ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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Abstract: One of the main objectives of economic policy is to create the optimal level of employment. Problems of unemployment are particularly reflected among the youngest working age population. This problem is evidently present in the country but significantly more developed countries European, members of the European Union, are not exempt from this as well. This work will examine the methodological aspect of observations through the prism effect of unemployment and the deviant behavior of young people.

Keywords: Unemployment, youth, Economic and social problems

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment can be subsumed essentially under the social and economic phenomenon. It is the difference between labor supply and demand for it. The same is expressed by the ratio between the excess of supply to the lack of labor demands. In the light of the economic crisis that different intensity affects the whole world and unemployment is one of the biggest problems faced by economic policy makers.

Speaking of social part, it undoubtedly impacts all aspects of human life. Looking at the family as a fundamental pillar of society, it is clear that employment or unemployment of its members directly affects its economic and therefore social status.

A special segment that we will explore in our work as a manifestation of unemployment, correlates with the influence to commit illicit actions, or behavioral deviations, is youth unemployment.

Unemployment in this part of the working age is represented among population on the global scale, which are notable in societies like ours. Youth unemployment is a problem for the pension systems of social protection and becomes larger economic problem.

There is no doubt that unemployment has a significant impact on the social status of this population, through which pressure the patterns of behavior of individuals.

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1. THE IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON DEVIATIONS IN YOUTH BEHAVIOR

The unemployment problem becomes chronic in scale and in highly developing countries of the European Union. In particular, this problem affects peripheral countries of the European Union like Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Italy as well.

The European Union has the highest unemployment rate since the introduction of Euro. The unemployment rate in the EU 27 is 10.7%, while in the Eurozone slightly higher or 11.8%. A particular problem is the increasing rate is youth unemployment. According to Eurostat data, the unemployment rate ranges from 4.5% in Austria to 26% in Greece and Spain. Even greater range when comparing youth unemployment is around 9% in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands up to 57% in Greece and Spain, which progressively increased in the past five years by almost 100%. The rate of unemployed young people in the EU 27 by the end of 2012 was 23.7%, while in the EU 17 was 24.4% in Eurozone countries.2

At the EU level, there are various programs through which young people engage in various forms of socially useful activities. We can mention the Erasmus program of lifelong learning, which is a program through which students are allowed to study outside their home country. This program until 2008 has involved more than 1.5 million students; it has been planned that by the end of 2012 the program would include 3 million students. Over 90% of universities in the European Union are involved in this program. The condition is completed at least for the first year of university studies. The program applies to the 27 EU countries plus Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Turkey. His most important item is that about 1/3 of the participants find employment abroad.

Furthermore, streaks of Comenius and Leonardo da Vinci are made in same order, which allows intellectual exchange. The first one provides an opportunity for the exchange of students of high school age, while the second focuses on professional education and practice in other countries. Conditions are placed in age from 15 to 28 years, and in specific cases from 13 to 30 years.3

Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been struggling for years with high unemployment, and youth unemployment problem is even more acute. The overall unemployment rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 27.6%. Part of the population aged between 18 and 35 years is about 22% of the total population. About 58% of this population is unemployed, i.e. slightly more than any second person. Considering that we have a transitional society, with many social and

4 http://www.bhas.ba
political problems, the fact that we educate young people for office work represents an immense economic loss. Modern economic theory has offered several types of unemployment. According to this classification, we can distinguish the following forms:

- Frictional unemployment, is temporary unemployment, and occurs due to constant quantitative and qualitative changes in the dynamic economy of labor as well as the geographical mobility of workers. The characteristic of this type of unemployment is a form of hidden unemployment, which is particularly important in some industries such as agriculture and tourism.

- Structural unemployment, with its fundamental characteristic that there are significant structural mismatch of supply and demand for labor caused by technological innovations or changes in the structure of production, which are tracking fast professional incompetence or territorial adjustments of workers. As a special form of structural unemployment occurs technological unemployment, which depends on the time it takes to worker retraining for a new job in accordance with the resulting technological change or to find another job by himself.

- Cyclical unemployment is the most comprehensive form that affects all sectors of the economy, and it occurs on the international scale. It is caused by the decrease in overall aggregate demand, i.e. the demand for labor. This form of unemployment comes in times of crisis and depression, so it occurs with cyclical regularity.

