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## **A Study of the Socio-Economic Status of Educated Unemployed Tribal Youth in Vadodara**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The socio-economic status of educated unemployed tribal youth in Vadodara is a critical issue that reflects the challenges faced by indigenous communities in accessing sustainable livelihoods. Despite significant improvements in literacy rates and educational attainment among tribal youth, unemployment remains a persistent concern due to factors such as skill mismatch, lack of employment opportunities, and socio-economic barriers. This study explores the demographic profile, educational background, and employment aspirations of educated tribal youth in Gujarat. It examines the key reasons for unemployment, including land alienation, limited access to skill development programs, and inadequate job opportunities in both the public and private sectors. The study also evaluates the impact of government policies and initiatives aimed at improving employment prospects for tribal youth. By analyzing primary and secondary data, the research aims to provide policy recommendations that can bridge the gap between education and employment, ultimately enhancing the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities in Gujarat.

Data and Method – Quantitative and Qualitative method was used in this study. Sample size was 50. Simple random sampling was used in this study.

Results and Finding- Socio-Economic status is very much low than other community, most of youth are uneducated, still they are not getting employment, hence their socio-economic status is very much low that other community.

Conclusion- Unemployment has a significant psychological and social impact on tribal youth, leading to mental stress, societal pressure, and dependence on family members. Lack of job opportunities creates resentment, discourages further education, and limits socio-economic progress.

Keywords: Tribal youth, educated unemployment, socio-economic status, Gujarat, skill development, land alienation, government policies, employment challenges, indigenous communities, sustainable livelihoods.

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### **Introduction**

Unemployment is a pressing socio-economic issue that affects individuals, families, and communities across various demographics. Among the most vulnerable groups are tribal youth, who face unique challenges in securing employment despite obtaining formal education. The present study focuses on the socio-economic status of educated unemployed tribal youth in Vadodara, aiming to explore the factors contributing to their unemployment and its implications on their livelihoods and well-being.

Tribal communities in India have historically faced marginalization due to socio-economic disadvantages, limited access to quality education, and a lack of adequate employment opportunities. In recent years, government initiatives and policies have sought to improve educational access for tribal populations. However, despite acquiring educational qualifications, many tribal youth continue to struggle with unemployment. The reasons for this phenomenon may include skill mismatches, systemic discrimination, socio-cultural barriers, and the lack of economic opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

Vadodara, a major city in Gujarat, has witnessed significant economic and industrial growth. However, the benefits of this development have not been equally distributed, particularly among tribal youth. The study aims to analyze the socio-economic status of this group, examining their

educational background, employment aspirations, barriers to employment, and the impact of unemployment on their social and economic well-being. Through this research, it is hoped that insights will be gained to inform policymakers, educational institutions, and employment agencies to develop targeted interventions that can bridge the gap between education and employment for tribal youth in Vadodara.

This research will employ a mixed-method approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic realities faced by educated but unemployed tribal youth. By shedding light on this critical issue, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on social equity, economic inclusion, and sustainable development.

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## Review of literature

India is seen as a youthful engine of economic growth. Social, economic and demographic changes coupled with globalization and technological advancements at global level have had a deep impact on the Indian economy as well. Consequently, numerous critical issues have emerged. On a positive note, India is standing out at the window of opportunity created by the Demographic Dividend. This is the topic of utmost concern nowadays not only at the national but also at the global fronts and there exists a vast literature on demographic trends and its impact on the economy.

C P, Chandrashekhara Jayati Ghosh and Anamitra Roy Chowdhary (2006) observed that the structure of India's population has changed overtime and resulted in a bulge in the working age- group. In order to harness the opportunity delivered by demographic window, it was needed that more employment was generated. Strategies existed to exploit this opportunity, it's only that there was a need that they were adopted and implemented.

Bloom and Canning (2004) have made a remarkable contribution by presenting a model of economic growth and highlighting the impact of demographic change during 1960-95 for a group of countries. They found that the working age ratio had a noticeable impact on economic growth but only if the economy is "open." They posited that the opportunity of demographic dividend exists but the economies can be benefited from it only when the incentives are ready to exploit the opportunity.

