is one of India's most iconic regions, primarily due to the presence of the Taj Mahal. It lies in the Braj region and is part of the Agra Division. The district is an administrative and cultural hub with a mix of urban and rural areas. It has a rich historical past and a promising future growth and modernization can be foreseen in the city as well. It is also turning up to be a youth hub as the inflow of young crowd is increasing in the city and thus the present study concentrates on various dimensions of youth employment patterns.

Hypotheses-

1. The age of educated youth does not have significant association with respect to tehsils in the district.



- The gender of educated youth does not have significant association with respect to tehsils in the district.
- The average income of educated youth does not differ significantly across tehsils in the district.

Methodology-

Sampling Design: The sampling design of the study is based on the Multi stage sampling. There are Six tehsils in Agra district. 3 tehsils namely Agra Sadar, Etmadpur and Kiraoli were selected by following purposive sampling method. Second stage of sampling involved selection of educated youth in the study area. Snowball technique was used to select respondents who have been employed and belonged to the age group of 22-35 years and had graduation or above qualification. For this purpose, 400 respondents will selected from Agra district. Further, in order to analyze the regional disparity, 200 respondents from Agra Sadar tehsil, 100 respondents from Etmadpur tehsil, and 100 from Kiraoli tehsil were selected for the proposed study.

Data Collection & Analysis Of Data: The necessary primary data were collected through well designed questionnaire. A huge quantum of relevant and required literature was collected through secondary sources like journals, local publications, websites, newspapers, survey reports and government reports etc. related to youth employment patterns and allied issues.

Data collected were subject to analysis so as to derive interpretations to meet our objectives. Primary data were tabulated and transferred to the computer. Responses of 400 educated youth were entered in an excel sheet which was further transformed into user friendly format through the method of coding. In the next step, this data on the excel sheet was exported to SPSS software and the necessary tools and techniques were then applied. these tools and techniques will used for data analysis: Weighted Mean, Chi-Square Test, Likert Scale Technique, Parametric Statistical Technique: One Way ANOVA.

Age Structure of Educated Youth: Age is one of the important criteria in this study as it is based on youth segment of the society and focuses on the specific and diverse age group of youth.

Table-1 Age-wise Classification of Educated Youth

Age (in Years)	Tehsil						District		χ^2 Test of Independence
	Agra Sadar	%	Etmadpur	%	Kiraoli	%	Total	%	
22-25	46	23.00	3	3.00	24	24.00	73	18.25	$\chi^2 = 27.707$ df= 6 P value= 0.000
25-28	55	27.50	27	27.00	24	24.00	106	26.50	
28-31	33	16.5	33	33.00	26	26.00	92	23.00	H0 not accepted
31-35	66	33.0	37	37.00	26	26.00	129	32.25	Significant at = 5%
Total	200 (28.89)	100	100 (30.23)	100	100 (28.82)	100	400 (29.21)	100	

Youth of Agra district were divided into age brackets starting from 22 years of age upto 35 years. Tehsil-wise analysis also revealed that Etmadpur has the highest number of educated youth concentration (37%) in the aforementioned dominant age group followed by Agra Sadar (33%) and Kiraoli (26%). In order to find out whether age varied significantly across the three tehsils in the district, Chi-Square Test of Independence has been applied. The result showed the Pearson Chi-Square value of 27.707 (df=6). With p value=0.000, it is significant at 5% level of significance. It means that the null hypothesis-1 is not accepted. In other words age of educated youth varies from tehsil to tehsil. It can be interpreted from the table that in the age bracket of 22-



25 years, Thus age diversification was clearly evident between the three tehsils. Age composition varies due to reasons like sex ratio, migration pattern, fertility, geographical position etc and other demographic characteristics in a particular region.

Gender-wise Classification of Educated Youth

Gender refers to the state of being recognized as male or female at biological, social and cultural fronts. Gender related issues have always popped up in Indian society and the most affected age group is said to be that of youth.

Table-2: Gender-wise Classification of Educated Youth

Gender	Tehsil						District		χ^2 Test of Independence
	Agra Sadar	%	Etmadpur	%	Kiraoli	%	Total	%	
Male	114	57	61	61	50	50	225	56.25	$\chi^2 = 2.550$ df= 2 P value= 0.279 H0 is accepted
Female	86	43	39	39	50	50	175	43.75	
Total	200	100	100	100	100	100	400	100	
									Not Significant at $\alpha = 5\%$

The sample is male dominated in case of Agra Sadar (57%) and Etmadpur (61%) whereas Kiraoli is found to have equal proportion of males and females. The data is indicative of the fact that although Agra Sadar tehsil has a more developed society in terms of mental levels of individuals who also have varied pool of educational facilities and employment opportunities available at their doorsteps, but still females are quite behind their male counterparts in terms of educated group. In order to find out whether gender varied significantly across the three tehsils in the district, Chi-Square Test of Independence has been applied. The result showed the Pearson Chi-Square value of 2.550 (df=2). With p value = 0.279, it is not significant at 5% level of significance. It means that the null hypothesis-2 is accepted. In other words gender is independent of geographical dimensions.

Income Status of Educated Youth: Education gives intrinsic value to an individual whereas income gives face value to him in the society. Quantification of educational attainment in monetary terms is essential for youth of today so as to achieve goals of happy and fulfilled life.

