

Media News Report on “Bangladesh Employment and Labour Market Watch 2019: Sectoral Challenges and Opportunities.”

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Labour-saving tech shrinks job growth

Economists tell PRI seminar

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Chairman of PRI Dr Zaidi Sattar speaking at a seminar on Bangladesh employment and labour market situation at PRI conference room in the city on Monday — FE photo

Employment growth in the manufacturing sector has decelerated in recent years, accelerated by investment in higher productivity, according to an economist.

Rizwanul Islam, visiting senior fellow of the Centre for Development and Employment Research, said the establishment of larger or medium-sized industrial units was on the rise, which contributed to the modernisation of the manufacturing process with an emphasis on productivity.

“Annual employment growth has declined sharply in recent years,” he said.

The growth rate was 3.3 per cent during 2005-10, which slumped to 1.7 per cent during 2010-16, said Mr Islam.

During the same period, the annual employment in the manufacturing sector came down to 4.6 per cent from previous 6.3 per cent, he added.

He depicted the picture while presenting a paper at a seminar on “Bangladesh Employment and Labour Market Watch 2019: Sectoral Challenges and Opportunities.”

Dhaka-based think-tank Policy Research Institute organised the seminar at its office in the capital.

For instance, Mr Islam said the employment in the ready-made garment sector has either stagnated or declined as the number of factories came down to 4,621 from over 5,000 in the last 10 years.

“... Unemployment rate is higher among educated youths compared to the uneducated,” he added.

His study showed women participation rate in the labour force is stagnant because of the wage difference and persistent gender inequality.

He also said employment in overseas market is critical, but unpredictable.

In the paper, he said textiles, apparels, pharmaceuticals, furniture, leather and leather products witnessed lower or negative growth in employment compared to the period of 2005-06 to 2015-16 and 2015-16 to 2016-2017.

He said larger industrial units in garment and many other sectors are adopting labour-saving technologies.

“This has contributed lesser growth in jobs,” he noted.

Mr Islam said the country’s incentive policy is discriminatory.

The policy level incentives should be provided to other export-oriented and labour-incentive sectors to overcome the employment problem, he argued.

The centre’s executive chairperson Rushidan Islam Rahman said that the number of overseas jobs was increasing because the government failed to achieve the employment generation goal mentioned in the 6th and 7th five year plans.

Of the total valuable labour force during 2016-18, only 55 per cent could be accommodated, but during 2006-2010 the rate of local employment absorption was 71 per cent, she said.

She said that it was a good sign that overseas employment was picking up momentum, “but remember, we send unskilled labour in the world market and the need of such manpower will come to an end in the coming days with robotics and other technology.”

In contrast, skilled manpower from other countries comes to Bangladesh and takes away billions of dollars each year. “This is not right,” she said.

PRI chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar, however, said while 40 per cent or 26 million of the labour force is currently employed in the agriculture sector, its share in economic output is only 13 per cent.

“So there is a vast pool of under employed people in our rural areas. With proper training, this surplus labour can be employed elsewhere,” he said

General economics division member Shamsul Alam, said the government gave permission for setting up universities based on needs to meet the demand for skilled manpower.

“There are universities for garment, textiles, fashion, leather and ceramic studies then why there will be problem for skilled manpower in the different industries,” he said.

The private sector people should pay more attention to increasing the educational level of such specialised universities, he added.

Echoing Dr Zaidi Satter, he said around 40 per cent labour force is engaged in agriculture,

which contributes 13 per cent of gross domestic product.

“It is not desirable,” he said.

Planning minister MA Mannan said there are some good signs that the number of technical education graduates has increased from 3.0 per cent to 18 per cent in the last 10 years.

“We’re facilitating the skilled labour programme and hope it will bring better results in the coming years,” he said.

He said currently the government policy is focused on import-substitute industries, but it should shift towards export-oriented sectors.

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<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/labour-saving-tech-shrinks-job-growth-1583207654>

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Formulate policy to cut reliance on foreign experts, workers

Economists say at PRI event

Planning Minister MA Mannan speaks at a discussion on the “Bangladesh Employment and Labour Market Watch 2019: Sector challenges and opportunities” at the Policy Research Institute (PRI) in Dhaka yesterday. Photo: Star

Star Business Report

Economists yesterday suggested the government formulate policies on creating skilled workforce for different sectors to reduce the huge amount of money being drained out of the country owing to hiring of foreigners.