Mason (2001) investigated the role of demographic change in the economic success of East Asian countries. Six East Asian economies: Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand were selected. Their transition from an economic backwater to the most potent ones was studied. They specifically focused on two aspects – one was to examine the developmental impact of demographic change and the other was to examine the mechanisms through which population and the demographic changes affected the countries. They concluded that the changes in age structure resulted in this economic miracle in the East Asian countries. On the similar note Mason (2001a) in his study on Taiwan region concluded that 28% of the country's growth in per capita output in the years 1965 to 1990 was the result of the demographic transition. On the contrary, Bloom, Canning and Sevilla (2003) found that Africa's poor economic performance may be because of lack of such a transition. Thus, the evidence supports the view that the demographic transition has played an important, positive role in economic development.

The demographic changes are accompanied by structural transformations that keep occurring in the labor market of the country. Such transformations have a deep impact on the employment pattern of youth.

Yoshifumi Usami, Vikas Rawal (2018) studied changes in structure of employment during 2004-05 and 2011-12. NSSO data for the aforementioned periods were analysed and a detailed age cohort analysis was made separately for urban-rural and men and women categories. The study found that although bulk of workers with little or no education were employed in agriculture between 2004–05 and 2011–12, contraction of agricultural employment caused workers with higher secondary education to leave agriculture, in addition to some of the workers with low levels of education. Construction sector employed workers with the lowest educational attainment.

Venkatarayana and Naik (2016) examined the outcomes of Census 2011, and compared with NSSO estimation of the workforce. The rate of growth in the overall workforce declined rapidly, especially in case of females. Trends in growth of workforce and changes in its structure were the key areas under study. Male population was found to be reducing to marginal status workers while female workers levelled up to main status workers. There was found a marked shift in occupational distribution of workforce. There was a steep decline in self-cultivator workforce and increase in agricultural labourers. Workforce shifted towards non-agriculture.

Chandrashekhara and Ghosh (2007) also pictured the structural changes in employment patterns in India. The study compared the two economies- India and China. Many differences and similarities were brought out between the two. As far as the employment pattern of India was concerned, the basic problem was inability to generate enough opportunities for "decent work" and thus the needs of the labor force weren't met. The author used data from Census 2001 and NSSO-61st round.

Youth employment rate was found to be higher as compared to unemployment across all working-age populations. 6-8 percent young rural males and 12-14 percent urban male youth searched for work but did not find it. Growth in organised industry did not necessarily lead to greater employment generation. The study concluded that there was a huge mismatch between economic growth and employment generation. (Chandrashekhara and Ghosh, 2007)

Agricultural sector saw an agrarian crisis and the mechanized techniques of cultivation reduced labor demand. Finding self-employment was in the form of a survival strategy rather than a positive choice. Productive employment generation with decent work opportunities was the primary goal. Rural males were found to shift towards the construction sector and another big shift was of rural women towards the manufacturing sector. Wage employment in agriculture fell, self employment arose. (Chandrashekhar and Ghosh, 2007)

Organized manufacturing employment (both public and private) rose from 6.1 million in 1981 to 6.4 million in 1994 and 6.9 million in 1997 and then declined sharply to 6 million in 2003. Wage gap increased, female casual workers could get only around 58 percent of the wages received by male casual workers. Gender wage gap increased for all categories of workers between the period 1999-2000 and 2004-05. (Chandrashekhar and Ghosh, 2007)

On the similar note, Amitabh and Mohanan (2009) also analysed the shifts in the patterns of employment during the early nineties. Nature of growth in employment and unemployment along with rural-urban, age and gender differentiation were studied. Impact of educational levels on employment outcomes was also determined.