Table-3: Tehsil-wise Average Income

Tahsil	Average Income (in ₹) (Primary monthly income)	Standard Deviation
Agra Sadar	26,928	21,923
Etmadpur	25,655	16,645
Kiraoli	18,270	21,893
Agra District	24,396.29	20,950

Table-4: Income wise Classification of Educated Youth

Primary income	Tehsil						District		ANOVA Test Result
	Agra Sadar	%	Etmadpur	%	Kiraoli	%	Total	%	
Upto 10000	28	15.22	11	11.34	41	42.71	80	21.22	P value= 0.000 H0 is not accepted cant at $\alpha = 5\%$
10000-30000	102	55.43	66	68.04	45	46.87	213	56.50	
30000-50000	35	19.02	16	16.50	3	3.13	54	14.32	
More than 50000	19	10.33	4	4.12	7	7.29	30	7.96	
Total	184	100	97	100	96	100	377	100	



Income status of educated youth of Agra district was also examined. Three categories of income were studied. It was found that primary income of more than 50% of educated youth ranged between ₹10000-30000 followed by 20% who had their income upto ₹10000 and 13.5% of educated youth earned in between ₹30000 to 50000. Only 7.96% respondents were found to earn more than ₹50000 per month. Only 21% of educated youth were also earning through secondary income. The outcome shows an unexpected income pattern revealing a low economic achievement of educated youth in Agra district. In order to find out whether income of educated youth varied significantly across the three tehsils in the district, test of One-way ANOVA has been applied. The results showed that with p value = 0.000, it is significant at 5% level of significance. It means that the null hypothesis-3 is not accepted. In other words there existed a difference in average income of educated youth in each of the tehsils. Thus geography matters to a great extent for income. Income differences within occupations and also across various locations and the reasons behind it are well documented in the literature.

Religion of Educated youth-Directly or indirectly, religion in India plays a very decisive role in governing the socio-economic stature including educational attainment and employment pattern of individuals and therefore it is an important parameter to be studied.

Table 5: Religion of Educated youth

Religion	Tehsil						District	
	Agra Sadar	%	Etmadpur	%	Kiraoli	%	Total	%
Hindu	188	94.00	87	87.00	94	94.00	369	92.25
Muslim	7	3.50	2	2.00	4	4.00	13	3.25
Sikh	1	0.50	1	1.00	0	0.00	2	0.50
Christian	2	1.00	0	0.00	2	2.00	4	1.00
Other	2	1.00	10	10.00	0	0.00	12	3.00
Total	200	100	100	100	100	100	400	100

The results of the study reveal that the sample majorly consisted of educated youth belonging to Hindu community in each tehsil (94% in Agra Sadar, 87% in Etmadpur and 94% in Kiraoli) followed by educated Muslim youth in Agra Sadar (3.50%) and Kiraoli (4.00%) whereas youth belonging to other communities in Etmadpur (10.00%).

Results of district wise analysis also showed the dominance of educated youth belonging to Hindu community (92.25%) followed by Muslim educated youth (3.25%). Although the figures painted a rosy picture for Hindu youth in terms of educational attainment and the future employment opportunities but they also point towards a huge lacuna in the upliftment of youth belonging to other communities. It may thus be inferred that creating more awareness among youth of other communities and their upfront development is the need of the hour so that they are also well educated and the doors of employment opportunities welcome them which will thus be helpful in providing them respectable living standards and social status.

Caste-wise Distribution of Educated Youth: Casteism in India is a deep rooted phenomenon. India is a home to people with diverse castes. It is important to study this diversity as it tends to affect youth in various aspects.

Table 6: Caste-wise Distribution of Educated Youth

Caste	Tehsil						District	
	Agra Sadar	%	Etmadpur	%	Kiraoli	%	Total	%



General	167	83.50	85	85.00	76	76.00	328	82.00
Scheduled caste	3	1.50	8	8.00	2	2.00	13	3.25
Scheduled tribe	2	1.00	0	0.00	1	1.00	3	0.75
Other backward classes	28	14.00	7	7.00	21	21.00	56	14.00
Total	200	100	100	100	100	100	400	100

Distribution of educated youth on the basis of caste was studied. It was found that a common trend prevailed in each tehsil that there was a dominance of general category youth (83.50% in Agra Sadar, 85% in Etmadpur and 76% in Kiraoli) followed by those belonging to other backward classes in Agra Sadar (14%), Etmadpur (7%) and Kiraoli (21%) along with representation of scheduled caste (8%) in Etmadpur. Good numbers of youth belonging to other backward classes in the district and those belonging to scheduled caste in Etmadpur were also found to avail the benefits in terms of gaining education. District wise results also show the same prevalence. Higher representation of general category educated youth indicates that they have more access to the fruits of development and therefore hail the benefits of education more than the youth of other caste.

Conclusion- Examining the respondents' socioeconomic position in the study shed light on a number of aspects related to their personal, academic, and professional circumstances. Given that graduates outnumbered other degree holders, educational attainment showed a negative picture, particularly at higher levels in the area. Etmadpur's rising educational attainment is a sign of expanding educational options and the city's development as a new educational center. Even though the sample was predominately male, it was evident that society's attitudes toward female education had changed, particularly in Etmadpur and Kiraoli. The results were found to be consistent with the structural changes in the occupational pattern that the Indian economy has experienced in recent years, moving from the agricultural to the service sectors. The results revealed an unexpected income pattern, with the bulk of young people in the Agra area falling into the low income category and the educated youth achieving little in terms of economic success. Gender was the only socioeconomic factor that had a significant impact on educated youth in the district's three tehsils. Their significant presence in the sample of educated youth is a sign of the effectiveness of government education programs and initiatives as well as the availability of education for this group of young people.

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