- Concealed unemployment, as opposed to the previous three forms, there is no visible form as it relates to those employed persons whose efficiency is below average and whose jobs do not match their skills and qualifications. Although this type of unemployment occurs in all economic sectors, especially in the large number of disguised unemployment in agriculture, which is so-called problem of aggregate overpopulation.

One of the main goals of economic policy of each country is level of achievement of full employment. The full employment means optimal utilization level of total social labor. It is believed that the optimal level of unemployment ranges between 2 - 7% depending on the specifics of individual countries. In addition to this objective under the priority objectives of economic policy of each country we mean economic growth, price stability and balance of payments.

The law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina didn’t published any officially materials with exact statistics on the number of offenders who were at the time of committing the crime employed or unemployed.

However, "the experiential method of focus groups", in a discussion related to unemployment topic as a cause of deviant behavior among young

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5Економска енциклопедија, Савремена администрација, Београд, 1984. година, р.574
people, there is a general conclusion about the causal connection between the above mentioned phenomena. The general conclusion of the focus group, which consisted of eight experienced criminalist practitioners, who in the line of forensic work processed hundreds of criminals, is that the economic and social motives are crucial as a motive for the committing economy offenses, which are dominant in the total number of offenses committed. Among the economic and social motives leading to the villainy is the inability to achieve material existence and impossibility of employment.

During the discussion we agreed on attitudes about three modes of manifestation of unemployment as a cause for criminal acts or other forms of deviant behavior, such as:

- The poor economic situation in the family (unemployment of one or more family members)
- Inability to substantive independence of young people (the inability of employment, independence, starting a family, housing issues)
- Employment inability recidivist or going back to crime offenses (rejection of the environment, the return to crime because of the inability of material existence, etc.).

Creating the conditions for achieving the optimal level of employment in any society entails, besides the obvious economic effects and social benefits for the whole people or nation to which it relates. In this regard, we believe that the number of newly employed people should be a crucial parameter in deciding to give the government incentives for certain economic activities.

2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CAUSES OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

The term "deviant behavior" comprehends socially unacceptable forms of behaviors which are manifested through various illegal activities, which are legally defined as culpable. The target groups covered by our examination are young, able-bodied people, which means that our target group does not include juvenile offenders and delinquents. There are multiple and varied factors of deviant behavioremergence of mentioned age. But we are primarily based on economic factors. We believe that a man who is economically independent, and has a steady source of income, which is achieved through regular work activity, whether it is self-employed or working for other economic or social organization, has very little or no motive for endangering his social position, acting in a socially unacceptable and deviant way.

Does the unemployment as the economic and social phenomena affecting the increasing rate of crime in the society, and the evident appearance of deviant behavior among young people?

Certainly yes it does.

6 Живојин Алексић, Милан Шкулић, Криминалистика, Београд, Партенон, 1998. година, p.185
In the former socialist self-management system social equality among citizens was significantly more pronounced. Also, certain forms of maturing were present such as military service, joining the youth actions or righteous right to work, free education and a favorable resolution of housing issues, as well as planning of economic and political situation, until the nineties allowed the preconditions for normal development of the young man. In our society, that's been through the hell of war and where post transition period of transition from one social system to another is still ongoing, as well as significantly distorted moral values, with huge unemployment rate, the young people are left to find their way in the "street value".

CONCLUSION

Various economic and political phenomena are affecting individuals and social economic system. However, unemployment as primarily an economic category to the fullest extent of all the other is focused on individuals and their economic and social status in the society. The unemployment problem is especially prominent with the worldwide economic crisis of the last few years and different intensity affects the majority of the world's economy. Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country in transition was not exempt from this phenomenon even before the world's economic crisis.

In particular, the segment of youth unemployment for each economy represents a significant economic and political issue. The negative side of this problem can be seen in a wide range of negative phenomena of young people going abroad to the manifestation of various forms of deviant behaviors.

Through our research we have found the ultimate result of causal link between the impacts of unemployment on determining patterns of behavior among young people. On behalf of above mentioned, we came to the conclusion that the biggest number of property crimes perpetrators, is among population from 18 to 35 years old, mainly unemployed people.

Certainly, unemployment is not the only parameter that leads to a decision of committing criminal offense or to the occurrences of deviant behaviors among young people, but we are convinced that it is one of the most influential.
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