

A- A A+



Home / Higher Education / Qualified But Unplaced: Report Reveals Alarming Gap

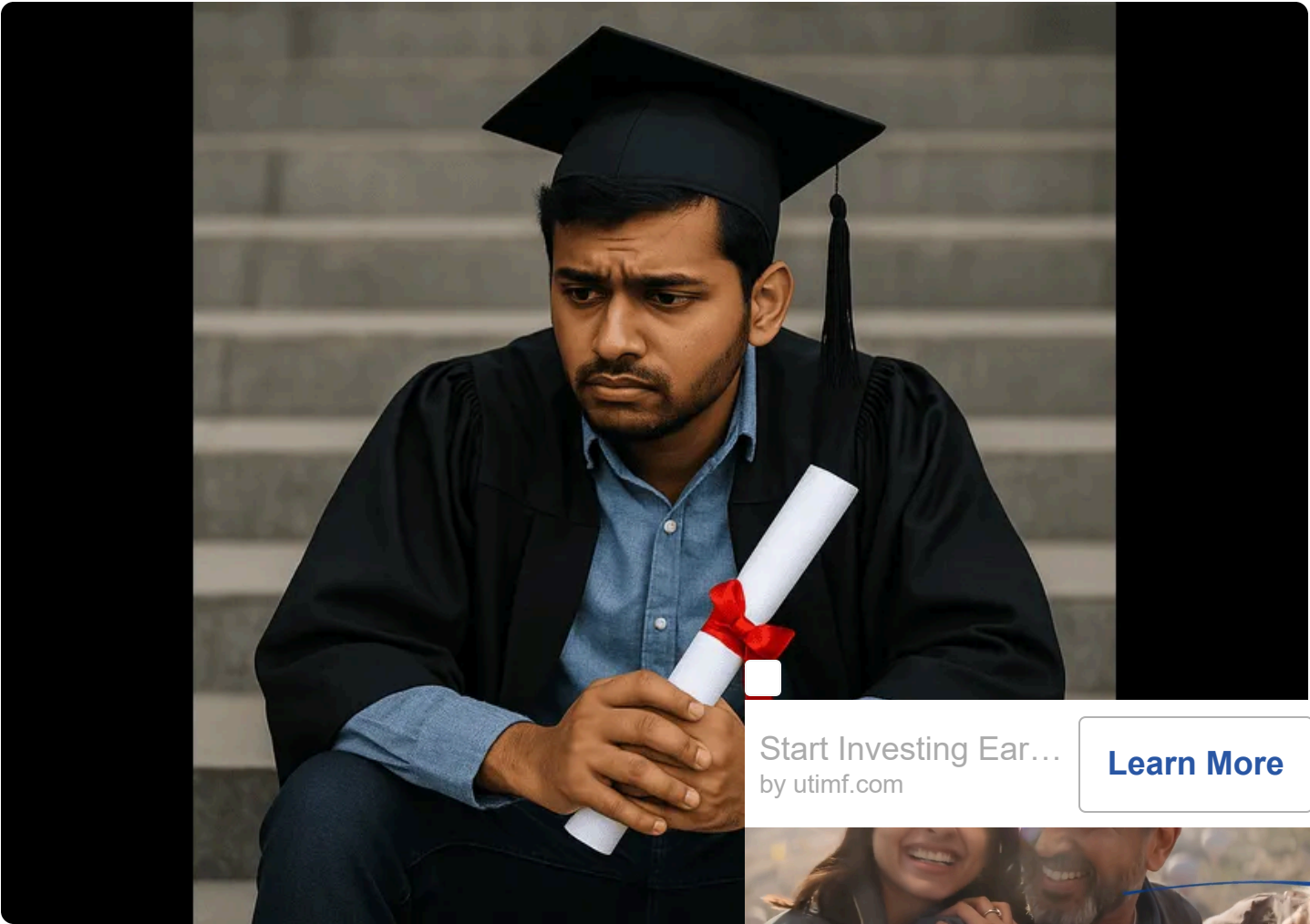
Qualified But Unplaced: Report Reveals Alarming Gap

Vishal Katoch Aug 01, 2025

Economic Survey # The Unstop Talent Report # Unemployment

Amidst rising enrolments and mounting education costs, a vast majority of graduates remain unplaced, exposing the growing disconnect between academic qualifications and real-world readiness

Free Source



Despite degrees from some of India’s most prestigious engineering colleges, many students are entering their final year with no internships, job o

Report 2025, based on responses from over 30,000 students nationwide, paints a sobering picture: 83 per cent of engineering graduates and 46 per cent of business school graduates from the class of 2025 have not received a single offer. Even among India's top 30 b-schools, one in four students remains unplaced.

