

**CHANGING SCENARIO OF SOCIAL STATUS DUE TO
UNEMPLOYMENT:**

A CASE STUDY OF UNEMPLOYED POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Keywords:

Unemployment;
Subjective social status;
Objective social status;
Change;
Impact.

Social status helps to understand the position of an individual in social hierarchy. Occupation and income one of the most important indicator of social status. We know that unemployment is a burning issue of an individual life as well as society. This paper is an attempt to examine the changing scenario of social status of an individual due to unemployed situation. Basically, the subjective social status is changed due to unemployment. It is true that objective social status is important to measure social status but it is also important to examine the subjective social status for measuring an individual social status as well as micro level study. Here, purposive sampling method is taken for primary survey and data were collected from young job seeker. From this study, it has been found that though, objective social status is same both in their student life and post student life but subjective social status has been changed significantly from student life to their post-university life. It is also seen that the recreation and mental health is affected with the change of social status. Beside this, Family approaches plays an important role to determine subjective social status of an individual.

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1. Introduction

Social status is an important issue in our society. It refers to a position or prestige level of an individual within the society. A person has different position in society and every position defines a different status. Every person has a multiplicity of statuses but they may change with circumstances (Bhattacharyya, 1993). Social status of an individual can be changed with the time period of life. This change may be happened by changing of objective indicators of social status like occupation, education, income etc. or subjective indicators like prestige level, approaches of others people towards an individual. Jackman and Jackman (1973) studied the relationship between objective and subjective social status. According to them, status of one's social contacts impact on the relationship between objective socio economic status and subjective class identification (Jackman and Jackman, 1973). Lundberg and kristenson (2008) found that self-rated economy, education, life satisfaction, self-esteem influenced subjective social status. Beside these, Zeleny (1940) developed the mathematical formula to measure social status ratio and social status score and Felson and Knoke (1974) examined the dependence of married women upon their husband or father for achievement of social status. This paper is an attempt to find out that some people, who have same achieved status, same age cohort and facing unemployment situation with same time period, then, if their social status will be changed due to unemployment or not. Goodchilds and Smith (1963) found that there were interaction between unemployment and social status but social stress may not be independently define the social status. The two main objectives of this paper are to examine the change of social status due to sudden unemployed situations and to find out the effect of this change on an individual's life. Though, we know that subjective social status may depend on objective social status in to some extent but here, in case of unemployed situation, it is found that the people, who have high objective social status (both ascribed and achieved), can be belongs in low subjective social status due to sudden unemployed situation.

2. Research Method

This study is basically conducted among those unemployed people who passed out from same university, have same academic degree, same age cohort and facing unemployed situation from same time period. So, their achieved status (objective status) is almost same and here, it will be examined that in this situation, due to unemployment their subjective social status will be

changed or not. Here, the hypothesis is social status of an individual is changed negatively due to sudden unemployment.

University of Calcutta, Department of Geography has been selected for the present study. It is because University of Calcutta is one of the prestigious university in West Bengal as well as in India. A lot of students came here from different rural and urban area throughout the West Bengal. They have different status (ascribed) level.

This study is based on primary data. Data have been collected from 20% of total passed out people of a same batch and who are facing unemployed situation through questionnaire scheduled during 15th June-21st July, 2016. Purposive sampling method is used here. Coding method is used to quantify the qualitative data.

3. Results and Analysis

This paper has two section; first section is analysis part of changing scenario of social status and second section deals with the effect of changing scenario of social status.

3.1 Changing scenario of social status:

In this section, it has been tried to find the changing scenario of social status due to unemployment. Here, People who have taken as sample, are belongs to same achieved status, same age cohort and all are facing unemployed situation since one year. In this context, it is trying to find the changing scenario of social status of an individual from student life to post-student life (unemployed stage). Type of space, caste profile, educational qualification of father, mother and own, family income, father's occupation are taken for analysis of objective social status.

