

Active Job seekers Among Schedule Tribes (ST) Community in Tripura

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Abstract

Active Job seekers among Scheduled Tribes (ST) have garnered significant attention due to their complicated implications for individual well-being, social dynamics, and economic development. In Tripura there are 19 Tribes having total population of 11,66,813 (Census- 2011), which accounts 31 percent of the total population of the state. In this paper attempt has been made to highlight trends in active Job seekers live registration of Scheduled Tribes category. During 2015–2016 to 2022–2023, the number of live registration Job seekers among Scheduled Tribes community has steadily increased. As per the National Career Services portal data, in Tripura the total number of Job seekers (all communities) registered in 2022–2023 was 271870 persons, among which Scheduled Tribes category was 65315 (24.02%) persons, which is the second highest number of active Job seekers in Tripura.

Keywords: Active Job seekers, Unemployment, Schedule Tribes, Tripura.

Introduction

Unemployment is one of the world's most serious problems. The global economy is being strangled by increasing joblessness. Unemployment is defined as a situation in which a working-age person actively seeks a job but is unable to find it. Unemployment is regarded as one of society's worst difficulties. It has a wide range of negative implications for society, including waste of human resources, slowed economic advancement, poverty, discontent with society, and so on. Education is viewed as an investment for obtaining better prospects gainful employment in the developing economies. Moreover, people's expectation is that education will aid them in learning new knowledge and abilities.

In India, unemployment is a crucial issue. Usually, it refers to a situation when a person is not engaged in a profitable occupation. Both in developing and developed nations, it is a significant macroeconomic problem. It brings behind a substantial number of socioeconomic issues in many different forms. The negative impacts of unemployment are many and serious. Along with decreasing income and productivity, it can also result in inequality, a loss of human capital and skill, poor health and mortality, migration, a lack of motivation for future employment, a decline in relationships with others, and a decline in social life. Understanding the causes and effects of unemployment is crucial for developing effective policies and initiatives to address it.

In Tripura there are 19 Tribes having total population of 11,66,813 (Census- 2011), which accounts 31 percent of the total population of the state. Out of this total ST population, males were 5,88,327 and females 5,78,486. The indigenous communities of Tripura are having each distinct and unique cultural heritage and way of life settled most in rural areas. Despite the state's natural beauty and resource riches, unemployment is still a persistent problem, especially among the ST community. These communities'

economic vulnerability has been exacerbated by previous land confiscation, poor access to quality education, and a lack of opportunity for skill development. This study intends to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive examination of the factors that lead to unemployment among Schedule Tribes in Tripura, as well as its effects and potential remedies, while also emphasizing the necessity for focused interventions that take into account both current issues and historical injustices.

Active Job seekers among Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Tripura is a critical socio-economic challenge that warrants attention due to its multifaceted implications on individual lives, community well-being, and overall regional development. Most of the Scheduled Tribes are living in the hilly region of the state, and they are not getting proper and quality education, skills development training, vocational education, etc. According to National Career Services, active Job seekers among Scheduled Tribes were 65315 (24.02%) persons during 2022–2023, and around 271870 Job seekers are on live registration in Tripura overall. The state of Tripura, located in the Northeastern region of India, is home to diverse tribal communities that have faced historical marginalization and socio-economic disparities. There are 19 tribes in Tripura, with the Tripuris, Reangs, Jamatias, Chakmas, and Halam communities constituting the largest groups, among others. Each of these communities has its own language, customs, and traditions.

Objective

The objective of the paper is to analysis the trend of active Job seekers among the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community of Tripura from the period 2015-16 to 2022-23.

Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary data. Data are collected from various sources like Employment Exchange, National Career Service, Economic Survey, CMIE, NSSO, etc. and also from research articles, journals, published research paper, etc.

Unemployment Scenario in Tripura

Unemployment in Tripura, one of the contributing factors to the unemployment issue is that Tripura's economy is an agrarian, which largely relies on traditional farming practices. This dependence on agriculture has resulted in seasonal employment and disguised unemployment, leaving many individuals without a stable source of income throughout the year. However, limited industrialization and a relatively small private sector have hindered the creation of diverse job opportunities in the state. The lack of a large manufacturing and service sector has led to a scarcity of non-agricultural employment options. The state's geographical location, with its borders connecting to Bangladesh and other Northeastern states, also plays a role in the unemployment scenario. It has led to the migration of labour seeking employment in neighbouring regions, leaving behind a lack of skilled workers and professionals within Tripura.