Every year over \$4 billion is remitted out of the country as salaries and allowances of foreign skilled workforce, said Rushidan Islam Rahman, executive chairperson of the Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER).

“We are paying remittance for skilled foreign workers and Bangladesh is sending unskilled workers abroad. We need to formulate a policy to stop paying such a big amount of remittance by creating skilled workforce locally,” she said.

Rahman was speaking after presenting a paper on “Is Bangladesh over-dependent on overseas employment” at a discussion on the “Bangladesh Employment and Labour Market Watch 2019: Sector challenges and opportunities” at the Policy Research Institute (PRI) in Dhaka.

Economists, government high-ups, researchers and university professors attended the discussion.

Mainly chief executive officers and managers employed in local and multinational companies were taking away \$5-6 billion every year as remittance, said M Syeduzzaman, a former finance minister.

The government allows foreign workers here to take away 75 percent of their salary as remittance, he said.

“We have to have some programmes to produce skilled workforce in order to reduce such big amounts of money being remitted out every year,” Syeduzzaman said.

In Bangladesh, entrepreneurs are not being encouraged to go for manufacturing, said Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of the Bangladesh Employers Federation.

So, the entrepreneurs feel encouraged to go for trade-based businesses, he said.

“We need several labour-intensive sectors to generate more jobs. Incentives are paid discriminately and a few select sectors enjoy the government benefit,” said Rizwanul Islam, senior visiting fellow of the CDER and a distinguished fellow at the PRI.

Prof Shamsul Alam, senior secretary of the General Economics Division at the Planning Commission, urged district level technical training centres to play a vital role in producing skilled workforce.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said a 7-per cent economic growth over a period of eight to 10 years was impressive. “We will really be an economically developed country by 2040,” he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/formulate-policy-cut-reliance-foreign-experts-workers-1875577>

Employment growth declining sharply amid modernization in production

Ahmed Shawki

- Published at 10:27 pm March 2nd, 2020

Discussants take part in a seminar organized by Policy Research Institute at its office in the capital on Monday, March 2, 2020 Dhaka Tribune

PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar, however, said 40% or 26 million of the labour force are currently employed in the agriculture sector and contributes only 13% of the GDP

The country’s employment growth has declined sharply especially in manufacturing sector in recent years due to introduction of higher productive, speakers said.

The seminar titled “Bangladesh Employment and Labour Market Watch 2019: Sectoral Challenges and Opportunities” organized by Policy Research Institute at its office in the capital.

Speakers said tendency of setting high or medium scale industries was on the rise which contributed to the modernization of the manufacturing process and emphasis on productivity.

Rizwanul Islam, Visiting Senior Fellow of Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER) said, “Annual employment growth has declined sharply in recent years. The growth rate was 3.3% during 2005-10 which declined to 1.7% during 2010-16; he said while presenting a paper.

He said in the same period of time mentioned above, the annual employment in manufacturing sector came down to 4.6% from previous 6.3%.

According to Rizwan the employment in RMG sector is either stagnant and declined as number of factories came down to 4,621 from that of 5,063 in last 10 years.

“It is important to note that unemployment rate is higher in educated youth compared to uneducated,” he said.

His study showed women participation rate in the labor force is stagnant because of the wage difference and gender inequality persists.

She said that it was a good sign that overseas employment was picking momentum, “but remember, we send unskilled labor in the world market and need of such manpower will come to an end in the coming future with robotics and other technology. Meanwhile, skilled manpower from other countries come to Bangladesh and take away billions of dollars. This is not right,” she said.

PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar, however, said 40% or 26 million of the labour force are currently employed in the agriculture sector and contributes only 13% of the GDP.

“So there is a vast pool of under employed people in our rural areas. With proper training this

surplus labour can be employed elsewhere,” he said

General economic Division Member Shamsul Alam, said the government gave permission to set up industry need based universities to meet the skilled manpower demand.