Here, ascribed and achieved status both are taken to measure objective social status of an individual. Basically, objective social status indicates the actual position of an individual in society.

Table no. 1 – Objective social status score of people (during student life and post-student life).

SL. no.	Space	Caste	Educational qualification			Family Income	Father's Occupation	Score
			Father	Mother	Own			
1	3	4	2	2	5	2	4	22
2	3	4	4	4	5	2	4	26
3	2	4	3	2	5	1	3	20
4	3	4	3	4	5	1	3	23
5	3	4	5	4	5	4	5	30
6	3	4	5	5	5	2	4	28
7	3	4	2	1	5	1	2	18
8	3	4	4	4	5	1	4	25
9	2	4	4	4	5	3	3	25
10	1	4	4	4	5	2	2	22
11	3	4	3	3	5	1	3	22
12	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
13	2	2	3	2	5	2	4	20
14	1	2	2	2	5	1	1	14
15	2	4	4	3	5	2	4	24
16	3	4	4	4	5	2	4	26
17	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	29
18	1	2	5	2	5	1	4	20
19	3	4	2	2	5	1	3	20
20	3	4	4	4	5	2	4	26
21	3	4	4	4	5	2	5	27
22	2	4	4	4	5	2	4	25
23	1	4	5	4	5	3	4	26
24	2	4	5	4	5	3	5	28
25	2	4	4	4	5	1	4	24

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

Here, coding system is followed to convert the qualitative data into quantitative values.

[Caste – Scheduled tribe=1, Scheduled caste=2, OBC=3, General=4

Space – Rural=1, Sub-Urban=2, Urban=3

Education qualification – Illiterate=1, Primary to Secondary=2, Secondary to High Secondary=3, Secondary to Graduation=4, Post-Graduation and above qualification=5

Income =<20,000 =1, 20000-40000 = 2, 40000-60000 = 3, >60000 = 4

Occupation = Primary activity = 1, Secondary activity = 2, Tertiary activity = 3, Quaternary activity = 4, Quinary activity = 5]

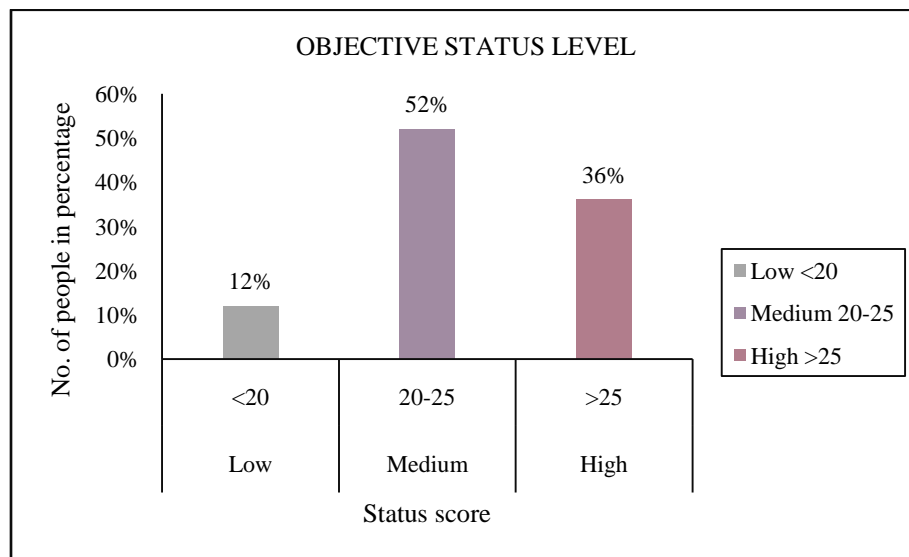


Figure no. 1

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

Here, it is found that maximum people belongs to medium to high objective social status during student life as well as in post-student life. It is because all they have high and same achieved social status. Here, it is found that objective social status of an individual during student life and post-student life is almost not change. It is because, here, people are facing only one year unemployed situation from student life. So, there was no scope to change family income, Father's occupation etc.

