

## UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM OF AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS

The paper will concern and raise the issue of employment of the students who graduate from the department of American studies. As far as we know, we have many institutions with the elective or main American studies courses. However, the American Studies is one of the fields among many, which has problems of employment of graduate students.

**Key words:** American studies, employment, difficulties, problem of unemployment.

В статье обсуждается вопрос о трудоустройстве студентов, которые заканчивают направление «Американоведение». Насколько нам известно, у нас есть много институтов, где «Американоведение» идет как основной курс или по выбору. Тем не менее, «Американоведение» является одним из среди многих направлений, у которого есть проблемы в трудоустройстве выпускников.

**Ключевые слова:** Американоведение, занятость, трудности, проблемы безработицы.

### Introduction

Unemployment for today becomes one of the crucial issues for society, since the ratio of graduates does not coincide with the possible vacant places for job. Universities produce more and more graduates not considering the conditions of labour market of our country. However, it is the fault nor of the Universities neither of young people who are eager to get education for their bright future. The possibilities of the population allow to get a degree, while the possibilities of the Government to employ these graduates are very poor to provide the whole young generation with the job. Consequently, there is a competition among specialists for getting a job. Yet, even this competitions is not fair, since the kinship plays again more important role here than the competency of a graduate. Moreover, there is a problem of prestigious areas for study and not popular specialties, under which I mean the areas which have no any importance while searching a job. The topic of my paper is “The Employment Problems of American Studies Students in

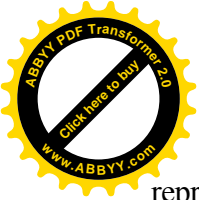
Kyrgyzstan” and the paper is aimed to discuss weight of American Studies Major in finding a job.

### Definition

Before going to the main part, I would like to define what is employment itself. According to the Dictionary of Economics (4 ed.) by John Black, Nigar Hashimzade, and Gareth Myles

1. Employment - Service performed for pay or wages under a contract of hire. (Publisher: Oxford University Press, Print Publication Date: 2012, Print ISBN-13: 9780199696321, Published online: 2013, Current Online Version: 2013, eISBN: 9780191759130)

So, employment is a very important phenomena for most of us, since everyone attempts “to be employed” for pay or wages as it was given in the above definition. This is actually a reason why people go to get degrees to higher educational institutions. Unfortunately, for the present times our country suffers from the employment problems in many areas. I have looked through some ideas of Kyrgyz Youth



representatives which I found in students' on-line forum in Internet website:

<http://kgstudents.blogspot.com/2006/05/unemployment.html> and they share with the following ideas.

#### ***Students' ideas concerning the unemployment***

By IsanovaKasiet: Our country is unable to provide people with jobs, because of that we have the problem of unemployment and as a result the problem of poverty. Nowadays we can see a lot of young and strong men who go to another state to find a job. I'm worried about it because our country is losing its generation. If all of our youth leave our country who will work for the future and the present of the country?

Our best specialists are leaving our country. This problem is called "brain drain". For example, our teacher K. Osmonaliev who has degree of Doctor of Judicial Sciences is going to leave Kyrgyzstan and to go to Kazakhstan. He is a specialist in his field and he would be very useful in our country.

Officials should play their role in solving of the problem of unemployment. They should attract investors who will build plants, factories and provide people with jobs.

By Almaz: Our State is unable to provide citizens with jobs and as a result we have large problems with unemployment and poverty. We can see a lot of people working in Bazaars risking their health. I have a lot of relatives who work abroad because they can't provide for their families and needs in our country. Some of them are in Moscow others are in Almaty, Cypress and Turkey. Most are well educated, young and could serve our country, but it is impossible because of low payment. We have a problem such as "brain drain". As for me I feel that I will not find a job with high payment and I also will go abroad for better life. Our government and parliament must do definite steps in sphere of economy, policy and in social development. Our Ministry of Industry, Trade and tourism should attract foreign investors who can build plants factories and other enterprises. They must stop some negative factors as labor migration and others.

