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### The Issue of Youth Unemployment in Bhutan

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## Abstract

As the problem of not being able to gainfully employ youths of Bhutan has become one of the main challenges faced by the government and society at large, this poster attempts to present the current youth unemployment scenario, the causes and impacts of youth unemployment, and some of the interventions initiated to reduce the unemployment rate.

## Introduction

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), youth unemployment means those unemployed persons in the 15-24 age group (ILO, n.d). As per the Bhutan Labour Force Survey conducted by the National Statistical Bureau (NSB) in 2019, the overall unemployment rate of Bhutan was 2.7% and youth employment rate was 11.9 percent. Although the issue of unemployment in every age group and measures to solve it demand the attention of policy makers, more focus should be given to unemployed youths. The causes of youth unemployment and its impacts need to be clearly identified to devise appropriate interventions/ solutions to solve, or at least minimize, their adverse effects.

## Causes of youth unemployment in Bhutan

- ✓ Job preferences (*Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, 2014*)
  - ✓ Preference over types of job and remuneration
- ✓ Lack of required experience/ relevant skills (*Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, 2014*)
- ✓ Social security – having friends and families to support them (*Wangmo, 2012*)

## Impacts of youth unemployment

- ✓ Not able to benefit from demographic dividend (*National Statistical Bureau, 2019*) (engaging the economically productive section of the population would increase the labour force as well as reduce spending on dependents which would fuel economic growth as in the case of economic progress achieved by India and China (Wolf et.al, n.d.)
- ✓ Social issues such as crime, theft, substance abuse, etc (*Wangmo, 2012*)

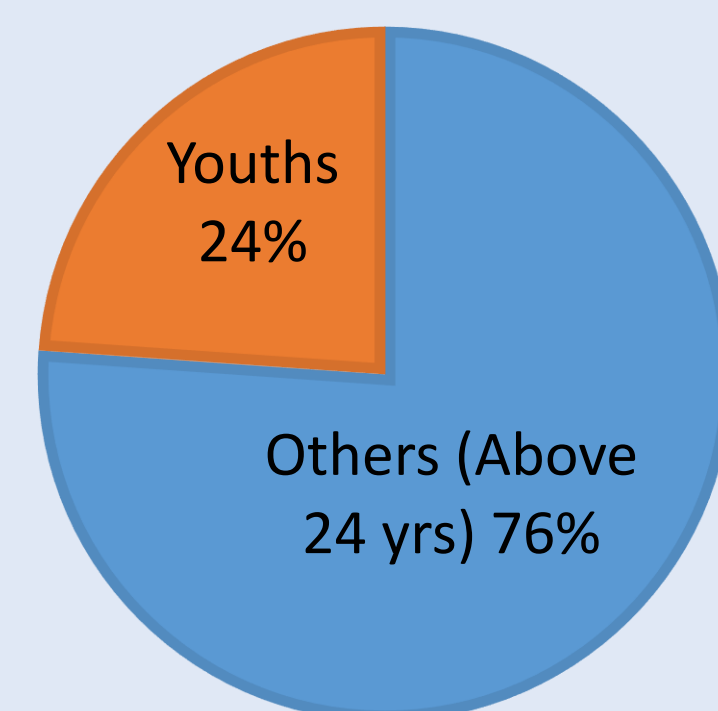
## Conclusion

Considering the adverse impacts of youth unemployment, it is important to identify the causes and devise appropriate interventions. The government and other concerned agencies are working on various ways to solve the issue and harness the benefits of demographic dividend. Some of the initiatives include investment in strategic sectors such as agriculture, skills development projects, private sector development and balanced regional development among others.

