

# Tribal Unemployment in Gujarat

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## Abstract

As a Hindi saying Roti,(food) kapada (Cloths) and Makan (residence) are the basic needs of human being, but still in 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century some peoples can't achieve their basic rights. In this paper discussed especially about the unemployment issues of tribal community of Gujarat state. Statistics suggest that literacy rate constantly increasing in last some decade. But the reality is different. After increasing the education but the tribal community of Gujarat can't get the fruits of benefit from this education system , thus education cant covert into employment. As per the data the massive unemployment rate is high in tribal community. As well as participation of schedule tribe (ST) in government and organized sector is low , compare to other backward communities. In absence of employment opportunities, the educated tribal youth are either forced to work as daily wagers in unorganised sectors or migrate for better options. And this is one of the major issues the community seems to be consider as a social economical problem of Tribal youth of Gujarat

**Keywords:** Unemployment, Tribal, youth problem

## Introduction

Tribal Community is a vulnerable group of Society. After independence with the different govt. scheme they now take education and try to uplift but after getting education the tribal youth has been unemployed they have not enough jobs in govt.as well as private sector. Therefore the educated unemployed group has to work as agriculture labour. On this paper we discussed the unemployment issue of Educated tribal youth of Gujarat

## Methodology

The paper based on secondary data collected from different sources internet and. The main method is content analysis for data explanation. Discussed with some tribal youth for getting his view thus the Observation and group discussion method also used in this paper.

## Tribal Population in Gujarat

The tribal population in Gujarat is 14.67% (around 75 lakh), but the beneficiaries of primary and secondary education are 17.10% and 12.53% respectively — as per the 2011 Census. Let's classify them further: their enrolment in the Arts stream is 14.68%; 3.07% in the commerce stream and 7.20% in the science stream. Their presence in higher education is hardly one per cent.The majority of tribes reside in 15 *talukas* (subdivisions) of south Gujarat's seven districts — Surat, Dang, Tapi, Bharuch, Valsad, Narmada, and Navsari. Twenty-eight scheduled tribes are enlisted in Gujarat. Eight of them are primitive tribes — mainly belonging to Alech, Barda and Gir forests (Jamnagar

and Junagadh districts in western Gujarat) and Ahmedabad district in central Gujarat. About 21 tribes are spread over 12 districts (north-eastern belt) in Gujarat.

### **Education of Tribes in different region of Gujarat**

As per a study conducted by the Behavioural Science Centre, St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, in the seven districts of south Gujarat, nearly half (51%) of the total 1,941 respondents were class X pass. The ratio decreases with higher studies, i.e., about a fourth (24%) have passed class XII; graduates were 11% and postgraduates 4%.

The major problems of the tribes in north Gujarat (Vadodara, Dahod, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha) are — lower levels of literacy, high incidences of sickle cell anaemia, unemployment, high degree of migration and no access to forest or forest produce.

The tribals of south Gujarat have reported a higher level of literacy, but they too are faced with the same set of problems in addition to unemployment.

They allegedly face atrocities by forest officials very frequently and report the highest number of displaced people due to development projects like large-scale dams on Tapi and Narmada as well as industrial estates as part of the silver corridor of Gujarat.

### **Educated Youth with Unemployment**

Nareshbhai Devrambhai Gamit, 29, a resident of Ahwa in Dang district, earned his master's in sociology from a government college in Surat. He then went for a bachelor's in education (B.Ed.) and finished it at a constituent college in Rajkot. He had applied twice to appear in the primary school teachers' requirement examination, but the paper got leaked. He has once again applied for the job but is not sure when the examination will be conducted and when the results will be out and whether the written test will be conducted at all in the era of paper leaks. "Cancellation of exams as a result of frequent paper leaks has made me lose interest in government jobs as securing it has become next to impossible. Vacancies are announced, application forms are invited and examination dates are announced. But when we reach our centres to write papers, we come to know that it is cancelled because of the paper leak. "Applying for government jobs is an expensive affair," he said, adding that "once an exam gets cancelled, it is the aspirants who bear the losses. Every time, we have to pay hefty application fees to the government". From 2017 to 2022, 19 cases of paper leaks have been reported in the state. "After appearing in the examination, I realised I am competing with highly educated candidates who are well-prepared and how hollow our education is. I cannot afford preparation at specialised preparatory classes in bigger cities as I don't have the resources," he added. His father owns one acre of land combined with his four brothers. Agricultural farming — which solely depends on rain as the forested hilly areas don't have water for irrigation — is the only source of his family's sustenance.

He does petty jobs as a daily wagger to support his family's income.