By Ogai Eugenie: The Kyrgyz nation has lots of problems but the most dooming is that we couldn't find our jobs after graduation; we have to immigrate for seeking of decent life.

And my personal example is very typical for the majority: I'm a graduate of the International Relations faculty I faced the problem of

unemployment last year when I applied for jobs. The biggest problems were salary and vacation. The one was not high enough with that amount of money I just could buy a jacket! And the second was of had to work in completely different spheres from my own specialty. So I could suggest some ideas. The way out of the employment problem:

1) To establish new associations in the framework of universities with the aim as to organize internships for students who are near to graduation

2) To boost salaries in low paid spheres like medicine and education by limitation the expenses of our government official like mobile phones and private vehicles

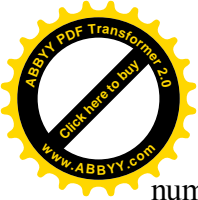
3) To raise the level of education to further guarantee employment. Everyone wants smart brains and to be competitive or more - out of competition.

4) To create the programs by the government, international organizations or non- governmental organizations for implement the specialists exchange between countries with the aim of getting new ways of thinking.

#### **Causes and effects of getting Bachelor of American Studies**

Most of these given ideas are true for our country. And I especially worry for American Studies students, since I teach students in this area and my students usually ask me what will they become in future and where will they work. Sometimes I even have no ideas what to answer, since I do not want to lie. Once or twice I tried to explain that they can be involved in the work of international organizations, but not all of international organizations in our country will hire our students and their question usually flow to very long discussions.

Most of students go to this specialty since the name "American" attracts more their attention that the future of this study. When they first hear the name of specialty they imagine that with this degree they can easily travel to the USA. However, the reality is not the same as their imaginations. One more reason, why the students are interested in this specialty is the wish to learn English, since the classes of the American Studies department are mainly held in English. Majority of students are interested in learning English, but unfortunately not all of them can be enrolled to the Language departments for the reason that every department has its limitations for the



number of students' enrollment. Therefore, the students who cannot go to the language department because of these limits choose the American Studies as the alternative area for learning English. This way the number of graduates in this field is increasing from year to year.

From the first graduation of American Studies Department at our University more than 80 students got a Bachelor in this area (American Studies). And we still enroll students to this specialty year by year and the number of students is increasing each year. Here, I would like to return to my students' frequent question – Where will all these students work? I thought about it several times, until I met Gulzhan Kadyrkulovna from the American Embassy in Kyrgyzstan. She suggested us to think on the employment of our students since with the only Major in American Studies it is difficult to be employed in Kyrgyzstan. The point of her suggestion was to give also minor to the Major in American Studies, as for example Minor in Pedagogy, Minor in Methodology, Minor in Psychology. I liked this idea because most of our rural schools suffer from the lack of English Language Teachers. So, with the Major in American Studies and Minor in

Methodology or Pedagogy students more or less can find a job teaching schoolchildren English. Without pedagogical line schools do not accept young specialists, due to the fact that they have no pedagogical education. And the Minor part of the American Studies students' qualification could provide them an opportunity to be required as teachers, or psychologists if they have a Minor in Psychology.

### **Conclusion**

Summing up my presentation I would like to emphasize that Employment issues among our Youth are very important. Considering that most of our students come from the rural districts we can suggest the minors in pedagogy or methodology of teaching English. So, while teaching our American Studies students we should also pay attention at their language learning. Students, who get the minor in Psychology can open their clinics and become demanded psychologists. We need the consideration of curricular which will include the learning program for giving also a minor in one of the above mentioned spheres. It requires time, however, if to approve such program we can stop the students' worry on the matter "where will they work?"

### **References:**

- Dictionary of Economics (4 ed.) by John Black, Nigar Hashimzade, and Gareth Myles - (Publisher: Oxford University Press, Print Publication Date: 2012, Print ISBN-13: 9780199696321, Published online: 2013, Current Online Version: 2013, eISBN: 9780191759130)
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