Further compounding the concern, the Economic Survey 2024–25, tabled in Parliament on 31 January 2025, reveals that only 8.25 per cent of graduates are employed in roles that match their qualifications a stark indicator of the disconnect between higher education and industry needs.

India, often hailed as the world's youngest nation and home to the largest youth population, according to the International Labour Organisation, has long viewed its demographic dividend as a pathway to a brighter future. But with rising unemployment among the educated youth, a pressing question emerges: is the future truly as bright as we have been led to believe?

More Students, Less Return

According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), India is home to over 1,000 universities. And while the numbers aren't in the thousands or lakhs, crores of students enrol in higher education institutions each year. As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021–22, conducted by the Ministry of Education, total enrolment reached 4.33 crore, with a steady upward trend year on year.

With rising enrolment figures each year, tuition fees and related costs continue to climb. Students and their families are investing increasingly large annual costs often running into several lakhs when accommodation and other expenses are factored in. Yet, despite this growing financial commitment, the disappointing internship outcomes are not just alarming they are deeply disheartening. This glaring gap underscores the persistent challenges in aligning education with industry needs. A significant factor is the outdated curriculum in many Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions. Emerging trends such as automation, sustainable engineering, and digital marketing are not being adequately covered in the syllabus.

Compounding the issue is a widespread lack of practical, hands-on experience among graduates,” stated, Virender Rihani, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Shoolini University.

Are Graduates Truly Workplace Ready?

One of the most pressing questions at the heart of the employability crisis is whether students are truly industry-ready. This concern isn't one that universities alone must grapple with, it's a reality check for students as well. After investing three to four years in higher education, often at considerable personal and financial cost, graduates must ask themselves: are we genuinely equipped for the demands of the workplace?

A significant factor contributing to this gap is the a lack of meaningful industry exposure, limited internship opportunities and inadequate emphasis on soft skills. Employers today are not only seeking technical proficiency, but also problem-solving capabilities and a mindset geared towards innovation. When higher education fails to foster this blend, a disconnect between graduates and the job market becomes inevitable. Amarnath Mitra, Associate Professor (IS) and Chair (PGDM-Big Data Analytics), FORE School of Management, New Delhi, highlighted, “Today's industry seeks individuals who demonstrate adaptability, problem-solving abilities, digital readiness and hands-on exposure to real-world challenges. This underscores the need for a stronger integration of classroom learning with practical experience. Institutions that embed live projects, industry collaborations, soft skills training and mentorship into their curriculum are far more likely to achieve better placement outcomes.”

From Campus To Career

The employability crisis facing India's graduates is no longer just a student problem it's a national challenge demanding urgent, coordinated action from academia, industry and policymakers alike. If the country is to truly harness the strength of its vast youth population, it must close the widening gap between education and employability. Suhas Joshi, Director, IIT Indore, highlighted, “As emerging technologies such as AI, climate tech, and deep tech reshape the job market, we must continuously evolve our curriculum and research priorities to ensure graduates remain globally competitive and aligned with industry demands.”

This moment demands more than minor tweaks it calls for a bold overhaul of higher education. From reimagined curricula to stronger industry ties and a sharper focus on practical skills, the shift must be sweeping and swift. Until students graduate not just with qualifications, but with capabilities that meet tomorrow's demands, India's much-heralded demographic dividend may remain an untapped promise or worse, a wasted one.



