

CHAPTER 5

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY PANCHAYATS FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN DARJEELING DISTRICT.

The district derives its name from its headquarters which, in its turn, is named after Dorje-ling, the Buddhist Monastery that once stood on the Observatory Hill overlooking Mall, the nerve centre of the town. The name Darjeeling, -ling meaning place, and dorje standing for the ecclesiastical sceptre or the double-headed thunderbolt, which the lama holds in his hand during service. "In Tibet the word vajrah became dorje and as time went on it became one of the most common of all the emblems associated with priestly power. It is almost always to be found among the objects on the altars in the temples".

5.1 Physio Geographical condition of Darjeeling District:

Darjeeling, the northern most district of the Jalpaiguri division, is located between 27° 13' 05" and 26° 27' 10" North latitudes and 88° 53' 00" and 87° 59' 30" East latitudes. It is roughly resembles an inverted wedge its base resting on Sikkim, its sides touching Nepal, Bhutan and Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, while its apex projects into the Purnea district of Bihar, West Dinajpur district of West Bengal, and Bangladesh. Of all the frontier districts of India, the boundary of Darjeeling is most complicated. It is hemmed in by international frontiers. There is Nepal to the west, Sikkim, a state of India to the north, and Bhutan and Bangladesh to the east. Only three India districts, one of which is in Bihar, offers accessibility to Darjeeling, and that again, only from the South.¹

Topographically, the Darjeeling district consists of a portion of the outlying hills of the lower Himalayas and a stretch of territory lying along their base known as the Terai. The hills rise abruptly from the plains and the elevation increases northward. The mean elevation of the Terai is 300 feet [91.44m] above the sea level, while some of the hills within the district rise to more than 10,000 feet [300m]. Within these two main groupings, there is mosaic of micro topographic units and this complex physical environment is due to different geomorphic processes, each of which has developed its own characteristics assemblage of land-forms.

The Terai lies between the mountains and the plains and is traversed by numerous hill streams. Its name originates from a Persian word signifying dampness. "Geologically, it is sort of neutral country, being composed neither of the alluvium of the plains, nor of the rocks of the hills, but for the most part of alternating beds of sands, gravel and boulders brought from the mountains. Botanically, it is readily defined as the region of the forest-trees; almost which the Sal, the most valuable of Indian timber is conspicuous... The terai soil is generally

light, dry, and gravelly [such as the Sal prefers] and varies in breadth from ten miles along the Sikkim frontier to thirty or more on the Nepalese".²

The Darjeeling hill area is formed of comparatively recent rock structure that has a direct bearing on landslides, their cause varies from one locality to another. Heavy monsoon precipitation is, however, the common cause of all the landslides. A. J. Dash has given a very systematic account of the landslips in the district: "Scars left by landslides are common features of the landscapes in every part of the District. Gravity, in causing slips, is aided by the steepness of slopes and soaking of the mantle rock, essential conditions of instability being lack of support in front and lubrication behind. The parts of the hills usually affected either are composed of soft rocks such as schists, shales and clays or support thick mantles of soil and weathered rocks on steep slopes". Soils of Darjeeling hill areas are extremely varied, depending on elevation, degree of slope, vegetative cover and geolithology.³

The climate of Darjeeling district is especially noteworthy because of its position in relation to the Tibetan landmass, the wide differences in altitudes, the powerful effect of the monsoons against the Himalayan barrier and the peculiar configuration of the neighbouring mountains which deflect winds and affect local temperature and rainfall. There are four observatories in the district at Darjeeling, Bagdogra, Kalimpong and Kurseong. Besides these, the tea estates, military cantonments and Forest and Agriculture Departments record climatic data on their own. Spring and autumn are the seasons most favoured by visitors to the district. The monsoon is a period of bothersome mist and continuous rain. The winter, after December, is usually too cold and unpleasant. The local climate depends largely on the elevation which varies from 1,000 feet (300 meters) in the Terai to 12,000 feet (3,600 meters) in the northern part of the district. In the Terai and the lower valleys the climate is similar to that of the adjoining districts in the plains of Bengal and Bihar while that at the higher elevations is cool and bracing. The summer is from March to May. Thereafter, the south-west monsoon arrives and lasts till about the beginning of October. October and the first half of November constitute the post-monsoon season while the period from mid-November to the end of February is the cold season.⁴

On account of the hilly nature of the terrain there are sharp variations in rainfall even between nearby stations. The rainfall, however, is generally heavier in the Southern Terai and ridges and slopes near the plains. Kurseong, on the southern slopes of the lower Himalayas, for instance, has an annual rainfall of 4,052.3 mm. while Kalimpong, near the northern border of the district, gets only 2,254.0 mm. The precipitation during the south-west monsoon constitutes about 80 per cent of the annual rainfall, July being the wettest month. Thunderstorms accompanied by rain occur in summer and in October. The variation in the total rainfall from year to year is not much. Consecutive years with recorded rainfalls of less than 80 per cent of the normal are rare and occurred only once between 1901 and 1950. On an average there are about 120 rainy days. About 80 percent is received during the month between May to September from the South-West Monsoon and about 20 percent during the remaining other months. Whereas the plains face quite hot summer, short rainy season and mild dry winter.⁵

In summer, from March to May, the heat in the plains and low valleys is as oppressive as in other sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal, the mean daily maximum temperature (33.5°C or 92.3°F) touching the highest level in May. The night temperatures are, however, higher during the south-west monsoon season than in summer. In the hilly portions of the district both day and night temperatures are higher during the rains than in summer. After the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon, both day and night temperatures begin to fall throughout the district, the decrease being more rapid from November. January is the coldest month of the year when, in the plains, the mean daily maximum temperature is 24.2°C (75.6°F) and the minimum 8.6°C (47.5°F), the corresponding figures for Darjeeling town being 8.6°C (47.5°F), and 1.9°C (35.4°F). Frosts are fairly common throughout the cold season in the hilly parts of the district. In association with the passage of western disturbances, cold waves occasionally visit the district between November and early March when the minimum temperature may fall below 0°C in places like Darjeeling and Kalimpong.⁶

The principal economy of Darjeeling Hill area depends on tea production, horticulture, agriculture, forestry and tourism. The physical configuration of the district makes the conditions of agriculture in different parts exceedingly varied. The strip of area at the foot of hills contains level stretches of alluvial soil admirably suited for rice cultivation. In the interior is a mass of hills, the slopes of which are, in places, so stony and precipitous that nothing but scrub jungle can thrive on them or an occasional tree in the crevices of the rocks. Much of the land is unsuitable for cultivation of any kind, but, on the other hand, the soil on the gentler slopes is often of wonderful fertility. The annual rainfall also varies greatly, averaging 60 inches in parts of the Tista Valley, while on the outer slopes which adjoin the Duārs to the east of the district it is over 200 inches per annum. This extraordinary variety of conditions makes it practically impossible to give any connected account of agriculture in the district as a whole. Darjeeling produces large quantity of tea which earns foreign exchange.⁷

The most remarkable features of the forests of Darjeeling is the wonderful variety of species that they contain; there are, in fact, probably few places in the world in which so many different types of forest exist within so small an area. The major portions of the forest are today found at elevations of 2000 meters and above. The area located in between 1000-2000 meters is cleared either for tea plantations or cultivation. About 30 percent of the forest covers found in the lower hills are deciduous. Evergreen forest constitutes only about six percent of the total forest coverage. *Shorea robusta* (sāl) remains the most prominent species of Tropical moist deciduous forest along with heavy under growth.⁸ The Rivers of the district are the chief water resources of the area. Teesta, Rangit, Mechi, Balason, Mahananda, Lish, Gish, Chel, Ramman, Murti and Jaldhaka are the important rivers of the district. The main rivers are perennial and characterised by high run-off being fed from glaciers and monsoon rains. The rivers of the district are not navigable. Some of these are utilized for generation of the hydel power.⁹

5.2 Historical Background:

A land-mark year in the History of Darjeeling was 1835, but it would better to trace its history before that. Prior to its acquisition by the East India Co. in 1835, Darjeeling formed a part of Sikkim and for a brief period of Nepal. Previously Darjeeling formed a part of dominions of Raja of Sikkim, who had been engaged in an unsuccessful warfare against the Gorkhas. From 1790 the Gorkhas made several attempts to capture the entire region of Darjeeling. By the beginning of 19th Century, they had overrun Sikkim as far eastward as the Teesta River and had conquered and annexed the Terai. In the meantime, the British were engaged in preventing the Gorkhas from overrunning the whole of the northern frontier. The Anglo- Nepal war broke out in 1814, which resulted in the defeat of the Gorkhas and subsequently to the Saugauli Treaty in 1815. According to the treaty, Nepal had to cede all those territories which the Gorkhas had annexed from the Raja of Sikkim to the British East India Company. Later in 1817, through the Treaty of Titalia, the British East India Company reinstated the Raja of Sikkim (who was driven out), restored all tracts of land between the Mechi River on the west and Teesta River to the Raja of Sikkim and guaranteed his sovereignty.¹⁰

Under this treaty, the Company assumed the position of the paramount power in Sikkim, the Raja being bound to refer to the arbitration of the British Government all disputes between his subjects and those of Nepal or any other neighbouring State. Ten years after it was signed, disputes arose on the Sikkim and Nepal frontier, which, according to the terms of the treaty, were referred to the Governor-General. Two officers, Captain Lloyd and Mr. Grant were deputed in 1828 to deal with the disputes and they penetrated into the hills of Darjeeling. They were very much attracted by numerous advantage of Darjeeling including sites for sanatorium and military, and hence, recommended to the Governor General for its occupation. Lloyd was directed to negotiate with the Raja of Sikkim who succeeded in obtaining the execution of a deed of grant from the Raja of Sikkim on 1st February 1835.¹¹

The deed ran as follows: “ The Governor General, having expressed his desire for the possession of the hill of Darjeeling on account of its cool climate, for the purpose of enabling the servants of his Governments, suffering from the sickness, to avail themselves of its advantages, I, the Sikkimputti Rajah, out of friendship for the said Governor General, hereby present Darjeeling to the East India Company, that is, all the lands south of the great Rangit River, east of Balsun, Kahail and Little Rangit rivers and West of Rungno and Mahanadi rivers”. This was an unconditional cession of what was then an uninhabited mountain.¹²

In 1839, Dr. Campbell of the Indian Medical Service, British Resident in Nepal, was transferred to Darjeeling as Superintendent. Dr. Cambell found Darjeeling an inaccessible tract of forest with scanty population. He converted it into an excellent sanatorium and improved the communication system. Thereafter, there was an internal rebellion led by Lamas and other leading men of Sikkim. A punitive expedition was sent by the British in February 1850. In this expedition the British Government annexed the Terai (foothills of the Himalayas) and the portion of the Sikkim Hills bounded by the Ramam and the Great Rangit

rivers on the north, by the Tista on the east and by the Nepal frontier on the west. This area of 640 Sq. Miles (1657.60 sq.km) was attached to Darjeeling. Following the Indo-Bhutanese War of 1864 a treaty in November 1865 ceded what is Kalimpong subdivision to the British. The Kalimpong area was first notified as sub-division under the Deputy Commissioner of Western Duars district. But in 1866, it was transferred to Darjeeling. With this change the Darjeeling district reached its present shape. This was an epoch in the history of the district. Peace was established and development of the area systematically started.¹³

After Kalimpong had been brought under British administration the district was divided into two sub-divisions: the headquarter subdivision including all the hills on both sides of the Tista; and the Terai subdivision which included all the plains in the foothills. The headquarter of the Terai sub-division was at Hanskhawas near Phansidewa from 1864 to 1880. In 1880 it was transferred to Siliguri, in consequence of the importance the place had acquired as the terminus of the Northern Bengal State Railway. In meantime, Kurseong had begun to develop, and accordingly in 1891 it was made the headquarters of a new subdivision, including both the Terai and the lower hills west of the Tista. Later in 1907, Siliguri was made a separate subdivision; this re-established the old Terai sub-division. In 1917, Kalimpong subdivision was also created. Since then the four subdivisions constituted the district of Darjeeling. The district was included in the Rajshahi Division, until October 1905 when, as a result of the Partition of Bengal, it was transferred to the Bhagalpur Division. With the rearrangement of the provinces it was retransferred to the Rajshahi Division. The Partition of Bengal in 1947 left the boundaries of the district intact and in the share of West Bengal. The district, with rest of India, attained independence as a part of India in August 1947.¹⁴

Darjeeling district was formerly a Non-Regulation district, that is the Acts and Regulations did not come into force unless they were specially extended to it. Darjeeling hill areas belonged to the Non-Regulation scheme before 1861. It was brought under the general regulation system for a short period of 1861-1870 but the necessity of taking it out of the regulation system was insisted on. Three considerations weighed heavily in favor of bringing Darjeeling under Non-Regulation system:

1. preservation of indigenous system of land tenures
2. necessity of entrusting undivided responsibilities to the District Officer
3. formulation of simple laws in conformity with native institutions and simplicity of local people.