Satishbhai Laxmibhai Bhoje from Borkhal village had got training (ITI) to become a health sanitary inspector. He was working with the Rajkot Civil Hospital as a contractual labourer, but was fired after the COVID-19 pandemic eased in the state. He is presently working as a computer operator with the office of a local advocate in Ahwa (the district headquarters of Dang). His younger brother also has an MA in sociology and is presently pursuing B. Ed from Gujarat Vidyapeeth in Ahmedabad. To support his family and meet his own expenses, he is also working as a graphic

designer. After completing graduation in Gujarati language, one of his sisters is studying GNM (General Nursing and Midwifery). Another sister is working with a textile firm in Surat after graduation.

“Everyone in my family is educated, but none of us has a government job. Our father has two acres of land and all of us must spare some time to work in the field as it fulfils the need for food grains and vegetables. In addition, we work here and there to earn something. And therefore, we fail to compete in competitive examinations — which demand good and modern preparations and concentration,” he said. Tushar Raman Kamadi from Vyara in Tapi district has done a three-year diploma in forensic science, but he too is one among the jobless.

“There is no government vacancy at all,” he added.

The rising unemployment among youths has contributed to the anti-incumbency against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is ruling the state for the past 27 years.

It’s high time, said the tribal youth, that we bring about a “change”.

“The BJP has been in power in the state for so many years; therefore, it cannot blame the Opposition for our educational and socio-economic backwardness. We study because our areas have no other employment opportunities. If we are not getting jobs, why have we spent our time, money, and energy on education? Therefore, we want a change of guard,” they added.

### **Reason for unemployment**

Despite being educated, why are tribal youths facing such a large scale of unemployment? Activist Romel Sutaria, who is working with adivasis in south Gujarat, said it’s a multi-pronged issue: like....

- lack of quality education,
- financial crunch,
- less exposure to the mainland is some of the factors responsible.
- “The schools and colleges in tribal areas are just for name’s sake. These lack good teachers, who can impart quality education to them.
- Most of the degree colleges offer bachelors in very limited streams. One will rarely find English, economics, commerce, and science departments,”
- Lack of important faculty colleges except arts and commerce and science.
- “The industries that were set up in tribal areas don’t employ locals, arguing that they would organise and form a union which will hamper productivity. The Kakrapar Atomic Power Station and the Ukai Thermal Power Station do not have local employees.
- Many of the tribals are employed at the Narmada Nigam for Sardar Sarovar Project at Kevadia as casual labourers since the beginning of the 1980s. However, they have continued working as they consider this job as a ‘government job’ meaning a secured job,
- Tribal concentrated belts of the state are witnessing three-dimensional migration: people go to harvest sugarcane in Surat, Navsari and Valsad districts; a large number of them travel to Maharashtra for onion, grapes and pomegranate production and harvesting; the rest go to Delhi and other big cities to work as construction labourers.
- There have been several additional and special arrangements for education in tribal areas — 458 residential schools, known as Ashramshalas, 89 post-basic schools, 935 hostels for tribal boys and girls, 53 model residential schools, 19 Eklavya residential schools, one military school, 23

dry hostels, 50 government hostels, coverage of 5,838 students under talent pool and supply of textbooks to 12,835 tribal students. Unfortunately, all these schemes lack effective implementation.

- According to Arunbhai Patel, a research officer at the Tribal Research and Training Institute of the Gujarat Vidyapith, “non-formal” education is perhaps relevant to the tribals’ traditional lifestyle, focusing on collection of forest products, agricultural activities, hunting, fishery, grazing of animals, etc.
- Special measures should be taken to employ educated youths in government and organised private sectors.
- “New Ashramshalas should be opened and regularly supervised. Its staff members should be provided with benefits at par with panchayat-run schools. Likewise, post-basic school staff should be treated at par with secondary school staff as recognised by the Secondary School Examination Board. Efforts should be made to provide education in Ashramshalas, ranging from dialects to international languages. It should be at par with mainstream education,” he added.

### Land Alienation

Land alienation among tribals is very rampant across the north-eastern belt of Gujarat. It is reported that officially about 7-8% of tribal are alienated from the land; informal surveys reveal this extent to 15%. The state government has taken steps like launching the Joint Forest Management, Vanbandhu Yojana and other development programmes, but its effect is limited in providing employment and better quality of life.

Panchayati Raj Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1998 (PESA) was expected to provide opportunities to tribals for local self-governance, but it has not been implemented well by the government. In this situation, tribal development has remained centralized and largely government-dependent. Since the industrial houses failed to engage educated tribal youth meaningfully in respective units, agriculture emerged as a main economic activity. But due to large-scale dams and wider forest cover, most of the farmers are marginal or small with small and medium landholding.

### Conclusion

As per the all discussion we can say that in Gujarat region there is no atmosphere created by government for quality education for tribal youth. Govt. work better and implement so many schemes but the quality of implementation is very low, so we can't see the better result. The other thing is that corruption and malpractices in govt. competitive exams. Is a big faultier of the system to provide better job to better candidate.

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