Unemployment rate as per the CMIE report in India indicates that while the rural unemployment rate increased to 7.23 percent from 6.48 percent in February 2023, the urban unemployment rate decreased to 7.93 percent from 8.55 percent in the same month. Overall, India's unemployment rate was 7.14 percent in January, 2023 and it rose to 7.45 percent in February 2023. Assam's unemployment rate was 8.6 percent in February 2023. Tripura's unemployment rate was recorded at 11.7 percent in February 2023, which is one of the highest at the national level. Tripura's unemployment rate increases day by day among scheduled tribes as well as other social categories.

According to data from the National Career Service Portal, there are 2,81,920 youths registered in Tripura as Job seekers as of July 31, 2023 (NCS report). These included 32,400 (11.49%) persons in the Gomati district, 24,220 (8.59%) persons in the Khowai district, 30,287 (10.74%) persons in the Sepahijala district, 27,904 (9.9%) persons in the Dhalai district, 22,230 (7.89%) persons in the Unakoti district, 26,328 (9.34%) persons in the North Tripura district, and 80,911 (28.7%) persons in the West Tripura district. 37,623 (13.35%) persons live in the South Tripura district. Due to the rapid growth of the population, which led to an abundance of labourers and an excessive dependence on agriculture, hence the number of Job seekers in Tripura has also increased manifold.

Trend of Schedule Tribes Job seekers

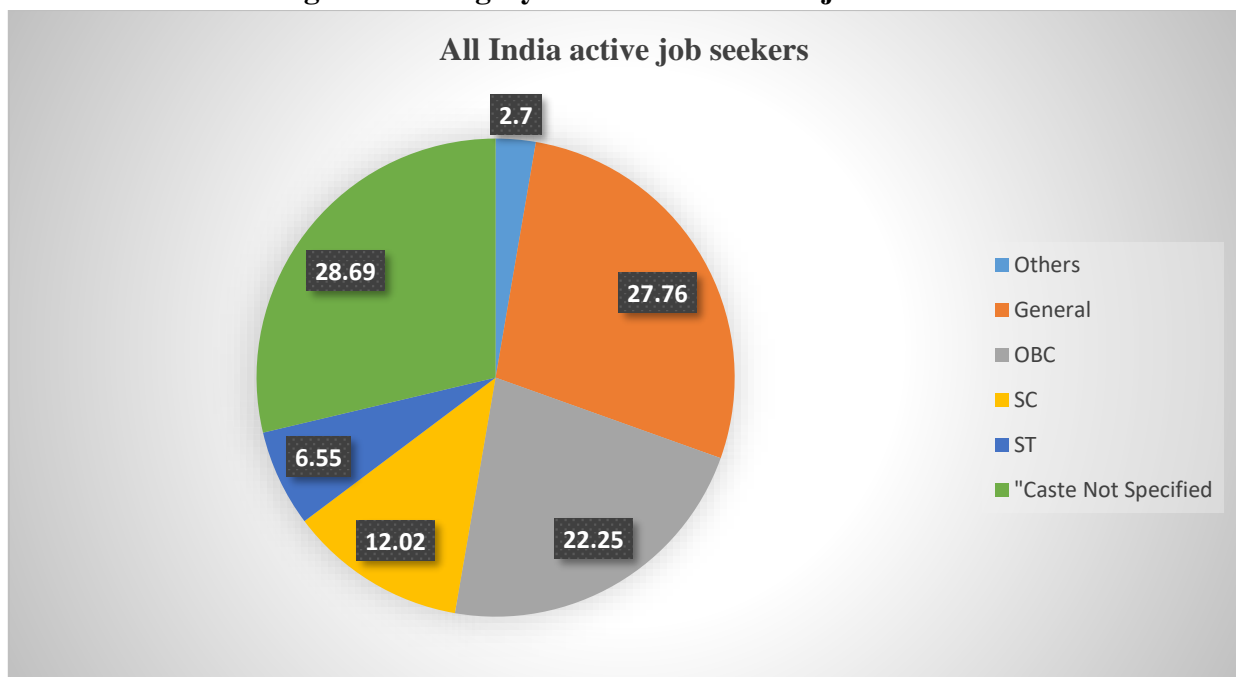
An analysis of trend of Job seekers in India, North East India and Tripura from secondary data has been analysed. Table-1 shows the number of Job seekers on live register from 2015–2016 to 2022–2023. The total number of Job seekers that registered on the National Careers Services live register was 1.55,25,571. Whereas there were 43,10,495 Job seekers in the general category, there were 34,55,954 in the OBC category, 18,66,949 in the SC category, and 10,17,257 in the ST category. There were 4,20,391 others, and 44,54,525 people came into the not category specified group.