Being inhabited by a comparatively backward and mostly tribal people, Darjeeling remained under Non-Regulation Areas and had from time immemorial enjoyed an indigenous system of land tenure which they could understand and which they did not like to part with. The appointment of the district officer in a Non-Regulation area with enough freedom to act in a given situation, as one visible authority, was guided by this consideration alone. Although such a policy was advocated for protection of simple tribal people, from the viewpoint of

progress and advancement it was exclusive and detrimental. In terms of advancement Darjeeling was far ahead of districts under Regulation Laws with regard to basic civic amenities such as road improvements and maintenance, supply of drinking water, markets, health facilities and educational opportunities. Nonetheless, it was kept segregated from district under Regulations in respect of its administration.¹⁵

The administrative arrangement for the district of Darjeeling, considered as less advanced district, was placed under Governor- General from 1870 to 1874. After this it was brought within the purview of the Laws Local Extent Act 1874 (also known as the Scheduled District Act). The Act provided that in the listed districts “normal legislation and jurisdiction were force only in part or with modifications if necessary of any enactment in force at the time in any part of British India”. Therefore, the district was not placed with the ambit of the general laws in application over the rest of India: such laws were, as mentioned before, applied only in part or with modifications. Darjeeling district was Scheduled Area and hence outside the purview of laws applicable to the areas not coming under the Act. The administrative arrangement provided for remained unaltered for quite a long period.¹⁶

The Government of India Act 1919, besides retaining almost all the provisions for scheduled districts and their corresponding administration, brought all the scheduled district under a new terminology, “the Backward Tract”. The backward tract was subject to special law usually prescribing simple and elastic forms of judicial and administrative procedure. The

District of Darjeeling was a ‘Backward Tract’ and remained so till the passing of the Government of India Act 1935 which declared the district as a partially excluded area. Thus an Act either of the federal legislature or the provincial legislature would not extend to the partially excluded area, unless the Governor of the province would give his assent to the application of the Act in its entirety or with such modifications or exceptions as he thought necessary. The Governor could also make regulations for such area for peace and good government. In the case of a partially excluded area the governor had to consult the council of ministers so Darjeeling became a partially excluded area within the province of Bengal. But there was one time when the British took Darjeeling out of Bengal (Rajshahi sub-division) between 1907 and 1912, when they tagged Darjeeling to the Bhagalpur sub-division of Bihar. The reason given was the common use of Devanagiri script by the Nepalis and Hindi-speaking people which made administration simpler at least in theory. But later in 1912 Darjeeling was re-transferred to Bengal.¹⁷

The district of Darjeeling thus fell apart from the general administrative system of the British territories of India though the description for this district’s pattern differed from time to time. It was a part of the non-regulation areas since the acquisition of its territories till 1861. It was under the direct responsibility of the Governor-General in regard to legislation from 1870 to 1874. It was a scheduled district from 1874 to 1919. It was a backward tract from 1919 to 1935. It was a partially excluded area from 1935 to the end of the British rule. With the independence of India, the special administrative status of Darjeeling as ‘partially excluded area’ came to an end; and it become one of the general districts of West Bengal.¹⁸

5.3 Polity:

The queen of hills witnessed a long lasting agitation of more than a half century for the separate state of “Gorkhaland” outside the state of West Bengal and within India. The historic movement that shook the state of West Bengal in the early eighties stood for the formation of separate political administrative unit outside West Bengal and within Indian Union. The movement headed by Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), formed in July 1980, turned into a mass movement of the Nepali Speaking people in the three subdivision of the district. The primary demands of the agitation were:

- A separate state of Gorkhaland outside the administrative control of West Bengal;
- Abrogation of Clause VII of Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950;
- Recognition and inclusion of Nepali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India;
- Employment and economic development of the local people and the region respectively.

Subash Ghising, an ex-army personal, poet and a novelist led Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF). However, the autonomy claim was the central theme of Darjeeling politics long before independence. Repeated demands were raised in 1907, 1917, 1920 and 1934 by different local political groups. Demand for a separate statehood of Darjeeling including the adjoining Dooars areas of Jalpaiguri (where over 50% were Nepali inhabitants) was raised by GNLF in the true sense during 1980-85 periods. The issue was promoted in 1980 by invoking article 3 (a) of the constitution of India for the first time.¹⁹

Demand for abrogation for Article 7 of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950 and the question of citizenship of the Indian Nepalis were the later developments. Since Article 7 allows the Nepalis of Nepal to cross over to India, reside and own property and also participate in trade and commerce, the GNLF alleged that the clause had jeopardize the position of Indian Nepalis, for they would be confused with the Nepalese of Nepal and face eviction. To stress the distinction between the Indian Nepalis and Nepalese Nepalis the term “Gorkha” and “Gorkha Bhasa” were increasingly being used in place of Nepali and Nepali and Nepali language, respectively. It was also thought that people living in the district of Darjeeling were ethnically, culturally, linguistically, socially and historically distinct from West Bengal. Therefore, there was also an increasing demand for constitutional recognition of the Nepali language, more importantly since 1972 in order to maintain ethnic and linguistic identity of the hill people. Although, Moraji Desai openly discarded the demand and leveled it as a foreign language it was during Rajiv Gandhi’s premiership by a gazette notification, the centre recognised the “Gorkhas” as India citizens. Later in the early 1990s Nepali language was included in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, though it was not recognised as the Gorkhali Bhasa. Besides, growing unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, educational facilities, medical care, increasing deforestation, lack of opportunities and more

importantly the step motherly treatment by the Bengal Government towards the hill people were among the major causes which added an impetus to the Gorkhaland Movement.²⁰

The period between 1986 and 1988 saw a series of violence and counter violence in the hills of Darjeeling, parts of Terai and Dooars of Jalpaiguri district. The Centre in return reacted with the counter violence unleashed by CRPF, BSF and state Armed Police. Since GNLF was a political wing, it maintained an armed wing, namely, Gorkha Volunteer Corps (GVC). However, the GVC maintained a distinct identity within the GNLF. The GNLF cadres began to arm themselves by the end of 1986. It was only in Kalimpong unit of GVC where there was no reconciliation. There was a large scale clashes between GNLF and GVC in Kalimpong as a consequence. It was in 1988; ex-army personnel named Chhatre Subba emerged as the leader of GVC and the president of Gorkha Liberation Organisation (GLO), from Kalimpong itself. The ego clash between the GNLF and GVC followers led to clashes with frequent intra kidnapping and intra raiding of each others strongholds by the two rival groups. A large numbers of men were killed and beheaded while hundreds were tortured in the clashes between them. There were also intra GNLF clashes mainly due to Subhash Ghising's high handedness. Mutual mistrust and enmity was also there between the nationalist and the Marxist turned nationalist Nepalis. By the end of 1987 more than 500 houses of the Marxist Nepalis were set on fire and more than 65 Marxist were killed. It is argued that these fratricidal clashes could have been avoided had the GNLF been an organisation fighting for ethnic and linguistic identity.²¹

The agitation was brought down to standstill by the mid 1988 and on the 22nd of August 1988 the GNLF supremo Mr. Ghising signed a political document in the presence of the then Union Home Minister Mr. Buta Singh and the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mr. Jyoti Basu, promising not to proceed with the agitation for Gorkhaland henceforth. In return Darjeeling hills were granted an autonomous Council i.e. Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) consisting of the three hill subdivisions to look after the interest of the people. It was given independent financial power to use the development of these areas by the central government with the concurrence of the state government. A majority of the folks were not happy with the decision and put forward their voices against but their voices were silenced by the iron hands. It was thought DGHC was unjust the replacement of the erstwhile Jilla Parisad (body at the district level.)²²

The decade of 90s saw radical changes on the political scenario of Darjeeling. The DGHC consisted of councilors elected by the people of Darjeeling. This body was granted autonomy to function as an independent body. However, with the passage of time, over-confidence set in among the councilors of Darjeeling. Easy win in Elections ensured the councilors lethargy to work. Moreover, almost all the councilors were illiterate or uneducated. There was frequent funds mismanagement. Close observers assert that Ghising was repeatedly failing to deliver the needful. Thus not only the movement lost fire, the functioning of DGHC became sloth. Development of the area took a back seat. The economic conditions of the local folk became worse from bad over the period of time. Funds earmarked for development projects were diverted to pay for overheads. Over the years, the situation gained momentum. It is

alleged, in spite of the formation of DGHC, Darjeeling is still a neglected region. Development work failed to yield desired results. Earlier in 2001 Subash Ghising's car was ambushed on way from Siliguri to Darjeeling. The general mass of the area felt it was nothing but the outburst of the long and widespread discontentment of the hill against the monopoly of GNLFF under Ghising. However, Chhatre Subba was suspected in the blast. This led to a renewed spate of unrest in the region. Repeated bands became a regular feature and its effect began to reflect on the economy.²³

The DGHC elections were due in 2004. However, the government decided not to hold elections and instead made Subash Ghising the sole caretaker of the DGHC till a new Sixth Schedule council was established. Resentment among the former councilors of DGHC grew rapidly. Among them Bimal Gurung, a former GNLFF councilor of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, fell out with Subash Ghising for "opposing the Sixth Schedule status for the hills and for his speeches against Subash Ghising, the party president". Bimal Gurung who was considered one of the most powerful leaders of the hills, stated to oppose the Sixth Schedule bill even though it had received Cabinet approval in the Indian Parliament. Riding on a mass support for Prashant Tamang, an Indian Idol reality show contestant from Darjeeling, Bimal Gurung quickly capitalized on the public support he received for supporting Prashant, and was able to overthrow Ghising from the seat of power. He founded new political party. Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJMM) on 7 October 2007. The aims and the objectives of the new party was to "fight for the democratic right of the Indian Gorkhas living in India and (to) work unitedly for the creation of separate state for the people residing in the three hill Sub-division of Darjeeling, Siliguri Terai and Dooars areas."²⁴

GJMM's opposition of the Sixth Schedule and demand for Gorkhaland was supported by other parties as well, viz. The Communist Party of Revolutionary Marxists (CPRM), the BJP, the Congress and the Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League (ABGL). The BJP organised an all-party meet attended by ABGL, the CPRM, the Congress, the Gorkha Rashtriya Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the GJMM and the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangh (BGP), which adopted a resolution asking the state to drop the Sixth Schedule proposal and remove Ghising as caretaker administrator of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC).²⁵ The Hill parties did not want the Sixth Schedule as Clause 11 of the Sixth Schedule stated "this in principle Memorandum of Settlement is the full and final settlement of the Darjeeling Hill Areas issue and no further demands in this regard would be entertained". GJMM burnt copies of the 1988 Memorandum of Settlement which had categorically stated, "the GNLFF agree to drop the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland", thereby reviving the century old demand of Gorkhaland. GJMM observed hunger strikes, indefinite strikes and prevented locally produced goods from reaching the rest of Bengal, as a protest against the imposition of the Sixth Schedule and for the removal of Subash Ghising. A team was also deputed to New Delhi to apprise the national leaders about the general consensus of the people of the DGHC area. The Bharatiya Janata Party's refusal of the sixth schedule for DGHC pushed it to the Parliamentary Committee. The Parliamentary Committee in its findings suggested that "the Ministry of Home Affairs is required to make a fresh assessment of the ground realities all over again before proceeding with the Bills in the two Houses of Parliament". The Sixth

Schedule Bill was thus put in the back burner. The only supporter of the Sixth Schedule, Subhash Ghisingh, was banned from entering the hills. Ghisingh was finally forced to resign on 10th March 2008 as DGHC caretaker.²⁶

GJMM initially resorted to bandhs, hunger strikes and non-payment of utility bills to further their demand. It was quite enough to get the attention of the State Government, who invited them to Kolkata for bipartite talks. GJMM refused to attend the talks as the state Government had set preconditions that they would discuss developmental issues but not Gorkhaland. The Chief Minister extended the invitation again and denied having set any preconditions for the talks. The first tripartite talk between Government of India, Government of West Bengal and leaders of the Hill Parties headed by GJMM was held on 8th September 2008. The hill delegation also submitted a 51 page memorandum to the Union Home Secretary, Government of India. Ahead of the 2009 general elections in India, the BJP again announced its policy of having smaller states and to create two more states, Telangana and Gorkhaland, if they won the general election. GJMM supported the candidature of Jaswant Singh of BJP, who won the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat with 51.5% votes in his favour. In the July 2009 budget session of Parliament, three Parliamentarians- Rajib Pratap Rudi, Sushma Swaraj and Jaswant Singh- strongly pleaded for creating a state of Gorkhaland. The demand for Gorkhaland took a new turn with the assassination of Madan Tamang, leader of Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League. He was stabbed to death allegedly by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha supporters on May 21, 2010, in Darjeeling, which led to a spontaneous shutdown in the three Darjeeling hill sub-division of Darjeeling, which led to a spontaneous shutdown in the three Darjeeling hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong.²⁷ After the murder, the West Bengal government threatened action against Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, whose senior leaders are named in the FIR, meanwhile hinting discontinuation of ongoing talks over interim arrangement with the Gorkha party, saying it had “lost popular support following the assassination”.²⁸

On 8th February 2011, three GJMM activists were shot dead by the police as they tried to enter Jalpaiguri district on a padyatra led by Bimal Gurung from Gorubathan to Jaigaon. This led to violence in the Darjeeling hills and an indefinite strike was called by GJMM that lasted 9 days.²⁹ In the West Bengal state assembly election, 2011 held on 18th April 2011, GJMM candidates won three Darjeeling hill assembly seats, proving that the demand for Gorkhaland was still strong in Darjeeling. GJMM candidates Trilok Dewan won from Darjeeling constituency, Harka Bhadr Chhetri from Kalimpong constituency, and Rohit Sharma from Kurseong constituency. Wilson Champramari, an independent candidate supported by GJMM, also won from Kalchini constituency in the Doars.³⁰

After three year of agitation for a state of Gorkhaland, which began with the formation of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (headed by Bimal Gurung in 2007, the GJMM reached an agreement with the state to form Gorkhaland Territorial Administration which is a semi-autonomous body to administer the Darjeeling hills. The GTA (Gorkhaland Territorial Administration) will replace the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 23 years. The agreement for GTA was signed on 18th July 2011 at Pintail Village near Siliguri in the presence of Union Home Minister P.

