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Thesis Title: The Effect of Youth Service Programme on Unemployed Youth: The Case of Bangladesh

Abstract:

Youth unemployment being a high profile problem in Bangladesh, the government implemented Youth Service Programme (YSP) between March, 2008 and June, 2010. The participants selected through lottery system received a three month training programme along with a temporary job support for two consecutive years. The study pursues a randomized design to evaluate this training programme aiming at increasing the level of confidence and promoting employability of the beneficiaries—the unemployed youth. Precisely, the study assesses the level of confidence which was expected to increase due to the transfer of skill and knowledge, the probability of being employed in general, the probability of employment in local level or within the district where the programme was implemented, the probability of being employed in the training fields offered under the programme and the survival pattern in getting employed over a follow-up period of 24 months after the termination of training. The treatment group comprised of 1950 out of 1983 participants selected as beneficiaries and the control group, 350 out of 377 unselected applicants. The data was collected in 2008 before intervention and two years after the termination of the program in 2013. The study uses the secondary database for the purpose of evaluation. The study analyses data through Average Treatment Effect (ATE), logit model and survival analysis respectively. The level of confidence of the treated group was found 19.16 score higher relative to the control group. The treatment group was 17.8 percentage points more likely to get employed compared to the control group and in local level, 14.2 percentage points more likely to get employed compared to the control group. In the programme-sponsored fields of training, the treatment group was 30% more likely to secure jobs relative to the control group. Within the follow-up time of 24 months, 61.07% of treated group was still surviving and did not get job while 38.93% secured their job. On the other hand, 78.43% of control group was still surviving to get employed while 21.57% individuals secured their job. Within first 10 months compared to the control group, the treatment group was more likely to get employed relative to the control group. There was a 2.25 unit increase in expected log of the relative hazard for treated group as compared to control group throughout the observation period. The findings show that such intervention can contribute to promoting employability of unemployed youth in Bangladesh context.