

Conclusions

The floristic and the phytosociological studies under the present dissertation has exposed the poor status of plant-biodiversity in the Tea Estates located in Terai and hills Darjiling. Very large scale modification of wild natural habitat has made numerous species homeless and became extinct, specially when we know that a considerable proportion of local species have very narrow range of habitat tolerance. Quite a good number of species are known to grow over extremely small areas like one hill-slope or one small valley. So, any type of disturbance or modification in those places will lead to the extinction of species. This has really happened in the area. And, North Bengal's most efficient economic back-bone, the Tea Industry has killed really a large number of local or endemic species and made even a larger number of species threatened and endangered for survival.

The area under study, the Terai and hills of Darjiling, is situated within the IUCN recognised Himalayan Hotspot for conservation. The endemic species content (both plants and animals) is quite high. So, for the sake of the proper survival of the biosphere all our developmental activities should consider the conservation-factor at the beginning. Any failure at that level will lead to the disaster.

The activities necessary to maintain or to manage the Tea Gardens include the killing of weedy-plants growing within the plantation. Here also we need to consider that while only a very small fraction of region's flora succeed to survive in that highly inhospitable habitat, killing those plants mean being merciless to all other creature except

the man. A conversion to the biological management of Tea Gardens may improve the situation as most of the chemicals now under use are highly poisonous to the wild species.

May be a few species are surviving there braving all these attacks and inhospitable environment but, may be, a good number of other sciophytic and saprophytic plants could have been survive there if these chemicals are taken away from the practice of garden management.

It is also important to use these garden managements to involve in the practices for region's biodiversity conservation. For this purpose just the modification and strict implementation of legislation are not enough. The first step should be the 'awareness generation' about the biodiversity, its importance and need for conservation. Then only the imposition of some environment friendly conditions on them will find the effective result. The present situation in Darjiling is quite alarming. No tract of vegetation is undisturbed. Reduction of natural vegetation covers almost in all the corners at a continuously increasing rate will certainly destroy our entire natural biological wealth store. And, that will be the loss for not only to the local people but will also be the loss for the entire human society.

So, if we can conserve the biodiversity today, that will provide us materials for survival in future. The decrease of some amount of tea production or the non-availability of settlement areas for human in this region will not affect the people so seriously.