Chidambaram, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and Gorkha Janmukti Morch leaders. The agreement was signed by West Bengal Home Secretary G.D. Gautama, Union Home Ministry Joint Secretary K.K. Pathak and GJMM general secretary Roshan Giri.³¹

5.4 Tribal Demography in Darjeeling:

The growth of population has traditionally been high in the Darjeeling hills. The problem is further compounded by immigration from across the state and across the border. Total population in the hills rose from roughly 1000 in 1850 to 173342 in 1901, registering 17-fold increase over the fifty years. Over the next half-century, it nearly doubled to stand at 328725 in 1951. Between 1951 and 2001, the hill population increased about 2.6 times, rising to 863109.³²

According to O'Malley the population of the Darjeeling is exceedingly heterogeneous. The majority of the people in the hills were of Mongolian origin, belonging chiefly to various Nepalese castes, but also including a large number of Lepchas, Bhotias and Tibetans. Together with these hillmen were found the denizens of the plains, who have been attracted to the hills by the prospect of easily acquired wealth. In the Terai the mixture of races is equally great. O'Malley opines that the aboriginal Koches or Rajbanshis as they prefer to call themselves, are most numerous, numbering 29,460 but no less than 52 percent of the inhabitants were born elsewhere, and the Mundas and Oraons from Chota Nagpur and the Santals from the uplands of the Santal Parganas have a strength of nearly 14000. Darjeeling has in fact been described as "Babel of tribes and nations".³³

Table 5.1

Tribal population in West Bengal and North Bengal in 2001			
	Persons	Male	Female
West Bengal	440,6794	2223924	2182870
%		50.47%	49.53%
North Bengal	145,4330	733064	721266
%		50.40%	49.60%
Percentage of North Bengal ST population to State ST population	33.00%	32.96%	33.04%

Source: Census of India, 2001

The Table 5.1 shows that the total tribal population in West Bengal is 440,6794 and the total tribal population of North Bengal is 145,4330 which is 33% of the total population of the state.

Table 5.2

Tribal population in North Bengal districts according to 2001 census						
District	Percentage of District ST population to State ST population					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Cooch Behar	14246	7425	6821	0.32	0.33	0.31
Jalpaiguri	641688	324250	317438	14.56	14.58	14.54
Darjeeling	204167	102287	101880	4.63	4.60	4.67
Uttar Dinajpur	124865	63123	61742	2.83	2.84	2.83
Dakshin Dinajpur	242317	122442	119875	5.50	5.51	5.49
Malda	227047	113537	113510	5.15	5.11	5.20

Source: Census of India, 2001

In the Table 5.2 the tribal population in the various districts of North Bengal is shown. From the Table 5.2 it can be observed that among the North Bengal District, Cooch Behar constitutes only 0.32 percentage of the total population in the district, but Jalpaiguri district has the highest percentage share of tribal population to total population i.e. 14.56. So among the six districts of North Bengal, Darjeeling District ranks in the fourth highest position which constitutes 4.63 percentage of the tribal population to the total population.

The total population of the Darjeeling District as stated as per 2001 census, is 16,09,172 of which the Scheduled Tribes population is 2,04,167 which is 12.69 percent of the total population of the Darjeeling District. The corresponding population, according to 1991 census, was 12,99,919 of which the Scheduled Tribes population was 1,79,153 which was 13.78 percent of the total population of the district. According to 1981 census the total population was 10,24,269 of which number of Scheduled Tribes was 1,51,073 which was 14.75 percent of total district population which also constituted 5.63 percent to that of total state population. It can be observed year from the data of the three last census of 1981, 1991 and 2001 that there has been a rapid increase in the total population of the Darjeeling District and in the population of Scheduled Tribes also. The details of 2001 census regarding subdivision and community development blocks wise distribution of Scheduled Tribes population by sex are being presented in the Table 5.3:

Table 5.3

Scheduled Tribe population by sex in the district of Darjeeling, 2001				
Sub-division/ MC/M/NA	C.D. block/	Scheduled Tribes		
		Male	Female	Total
Sadar Sub-division		16867	16826	33693
Darjeeling-Pulbazar		4531	4442	8973
Rangli-Rangliot		3336	3609	6945
Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari		2552	2476	5028
Darjeeling (M)		6448	6299	12747
Kalimpong Sub Division		19047	18967	38014
Kalimpong-I		5879	5999	11878

Scheduled Tribe population by sex in the district of Darjeeling, 2001				
Sub-division/ MC/M/NA	C.D. block/	Scheduled Tribes		
Kalimpong-II		7625	7210	14835
Gorubathan		2967	2913	5880
Kalimpong(M)		2576	2845	5421
Kurseong Sub-Division		6649	6691	13340
Kurseong		3832	3765	7597
Mirik		1536	1600	3136
Kurseong(M)		1128	1176	2304
Mirik (N.A)		153	150	303
Siliguri Sub-Division		59724	59396	119120
Matigara		9222	9189	18411
Naxalbari		13575	13501	27076
Khoribari		8585	8514	17099
Phasidewa		26898	26756	53654
Siliguri (MC)		1444	1436	2880
District Total		102287	101880	204167
Rural		89740	89138	178878
Urban		12547	12742	25289

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2004, Darjeeling.
Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Government of West Bengal.

Table 5.4

: Sex Ratio:Tribe and Non-Tribe Compared (2001)				
	Total Population		Tribal Population	
	Total	0-6 group	Total	0-6 group
India	933	927	978	973
West Bengal	934	960	982	981
Darjeeling	937	962	996	1001
Jalpaiguri	942	969	979	991
Cooch Behar	949	964	919	898
U. Dinajpur	938	965	978	973
D. Dinajpur	951	966	979	981
Malda	948	964	1000	985

Source: Census of India, 2001.

The Tables 5.3 and 5.4 showing sex ratio of both tribal and total population shows that the sex ratio in the tribal population is much higher compared to that of the total population. According to the Census 2001 the sex ratio for the total population is 933 and for tribal population is 978, whereas in the sex ratio for the total population in West Bengal is 934, for the tribal population it is 982. In the districts where the concentration of tribal population is high, i.e. in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, South Dinajpur and Malda sex ratio is always more than 980. Though the sex ratio for the total population is falling in almost all parts of the country the tribal population in North Bengal do not show any such trend at least in 2001 Census. The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) in the district of Darjeeling is 1001, which is high in number

to the corresponding figure to that of the other districts of North Bengal and also to the State and National level.

Table 5.5

Tribal Literacy Rate (2001)			
	Male	Female	Gender Gap
India	59.2	34.8	24.4
West Bengal	57.4	29.2	28.2
Darjeeling	65.1	45.8	19.2
Jalpaiguri	54.2	30.7	23.6
Cooch Behar	66.4	43.3	23.1
U. Dinajpur	39.5	17.6	21.9
D. Dinajpur	55.1	30.2	24.9
Malda	44.7	19.6	25.1

Source: Census of India, 2001

In the Table 5.5 shows the Tribal Literacy Rate which shows that although the tribals still lags behind the general population, the tribal population in West Bengal, North Bengal and even in the District of Darjeeling has made some significant progress in the field of education. Among the tribal male population the literacy rate is 59.2 percent in India, in West Bengal the literacy rate is 57.4 percent and in the district of Darjeeling the literacy rate is 65.1 percent. The female literacy in the tribal population in India is 34.8 percent, in West Bengal it is 29.2 percent and in the district of Darjeeling the female literacy rate is 45.8 percent. In comparison of the tribal literacy rate of both male and female in the district of Darjeeling to the corresponding rate to the one of India and the state of West Bengal and the other district of North Bengal, the tribal literacy rate in Darjeeling is in a better position. The gender gap in the tribal literacy rate in Darjeeling District seems to be the lowest in comparison to the other districts and also in comparison to the state and at the national level.

Table 5.6

Tribal Work Participation Rate (2001)									
	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	49.1	53.2	44.8	50.4	53.8	46.9	34.6	46.8	21.6
W. Bengal	48.8	53.8	43.7	49.6	54.1	45.1	35.5	48.6	21.6
Darjeeling	40.9	48.2	33.5	42.2	49.0	35.4	31.0	42.2	19.9
Jalpaiguri	41.6	46.9	36.3	41.9	46.9	36.7	33.5	45.6	20.6
C. Behar	42.4	53.5	30.4	43.4	54.0	31.7	31.2	46.8	14.6
U. Dinajpur	49.5	54.9	44.0	49.8	55.1	44.5	35.4	48.2	19.9
D. Dinajpur	53.1	57.7	48.4	5.37	58.2	49.0	31.1	38.1	23.7
Malda	50.7	56.6	44.8	50.9	56.7	45.0	34.5	48.8	19.1

Source: Census of India, 2001

The Table 5.6 shows the Tribal work participation rate in India, in West Bengal and in the six districts of North Bengal. Since the tribal population largely lives in subsistence economy the work participation rate among them is generally high, compared to the general population. According to 2001 census, the work participation rate in India is 49.1 and in West Bengal it is marginally less at 48.8 percent. While among the tribal males in West Bengal the

participation rate is 53.8 among the females it is 43.7- a gap of more than 10 percent. In Darjeeling the total tribal work participation rate is 40.9 percent where among the tribal males the participation rate is 48.2 percent and among the females is 33.5 percent, a gap of 14 percent approximately. The gender gap in work participation rate in the districts of North Bengal is equally wide. Among the districts of North Bengal the work participation rate is relatively high, around 50 percent, in Malda, North Dinajpur and South Dinajpur districts while the rate is much lower, close to 41 percent, in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts. The female work participation rate in the latter three districts is also much less, almost by 10 percent, than in the former three districts.

	Agricultural Labourers			Other Workers		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	28.4	24.9	35.0	18.9	21.8	13.4
W. Bengal	68.7	65.6	70.4	15.1	19.2	12.8
Darjeeling	31.9	31.6	32.0	41.4	44.7	39.0
Jalpaiguri	23.4	21.6	24.4	61.5	66.2	58.5
C. Behar	49.0	42.3	51.7	23.9	30.8	21.1
U. Dinajpur	81.6	76.7	83.4	5.6	7.9	4.8
D. Dinajpur	84.2	78.6	86.0	4.9	7.5	4.0
Malda	81.6	76.8	83.5	6.0	9.1	4.7

Source: Census of India, 2001

A look at the sector-wise distribution of tribal workforce in the table 5.7 reveals that women predominantly engaged as agricultural labourers. In West Bengal 70.4 percent of the tribal women workers are engaged as agricultural labourers against the all-India figure of 35 percent. In Darjeeling district the total percentage of tribal population engaged as agricultural labourers are comparatively low to the figures of other North Bengal districts and to that of the state. The total percentage of tribal population of Darjeeling who are engaged in other non-agricultural occupation is comparatively higher i.e. 41.4 percent to the figures of other North Bengal districts.