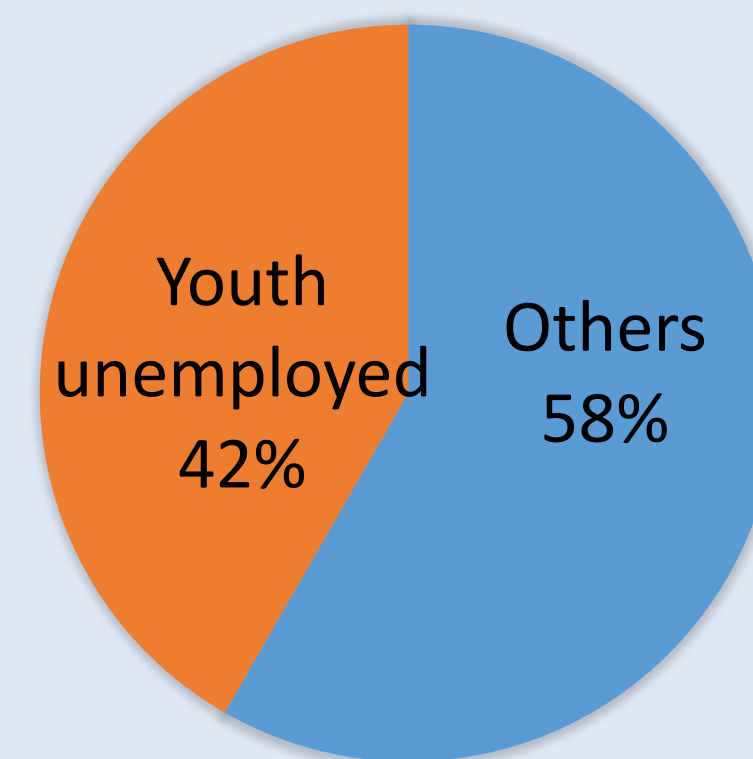
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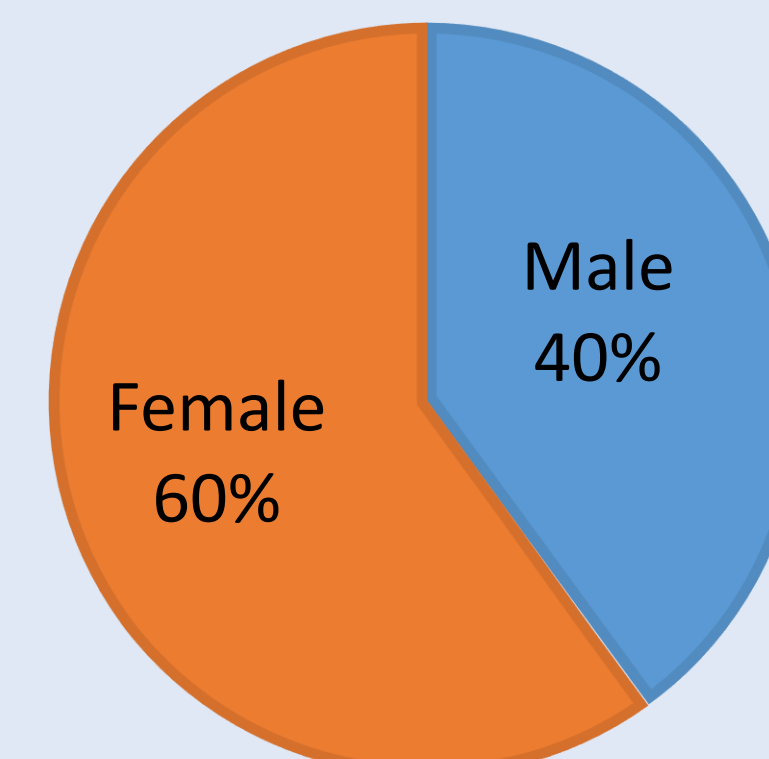
YOUTHS IN TOTAL WORKING AGE GROUP



YOUTHS UNEMPLOYED IN TOTAL UNEMPLOYED POPULATION

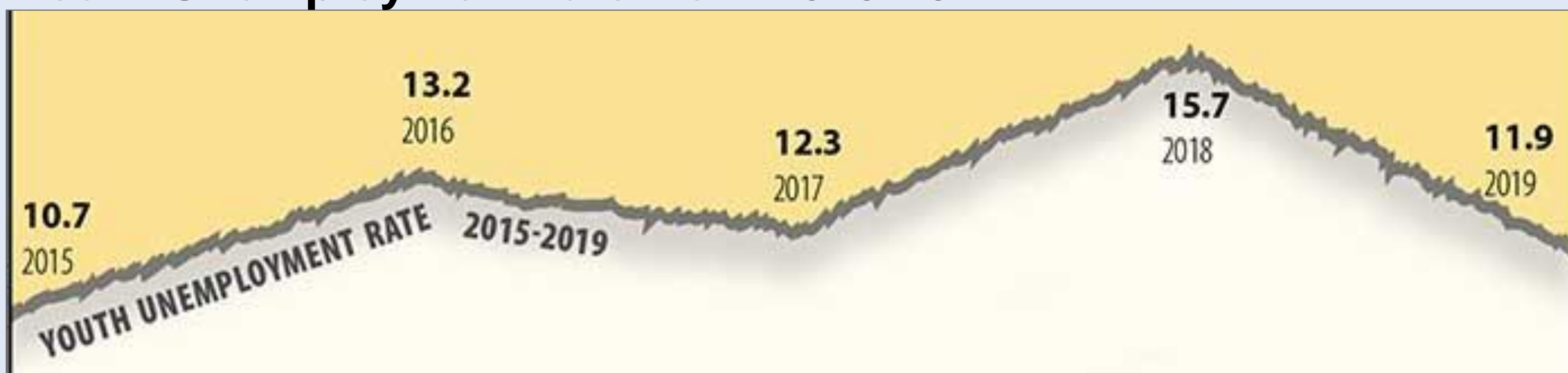


UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS BY GENDER



(National Statistical Bureau, 2019)

## Youth Unemployment rate from 2015-19



(National Statistical Bureau, 2019)