

Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

Book Review

India Employment Report 2024 : Job & Employment opportunities for Youth through Education and Skills¹

MANJU AGARWAL*

THIS REPORT IS the third in the series of regular publication by the Institute for Human Development on labour and employment issues, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO). This report examined challenges faced by youth employment in the past two decades in the changing economic, labour market, educational and skills scenarios. This report is based on analysis of data from the National Sample Surveys between 2000 and 2022.

Employment growth remained stagnant up to 2019 and then moved upward. After 2019 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a substantial increase in employment, with agricultural employment growth. Labour productivity consistently increased alongside capital deepening. The rise in capital intensity was associated with technological progress and productivity gains rather than employment. During 2000-19, there was shift in employment from low productivity agriculture to relatively higher productivity non- agriculture sectors. However, this trend reversed with substantial growth in agriculture during 2019-22. The construction sector maintained high employment elasticity. During 2000-19, employment in manufacturing increased by only 1.7%. In 2019 to 2022, employment increased by 3%. Most of the additional employment generated in this sector was regular and self-employment. The service sector has been the primary driver of India's growth since 2000. Software, IT, IT-enabled service, business and financial services generated direct-employment opportunities and stimulated job growth in other sectors through multiplier effects.

India remained poised to reap a demographic dividend, though this situation varied across the country. Education levels improved considerably. Unemployment in educated youth reflected a mismatch with their aspirations and available jobs. Technological change and digitalization affected the demand for skills in the Indian labour market. This report highlighted five key policy areas for future action (a) Promoting job creation; (b) improving employment ; (c) addressing labour market inequalities; (d)

1 Sharma, Alakh and Michiko Miyamoto; *Indian Employment Report*; March 2024, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 342, Price NIL

* Senior Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Finance, 45A, Knowledge Park III, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201310, INDIA

strengthening skills and active labour market policies and (a) Bridging the knowledge deficits on labour market patterns and youth employment . This report is highly relevant for students, teachers, policy makers, social reformers, NGOS and researchers in future Report is filled with positive and constructive inputs for structural and transformational change in labour market in Indian economy.

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