PREFACE

Unemployment refers to the situation where the persons who are able to work and willing to work, fail to secure work or activity which gives them income or means of livelihood. Again unemployment can be defined as the state of an individual looking for paying job but not having one. Unemployment does not include full time students, the retired, children or those who are not actively looking for paying job.

Unemployment is a socio-economic and psychological phenomenon which causes not only economic hardship but also leads to various forms of mental stress to the concerned individual and the household and society as a whole. It acts as an impediment to social and economic progress. The stigma attached to being ‘unemployed’ is a deterrent to the developmental activities of the individual. Being unemployed is a colossal waste of scarce economic resources and has strong manifestations in lower living standards and inequality income distribution. The process of globalization and privatization under the new economic policy has created serious implications for employment opportunities in the most strongly preferred organized sector. The problem of educated unemployed of the youth, in particular, is a major challenge for planners and policy-makers and its solution lies in judicious planning involving both educational and employment policy interventions.

Unemployment is one of the serious problems before the nation. The unemployment statistics are shocking and indicate to a dreadful future. According to National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the unemployment rates in both rural and urban areas were higher in University degree holders than among individuals having qualification lower than secondary level.

Unemployment can play havoc with the lives of jobless, and cause intense suffering and mental agony. Empirical studies shows that unemployed youth feel more dejection resulting lack of self respect and a collapse of motivation generated by persistent unemployment (Selinger 1975, Smith 1987 and Warn 1987). People respond to unemployment with many feelings like anger, anxiety, outrage, self-doubt. They become moody or depressed. Their tension may show up as restlessness, loss of appetite, loss of interest in sex, insomnia and feeling of apathy and exhaustion (Robbins et.al.1995).
Unemployment related to depression, which not only affects self concept and daily activities but also affects the interpersonal relationship and quality of life. The sense of hopelessness appears to be more closely associated with suicidal ideation than any other aspect of depression. There is growing concern over the rising rate of suicide in many developing countries, particular in India. Generally men are three times more prone to suicide due to unemployment (Safer, 1997)

To study the behavior of different human beings who are the victim of unemployment, I have taken the problem entitled "A Study on Self concept, Anxiety, Depression, Anger and Suicidal Ideation among Unemployed youth of Kolkata city" as my Ph.D research study to be explored which has needed to be explored. This major task would not have been undertaken if I was not highly charged and inspired by my present guide Prof. Dipesh Chandra Nath, Department of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta. As a student of Applied Psychology I always tried to explore some of the hidden areas where some research work would help the affected persons during the normal course of life. To go through these major areas, apart from going through literature study I had to cover a huge population who are having problems and are trying to overcome the situation. During my course of field study I distributed a few psychological tools to a group of employed and unemployed youth of Kolkata city.

During collection of data from the huge population of unemployed youth of different parts of the city, I am immensely grateful to Mr. Shib Prasad Neogi of Director of employment Exchange who helped me in all possible ways during data collection.

For framing the outline plan of the present research work and subsequent supervision, I must not fail to express my sincere thanks to my research guide Professor Dipesh Chandra Nath. I am greatly indebted to Professor N.K. Bhattacharya, Professor Anjali Roy and Professor Jayanti Basu of the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University, for successfully persuading Professor Dipesh Chandra Nath to guide me for this research work.

I also express my sincere thanks to Mr. Susanto Poddar and Mr. A.Z. Biswas of Academic Staff College, Calcutta University, for their encouragement in carrying out the research work.
During these years, in order to complete my research work, I had to consult with the faculties of the Department of Psychology and Applied Psychology, Calcutta University on various technical matters. I must express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor (Late) Sougata Basu and Professor Anindita Mukherjee, for helping me in the statistical analysis of data. I am also grateful to Prof. A.K. Chatterjee, Prof. Anjali Roy, Prof. Jayanti Basu, Dr. Subrata Dasgupta, Prof. Indrani Mukherjee, Prof. Sadhan Dasgupta and all those who are attached to the Applied Psychology Department of Calcutta University for their help and encouragement during the long period of my study.

I also acknowledge the help of the librarians of National Library, Kolkata, librarians of the Central Library, Department of Applied Psychology and the Department of Psychology, Calcutta University, for providing me with valuable books and journals, as and when sought for.

I am thankful to each and every member of my family and to my parents whose constant encouragement and blessings helped me in doing such a job.

At the end, I must extended my thanks to all youth population of employed and unemployed whose cooperation during collection of data had finally been useful towards the study and drawing some conclusion.

As this study is a first venture on my part, there might have remained some lacunae in the study. So, without any tall claim, I would request my learned examiners to point out all those for perfection of the study in future.

Department of Applied Psychology
Calcutta University
92, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road,
Kolkata- 700009
(2013)