Subjective social status mainly refers to the individual's perception of their social position or status. It is very significant to measure one's subjective social status because it can be happen that two person who have same objective social status but their subjective social status are different. As a result, that two person belongs to different social status level. Here, it is trying to

find out the answer if the subjective social status of an individual differ from student life to post-student unemployed life. Approaches of family, relative, neighbour and friends, perception about own's prestige level, perception about social stress from family and relative and neighbour are taken for analysis subjective social status.

Table no. 2 - Subjective Social Status Score during Student life:

SL. no.	Approaches				Prestige Level	Social Stress		Score
	Family	Relative	Neighbour	Friends		From Family	From Relative & Neighbour	
1	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
3	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
4	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
5	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
6	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
7	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
8	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
9	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
10	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
11	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
12	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
13	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
14	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
15	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
16	1	1	2	1	4	2	2	13
17	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
18	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
19	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
20	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
21	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
22	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
23	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
24	2	1	1	2	5	2	2	15
25	2	2	2	1	5	2	2	16

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016-21.07.2016)

Here, coding system is followed to convert the qualitative data into quantitative values.

[Approaches – Negative = 1, Positive = 2,

Prestige level – Very poor=1, Poor=2, Medium=3, Good=4, Very Good=5

Social stress – Yes=1, No=2]

Table no. 3 - Subjective Social Status Score during Post-Student Life:

SL. no.	Approaches				Prestige Level	Social Stress		Score
	Family	Relatives	Neighbour	Friends		From Family	From Relative & Neighbour	
1	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	14
2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	12
3	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	14
4	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	10
5	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
6	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
7	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	10
8	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	12
9	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	16
10	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	10
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
12	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	11
13	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	9
14	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	14
15	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	11
16	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	13
17	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	13
18	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	17
19	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	10
20	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	9
21	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	13
22	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	12
23	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	14
24	1	1	1	2	5	2	2	14
25	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	13

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

Here, coding system is followed to convert the qualitative data into quantitative values.

[Approaches: Negative = 1, Positive = 2,

Prestige level: Very poor=1, Poor=2, Medium=3, Good=4, Very Good=5

Social stress: Yes=1, No=2]

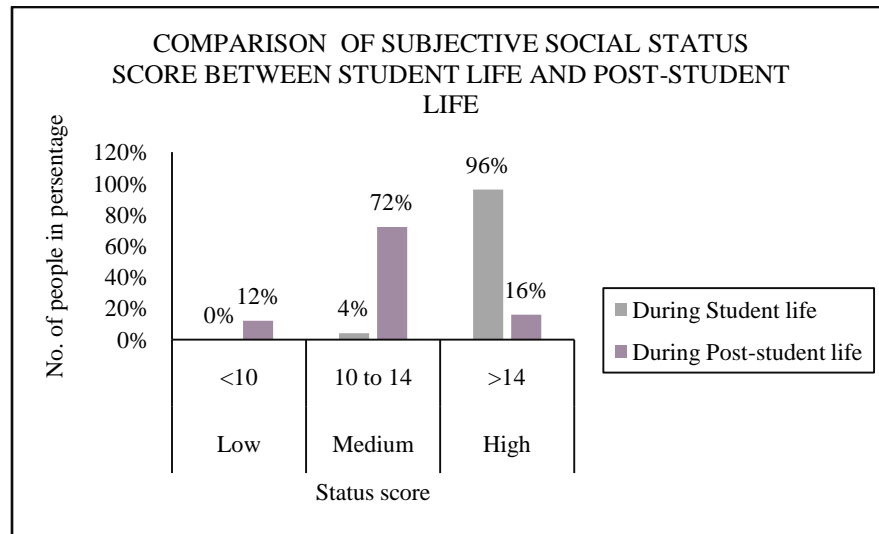


Figure no. 2

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

Table no. 2 and 3 is showing subjective social status score and it is found that score is decreased from student life to post-student life. From the figure no. 2, it is found that maximum people have high subjective social status during student life but nobody have low subjective social status. It is because, during student life, their family approaches towards them was very good. Their prestige level was high. Their family members have high expectation from them because they were pursuing high academic degree.