5.5 Demographic and Socio-economic Profiles of the Tribes in the Mirik Block

Table 5.8

Total population	46326
Total male population	23363
Total female population	22963
Total ST population	3806
Total ST male population	1865
Total ST female population	1941
No. of ST households (all rural)	952

Total ST population in the age group (0-6)	263
Total ST male population in the age group (0-6)	126
Total ST female population in the age group (0-6)	137
Total ST literate	2657
Total ST male literate	1461
Total ST female literate	1196
Total ST engaged in trade and commerce	2%
Total ST male engaged in trade and commerce	1.5%
Total ST female engaged in trade and commerce	0.5%
Total ST engaged in other services	3%
Total ST male engaged in other services	2%
Total ST female engaged in other services	1%
Total Households	9974
Total ST households (all rural)	952
Number of hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, health centres and family welfare centres	Hospital: 01 Dispensaries:08 Health Centres:11
Number of primary schools	40
Number of secondary schools	03
Number of higher secondary schools	04
Number of junior high schools	04
Number of continuing education centres	01 (NIOS)
Number of colleges	01
Number of public libraries	05
Number of villages electrified	75
Number of villages having drinking water facilities	20
Main source of income of the majority	Agriculture and Tea Garden
Main source of income of ST population	Labour
Main crop of the area	Tea
Number of shall tube wells/ areas	01

Number of banks operating	05
Number of haats	03
Number of local markets	01
Number of post office	03
Number of pucca roads	01
Number of bus routes	01
Number of ST student hostel	01
Sources of drinking water	01
Number of telephone exchanges	01
Number of police station	01
Number of ration shops	18

5.6 Demographic and Socio-economic Profiles of the Tribes in the Jore-bunglow Sukhiapokhari Block.

Table 5.9

Block Headquarters	Sukhiapokhari
Altitude	7200ft.
Police Station covered by the Block	Jorebunglow P.S. and Sukhia Pokhari P.S.
Total area of the Block	149.08 Sq miles or 95414.14 acres or 338.57 Sq. Kms. Forest: 56,414.65 acres; Tea Estate: 30,196.98 acres; Khas Lands 8,802.51 acres.
Longitude-Latitude	Longitude-North 27.00 degrees, East 0.88 degrees; Latitude-North-14.9 degree, East-35.9 degree.
Main Rivers	Balasan River, Rangbhang River and Riyang Khola.
Total No. of Mauza	Khasland:16; Forest:08; Tea Estate: 28
Weekly Haats	District improvement fund-3 Sukhiapokhari, Pokhriabong and Simana
Weekly Hats	Unrecognised-7 Maneybhanjang, Jorebunglow, Rangbull, Sonada Bazar, Pulbazar(Mollat T.E.),

	Mareybong, Ghoom Bhaniyang.
Total No. of Tea Gardens	28
Total Population	100725
Total Male Population	49,759
Total Female Population	50,966
Density per Sq Km	453 as per 2001 census
Percentage of population	6.26%
Total ST population	5028
Total ST Male Population	2552
Total ST Female Population	2476
Total No. of Gram Sansad	198
Total No of Gram Panchayat	16
Total No. of Panchayat Samity	1 9 (not yet in function)
Total No. of Mouza	47
Total inhabited village	47
Total households	22048 (as per 2001 census)
Main source of income of the majority	Agriculture and Tea Garden Labour
Total No. of Self Help Group	222
Total Workers	33,930
Total Cultivators	2747
Agricultural labourers	2696
Bargardars	27
Patta Holders	881
Small Farmers	1285
Agricultural labourers	2696
Total Household industry	1349
Others Workers	27138
Main Workers	28032
Marginal Workers	5898
Non Workers	66795

Number of hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, health centres and family welfare centres	BPHC-1, PHC-3, Pry-Sub Health Centre-36
Common Diseases among STs	T.B/ Respiratory
Sex Ratio	926 (Male-49,759), (Female-50966)
Birth Ratio	89.37% per annum
Death Rate	66.78% per annum Male-548; Female 316
Infant mortality rate	38% per 1000
Number of primary schools	110
Number of secondary schools	6
Number of higher secondary schools	4
Number of junior high schools	8
Number of shishu shiksha kendra	SSK-75, MSK-8
Number of colleges	3
Number of technical institutes/colleges	0
Literacy	86.9%-Male ; 66.8%-Female; Total-76.7%
Libraries, Reading Rooms and Mass literacy centres	Libraries-14, Free Reading Room, Mass Literacy Centres-372.
Cinema Hall	1, sitting capacity-60
Agricultural products	Maize, Cardamom, Millet, Sugarcane, Potatoes, Tea, Chillies, Ginger and other vegetables.
Post Offices	Post offices-4, sub post Offices-20
Mouzas having drinking water facilities	45
No. of fertilizer depot	1
Seed stores	2
No. of fair price shop	34
Use and distribution of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reporting areas-40887 hect; b) Forest areas-22171 hect; c) Non agricultural area-945 hect; d) Barren and uncultivable land-419 hect; e) Permanent pastures and other grazing land-48 hect; f) Area under misc groves-40 hect;

	g) Cultivable waste land-132 hect; h) Fallow land-19 hect; i) Current fallow-147 hect; j) Vested land-24 hect; k) Crop grow area-881 hect; l) Potato area-2.2 hect, production-35.3 hect, yeild15,775; m) Fisheries-No. of Government operated-1
Number of Banks	Commercial-3; Gramin bank-2; Co-operative bank-2
Number of Co-operatives societies	133, members 6700 working capitals Rs.28,293/- per year.
BPL families	9261

5.7 The Panchayat system in Darjeeling Hills:

The Darjeeling hill areas were under the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council which was established under the provision of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988 with the objective of total social, economic, cultural and education upliftment of Gorkha and other communities of people living in the Hill areas of Darjeeling District. Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council was a semi-autonomous body that looked after the administration of the Darjeeling hills. The jurisdiction of the Hill Council covers an area of 2476Sq. Km. covering three revenue Sub-Divisions of Kalimpong, Kurseong and Darjeeling and 13 mouzas of Siliguri Sub-Division.

Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council was the result of the signing of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Agreement between the Central Government of India, the West Bengal Government and the Gorkha National Liberation Front in Kolkata on August 22, 1988. The ceremony took place at the Banquet Hall, Raj Bhavan (The Governors Palace) at 10 A.M. The signatories to this tripartite agreement were C.G. Somaih, Union Home Secretary (on the behalf of the Central Government of India), R.N. Sengupta, the Secretary (on behalf of the Government of West Bengal) and Subash Ghising (on the behalf of Gorkha National Liberation Front as the representative of the people of Darjeeling District). The Union Home Minister, Buta Singh, and the West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, also put their signatories on the agreement.

Functioning of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council: The General Council was headed by the Chairman and consisted of 42 councillors of whom 28 were directly elected and 14 were nominated. The Executive Council consisted of 15 executive Councillors, of whom, 13 were nominated from amongst the elected Councillors and the remaining two out of the nominated Councillors. The Chairman was also the Chief Executive Councillor of the Executive Council.

The DGHC was administered from 1988 to 2005 for three successive terms by the GNLFF with Subash Ghising as the Chairman. The fourth DGHC elections were due in 2005. However, the government decided not to hold elections and instead made Subash Ghising the sole caretaker administrator of the DGHC. In March 2008, Ghising was forced to resign as caretaker after losing public support in the Darjeeling hills to Bimal Gurung-led Gorkha Janmukti Morcha. From March 2008, the West Bengal government appointed IAS officers as the administrators of DGHC and no election to this council has been held.

After three year of agitation for a state of Gorkhaland, which began with the formation of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (headed by Bimal Gurung in 2007, the GJMM reached an agreement with the state to form Gorkhaland Territorial Administration which is a semi-autonomous body to administer the Darjeeling hills. The GTA (Gorkhaland Territorial Administration) will replace the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 23 years. The agreement for GTA was signed on 18th July 2011 at Pintail Village near Siliguri in the presence of Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leaders. The agreement was signed by West Bengal Home Secretary G.D. Gautama, Union Home Ministry Joint Secretary K.K.. Pathak and GJMM general secretary Roshan Giri.

After the discontinuation of the elected body in the Council, the various Departments set up by the Council headed by the elected Councillor were put under the charge of Executive Officers and only normal or small schemes could be executed with the approval of the Administrator DGHC. From the year 2005-06 it has not been possible for the Council to take up big schemes and also to utilize the funds received under certain sectors fully. However, there is a new expectation for execution of larger number and more effective schemes for socio-economic development of the hill people under the Darjeeling Hills as soon as the GTA will start functioning.

5.8 Panchayat and Rural Development Department: Currently in West Bengal there are 3351 Gram Panchayats (G.P), 333 Panchayat Samitis (PS), 17 Zilla Parishads (ZP) and 1 Mahakuma Parishad (Siliguri sub-division of Darjeeling District). In the hill sub division of Darjeeling district namely Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong, rural local governance, comprises of 112 Gram Panchayats only; there is no Zilla Parishad or Panchayat Samitis for the 8 blocks under the hill subdivision of Darjeeling District, Darjeeling Gorkha hill Council(DGHC) played the role of upper tier local governments there. There is a single tier Panchayat system in the hill subdivision of Darjeeling District. Formation of the Panchayat Samiti at Block level is still under consideration. But there are Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and a Mahukuma Parishad for Siliguri Subdivision of Darjeeling District, the Siliguri Mahukuma Parishad having the status and functions of a Zilla Parishad in all respects. Thus, in West Bengal there are 341 blocks but 333 Panchayat Samitis.

The rural people in Darjeeling hill consisting three main subdivisions Darjeeling Sadar, Kalimpong and Kurseong have not been able to taste the Panchayati Raj system which is functioning in other parts of India since its inception in 1993. The main reason behind this is

the creation of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in the year 1988 by bifurcation of the district of Darjeeling into two divisions. When the DGHC came into existence one of the subdivisions Siliguri of Darjeeling District was separated due to obvious political reasons which amounted to the creation of Siliguri Mahukuma Parishad. Important legal changes were made in 1988 through introduction of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988, which changed the three tier structure of the Panchayats in the hill areas of Darjeeling district.³⁴

Later in 1993, the Panchayati Raj bill was passed wholeheartedly in the parliament of India to empower the grass root level people not only to exercise their political rights but also to have share in the ruling. In the Panchayat Raj bill in question the Darjeeling hills were debarred from enjoying this right which is being practised in other parts of this country successfully. The Panchayati Raj bill emphasises the three tier system of Panchayat in India with apex body at the district level. Since the Darjeeling hills have been divided into DGHC and Siliguri Mahukuma Parishad, it was not possible to hold three tier Panchayati raj election in the Darjeeling hills. However, the single tier system was functioning till last six years back which is totally defunct at present due to political reasons. Hence, the people in general or particularly belonging to the rural areas are not getting their right and basic facilities since a long time and neither political parties nor administration is found to be interested in sorting out this problem. This is the real state of affairs in Darjeeling hills.³⁵

5.9 Empowerment of the Tribals and Panchayats in Darjeeling District:

Empowerment means endowing those who are powerless or having no power with a share of it. It is both process and product. In so far as tribal control and enjoy some power the measures so taken, however inadequate they may be conceived as products. They may be seen also as processes in that they constitute stages to or strategies for the larger process of greater empowerment of the tribes. The process of disempowerment of the tribes began with incorporation of the tribes into the larger social structure. The whole thrust of development after independence was to integrate the tribes into the mainstream as to their geographical isolation, low level of development and social backwardness.³⁶

According to Md. Ayub Mallick, the issues of tribal development could not be pursued outside of national development. The national development worked at loggerheads with the interest and welfare of the tribes and the interest of the latter was invariably sacrificed in the name of national development. The process of alienation has started with the process of incorporation. The fruits of development have not gone to the tribes, but to the people from outside. They find themselves increasingly subjected to impoverishment, exploitation and oppression. The tribes had very little say or hand in administration that affected their life. One of the ways in which this problem could have been overcome is by ensuring their involvement and participating in the organs of the state. Empowerment to the tribal people means power to control their own resources and determine and regulate their own life according to their own genius.³⁷

The Panchayati Raj Institutions should have to be consolidated through the lessening of dependence of the poor on the not so poor and well to do, redistribution of assets and benefits among the poor, providing them minimum means of livelihood rather than giving mere doles, and mobilization of the poor on class lines in organizing and nourishing their interests. What is required is to bring about changes in the power relations widening the access of the poor in the decision making bodies. The rural poor should be educated to participate in public activities more readily and more freely. They should be encouraged to take part in village politics.³⁸

Darjeeling District which comprised of four subdivisions: Darjeeling Sadar, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Siliguri had 134 gram panchayats. In the hill sub division of Darjeeling district namely Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong, rural local governance, comprises of 112 Gram Panchayats only; there is no Zilla Parishad or Panchayat Samitis for the 8 blocks under the hill subdivision of Darjeeling District, Darjeeling Gorkha hill Council (DGHC) played the role of upper tier local governments there. There is a single tier Panchayat system in the hill subdivision of Darjeeling District. Formation of the Panchayat Samiti at Block level is still under consideration. But there are Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and a Mahukuma Parishad for Siliguri Subdivision of Darjeeling District, the Siliguri Mahukuma Parishad having the status and functions of a Zilla Parishad in all respects.