Table-1: All India active job seekers registration all category from 2015-16 to 2022-23.

Category	Others	General	OBC	SC	ST	"Caste Not Specified"	Total
All India	420391 (2.70%)	4310495 (27.76%)	3455954 (22.25%)	1866949 (12.02%)	1017257 (6.55%)	4454525 (28.69%)	15525571 (100%)

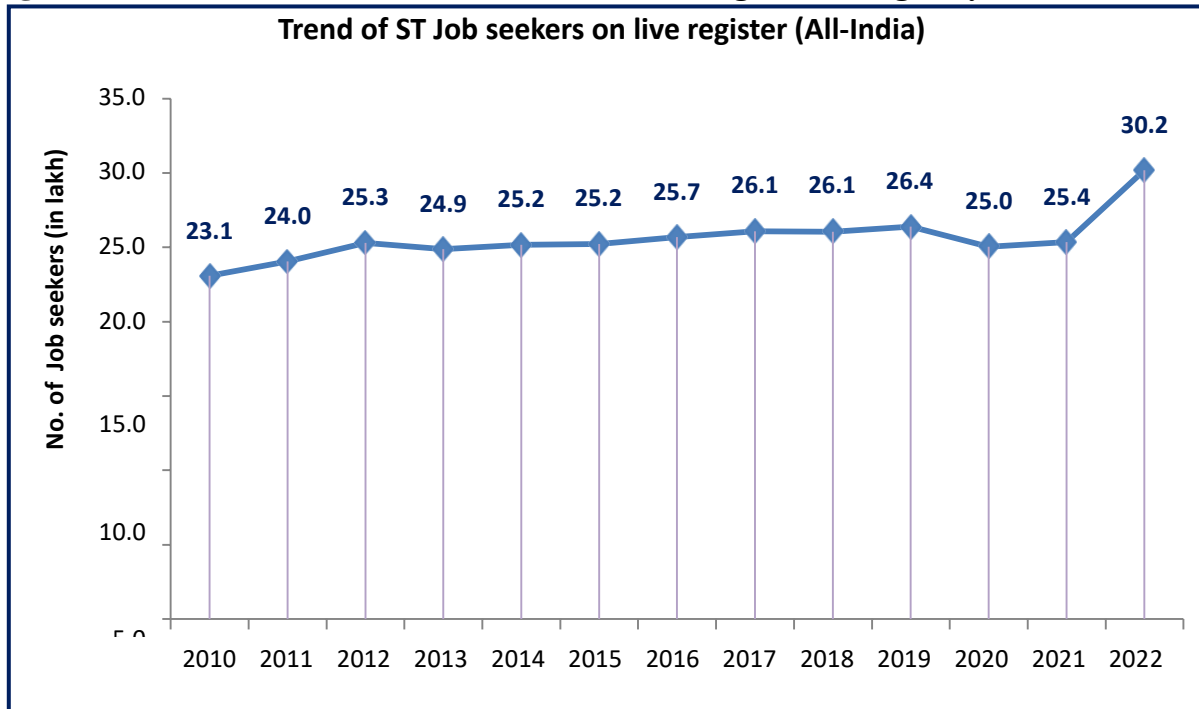
Sources: *National Careers Services portal.*

Figure-1: Category wise all India active job seekers



Sources: *National Careers Services portal.*

Figure-2: Year-wise trends of ST Job seekers on live register during the years 2010 to 2022.