Vishal Katoch

BW Reporters

Vishal Katoch is a Junior Correspondent at BW Businessworld, New Delhi. With a Master's degree in Mass Communications from the University of Leicester, he brings a dynamic approach to journalism, covering business, technology, and digital storyte

Share



Also Read



HIGHER EDUCATION Aug 02, 2025
JGU Hosts Convocation Ceremony
🕒 2 mins read



HIGHER EDUCATION Aug 02, 2025
Western Sydney University To Open Branch In India Following UGC Approval
🕒 3 mins read



HIGHER EDUCATION Jul 31, 2025
CIMP Conducts Faculty Development Programme On Management & AI
🕒 2 mins read



HIGHER EDUCATION Jul 29, 2025
With Right Mindset & Scientific Rigour, Grand Challenges Can Be Solved: Abhay Karandikar
🕒 2 mins read



HIGHER EDUCATION Jul 29, 2025
India's College Enrolment To Double In 10 Years: AICTE Chairman
🕒 2 mins read




HIGHER EDUCATION Jul 28, 2025
MDI Gurgaon, Emlyon Tie Up For Dual Degree
🕒 2 mins read



FEATURED


POPULAR



Professional Education

Jul 28, 2025


Future Of Hospitality Demands Adaptability, Cultural Intelligence, Dat...



Students

Jul 25, 2025


Dreams Cut Short: India's Student Suicide Crisis Demands Urgent...



Students

Jun 17, 2025


Future Facing Science: Indian Scholars Drive Innovation At Imperial College...



Reviews

May 23, 2025


Built To Last: Why Purpose Driven Startups Scale Better



Professional Education

May 23, 2025

From Lalbagh To Atmanirbhar: ISRO's Leap Through Hiriyan's Lens



Students


May 12, 2025

India's Test Prep Industry: A Meritocracy Of Inequity

Breaking News

<

>





Students

Jul 25, 2025

Dreams Cut Short: India's Student Suicide Crisis Demands Urgent...

5 mins read







K12

Jul 23, 2025

Rs 3,000 Cr Ghost Teacher Scam Rocks Maharashtra's Education...

2 mins read







Educators

Jul 14, 2025

Skills, Not Degrees, Key To Fixing India's Employability Crisis: Experts

4 mins read







Students

May 19, 2025

CBSE Directs Schools To Set Up 'Sugar Boards'

1 mins read






Academic

May 16, 2025

Bigyan Verma Appointed Director Of IILM Lodhi Road

1 mins read



Trending Posts

Originality Must Be Nurtured: Shekhar Ravjiani On Musi...

5 mins read

If We Don't Adapt, We'll Be Left Behind: Tina Ambani O...

6 mins read

FTI Arunachal Pradesh Students Declare Indefinite...

2 mins read

Empowering The Visually Impaired: StepWise...

6 mins read

SWAYAM Discover The E-education Path

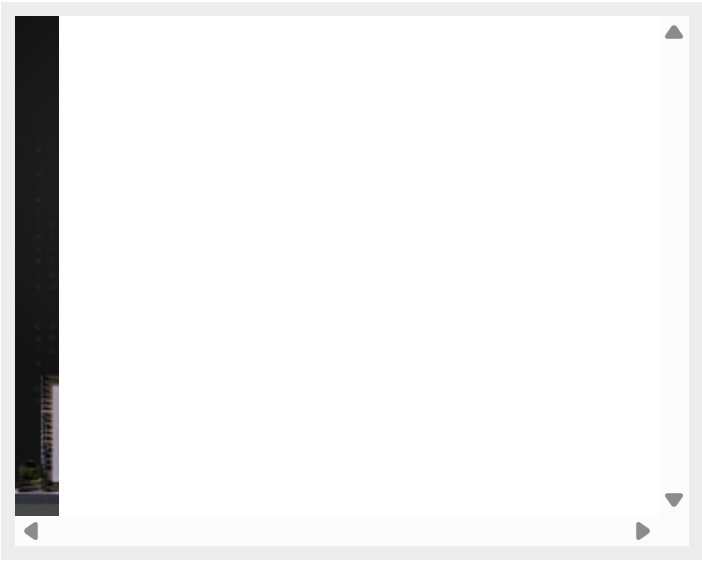
10 mins read

Paper Leaks Could Be A Bigger Scam Than The...

2 min read

Educator

12 m



Subscribe to our newsletter to get updates on our latest news

SUBSCRIBE



Priya.saraf@businessworld.in

📞 9832386269, 9732247222

📍 74-75 Scindia House, 1st floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi -110001

News

Higher Education

Parent

Student

Videos

Events

Contact Us

Privacy Policy

Terms & Conditions

Sitemap



© Copyright BW Education 2025. All Rights Reserved.