Following a constitutional amendment in 1997, the DGHC area has a two-tier panchayat system. However, elections to the panchayat samitis (upper tier) have never been held in the hills, therefore there is a single tier Panchayat system in the hill subdivision of Darjeeling District. The single tier Panchayat system was functioning till 2005 when the last term ended; from then gram panchayats was totally defunct due to political reasons. The fourth DGHC elections were also due in 2005. The government decided not to hold elections and instead made Subash Ghising the sole caretaker administrator of DGHC. The state government did not push for the panchayat elections also because the caretaker administrator of DGHC, Subash Ghising, had insisted on waiting till the Sixth Schedule status was granted to the hills.

The pradhans in the gram panchayats continued issuing birth and residential certificates and headed the committees supervising the 100-day work scheme in the hills till 2008 and in 2008 all the pradhans and the elected members to the gram panchayat resigned due to the ongoing political reasons. In March 2008, Subash Ghising was forced to resign as caretaker after losing public support in the Darjeeling hills to Bimal Gurung-led Gorkha Janmukti Morcha. From March 2008, the West Bengal government appointed IAS officers as the administrators of DGHC and no elections to the council also was held. After the existing Pradhan and elected members resigned no panchayat elections was held as a part of boycott movement to the revived Gorkhaland movement under the leadership of Bimal Gurung.

Even when in 2008 panchayat election was held all over in West Bengal, no panchayat election was held in Darjeeling District.

After the discontinuation of the elected body in the Council, the various Departments set up by the Council headed by the elected Councillor were put under the charge of Executive

Officers. Although the panchayats have technically been dissolved, all the affairs of the panchayats were brought under the charge of Executive Assistant of each Gram Panchayat.

After three years of agitation for a state of Gorkhaland, which began with the formation of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha headed by Bimal Gurung in 2007, the GJMM reached an agreement on 18th July 2011 at Pintail Village near Siliguri with the state government to form Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), a semi-autonomous body to administer the Darjeeling Hills. The GTA replaced the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 23 years. The Memorandum of agreement also included that “a three-tier Panchayat will be constituted by elections in the GTA region, subject to the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India. Notwithstanding anything contained in the West Bengal Panchayat Act 1973, or the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, the GTA shall exercise general powers of supervision over the Panchayats and the Municipalities”.

After the end of the term in 2005, there has not been any panchayat election held till date in the rural areas of Darjeeling hills. Prior to that there was panchayat elections held in the year 1995 and 2000 in the three hill subdivision namely-Darjeeling Sadar, Kalimpong and Kurseong. The Table 5.10 shows the details of the Panchayat election of 1995 held in the three hill subdivision of Darjeeling District. The Table 5.10 shows in 1995 the block Darjeeling-Pulbazar had 16 gram panchayats. The total population of the Darjeeling-Pulbazar Block was 52963 with 6536 as Scheduled Tribes and 3109 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 52963, the total voters were 39887. The block Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari had 8 gram panchayats. The total population of the Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari block was 30086 with 5146 as Scheduled Tribes and 2086 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 30086, the total voters were 22227. The block Rangli-Rangliot had 7 gram panchayats. The total population of the Rangli-Rangliot block was 19329 with 3672 as Scheduled Tribes and 1583 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 19329, the total voters were 12904.

Table 5.10:

Panchayat Election 1995												
SL. No.	Name of the block	No. of G.P.	Total Population	ST Population	SC Population	Total Voters	No. of Representatives Elected in G.P.			Reserved seats for women		
							ST	SC	UR	ST	SC	GW
01.	Darjeeling - Pulbazar	16	52963	6536	3109	39887	09	06	88	12	04	43
02.	Jorebunglow. Sukhipokhari	08	30086	5146	2086	22227	06	05	47	08	02	24
03.	Rangli-Rangliot	07	19329	3672	1583	12904	06	03	26	05	02	14
04.	Kalimpong-I	18	54284	9237	4840	37839	12	10	80	16	03	40

Panchayat Election 1995												
SL. No.	Name of the block	No. of G.P.	Total Population	ST Population	SC Population	Total Voters	No. of Representatives Elected in G.P.			Reserved seats for women		
							ST	SC	UR	ST	SC	GW
05.	Kalimpong-II	12	42619	10938	2837	29652	15	05	55	16	00	28
06.	Gorubathan	07	20451	2893	886	13662	02	00	35	05	02	13
07.	Kurseong	10	36306	3421	3756	23300	04	05	50	05	05	26
08.	Mirik	04	10404	1030	826	8003	00	01	20	02	02	08

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The block Kalimpong-I had 18 gram panchayats. The total population of the Kalimpong-I block was 54284 with 9237 as Scheduled Tribes and 4840 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 54284, the total voters were 37839. The block Kalimpong-II had 12 gram panchayats. The total population of the Kalimpong-II block was 42619 with 10938 as Scheduled Tribes and 2837 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 42619, the total voters were 29652. The block Gorubathan had 7 gram panchayats. The total population of the Gorubathan block was 20451 with 2893 as Scheduled Tribes and 886 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 20451, the total voters were 13662. The Kurseong block had 10 gram panchayats. The total population of the Kurseong block was 36306 with 3421 as Scheduled Tribes and 3756 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 36306, the total voters were 23300. The block had Mirik 4 gram panchayats. The total population of the Mirik block was 10404 with 1030 as Scheduled Tribes and 826 as Scheduled Castes. Out of the total population of 10404, the total voters were 8003.

There was reservation of seats for women and also women belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes for each blocks of the three hill subdivision of Darjeeling Hills. In Darjeeling-Pulbazar block 59 seats were reserved for women out of which 12 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribes women and 4 seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes women. In Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari Block 34 seats were reserved for women out of which 8 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 2 seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste women. In Rangli-Rangliot Block 21 seats were reserved for women out of which 5 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 2 seats were reserved Scheduled Caste women. Kalimpong-I block had 59 seat reserved for women out which 16 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 3 seats reserved for Scheduled Caste women. Kalimpong-II block had 44 seats reserved for women out of which 16 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women. In Gorubathan block 20 seats were reserved for women out of which 5 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 2 seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste women. Kurseong block had 36 seats reserved for women out of which 5 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 5 seats for Scheduled Caste women. In Mirik Block 12 seats were reserved for women out of which 2 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste respectively.

The Table 5.10 shows that elected representatives belonging to the Scheduled Tribes category are highly represented in the Kalimpong-II block as compared to the other blocks. 15 representatives belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category were elected in the Kalimpong-II block. While Mirik Block had no representatives belonging to Scheduled Tribe category although there was reservation of 2 seats for scheduled Tribe women. Most of the elected representatives for gram panchayats belonged to the ruling (Gorkha National Liberation Front) GNLF Party in Darjeeling Hills.

The Table 5.10 showing the details of the 1995 Panchayat election shows that the people in the rural areas are quite politically active so far as voting is concerned. In a democracy the most important political participation is the right of adult franchise. In the absence of this right democracy is not possible. In the Darjeeling-Pulbazar Block 75% of the rural population had participated in voting in the election while 25% of the population was apathetic to participation. In Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari 74% of the rural population had participated in voting in the election while 26% of the population was apathetic to participation. In Rangli-Rangliot 67% of the rural population voted in the election while 33% of the population was apathetic to participation. In both blocks of Kalimpong-I and Kalimpong-II 70% of the total population voted in the election while 30% did not participate in voting. In Gorubathan block 67% of rural population voted in the election while 33% of the population remained apathetic to participation. In Kurseong Block 64% of the total rural population voted while 36% remained apathetic to participation. In Mirik Block 77% of the total rural population voted while 23% of the population remained apathetic to participation. Therefore the rate of participation in voting of the rural population in the panchayat election of 1995 held in all the blocks of Darjeeling hills is 70% which is positive, while 30% of the rural population was apathetic to participation

Table 5.11.

Panchayat Election 2000												
SL.No.	Name of the block	No. of G.P.	Total Population	ST Population	SC Population	Total Voters	No. of Representatives Elected in G.P.			Reserved seats for women		
							ST	SC	UR	ST	SC	GW
01.	Darjeeling-Pulbazar	23	115969	8636	5461	85894	15	10	201	09	07	111
02.	Jorebunglow. Sukhipokhari	16	100724	8564	7809	76540	16	14	174	11	13	86
03.	Rangli-Rangliot	11	64343	5020	2501	46339	10	04	110	04	02	59
04.	Kalimpong-I	18	67672	11878	4806	46519	18	11	91	15	05	50
05.	Kalimpong-II	13	60263	14835	1805	39187	24	01	76	15	02	41
06.	Gorubathan	11	52715	7886	3660	20428	15	03	69	06	04	38
07.	Kurseong	14	85567	7831	6760	57022	11	11	121	08	06	70
08.	Mirik	06	42237	3136	3074	29157	05	04	68	02	03	37

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Table 5.11 shows the last Panchayat election of 2000 which was held in the three hill subdivision of Darjeeling hills. After the Panchayat election of 2000 there has not been any

Panchayat elections taken place due to the political reasons. The Table 5.11 shows there has been an increase in the number of gram panchayats in each blocks of the three hill subdivisions of the district. In the Darjeeling-Pulbazar block there were 23 Gram Panchayats and total population was 115969 with 8636 as Scheduled Tribe and 5461 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 115969, the total voters were 85894. In the Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari block there were 16 Gram Panchayats and total population was 100724 with 8564 as Scheduled Tribe and 7809 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 100724, the total voters were 76540. In the Rangli-Rangliot block there were 11 Gram Panchayats and total population was 64343 with 5020 as Scheduled Tribe and 2501 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 64343, the total voters were 46339. In the Kalimpong-I block there were 18 Gram Panchayats and total population was 67672 with 11878 as Scheduled Tribe and 4806 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 67672, the total voters were 46519. In the Kalimpong-II block there were 13 Gram Panchayats and total population was 60263 with 14835 as Scheduled Tribe and 1805 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 60263, the total voters were 39187. In the Gorubathan block there were 11 Gram Panchayats and total population was 52715 with 7886 as Scheduled Tribe and 3660 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 52715, the total voters were 20428. In the Kurseong block there were 14 Gram Panchayats and total population was 85567 with 7831 as Scheduled Tribe and 6760 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 85567, the total voters were 57022. In the Mirik block there were 6 Gram Panchayats and total population was 42237 with 3136 as Scheduled Tribe and 3074 as Scheduled Caste. Out of the total population of 42237, the total voters were 29157.

During 2000 panchayat election also there was reservation of seats for women and also women belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste. In Darjeeling-Pulbazar block 127 seats were reserved for women, out of which 9 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe and 7 seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste. Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari block had 110 seat reserved for women, out of which 11 seat were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 13 seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste women. In Rangli-Rangliot block 65 seats were reserved for women, out of which 4 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 2 seats for Scheduled Caste women. In Kalimpong-I block there was reservation of 70 seats for women, out of which 15 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 5 seats for Scheduled Caste women. While in Kalimpong-II block there was reservation of 58 seats for women, out of which 15 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 2 seats for Scheduled Caste women. Gorubathan Block had 48 seats reserved for women, out of which 6 seats was reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 4 seats for Scheduled Caste women. In the Kurseong block 84 seats was reserved for women, out of which 8 seats was reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 6 seats for Scheduled Caste women. While in Mirik block 42 seats was reserved for women, out of which 2 seats was reserved for Scheduled Tribe women and 3 seats for Scheduled Caste women. In comparison of all the blocks Kalimpong-I and Kalimpong-II had the highest number of seats reserved for women belonging to Scheduled Tribe category.

The Table 5.11 shows that elected representatives belonging to the Scheduled Tribes category are highly represented in the Kalimpong-II block as compared to the other blocks. 24

representatives belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category were elected in the Kalimpong-II block. In comparison of elected representatives belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste, the representatives belonging to Scheduled Tribe category was highly represented than the one belonging to Scheduled Caste category in all the blocks of Darjeeling hills. Most of the elected representatives for gram panchayats belonged to the ruling (Gorkha National Liberation Front) GNLF Party in Darjeeling Hills.