Sources: *Employment Exchange & NCS.*

Figure-2 shows the year-wise number of all India ST Job seekers who registered with employment exchanges between 2010 and 2022. It reflects that the highest number of ST jobseeker registrations was 30.2 lakh during the year 2022.

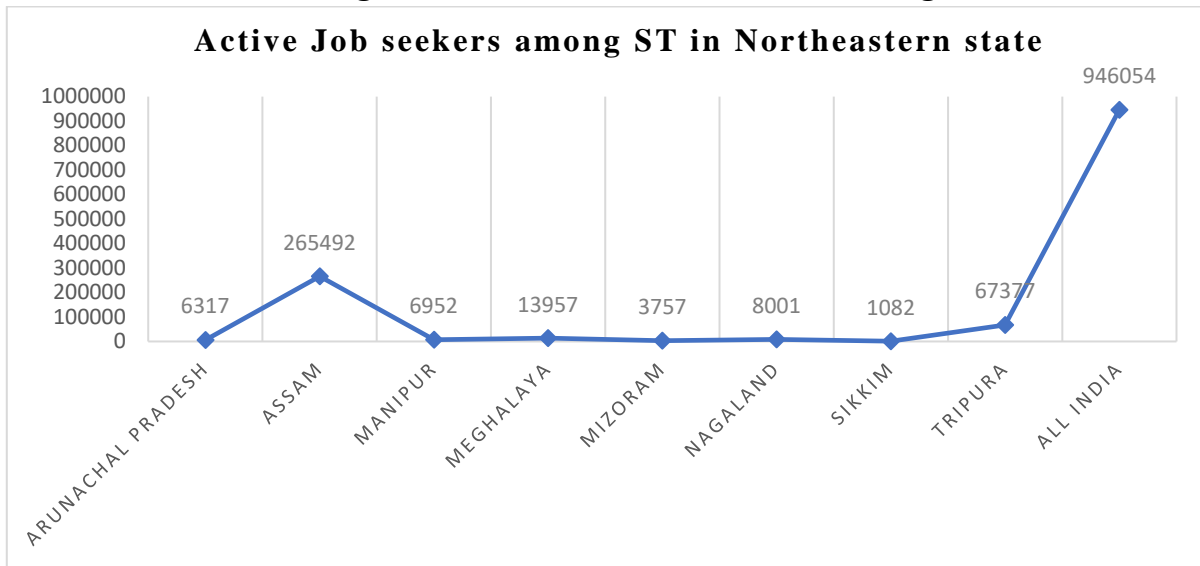
In 2019, the number of ST Job seekers on live register reached a substantial 26.4 lakh, marking a concerning trend of rising unemployment within this community. This increase is indicative of the difficulties faced by ST individuals in accessing employment opportunities that are essential for their economic well-being and social development.

The highest number of job seekers, which was 30.2 lakh ST people, is the most concerning result. This signifies a growing disparity in employment opportunities and highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the specific challenges faced by the ST community.

Several factors may contribute to this concerning trend, including limited access to quality education, lack of skills training, and unequal access to job markets. Discrimination and bias in the hiring process may also play a role in limiting the employment prospects of ST individuals.

To address these issues, policymakers should prioritize initiatives aimed at improving education and skill development opportunities for the ST community. Furthermore, there is a need for anti-discrimination policies that promote equal employment opportunities and equal rights. By addressing these challenges, society can work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable job market for all, irrespective of their background.

Figure-3: Active Job seekers registration ST in Northeastern State during 2022-2023.



Sources: Ministry of Labour & Employment, National Career Service.

Figure-3 shows the number of Scheduled Tribe (ST) Job seekers in various Northeastern states of India during the years 2022–2023. In the years 2022–2023, there were 6,317 ST Job seekers in Arunachal Pradesh. With 265,492 ST Job seekers in Assam over the same period, there was a much larger desire for work among the ST community. Manipur had 6,952 ST Job seekers in 2022–2023, indicating a need for employment opportunities in the state. Given the size of its population, Meghalaya has 13,957 ST Job seekers, which is a significant number. 3,757 ST Job seekers in Mizoram indicate a demand for opportunities to work in the state. Nagaland had 8,001 ST Job seekers, indicating a demand for jobs among the ST population. Sikkim had 1,082 ST Job seekers, which is relatively low compared to some other states in the region. Tripura had 67,377 ST Job seekers, which is a significant number, possibly due to its larger population compared to some other Northeastern states. The data for "All India" represents the total number of ST Job seekers across all the Northeastern states, which is 946,054.