Another section of the study focused on sectoral shifts in employment in relation to shifts in income. Migration from rural to urban areas and also education were found to be important tools in poverty alleviation. Employment opportunities were more for educated male migrants. Women, literate or not, found employment in low productive service sectors. (Amitabh and Mohanan,2009)

Employment growth was seen which had put an end to the jobless growth syndrome of the nineties, but was seen in informal sector. Formal industries grew at a rapid pace but a major bundle of workers were not on official payrolls and thus lacked minimum wage guarantee and social security benefits. Government has taken several measures to aid the workers in the informal sectors but there existed a lot to be invested. . (Amitabh and Mohanan,2009)

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## Objectives

To analyze Socio-Economic Status of educated unemployed Tribal Youth

To understand livelihood challenges faced by educated unemployed Tribal Youth

To identify government policies and programme of educated unemployed Tribal Youth

To know about impact of unemployment on educated tribal youth.

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## Data and method

### Study area

Vadodara, also known as Baroda, is the third-largest city in Gujarat, India. It is located on the banks of the Vishwamitri River and is known for its historical, cultural, and industrial significance. Present study is on Socio-Economic Status of educated unemployed Tribal Youth in Vadodara Study is based on Socio-Economic Status of educated unemployed Tribal Youth in Vadodara City which is very negligible part of this study. Researcher selected two areas for the study i.e., Mujmahuda and Raopura etc. There is no research on socio-economic educated unemployed tribal youth and these locations are always for missing proposed study. The study is based on primary and secondary data. In order to a micro level study on socio-economic and education status It explores views, perception of them whereby researcher wanted to more knowledge about proposed study.

### Rational for the selection of study area

Vadodara, also known as Baroda, is the third-largest city in Gujarat, India. It is located on the banks of the Vishwamitri River and is known for its historical, cultural, and industrial significance. Present study A Study of the Socio-Economic Status of educated unemployed Tribal Youth in Vadodara. Researcher selected socio-economic and status of educated unemployed tribal youth which is very negligible for this subject. Researcher selected two areas i.e, Vasvel and Asha for study. There is no research on status of educated unemployed tribal youth and these locations are always missing for proposed study. Researcher took data from educated unemployed Tribal youth s working/ staying in Waghodiya areas were selected of Vadodara. Researcher also selected both areas because researchers wanted to explore more knowledge about proposed study. Hence researcher selected this location.

### Research Design

To reveal the field facts through scientific research instruments, the researcher used exploratory research design. The research aims at exploration and in-depth study. Researcher used both qualitative and quantitative (Mix Method) research design. The research methodology applied in the pursuance of study includes the data collection through primary and secondary source.

**Universe of the study:**

Universe of Study was Vadodara district of Gujarat. Vadodara, also known as Baroda, is the third-largest city in Gujarat, India. It is located on the banks of the Vishwamitri River and is known for its historical, cultural, and industrial significance. For research study, researcher selected Vadodara City and two areas i.e, Vasvel and Asha which are missing for Socio-Economic Status of educated unemployed Tribal Youth and their achievements and challenges. Researcher adopted exploratory research design for this study whereby researcher might acquire more knowledge, perception, and views about study.

**Sampling Size and Sampling Technique:**

Sampling Size - The total sampling size of the research is 50 respondents which contain trans mans and trans women. Researcher used exploratory research design.

**Sources of Data Collection**

Primary and secondary data sources were used for the data collection.

**Primary data:** Researcher had to approach all respondents such as students, parents Researcher has collected data from all stakeholders using structured and semi- structured interview scheduled and also researcher has been used FGDs for more information and knowledge for this study.

**Secondary Data:** The researcher used all material regarding study such as material from government reports, publications, articles, websites, books, journals, research papers, literature regarding Scheduled caste education, their achievements, and challenges. Use of internet for e-book also contained sources of secondary data information for study concerned.

**Structured Interview Schedule** – The Primary data have been collected with the help of interviews scheduled going to schools and colleges and taken interview of students and parents. Researcher has taken interviews form 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> std, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> std and graduate, undergraduate students including all streams such as, BRS, MSW, MRS. engineering, medical also.

**Semi- Structured Interview Schedule** – Semi structured interview tool helped to collect from Students, government officer, other government staff. Being semi structured question, it was easier to capture the views, opinion, and experience's opinion of students in a descriptive manner.