Like in the panchayat election of 1995, similar trend was prevalent in the panchayat election of 2000 also, regarding the participation of the rural people in voting in elections. The rural population had actively participated in voting in both the elections. In the Darjeeling-Pulbazar Block 74% of the rural population had participated in voting in the election while 26% of the population was apathetic to participation. In the Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari Block 76% of the rural population has participated in voting in the election while 24% of the population was apathetic to participation. In Rangli-Rangliot block 72% of rural population voted while 28% of population remained apathetic to participation. In Kalimpong-I block 69% of rural population voted while 31% of population remained apathetic to participation. In the Kalimpong-II Block 65% of the rural population had participated in voting in the election while 35% of the population was apathetic to participation. In Gorubathan block only 39% of rural population voted while 61% of population remained apathetic to participation. In Kurseong block 67% of rural population voted while 33% of population remained apathetic to participation. In Mirik block 69% of rural population voted while 31% of population remained apathetic to participation. In comparison, all the blocks had their rural population participating in voting during elections quite encouraging but there was an exception to Gorubathan block, where the rural population's participation to voting during election was only 39% while 61% of them remained apathetic to participation. Therefore the rate of participation in voting of the rural population in the panchayat election of 2000 held in all the blocks of Darjeeling hills is 68% which is positive, while 32% of the rural population was apathetic to participation. From this it is observed that the rural population is politically active. They were aware of the right to vote and value of voting and electing their representatives in a democracy.

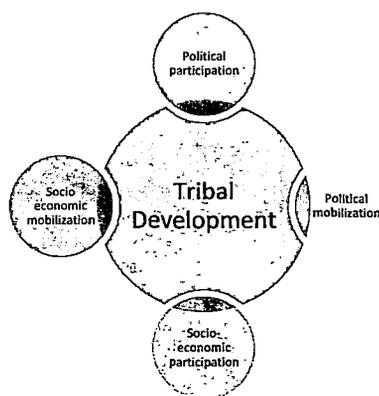
Gram Sabha (village council level annual meeting of the voters) and Gram Sansads (constituency level bi-annual meetings of the entire electorate of a constituency) is the prime unit of political participation. The gram sabha and gram sansads is vested with power to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people their cultural identity, and community resources. It is also vested with the power to approve plans, programmes and projects for socio-economic development. There are 198 gram sansads and 16 gram panchayats in the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block. There are 75 gram sansad and 6 gram panchayats in Mirik Block. Participation of the rural population and specially the tribes of the Darjeeling Hills in gram sabha and gram sansads meetings were not encouraging, they were apathetic to participation. Since the meetings of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Sansad are convened by the Pradhan, and in his/her absence, by the Upa-Pradhan. In Darjeeling hills the last panchayat election was held in 2000 and after the term ended in 2005 there was no election held. The Pradhans and other elected representatives to gram panchayats continued with their office till 2008. After the existing Pradhan and elected members resigned no

panchayat elections was held as a part of boycott movement to the revived Gorkhaland movement under the leadership of Bimal Gurung. While popular participation in the panchayat especially in voting during the elections was quite encouraging. The participatory orientation of the tribals in the last two panchayat elections of 1995 and 2000 was high. After 2000 there has been no panchayat election held in the Darjeeling hills due to political reasons.

According to Md. Ayub Mallick, Political participation fulfils four functions, i.e. pursuing economic needs, satisfying needs for social adjustment, meeting psychological needs and pursuing particular values. Successful functioning of democracy depends to a great extent upon the voluntary participation of the people in the political process on a large scale. The government can deliver goods and services, convert the demands into outputs and be in a position to take decision and implement them if it feels that people have a kind of identification with it and if gets their support. Therefore, it is necessary on the part of the people to evince keen interest to play an important role in the functioning of the political system. The socio-economic and psychological needs of the individuals and their attitudes towards particular values of democracy determine the level of political participation and individual's political orientation.³⁹

Further, there are various levels of participation, from taking part in political discussion to taking part in decision-making. Casting of votes takes the middle of the row. Economic backwardness, lack of education and socio-economic inequality has debarred the tribals from taking part in decision-making. The participation of tribals in political activities may be listed as casting of votes, taking part in political discussion, attending meetings, participation in election campaigning, canvassing for candidate and in few cases contributing to election fund etc. Md. Ayub Mallick opines that for improving the quality and level of participation, effective measures for tribal welfare are necessary. The present development efforts are not adequate, rather aim of these development efforts should not be mere incrementalism but a thorough revamping of socio-economic conditions. In-fact, socio-economic mobilization and socio-economic participation should be generated first and then political mobilization and political participation would be steeped up. There are four pillars of tribal development. The order is cyclic as shown in Figure 5.1.⁴⁰

Figure 5.1



5.10 Tribal Development Programmes undertaken in the Panchayats of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block and Mirik Block.

The rural areas in West Bengal are characterized by accentuation of inequalities, poverty, lack of productivity and lack of basic minimum services. Recognising this, the state has resorted to direct intervention in tribal development. Different strategies emphasize different set of policies in order to achieve goals. The development policies are related to land, agriculture, employment, education etc. The development programmes are based on various approaches: Community Approach, Area Development Approach, Target Group Approach, Employment Generation Approach, Poverty Alleviation Approach, Social Welfare Approach, which are aimed at upliftment of the rural mass based on economic criteria and social welfare measures. The Community Development Programmes are aimed at the transformation of the socio-economic life of the rural mass, development of their material and human resources and development of rural leadership and self governing institutions.⁴¹

In the Area Development Approach, Intensive Agricultural District Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme, Command Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme are important. This is the second phase of rural development aiming at improving agricultural production due to population explosion, food shortages etc. This growth oriented agricultural development failed and special programmes for the weaker sections like Small Farmers Development Agency, Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Programmes, Tribal Areas Development Programme and Tribal Sub-plans did not make much improvement. The programme for the tribals emphasise improvement of the quality of tribal life, elimination of all forms of exploitation, speeding up the process of socio-economic development and building up of confidence among them.⁴²

Side by side, employment generation schemes like Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, Social Forestry, Indira Awas Yojana and Million Wells Scheme are important. Taking family as the unit of planning and employment generation Integrated Rural Development Programme is aimed at removing poverty and employment. The supporting component of IRDP is Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment aiming at providing technical skills for rural youth living in poverty. With a view to motivate women to take up income generating activities to supplement their family income Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) groups have been formed. Further, to enhance quality production and increase in income with the use of modern tools Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) programme has been launched.⁴³

Previously launched programmes like NREP and RLEGP has been merged into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) for improvement of rural infrastructure, creation of social assets and sustained employment and increase in wage levels. Apart from JRY, the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is likely to provide assured gainful employment to the rural poor. The rural poor for their livelihood need few basic services and facilities of social consumption like elementary and adult education, rural health, water supply, electrification etc. and this end Minimum Needs Programme is intended to establish a network of basic

services. For making a well-knit and communicable network of basic services improvement of the conditions of child and mother should have to be made through Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in terms of improvement of the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years, psycho-physical and social development of child, reduction in infant mortality and school dropout of children and enhancement of the nutritional needs of the child. Under Central Rural Sanitation Programme the central government decided to provide sanitary latrine to poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, where the total resources are to be mobilized on a centre-state share of 50:50.⁴⁴ Apart from this, in the National Social Assistance Programme comprise of five schemes namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme.

Despite various efforts made over few decades rural poverty continues to be significant. It is in this context can be said that self-employment programmes assume great significance, which alone can provide income to the rural poor. The multiplicity of programmes, viewed as separate programmes, produced a lack of social intermediation, absence of desired communication or linkages between various programmes. The programmes were aimed at achieving individual programme targets rather than substantive income generation. To make the development programmes free of defects the Government decided to restructure the self-employment programme known as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was formulated in terms of organisation of the poor group formation, credit, training, technology and infrastructure. After coming into in operation of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, the programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA etc are not in operation in building up potential of the rural poor. The programme is a combination of credit and subsidy and also lays emphasis on training courses.⁴⁵

Jorebunglow Sukiapokhari Block of Darjeeling Sadar Subdivision in Darjeeling District consists of rural areas with 16 gram panchayats, viz, (i) Dhootria Kalej Valley, (ii) Ghum Khasmahal, (iii) Gorabari Margarat's Hope, (iv) Lingiamaraybong (v) Lower Sonada-I, (vi) Lower Sonada-II, (vii) Munda Kothi, (viii) Permaguritamsang, (ix) Plungdung, (x) Pokhriabong-I, (xi) Pokhriabong-II, (xii) Pokhriabong-III, (xiii) Rangbhang Gopaldhara, (xiv) Rangbul, (xv) Sukhia-Simana, (xvi) Upper Sonada.

While Mirik Block of Kurseong Subdivision in Darjeeling District consists of rural areas with 6 gram panchayats, viz, (i) Chenga Panighata, (ii) Duptin, (iii) Paheligaon School Dara-I, (iv) Paheligaon School Dara-II, (v) Soureni-I, (vi) Soureni-II.

Taking Tribal Development in view there are generally two types of welfare scheme for the uplift and benefit of the tribals. Firstly, schemes which directly benefit the tribals and Secondly, schemes which indirectly benefit the tribals. Some of the welfare schemes administered by the panchayats of the Darjeeling Hills were Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which comprised of

five schemes namely , Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme. These above schemes fall under the second category of schemes. The first category of schemes by which directly benefit the tribes like Tribal Sub Plan, Community Development Scheme under Integrated Tribal Development Project are absent in the hills. The tribals living in the rural areas of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block and Mirik Block are benefitted by the second category of schemes. So it is evident from here that there are no particularly tribal development welfare schemes especially for the tribals of the region.

Table 5.12

Financial cum Progress Report of Old Age Pension for the Year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block.						
Name of the Schemes Pension (non plan)	Quota for the Block	Quota filled at the end of the Block	Month up to which pension has been disbursed at the end of the period	Amount sub allotted from the District	Amount disbursed to the pensioner	Balance
Pension (non plan)	90	90	Mar-11	850,500/-	850,500/-	Nil
Pension General	8	8	Mar-11	75,600/-	75,600/-	Nil
Pension SCP	2	2	Mar-11	18,900	18,900	Nil
Pension TSP						
Total	100	100		945000	9,45,000	Nil

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Table 5.12 shows the financial and progress report of Old Age Pension Scheme for the year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. It is evident that funds from the Tribal Sub Plan for Old Age Pension were not given. Whereas under Pension (non plan) Rs. 850,500/- was allotted from the District (DGHC), Under Pension General and Pension Special Component Plan (SCP) was Rs. 75,600/- and Rs. 18,900/- respectively was allotted which totalled to Rs. 9,45,000 and all the funds were utilised for the benefit of Old Age Pension Beneficiaries.

Table 5.13

Financial cum Progress Report of Widow Pension for the Year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block.						
Name of the Schemer Pension (non plan)	Quota for the Block	Quota filled at the end of the Block	Month up to which pension has been disbursed at the end of the period	Amount sub allotted from the District	Amount disbursed to the pensioner	Balance
Pension (non plan)	85	85	Mar-11	8,03,250	8,03,250	Nil
Pension General	4	4	Mar-11	37,800	37,800	Nil
Pension SCP	1	1	Mar-11	9,450	9,450	Nil
Pension TSP						
Total	90	90		850500	850500	Nil

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The financial and progress report of Widow Pension Scheme for the year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block is shown in the Table 5.13. The Block was allotted total of Rs. 850500/- from the District (DGHC) for the year 2010-2011 which was utilised for the pension of 90 widow beneficiaries. The Table 5.13 shows that there was no fund allotted from the Tribal Sub Plan.

Table 5.14

Financial cum Progress Report of Disable Pension for the Year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block.						
Name of the Schemer Pension (non plan)	Quota for the Block	Quota filled at the end of the Block	Month up to which pension has been disbursed at the end of the period	Amount sub allotted from the District	Amount disbursed to the pensioner	Balance
Pension (non plan)	92	92	Mar-11	8,69,400	8,69,400	Nil
Pension General	4	4	Mar-11	47,250	47,250	Nil
Pension SCP	1	1	Mar-11	9,450	9,450	Nil
Pension TSP						
Total	97	97		9,26,100	9,26,100	Nil

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Table 5.14 shows the financial and progress report of Disable Pension Scheme for the year 2010-2011 under Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. It is evident that funds from the Tribal Sub Plan for Disable Pension were not given. Whereas under Pension (non plan) Rs. 8,69,400/- was allotted from the District (DGHC), Under Pension General and Pension Special Component Plan (SCP) was 47,250/- and 9,450 /- respectively was allotted which totalled to 9,26,100 and all the funds were utilised for the benefit of 97 Beneficiaries.

Table 5.15

Allotment of Fund for IGWPS under NSAP received for the year 2010-2011 under DGHC Darjeeling District.				
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Expenditure	Balance
1.	7/Stat/DP-36/09 dt.05/05/10	Rs.5,91,600/=	Upto Nov.10 Rs.10,71,600/=	Rs.49,200/=
2.	207/Stat/DP-36/06 dt.29/09/10	Rs.2,40,000/=		
3.	218/Stat/PN/P/II/3F- 9/08 dt.06/10/10	Rs.60,000/=		
4.	69/Stat/DP/3F-16/06 dt.10/02/11	Rs.2,29,200/=		
		Rs.11,20,800		

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Table 5.15 shows the allotment of fund for Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) received during the year 2010-2011 under DGHC Darjeeling District for the poor widow of household belonging to below poverty line of the Darjeeling hills. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The pension is given to the widows aged between 45 and 64 years of age. The applicant should be of a household below the Poverty Line as per criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The pension amount is Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary. The pension is to be credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. The pension would be discontinued if there was the case of remarriage or once the widow moves above the poverty line.