The study highlights the presence of a substantial number of ST Job seekers in the Northeastern states, suggesting the need for government and private sector initiatives to generate employment opportunities and improve the socio-economic conditions of the ST population in the region. It also reflects regional variations in the demand for jobs among the ST communities, with states like Assam and Tripura having higher numbers of Job seekers compared to smaller states like Sikkim and Mizoram.

Employment Exchanges and Registered Job seekers in Tripura:

An Employment Exchange and National Career Services is a government portal that provides support to Job seekers. Employment searchers can register their names in National Career Services for various employment openings in various government services of the state.

Table-2: No. of Active Job seekers registration in Tripura (Figure in Thousand).

Social category	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ST	2224	3039	7364	22087	8882	7603	7481	6635

SC	1350	2312	5934	14074	7717	7580	3715	4409
OBC	1942	2537	6911	16451	8972	8793	4408	4814
General	2047	4289	10556	22069	11401	10579	4797	5888
Caste Not Specified	278	885	1530	2411	2200	5970	4679	9006
Others	157	257	1180	1825	803	494	466	869
Total	7998	13319	33475	78917	39975	41019	25546	31621

Sources: *National Careers Service Portal (NCS).*

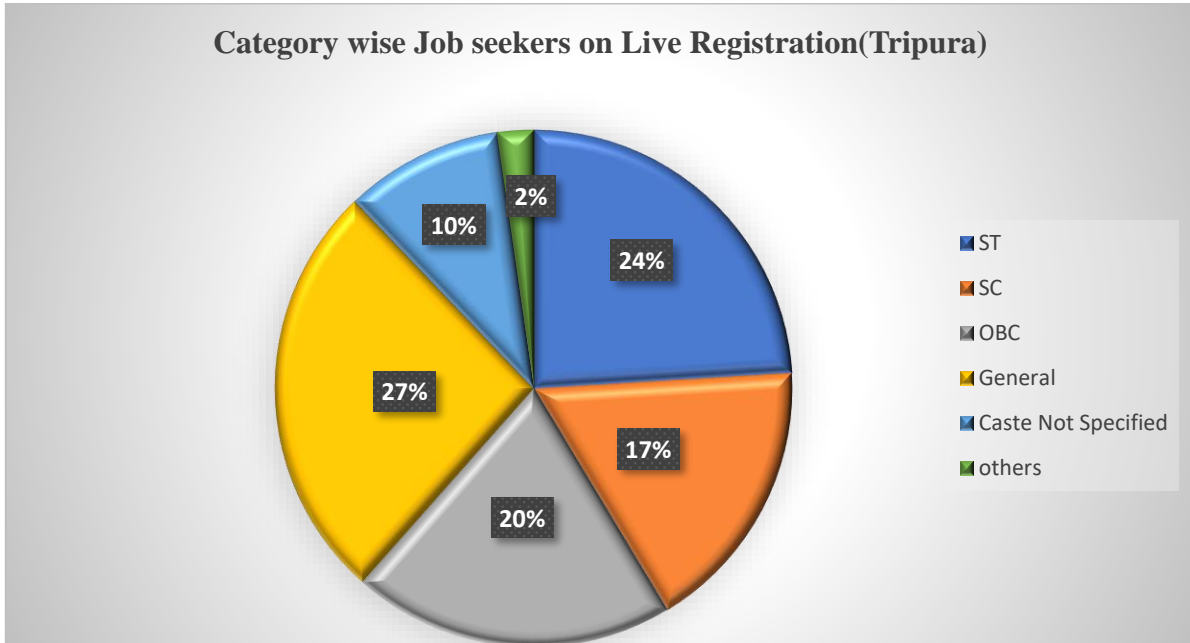
The table-2 shows the number of Job seekers persons in different social categories (ST - Scheduled Tribes, SC - Scheduled Castes, OBC - Other Backward Classes, and General), Caste not Specified, and Others for each of the specified years from 2015-16 to 2022–23. These numbers represent the count of Job seekers persons within each social category for each respective year.

