Chapter 11

Considerations on the Youth Unemployment Problem in Turkey

Füsun Yenilmez  
Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey

Yahya Can Dura  
Ministry of Interior, Turkey

Yavuz Hürol Karabilgin  
Turkish Revenue Administration, Turkey

ABSTRACT

This paper, aims to analyze and profile youth unemployment problem in the Turkish economy and contains three parts: “Conceptual Framework of Unemployment”, “Unemployment Problem in Turkey” and “Youth Unemployment Phenomenon and Youth Unemployment Profile in Turkey”, as well as trend analysis over a long time series (1988-2016) created by using TURKSTAT, OECD and World Bank databases. It also analysis youth unemployment problem by evaluating quantitative indicators and their trend data and tries to make recommendations on strategies and policies essential to the solution of the problem.

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is a major dilemma for the global capitalist economies. In a capitalist economy, all of the production factors constitute the capital of society and labor is considered as a commodity that can be bought and sold in the market. This situation, as a by-product of the liberation of people, is entirely capitalism-specific and created by the lack of means of production.

It is tough to consider this issue from a labor perspective because capital and entrepreneur are major factors, or in other words, focal points of production procedure and distribution affairs. In this regard, we believe that it is necessary to consider the dynamics of distribution affairs while analyzing unemployment problem and the measures that should be taken against it.

As a matter of fact, it is not possible to see unemployment as a problem created only by mechanical and objective procedures outside distribution affairs. This problem also requires a class-based analysis and might as well be a case that is fed, supported and ignored by dynamics of profit and accumulation procedures of the capital section. With all these aspects, it is necessary to see unemployment problem as a concept with multi-directions and factors and create strategic and political measures accordingly.

This paper, aims to analyze and profile youth unemployment problem in the Turkish economy and contains three parts: “Conceptual Framework of Unemployment”, “Unemployment Problem in Turkey” and “Youth Unemployment Profile in Turkey”, as well as trend analysis over a long time series (1988-2016) created by using TURKSTAT, OECD and World Bank databases. It also analyzes youth unemployment problem by evaluating quantitative indicators and their trend data and tries to make recommendations on strategies and policies essential to the solution of the problem.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF UNEMPLOYMENT

We can say that unemployment as a concept can acquire a different character depending on the changes in time and place. The definition of unemployment, which was defined as a state of having no job as a result of the absence of skills in the past highlights personal fault (Bayraktar & İncekara, 2013). This primitive definition of unemployment has evolved into an international standard definition made by ILO, and this new definition is based on three criteria. With the presence of the three criteria: demand, availability and state of being unemployed simultaneously, we can describe a person as unemployed.

Unemployment which is the state of failing to use labor power in manufacturing procedures with desired levels and presence of unemployed job demanding people leads to loss of economic effectiveness on the one hand and the emergence of social problems on the other (Kesici, 2010).

In spite of all economic and socio-politic measures, unemployment which is increasing its effects gradually is the individual and social reality that has a negative impact on economies. We can say that unemployment is a society-centered concept and means wasted human capacities of societies.

Unemployment is a failure by labor factor to participate in production and is a fact created by people who cannot find a job opportunity over the current wage level despite supplying their labor power (Bayraktar & İncekara, 2013). Therefore unemployment is not a problem that can be analyzed outside the distribution affairs and requires class-based analysis. It can also be considered as a topic that is directly affected and ignored by the dynamics of profit and accumulation procedures of production sections.

According to Turkish Statistical Institute:

Out of the unemployed people within the reference term (people who have not worked with/without salary or daily wage or a profit sharing scheme and have no connection with such a job), those who have used at least one of the job seeking channels in the last three months and are available to start working in 15 days are included in the unemployed population on condition that they are in non-corporate working age. (www.tuik.gov.tr)

According to Turkish Employment Agency:

They are the people under active register who are in working age and power and willing to work and have no job with an income at the minimum wage level at the time of applying to the Agency. When
Related Content

Major Macroeconomic Dynamics for Labor Market in Turkey: A Causality Analysis
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/major-macroeconomic-dynamics-for-labor-market-in-turkey/174207?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/major-macroeconomic-dynamics-for-labor-market-in-turkey/174207?camid=4v1a)

Knowledge Base Development in Virtual Enterprise Network as Support for Workplace Risk Assessment
[www.igi-global.com/article/knowledge-base-development-virtual-enterprise/55990?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/knowledge-base-development-virtual-enterprise/55990?camid=4v1a)

Growing Library Leaders for the Future
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/growing-library-leaders-for-the-future/137296?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/growing-library-leaders-for-the-future/137296?camid=4v1a)

LIS Undergraduate Education in New Zealand: Development and Contemporary Issues
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/lis-undergraduate-education-in-new-zealand/137193?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/lis-undergraduate-education-in-new-zealand/137193?camid=4v1a)