“There are universities for garment, textiles, fashion, leather and ceramic studies then why there will be any problem for skilled manpower in the different industries. The private sector people should pay more attention to increase the educational level of such specialized universities,” he said.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said there are some good sign that the technical education graduates number increased 3% to 18% in last ten years.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2020/03/02/employment-growth-declining-sharply-a-mid-modernization-in-production>

‘Contribution of employment to growth drops drastically’

Young people are now trying to find jobs abroad without joining the domestic labour market

TBS Report

02 March, 2020, 10:00 pm

Last modified: 02 March, 2020, 10:14 pm

The country’s economy has been more capital intensive over the last decade with a significant drop in the contribution of employment to GDP growth, said economists and experts on Monday.

Young people are now trying to find jobs abroad shying away from the domestic labour market, they added.

They were addressing a seminar titled “Bangladesh employment and labour market watch, 2019: Sectoral challenges and opportunities” in the capital.

The Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER) and the Policy Research Institute (PRI) jointly organised the event.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said in spite of some issues, the country’s economy has been doing well in a broader perspective.

Inequality is one of the biggest problems in the country and the government is trying to address it.

Dr Rizwanul Islam, senior visiting fellow of the CDER, said the contribution of labour employment to economic growth reduced to 27.7 percent in the 2010-2017 period from 49.75 percent in 2005-2010.

He also said some large labour intensive sectors such as textiles, footwear, electronics and furniture failed to generate jobs at a satisfactory level except the RMG sector.

The food processing sector reduced 2.84 percent of employment in the fiscal year 2016-17 and the textile sector cut 1.19 percent of jobs during the same time.

Despite many difficulties abroad, the country’s youths prefer overseas jobs, said Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman, executive chairperson of the CDER.

She said only 55 percent of working age people joined the domestic job market during the 2016-2018 period. The rate was 72 percent in the 2006-2010 period.

The employment target in the last two five-year plans could not be met, she added.

The number of overseas employees is increasing but the skill composition is degrading.

এই প্রতিবেদনটি বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান এবং শ্রম বাজারের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতি, চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং সুযোগ সম্পর্কে একটি বিস্তারিত বিশ্লেষণ প্রদর্শন করে। এটি বিভিন্ন খণ্ডের মধ্যে শ্রমের চাহিদা, কর্মসংস্থান, কর্মহীনতা, শ্রম শর্তাবলি, কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি এবং কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধির উপায়ের উপর আলোকপাত করে।

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/222517/শ্রম-বাজার-বিশ্লেষণ-২০১৯-১০-১১-১৯

শ্রম বাজার বিশ্লেষণ ২০১৯: খণ্ড-১

শ্রম বাজার বিশ্লেষণ ২০১৯: খণ্ড-২

শ্রম বাজার বিশ্লেষণ ২০১৯: খণ্ড-৩

শ্রম বাজার বিশ্লেষণ ২০১৯: খণ্ড-৪

শ্রম বাজার বিশ্লেষণ ২০১৯: খণ্ড-৫

এই প্রতিবেদনটি বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান এবং শ্রম বাজারের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতি, চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং সুযোগ সম্পর্কে একটি বিস্তারিত বিশ্লেষণ প্রদর্শন করে। এটি বিভিন্ন খণ্ডের মধ্যে শ্রমের চাহিদা, কর্মসংস্থান, কর্মহীনতা, শ্রম শর্তাবলি, কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি এবং কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধির উপায়ের উপর আলোকপাত করে।

এই প্রতিবেদনটি বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান এবং শ্রম বাজারের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতি, চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং সুযোগ সম্পর্কে একটি বিস্তারিত বিশ্লেষণ প্রদর্শন করে। এটি বিভিন্ন খণ্ডের মধ্যে শ্রমের চাহিদা, কর্মসংস্থান, কর্মহীনতা, শ্রম শর্তাবলি, কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি এবং কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধির উপায়ের উপর আলোকপাত করে।

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গতকালে, বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান পরিস্থিতি, বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান পরিস্থিতি, বাংলাদেশের কর্মসংস্থান পরিস্থিতি

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<http://www.arthosuchak.com/archives/565677/শ্রম-বাজার-সংক্রান্ত-সংবাদ-সংগ্রহ/>

শ্রম-বাজার-সংক্রান্ত-সংবাদ-সংগ্রহ

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‘শ্রম-বাজার-সংক্রান্ত-সংবাদ-সংগ্রহ : শ্রম-বাজার-সংক্রান্ত-সংবাদ-সংগ্রহ’

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