The differences in the number of Job seekers over these years among various social groups show a complex overview of economic difficulties and changing trends. In 2015-16, a notable number of 2,224 Job seekers persons in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category, 1,350 in the Scheduled Castes (SC) category, 1,942 in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, 2,047 General category, 278 Caste not Specified and 157 in the Others indicated a broader issue of joblessness. Because the 2015–2016 unemployment exchange was conducted offline, a few people were aware of the NCS site for job seeker registration during that time.

However, the situation changed significantly in the subsequent years. By 2016–17, the number of registered job seekers in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category had increased to 3,039. If this trend continued by 2018–19, the ST category would have seen a substantial increase in unemployment, with the highest at 22,087 job seekers. A similar pattern was observed in the general category, reaching a high of 22,069 job seekers. The Other Backward Classes (OBC) category also observes a progressive increase in the number of job seekers, eventually reaching 16,451 individuals. At the same time, the Scheduled Caste (SC) category also saw a rise in job seekers, although to a lesser extent, 14,074, person job seekers. The National Career Services portal for job seekers' registration is well-known to a large number of people. This trend resulted in an increase in active job seekers' registration across all categories in Tripura from 2016–17 to 2019–2020.

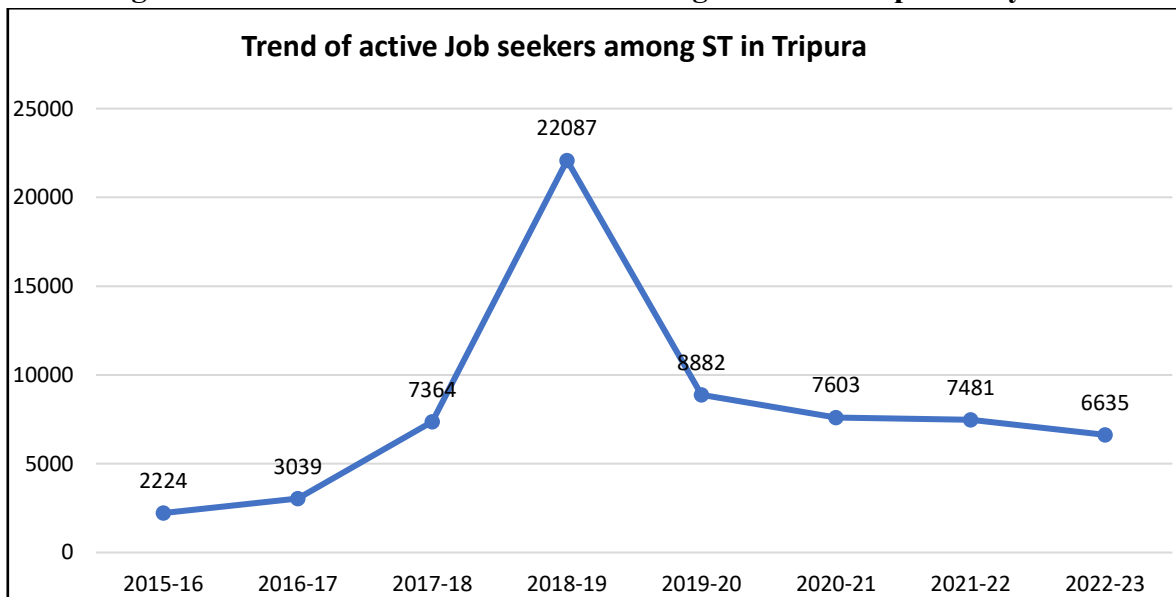
In the ensuing years, there was a gradual decline in the numbers of Job seekers. By 2022–23, the ST category had 6,635 Job seekers persons, and the general category still had 5,888 Job seekers. In the SC category, there were 4,409 persons actively looking for work, compared to 4,814 Job seekers in the OBC category. While the numbers improved from their peaks, they remained substantial, highlighting the ongoing need for comprehensive employment strategies and initiatives to address these challenges and promote economic growth and equity for the ST category.

Figure-4: Category wise Job seekers on live registration in Tripura during 2022-2023



Sources: National careers service portal (NCS).

Figure-5: Trend of active Job seekers among ST over the specified years.



Source: National careers service portal (NCS).

