



# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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**V K Patil and P V Patil**

Strategic Need of India and the Uniqueness of the Discipline

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and the Future of Indian Higher Education

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## Strategic Need of India and the Uniqueness of the Discipline

V K Patil\* and P V Patil\*\*

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Once, Mahatma Gandhi was present at a programme at Banaras Hindu University along with Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. After many intellectuals had spoken, Gandhiji stood up to speak. What will he say now? Many people thought so. Mahatmaji said very clearly and in eloquent words. "There are two reasons for the misery of our country: 1) Unemployment of youth, 2) Neglect of farmers." Today, after many years, we clearly realise that these two problems have defeated us. Nay, these two problems have gradually assumed a monstrous form. The problem of our youth's unemployment seems to be insurmountable. It is certain that employment for needy people has become the only strategic need of India.

We are stuck in a triangular vicious circle of poverty. Decreasing employment due to poverty, thereby resulting in environmental degradation, and finally, the victim getting trapped in still more poverty. The bottom side of the triangle is poverty. The great majority of the population is trapped in poverty. Many of them, out of necessity or frustration, resort to crime, naxalism, terrorism, and commit suicide. The other side of the triangle is the increasing inequality and instability in society.

To reduce poverty within the country, it is necessary to strengthen industry and public works, which requires energy on a large scale. However, this increases pollution, which shoots temperature and adversely affects agriculture and health. The flow of rivers is blocked. Rainfall becomes uncertain. Uncertainty about the weather and the result is damage to the environment, and this is the third side of the triangle.

#### Who should be considered unemployed?

When a person with the desire and ability to work does not get an opportunity to work, we call him unemployed. If a person is in student status and is not interested in doing a job/business/work, such a person is not considered unemployed. At the same time, if a person is not able to work due to physical or mental disability, such a person is also not considered unemployed.

#### Youths and Unemployment

The average age in India is 29 years, while in the US and China it is 38, in France it is 42, in Germany it is 45, Japan it is 48. 64.2 per cent of India's population is young. This is clear from the 2021 statistics. From an economic point of view, these are auspicious

\*Former Vice Chancellor, Vasant Rao Naik Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani & Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492012. E-mail: tambolianil655@gmail.com

\*\* Secretary, Shri Dhaneshwari Manav Vikas Mandal, 134, N-3, CIDCO, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Maharashtra-431002.