**Results and Finding****Tabal:-1 showing information on age of respondents.**

Sr.No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	25 to 30	25	50%
2	30 to 35	17	34%
3	35 to 40	8	16%
4	Total	50	100%

The respondents have been categorized based on their age in the table above. The percentage of respondents who are between the ages of 25 and 30 is 50%. Of those surveyed, 34% are between the ages of 30 and 35. Additionally, 16% of responders are between the ages of 35 and 40.

This makes it evident that, of the respondents chosen for the study, those between the ages of 25 and 30 are the most impacted by their unemployment status.

**Table:-2 showing information about education of respondent.**

Sr.No	Educational Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Primary	10	20
2	Secondary	21	42
3	Higher education	19	38

4	Total	50	100
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The respondents' educational information is categorized in the above table. The percentage of respondents who have completed primary school is 20%. Forty-two percent of those surveyed have completed secondary school. Additionally, 38 percent of those surveyed have a higher degree.

Therefore, it is evident that 20% of respondents have completed any level of education beyond primary school. The percentage of respondents who have completed secondary school is 42 percent. Additionally, 38 percent of those surveyed have a higher degree. The fact that 20% of respondents had only completed primary school, 42% had completed secondary school, and 38% had completed higher education demonstrates how undeveloped tribal society is in terms of unemployment. The tribal people's education is consequently negatively impacted.

This indicates that 42% of the respondents are unemployed even though they have completed secondary school.

**Table: -3 showing information on main occupation of respondent's family.**

Sr. No	The family's occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	32	64%
2	Labor	8	16%
3	Business	10	20%
4	Total	50	100%

The information about the respondent's family's primary occupation is categorized in the above table. Sixty-four percent of those surveyed work in agriculture. Ten percent of those surveyed are in business. . And the proportion of respondents doing labor is 8%.

This indicates that 64% of those surveyed work in agriculture. Agriculture makes up a larger portion of it. The tribal areas are used for agriculture. They also engage in agriculture. Furthermore, 16% of those surveyed are laborers, and 20% are business owners.

**Table: -4 showing information on why the respondent incurred the debt.**

Sr. No	Incur the debt	Frequency	Percentage
1	Marriage	9	18%
2	Tractor	2	4%
3	Business	4	8%
4	Farming	7	14%
5	illness	4	8%
6	No answer received	24	48%
7	Total	50	100%

The respondents' debt-related reasons are categorized in the above table. wherein 18% of those surveyed said they had taken out loans for marriage. The proportion of respondents who have incurred debt for bringing a tractor is 4%. The proportion of respondents who have incurred debt for business is 8%. The proportion of respondents who have incurred debt for farming is 8%. The proportion of respondents who have incurred debt for illness is 12%. And some respondents have no answer and the proportion of respondents who have incurred debt is 40%.

It is clear from this that most of the people have incurred debt for farming, social issues and health, which is 60%.

**Table: -5 showing information on how respondents obtained job information.**

Sr. No	Applied for a job	Frequency	Percentage
1	clerk	10	20%
2	police	5	10%
3	Talati	10	20%
4	Gramsevak	5	10%
5	Not applied	20	40%
6	Total	50	100%

In the above table, the respondent has applied anywhere to get a job so far. That information has been classified. In which 20% respondents have applied for Hourly, 10% respondents have applied in police, 20% respondents have applied for Talati, 10% respondents have applied in Gramsevak. And most of the respondents are 40% who have not applied.

It is clear from this that most of the respondents have not applied, the proportion of which is 40%. And as many as 60% respondents have applied for that job. Hence it can be said that they need a job. Hence, he strives for the job,

**Table: -6 showing information about what activity the respondent is currently doing for financial gain.**

Sr. No	Yes, get the job	Frequency	Percentage
1	Government job	3	6%
2	Company	20	40%
3	Not get a job	27	54%
4	Total	50	100%

In the above table, if the respondent is working, then where did he get the job? The percentage of those who are working in government jobs is 6%. The percentage of respondents who got a job in a company is 40%. And the percentage of respondents who did not get a job is 54%.