Figure-5 shows the number of Job seekers among ST category at the state level during the period from 2015–16 to 2022–23. The table shows the number of Job seekers in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) social category for each of the specified years, from 2015-16 to 2022–23. To analyse the trend of ST Job seekers during this time period, we can observe the changes in the number of Job seekers over these years:

The number of ST Job seekers increased significantly from 2224 to 3039 between 2015-16 and 2016-17, showing a positive increase in job seeking among ST population over the duration of this one-year period. The number of ST Job seekers increased significantly from 3039 to 7364 during 2016–17 and 2017–18. The fact that there has been such a significant increased indicates that this year, STs have greater incentives

compared to previous years to look for work. The number of ST Job seekers increased significantly from 7364 to 22087 during 2017–18 and 2018–19. The highest number of Job seekers among ST category in 2018-2019, was 22087 persons. The rapid increase suggests a stronger trend toward job seeking in this group. From 2018-19 to 2019-20, the number of ST Job seekers decreased significantly, from 22087 to 8882. This could be the result of multiple reasons, such as the state of the economy, registration of jobs seekers decreases. From 2019–20 to 2020–21, there were 8882 fewer ST Job seekers, decreasing to 7603. The reduction seen in the prior year may be continuing in this instance. There is a marginal decrease in the number of ST Job seekers between 2020–2021 and 2021–2022, from 7603 to 7481. The number of ST Job seekers further decreased from 7481(2021–2022) to 6635 (2022–2023). This indicates that the trend of decreasing Job seekers among the ST category persists even in the recent years.

Summary of Results: The trend of ST Job seekers in Tripura during the above-mentioned time period can be summarised as follows:

- There was a significant and consistent increase in ST Job seekers from 2015-16 to 2018-19, the highest being found in 2018-19.
- In the subsequent years, from 2018–19 to 2022–23, there was a decline in the number of Job seekers and as was reflected that the Job seekers decreased in live registration. The reasons for this decreased registration of Job seekers may be attributed with economic conditions of the ST Job seekers, Government policies and lack of awareness.

Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

The study found that the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community in Tripura has a notable number of active Job seekers underlines the community's members' strong desire for employment and improved economic well-being. The strong desire for socioeconomic development within the Scheduled Tribes community as a whole is evident through their intense interest in actively seeking career prospects. It emphasizes the necessity of specialized programs and legislative measures designed to promote economic empowerment, skill development, and access to jobs. Recognizing and supporting these objectives can promote not only individual prosperity but also the general growth and inclusivity of the ST community, promoting a more just and prosperous society in Tripura.

Challenges Faced:

- Job seekers in the ST community face several challenges, including limited access to quality education and skill development programs.
- Geographical factors, such as remote and hilly land in certain areas of Tripura, may pose difficulties in accessing employment opportunities.
- Economic constraints and a lack of financial resources may hinder Job seekers from pursuing certain career paths.

Government Initiatives:

- The study highlighted various government initiatives and schemes aimed at addressing the employment needs of the ST community in Tripura. These initiatives include skill development programs, reservation in government jobs, and entrepreneurship support.

Conclusion

Active Job seekers among the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community in Tripura has made clear the community's serious aspiration for socioeconomic development. The presence of a substantial number of active Job seekers emphasizes their strong motivation to improve their economic well-being and overall quality of life. This study has not only provided valuable insights into the preferred sectors and challenges faced by ST Job seekers but has also emphasized the importance of change interventions and policy measures. It is crucial for policymakers, government agencies, and stakeholders to recognize and address these aspirations, fostering inclusive growth, skill development, and employment opportunities for the ST community in Tripura. By harnessing the potential and addressing the challenges faced by active Job seekers among the ST community, Tripura can work towards achieving greater socioeconomic equity and prosperity, ensuring that no one is left behind in its path to development.

Recommendations:

- To enhance the employment prospects of the ST community in Tripura, the study recommends the expansion of skill development and vocational training programs, particularly in areas with a higher ST population.
- The government of Tripura must maintain the roster management system in various government departments in Tripura and ensure equality.
- To fulfil the ST community backlog vacancy in various departments of the government of Tripura.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and providing financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs within the ST community can promote self-employment and economic independence.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of government initiatives targeted at ST Job seekers are essential to ensuring their effectiveness and sustainability.

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