On the other hand, during post-student unemployed life, it is found that maximum people belongs to medium subjective status level. Only few are belongs to high subjective status level. It is because the people, who were good students and had positive approaches from society, have been facing unemployed situation since one year after completing post-graduation. They have a lot of stress and negative approaches from their family as well as from the society also. They feel their prestige level is decreasing. So, their subjective status level is decreased from student life to post-student life (unemployed situation).

Table no. 4 Changing scenario of subjective social status.

Sample no.	Score during student life	Post Score during student life	Change
1	14	17	-3
2	12	16	-4
3	14	16	-2
4	10	17	-7
5	16	16	0
6	17	17	0
7	10	17	-7
8	12	17	-5
9	16	16	0
10	10	17	-7
11	7	17	-10
12	11	16	-5
13	9	17	-8
14	14	17	-3
15	11	17	-6
16	13	13	0
17	13	16	-3
18	17	17	0
19	10	17	-7
20	9	17	-8
21	13	17	-4
22	12	17	-5
23	14	16	-2
24	14	15	-1
25	13	16	-3

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016-21.07.2016)

From table no. 4, it is found that maximum people's subjective status score is negatively changed. All of them have better status score during student life than that of post-student unemployed life. So, it can be said that people's social status is changed negatively due to unemployed situation (Here, Hypothesis is prove right)

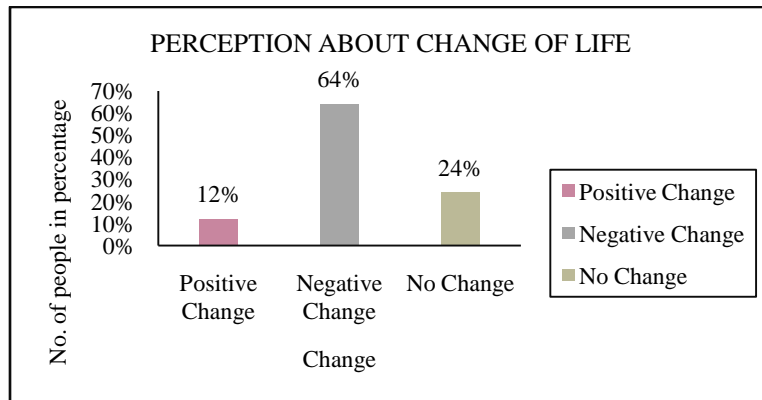


Figure no. 3

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

There was a question ask to respondent if their life has changed or not during post-student life. If changed, what kind of change it is and from their perception studies, it is found that maximum respondent's (64%) life has changed negatively due to unemployed situation. They feel more social pressure due to unemployment.

3.2 Effect of social status changing:

From the above discussion, it is found that basically subjective social status is changed due to unemployment. People feels their prestige level is decreased. They have a lot of stress from their society. This stress brings effects to their life. This stress is unbearable to them Their recreational activity is changed. Their confidence level is decreased. Most of them are suffered from depression and other mental disorder.