It is clear from this that most of the respondents are educated but 54% of the respondents did not get a job. Due to this, the percentage of unemployed is seen to be high.

**Table: -7 showing information on the major reasons for respondents being unemployed.**

Sr. No	Schemes are being implemented	Frequency	Percentage
1	J.R. Scholarship	10	20%
2	MGNREGA	15	30%
3	Don't know	25	50%
4	Total	50	100%

In the above table, if the respondent knows about the scheme, then what schemes are being implemented. Its information has been classified. In which the proportion of respondents who know about the J. R. F. Scholarship Scheme is 20%. The proportion of respondents who know about the MNREGA scheme is 30%. And the proportion of respondents who do not know is 50%.

From this it is clear that most of the 50% respondents do not know about the government schemes, that is, the respondent is educated. But they do not know about the schemes. Some people know about these schemes. It can be said that despite the existence of many schemes for the upliftment of tribals, such as education, housing, employment, etc., the respondent is not aware of the scheme. Therefore, it can be said that the educated unemployed youth of the tribals do not know, then what can be the condition of the remaining uneducated people.

**Table: -8 State the suggestions of the respondents on what reforms should be made by the government in education. A table showing information about it.**

Sr. No	Explain your suggestions on what the government should make improvements in education	Frequency	Percentage
1	quality of education	13	26%
2	teachers in education	6	12%
3	Promote youth	4	8%
4	More training to teachers	3	6%
5	New - new plans to be released	4	8%
6	Answer has not been found	20	40%
7	Total	50	100%

In the above table the respondent has classified the suggestions of the respondent on what reforms the government should make in education. 26% of the respondents said that the quality of education has increased. The proportion of respondents who want to increase teachers in education is 12%. Encouraging youth is 8% of the respondents. 6% of the respondents who want to give more training to the teachers. The percentage of respondents who want to launch new schemes is 8%. And the proportion of respondents who did not get any answer is 40%.

It is clear from this. Most of the respondents believe that the quality of education should be increased, the proportion of them is 26%. And 40% of the respondents did not answer.

**Table:-9 What should the government do for the educated unemployed? A table showing information about the respondent's suggestions.**

Sr. No	What should the government do for educated unemployed? Tell your suggestions.	Frequency	Percentage
1	Develop a development program	13	26%
2	To recruit government jobs	17	34%
3	Answer has not been found	20	40%
4	Total	50	100%

What should the government do for educated unemployed respondents in the above table? It has been classified. In which the percentage of respondents who want to do developmental programs is 26%. 34% of the respondents who want to recruit more government jobs. And the proportion of respondents who did not get the answer is 40%.

It is clear from this. 26% of the respondents believe that developmental programs should be conducted. And 40% of respondents did not answer.

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## Suggestions

- Education needs to be improved so that the tribal youth can get a job if the education they get is of quality.
- It is necessary to change the attitude of the society if the graduated youth can do good
- farming.
- Providing awareness of competitive examinations for tribal educated youth, necessary steps to prepare them for the same.

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## Conclusion

The study on the socio-economic status of educated unemployed tribal youth in Vadodara highlights the complex interplay of education, employment, and socio-economic challenges faced by this marginalized group. Despite improvements in educational attainment, tribal youth continue to struggle with unemployment due to a lack of job opportunities, skill mismatches, inadequate access to professional networks, and socio-economic barriers.

Land alienation, financial instability, and limited government intervention further exacerbate their condition, pushing many into underemployment or informal sector jobs. While various policies and schemes aim to uplift tribal communities, their effectiveness remains inconsistent due to gaps in implementation and awareness.

Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach, including skill development programs tailored to market demands, better vocational training, entrepreneurial support, and stronger policy enforcement to ensure the inclusion of tribal youth in mainstream economic activities. By bridging these gaps, the educated unemployed tribal youth of Vadodara can be empowered to contribute meaningfully to their families, communities, and the overall economic development of the region.

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