The eligibility criteria of a beneficiary to IGWPS are as under:

- a. the applicant (widow) should be in the age group of 40-64 years.
- b. the applicant should be belonging to a household living below the poverty line.

Table 5.16

Darjeeling District										
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011										
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.W.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)										
	O.B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
Darjeeling Hills	Nil	11.208	5.916	2.4	.6	2.292	11.208	10.716	100%	.492
SMP	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		11.208	5.916	2.4	.6	2.292	11.208	10.716	100%	.492

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.16 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.W.P.S.							
	No. of Beneficiaries						
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
Darjeeling Hills	42	29	12	67	150	150	Nil

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Table 5.16 shows the annual financial and physical progress of the year 2010-2011 District of the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) administered within the Darjeeling (DGHC) District. The first allotment received was Rs.5,91,600, second allotment was 2,40,000, third allotment was Rs.60,000 and fourth allotment was Rs.2,29,200 which totalled to Rs.11,20,800 and the total expenditure incurred was Rs.10,71,600 with 100% of utilisation for carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 150 widows belonging to the house hold of below poverty line, out of which were 29 Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.17

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block									
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2011-2012, Monthly report of June.									
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.W.P.S (Rs. in lakhs)									
Sl. No.	O.B.	Allotment received during the year 2011-2012				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
		1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
1.	Nil	1,36,000	81,600	Nil	Nil	2,17,600	Nil	50%	2,17,600

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

Table 5.17 (contd.)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block						
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.W.P.S						
Sl. No.	No. of Beneficiaries					
1.	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	P.H
	8	10	10	40	68	Nil

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Tables 5.17 shows monthly report of June 2011of financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. In 2011-2012 funds received for (IGNWPS) till June is 2,17,600 and number of total women beneficiaries is 68 out of which 10 are Scheduled Tribes. All the beneficiaries are aged between 45 and 64 years and belong to the household below poverty line. The pension is credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary.

Table 5.18

Allotment of Fund for IGNDPS under NSAP received for the year 2010-2011 under DGHC Darjeeling District.				
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Expenditure	Balance
1.	7/Stat/DP-36/09 dt.05/05/10	Rs.2,73,200/=	Up to Nov.10 Rs.4,94,000	Rs. 16,800/=
2.	26/Stat/DP-36/06 dt.20/07/10	Rs.27,600/=		
3.	206/Stat/PN/P/II/3F- 9/08 dt.29/09/10	Rs.82,800/=		
4.	51/Stat/DP-36-6 /09 dt.06/10/10	Rs.27,600/=		
5.	69/Stat/DP/3F-16/06 dt.10/02/11	Rs.99,600/=		
		Rs.5,10,800/=		

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

In the Table 5.18 allotment of funds for Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), of the year 2010-2011 under the (DGHC) Darjeeling District is given.

The eligibility criteria under IGNDPS are as under:

(A) the applicant (male or female) should be in the age group of 18-64 years.

- a. the applicant should be suffering from severe or multiple disabilities.
- b. the applicant should be belonging to a household living below the poverty line.

(B) For the purpose of defining severe or multiple disabilities, the following may be considered:

- a. As per PWD Act. 1995, 'Disability' means (i) blindness, (ii) low vision, (iii) leprosy cured, (iv) hearing impairment, (v) loco motor disability, (vi) mental retardation and (vii) mental illness.
- b. Person with disability means persons suffering from not less than 40% of any disability as certified by medical authority.
- c. Persons with severe disability means persons with 80% or more of one or more disabilities.
- d. Multiple disabilities means combination of two or more disabilities.

Table 5.19
Darjeeling District

National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011											
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.D.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)											
	O.B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year					Total Fund available	Total Expenditure	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment	5 th Instalment				
Darjeeling Hills	Nil	5.108	2.732	.276	.828	.276	.99600	5.108	4.94	100%	.168
SMP	Nil		—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
		5.108	2.732	.276	.828	.276	.99600	5.108	4.94	100%	.168

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.19 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.D.P.S.						
	No. of Beneficiaries					
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women
Darjeeling Hills	19	15	8	27	69	32

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

From the Table 5.19 showing financial and physical progress of the scheme Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), of the year 2010-2011 under the (DGHC) Darjeeling District it is evident that first allotment received was Rs.2,73,200/-, second allotment was Rs.27,600, third allotment was Rs.82800/-, fourth allotment was 27,600/- and fifth allotment was Rs.99,600/- which totalled to Rs.5,10,800/-. The fund was utilised for the disabled beneficiaries belonging to the household of below poverty line under the (DGHC) Darjeeling District, where total expenditure was Rs.4,94,000/- with 100% of utilisation of the fund. The total number of beneficiaries was 69 where 15 were Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.20

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block									
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2011-2012, Monthly report of June.									
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.D.P.S (Rs. in lakhs)									
Sl. No.	O.B.	Allotment received during the year 2011-2012				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
		1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
1.	16000	22,800	68,400	68,400	Nil	1,75,600	Nil	50%	1,75,600

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

Table 5.20 (contd.):

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block						
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.D.P.S.						
Sl. No.	No. of Beneficiaries					
1.	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women
	9	16	12	28	53	30

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Table 5.20 shows monthly report of June 2011 of financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. In 2011-2012 funds received for (IGNWPS) till June is 1,75,600 and number of total disable beneficiaries is 68 out of which 12 are Scheduled Tribes. All the beneficiaries belong to the households below poverty line. The pension is credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. In case of death of pensioner, the pension is stopped and no nominee will receive it.

Table 5.21

Allotment of Fund for NFBS under NSAP received for the year 2009-2010 under DGHC Darjeeling District.				
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Expenditure	Balance
1.	108(SAN)-PN/P/II/3F-9/08(NOAPS/NFBS) dt.20/07/09	Rs. 10,00,000 /=	Rs.35,10,000/=(DPRDO) Rs.3,70,000/=(SMP)	Rs.9,93587/=(DPRDO) Rs.41,30,000/=(SMP Siliguri) <hr/> Rs.51.23587(Rs. in lakhs)
2.	197(SAN)-PN/P/II/3F-9/08(NOAPS/NFBS) dt.21/10/09	Rs. 20,00,000/=		
3.	97(Stat)DP-3F-10/06/dt. 17/12/09	Rs.60,00,000 /=		
		Rs.90,00,000 /=		

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Table 5.21 shows fund allotted to National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in the year 2009 to 2010 under DGHC Darjeeling District. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme. Under National Family Benefit Scheme, Central Assistance of Rs. 10,000/- is given to the bereaved family in the form of lump sum family benefits for households below the poverty line on the death of the primary bread winner.

The assistance is available on the following conditions:

- The primary breadwinner shall be a member whose earnings contribute substantially to the household income.
- The death of such primary breadwinner occurs while he or she is more than 18 years and less than 65 years of age.

Table 5.22

Darjeeling District										
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2009-2010										
Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S. (Rs. in lakhs)										
	O. B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
Darjeeling Hills	Nil	45.0	5.0	10.0	30.0	—	45.3587	35.1	80%	10.2587
SMP	Nil	45.0	5.0	10.0	30.0	—	45.0	3.7	2%	41.3
		90.0	10.0	20.0	60.0	—	90.3587	38.8		51.5587

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.22 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S.							
	No. of Beneficiaries						
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
Darjeeling Hills	76	89	62	124	351	305	Nil
SMP	12	6	8	11	37	25	Nil
	88	95	70	135	388	330	Nil

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

From the Table 5.22 it is known that in the first allotment the Darjeeling district received Rs.10,00,000, the second allotment was Rs.20,00,000, the third allotment was Rs. 60,00,000 which totalled up to Rs. 90,00,000, Out of which Rs. 35,10,000 was spent by DGHC in Darjeeling Hills with 80% of utilisation of funds for carrying out the scheme and Rs.3,70,000/- was spent by Siliguri Mahukama Parishad in Siliguri Subdivision of Darjeeling District. The total number of beneficiaries was 388. In Darjeeling hills the total number of beneficiaries was 351 out of which 95 were Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.23

Allotment of Fund for NFBS under NSAP received for the year 2010-2011 under DGHC Darjeeling District.					
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Total Fund available	Expenditure	Balance
1.	25(Stat)DP-3F-10/06Dt.20/07/10	Rs. 15.00 DPRDO Rs.15.00 SMP	Rs.51.23587 Rs. .69266 Rs. 30.00 <hr/> Rs . 81.92853	Rs.23,80,000/=(DPRDO) Rs. 14,60,000/=(SMP) <hr/> Rs.38,40,000/=	Rs.1.82853(DPRDO) Rs.41.7 (SMP) <hr/> Rs.43.52853

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.24: Darjeeling District

National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011

Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S. (Rs. in lakhs)

	O.B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
Darjeeling Hills	10.2587	15.00	15.00	—	—	—	25.95	23.8	95%	2.15
SMP	41.3	15.00	15.00	—	—	—	56.3	14.6	24%	41.7
	51.5587	30.00	30.00	—	—	—	82.25	38.4		43.85

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.24 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S.							
	No. of Beneficiaries						
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
Darjeeling Hills	46	59	32	101	238	212	Nil
SMP	58	22	26	40	146	125	Nil
	104	81	58	141	384	337	Nil

In the Table 5.23 and 5.24 financial and physical progress of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Social Assistance Programme of the year 2010-2011 is shown from which it is known that Rs. 82,25,00 was allotted to the Darjeeling District out of which Rs. 25,95,000 was allotted to the Darjeeling Hills out of which Rs 23.80,000 was spent in Darjeeling Hills with 95% of utilisation of fund for carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 384. The total number of beneficiaries in the Darjeeling Hills was 238 out of which 59 were Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.25

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block									
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2011-2012, Monthly report of June.									
Name of the scheme: N.F. B.S. (Rs. in lakhs)									
O.B.	Allotment received during the year 2011-2012					Total Fund available	Total Expenditure	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
	1st Instalment	2nd Instalment	3rd Instalment	4th Instalment	Total				
Nil	1,40,000	1,90,000	Nil	Nil	3,30,000	Nil	2,50,000	50%	80,000

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

Table 5.25 (contd.)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block							
Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S.							
No. of Beneficiaries							
SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H.	% of women beneficiaries in respect to total sanctioned cases
6	11	9	6	23	10	Nil	43%

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Tables 5.25 shows monthly report of June 2011 of financial and physical progress of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. In 2011-2012 funds received for (NFBS) till June is Rs. 3,30,000 out of which Rs.2,50,000 scheme with 50% of utilisation of fund was spent in carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 23 out of which 11 are Scheduled Tribes. Out of 23 beneficiaries 10 were women so there were 43% of women

beneficiaries in respect to total sanctioned cases. All the beneficiaries belong to the households below poverty line. The pension is credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. In case of death of pensioner, the pension is stopped and no nominee would receive it.

Table 5.26

Mirik Block								
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2011-2012, Monthly report of June.								
Name of the scheme: N.F.B.S. (Rs. in lakhs)								
O.B.	Allotment received during the year 2011-2012				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
	1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
134000	—	—	—	—	13,4000	13,4000	100%	Nil

Table 5.26 (contd.): Name of the scheme: NFBS

Name of the Block	No. of beneficiaries							
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	PH	% of women beneficiaries in respect to total sanctioned cases
Mirik	2	6		26	34	33	Nil	100%

Source: Mirik Block Office.

The Tables 5.26 shows monthly report of June 2011 of financial and physical progress of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Social Assistance Programme

(NSAP) in Mirik Block. In 2011-2012 funds received for NFBS till June was nil and the balance of fund from the last year i.e. 2010 was Rs. 13,4000 with 100% utilisation of fund for the carrying out of scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 34 out of which 6 were Scheduled Tribes. Out of 34 beneficiaries 33 were women so there was 100% of women beneficiaries in respect to total sanctioned cases. All the beneficiaries belong to the households below poverty line.