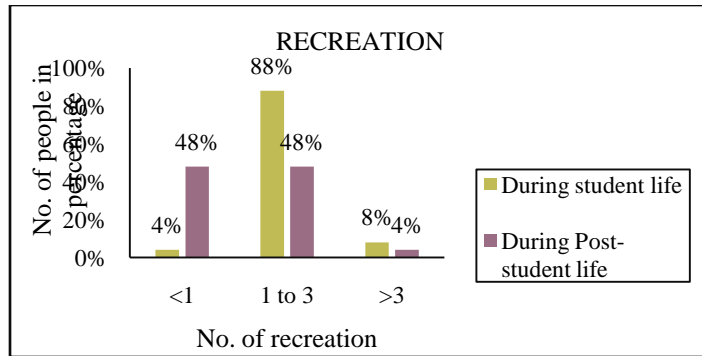


Figure no. 4

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

From figure no. 4, it is clear that during student life maximum student have 1 to 3 types of recreation and during post-student life most of the people have less than 1 recreation type or no recreation. So, it can be said that number of recreation type is decreased from student life to post-student unemployed life due to social stresses. They have huge pressure for getting a job. Approaches of their surrounding people is so negative towards them. These make them depressed and they tried to hide themselves from surroundings. Some people told that their addiction towards social networking sites is increased after student life. It is because they are gradually detaching from their surroundings.

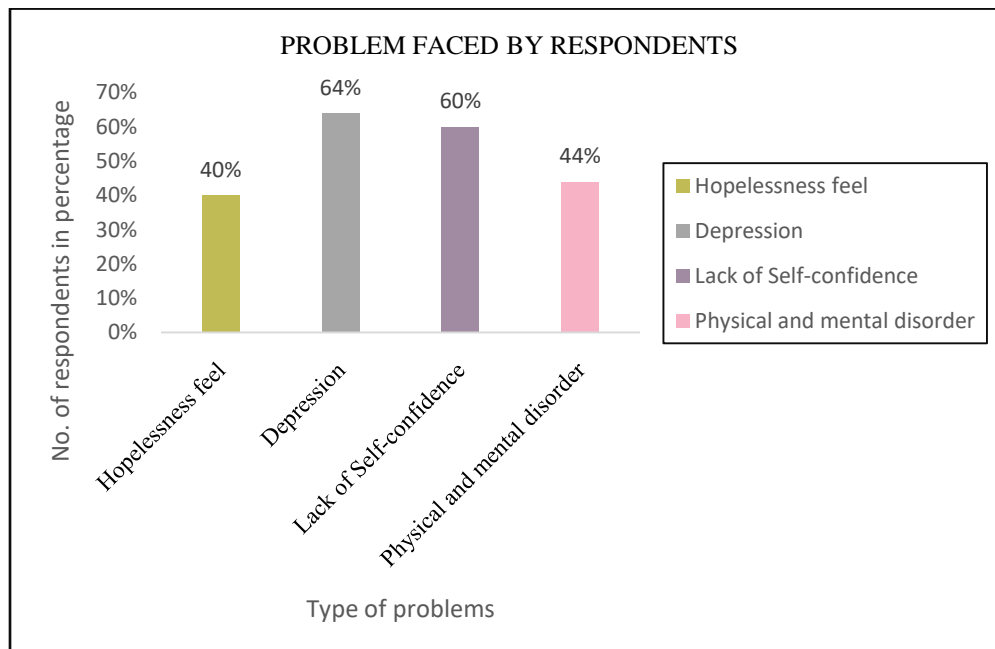


Figure no. 5

Source: Primary data (15.06.2016 -21.07.2016)

From figure no. 5, it is found that most of people faced different type disorder, hopelessness, depression, lack of self-confidence level due to social stress or loneliness. They did not face this kind of problem before. They think unemployed situations and low subjective social status is responsible for these problems. Darkness of depression covered them day by day. They became hopeless. They suffered from various disorder like anger, headache etc. This kind of problem is going to be a barrier to their future life.

4. Conclusion

Social status is very important things to an individual's life. Basically subjective social status can changed due to unemployment and it is mainly responsible for approaches of surrounding peoples. Here, it was found that how subjective social status score is negatively changed from student life to post-student life only because of the changing surrounding people's perception. In this case, objective status is not changed from student life to unemployed life; only subjective status is changed. Subjective social status is nothing but the perception of an individual to their social position among their surroundings. So, low subjective social status can effects one's mental health which can effects their future. A person's status can be good by the good and positive approaches of nearer people. This can be leads to have good confidence level with good life. So, it can be said that subjective indicator of social status is also important to measure one's status level.

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