Table 5.27

Allotment of Fund for IGNOAPS under NSAP received for the year 2009-2010 under DGHC Darjeeling District.				
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Expenditure	Balance
1.	2589/V/DP/3F2/06 dt.01/07/09	Rs. 40,59,600/=	Rs in Lakhs 439.798/=	Rs.20.704 (Rs. in lakhs)
2.	2591/V/DP/3F2/06 dt.01/07/09	Rs. 1,21,78,800/=		
3.	5256/V/DP/3F2/06 dt.11/12/09	Rs. 2,43,57,600/=		
4.	742/V/DP/3F2/06 dt.17/02/10	Rs.53,11,200/=		
		Rs. 4,59,07,200/=		

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.28

Darjeeling District										
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2009-2010										
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)										
	O.B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			Instalment 1 st	Instalment 2 nd	Instalment 3 rd	Instalment 4 th				
Darjeeling Hills	Nil	228.92	22.892	68.676	137.352	-	230.35	215.166	90%	15.184
SMP	Nil	230.152	17.704	53.112	106.224	53.112	230.152	224.632	95%	5.52
		459.072	40.596	121.788	243.576	53.112	460.502	439.798		20.704

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.28 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S.							
	No. of Beneficiaries						
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
Darjeeling Hills	1219	1849	1513	2629	7210	4344	Nil
SMP	1528	777	614	1061	3980	2267	Nil
	2747	2626	2127	3690	11190	6611	Nil

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Tables 5.27 and 5.28 shows financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under (NSAP) of the year 2009-2010 in Darjeeling District. Darjeeling District received first allotment Rs. 40,59,600, second allotment as Rs. 1,21,78,800, third allotment as Rs. 2,43,57,600, and fourth allotment as Rs. 53,11,200 which totalled to Rs4,60,50,200. The total expenditure of Darjeeling Hills amounted to Rs. 2,15,16,600 and of Siliguri Mahukama Parishad was Rs. 2,24,63,200 with 90% and 95% of utilisation of funds for carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 11190, out of which 2626 were Scheduled Tribes. The total number of beneficiaries in Darjeeling Hills was 7210, out of which 1849 were Scheduled Tribes.

Tables 5.29

Allotment of Fund for IGNOAPS under NSAP received for the year 2010-2011 under DGHC Darjeeling District.				
Sl. No.	G.O. No. & Date	Allotment Received	Expenditure	Balance
1.	19/Stat/DP/3F16/06 dt.08/07/10	Rs.46,11,600 /=	Rs in Lakhs 290.6	Rs.34.12 (Rs. in lakhs)
2.	49/Stat/DP/3F16/06 dt.06/10/10	Rs. 48,92,800/=		
3.	69/Stat/DP/3F16/06 dt.10/02/11	Rs. 1,68,86,400/=		
		Rs. 2,63,90,800/= Rs. 20.704 (09-10 C.B) Rs. 38.71 from DPRDO to SMP <hr/> Rs 324.71 (Rs. in lakhs)		

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.30

Darjeeling District										
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011										
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)										
	O.B.	Total allotment received during the year 2009-2010	Allotment received during the year				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
			Instalment 1 st	Instalment 2 nd	Instalment 3 rd	Instalment 4 th				
Darjeeling Hills	15.184	247.056	29.264	48.928	168.864	—	263.64	231.6	85%	32.04
SMP	5.52	55.569	16.852	38.71 From DPRDO	—	—	61.08	59.00	96.50%	2.08
	20.704	302.625	46.116	87.638	168.864	—	324.72	290.6		34.12

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

Table 5.30 (contd.)

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S.							
	No. of Beneficiaries						
	SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
Darjeeling Hills	1219	1849	1513	2629	7210	4344	Nil
SMP	1528	777	614	1061	3980	2267	Nil
	2747	2626	2127	3690	11190	6611	Nil

Source: Panchayat and Rural Development District Office, Darjeeling.

The Tables 5.29 and 5.30 shows the financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of the year 2010-2011 in the Darjeeling District. The District received first allotment of Rs. 46,11,600, second allotment was Rs.48,92,800, third allotment was Rs. 1,68,86,400. The total allotment received by Darjeeling Hills was Rs. 2,63,64,000 out of which total expenditure incurred was Rs. 2,31,60,000 with 85% of utilisation of fund for carrying out the

scheme. The total number of beneficiaries in the district was 11190 out of which 2626 were Scheduled Tribes. The total number of beneficiaries in Darjeeling Hills was 7210 out of which 1849 were Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.31: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block

National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2011-2012, Monthly report of June.

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)

O.B. as on 1.04.10	Allotment received during the year 2011-2012				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
	1 st Instalment	2 nd Instalment	3 rd Instalment	4 th Instalment				
23,600/-	8,88,000	2,88,400	7,16,000	10,65,600	29,81,600	27,16,00	80%	2,65,600

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

Table 5.31 (contd.)

Table 5.31 (contd.): Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block

Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S.

Sl.No.	Total Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries						
		SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	P.H
1.	679	58	275	285	346	679	392	5

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Table 5.31 shows monthly report of June 2011 of the financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. The Block received first allotment of Rs. 8,88,000, second allotment was Rs. 2,88,400, third allotment was 7,16,000, fourth allotment was 10,65,600 which totalled to Rs.29,81,600 fund received. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 27,16,00 with 80% of utilisation of fund for carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 679, out of which 275 was Scheduled Tribes. The eligibility criteria under IGNOAPS are as under:

1. age of the applicant (male or female) should be 65 years or above.
2. the applicant should be belonging to a household living below the poverty line.

Table 5.32

Mirik Block								
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011, Monthly report of June.								
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S. (Rs. in lakhs)								
O.B.	Allotment received during the year 2010-2011				Total Fund available	Total Expenditure Incurred	% of utilisation	Balance of fund
	Instalment 1 st	Instalment 2 nd	Instalment 3 rd	Instalment 4 th				
1,26,200	10,34,400	—	—	—	11,60,600	10,18,800	89%	41,800

Source: Mirik Block Office.

Table 5.32: (contd.)

Mirik Block								
National Social Assistance Programme: Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011								
Name of the scheme: I.G.N.O.A.P.S.								
Sl No.	Name of the Block	No. of beneficiaries						
		SC	ST	Minorities	Others	Total	Women	PH
1.	Mirik	88	286	1	487	862	297	Nil

Source: Mirik Block Office.

The Tables 5.32 shows monthly report of June 2011 of the financial and physical progress of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in the Mirik Block. The Block received allotment which totalled to Rs.11,60,600. The total expenditure incurred was Rs.10,18,800 with 89% of utilisation of fund for carrying out the scheme. The total number of beneficiaries was 862 out of which 286 were Scheduled Tribes. The eligibility criteria under IGNOAPS are as under:

1. age of the applicant (male or female) should be 65 years or above.
2. the applicant should be belonging to a household living below the poverty line.

The pension is credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. In case of death of pensioner, the pension is stopped and no nominee would receive it.

Table 5.33

Coverage of Beneficiaries Report in Mirik Block								
Year- 2011 Month-June								
Name of the Scheme	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Gender		Categories				
		Male	Female	SC	ST	OBC	Minorities	Others
IGNOAPS	862	565	297	88	286	-	1	487
IGNWPS	259		259					
IGNDPS	13	7	6					
NFBS	34							

Source: Mirik Block Office.

The Table 5.33 shows the monthly report of June 2011 showing the coverage of beneficiaries report in Mirik Block. The total number of beneficiaries of schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) administered in Mirik Block is given, where total number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS is 862, IGNWPS is 259, IGNDPS is 13, NFBS is 34. All the beneficiaries belonged to the household below poverty line.

Table 5.34

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block				
S.T. Old Age Pension Scheme : Statement of Financial and Physical Progress of the year 2010-2011				
Fund received for the period from	Total number of Beneficiaries	Amount received	Amount disbursed	Balance till date
From the month of Jan2010 to March 2011	1094	1,23,07,500/-	1,20,15,000/-	2,92,500 (26 beneficiaries)

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office.

The Table 5.34 shows the monthly report of June 2011 of financial and physical progress in Scheduled Tribe Old Age Pension Scheme in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block where till

June, 1094 Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries were given pension. The total amount received was Rs. 1,23,07,500 and amount utilised on carrying out the scheme was Rs. 1,20,15,000

Table 5.35(A)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.								
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative No. of household issued Job Card (till reporting month)				Cumulative No. of HH demanded employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH Provided employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH working under NREGA (till the reporting month)
		SC	ST	Others	Total			
1.	Sukhia Simana	91	585	357	1033	388	388	143
2.	Permaguri Tamsang	60	278	728	1066	262	262	87
3.	Plungdung	10	174	509	693	649	649	649
4.	Rangbhang-Gopaldhar	103	385	848	1336	497	497	155
5.	Ghoom Khasmal	48	138	268	454	150	150	150
6.	Upper Sonada	31	332	202	565	113	113	42
7.	Lower Sonada- I	86	309	361	756	134	134	134
8.	Lower Sonada- II	179	372	1370	1921	501	501	130
9.	Rangbull	80	401	526	1007	275	275	55
10.	Pokhriabong-I	56	226	598	880	238	238	75
11.	Pokhriabong-II	134	353	772	1259	122	122	122

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.								
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative No. of household issued Job Card (till reporting month)				Cumulative No. of HH demanded employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH Provided employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH working under NREGA (till the reporting month)
		SC	ST	Others	Total			
12.	Pokhriabong-III	78	217	560	855	781	781	107
13.	Moondakothi	43	358	773	1174	670	670	149
14.	Lingiamarybong	124	230	727	1081	278	278	87
15.	Dhothray Kallej Valley	96	390	884	1370	905	905	55
16.	Gorabari 'M' Hope	161	739	765	1665	371	371	39
	Total	1380	5487	10248	17115	6334	6334	2179

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices

Table 5.35(B)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.							
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative Person days generate (in Lakhs) (till the reporting month)					No. of Bank A/C opened/ Post Office.
		SC	ST	Others	Total	Women	
1.	Sukhia Simana	947	6623	5124	12694	5726	795
2.	Permaguri Tamsang	812	2810	7660	11282	6326	669
3.	Plungdung	809	5012	9990	15811	9949	546
4.	Rangbhang-Gopaldhar	1348	6185	9920	17453	6374	1286
5.	Ghoom Khasmal	470	2930	4145	7545	5955	206
6.	Upper Sonada	136	948	912	1996	1194	294
7.	Lower Sonada- I	402	3086	4062	7550	4215	415
8.	Lower Sonada- II	896	1087	9145	11128	5269	918
9.	Rangbull	256	1257	3229	4742	2957	711
10.	Pokhriabong-I	213	2298	13400	15911	5570	450
11.	Pokhriabong-II	1656	3537	11209	16402	9236	505
12.	Pokhriabong-III	972	2217	4980	8169	3078	1195
13.	Moondakothi	774	4342	10879	15995	9208	1165
14.	Lingia marybong	1265	4205	10573	16043	5051	550
15.	Dhothray Kallej Valley	581	3757	6602	10940	4151	918
16.	Gorabari 'M' Hope	1503	5863	12897	20263	9576	905
	Total	13040	56157	124727	193924	93835	11528

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

Table 5.35(C)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.					
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	O.B.	Release during the current year		Closing Balance
			Centre	State	
1.	Sukhia Simana	957468	38041217	0	4253644
2.	Permaguri Tamsang				
3.	Plungdung				
4.	Rangbhang-Gopaldhar				
5.	Ghoom Khasmal				
6.	Upper Sonada				
7.	Lower Sonada- I				
8.	Lower Sonada- II				
9.	Rangbull				
10.	Pokhriabong-I				
11.	Pokhriabong-II				
12.	Pokhriabong-III				
13.	Moondakothi				
14.	Lingia marybong				
15.	Dhothray Kallej Valley				
16.	Gorabari 'M' Hope				

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

Table 5.35(D)

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.								
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative expenditure						Total
		On unskilled wages	On semi skilled	On skilled wages	On material	Administrative Expenses		
						Recurring	Non Recuring	
1.	Sukhia Simana	1292470	49520	313750	976171	0	0	2631911
2.	Permaguri Tamsang	1161910	42414	286984	487473	0	0	1978781
3.	Plungdung	164250	69300	507400	999301	0	0	3218451
4.	Rangbhang-Gopaldhar	1792830	394425	296700	1021386	0	0	3505341
5.	Ghoom Khasmal	804840	27750	253720	394226	0	0	1480536
6.	Upper Sonada	199600	9438	54700	216990	0	0	480728
7.	Lower Sonada-I	764350	28800	219800	206515	0	0	1219465
8.	Lower Sonada-II	1181200	33600	119800	183302	0	0	1517902
9.	Rangbull	499900	18600	168900	154698	0	0	842098
10.	Pokhriabong-I	1591195	67546	283610	631353	0	0	2573704
11.	Pokhriabong-II	1663100	58750	191900	392817	0	0	2306567
12.	Pokhriabong-III	828100	20370	144920	185821	0	0	1179211
13.	Moondakothi	1783850	49650	349750	927365	0	0	3110615
14.	Lingia marybong	1739130	51570	321960	1098182	0	0	3210842
15.	Dhothray Kallej Valley	1107050	34005	236200	163672	0	0	1540927
16.	Gorabari 'M' Hope	2107629	56175	356473	413631	0	0	2933908
	BLOCK	0	0	0	0	667971	365151	1033122
	Total	20159604	1011913	4106567	8452903	667971	365151	34764109

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

Tables 5.35(A), 5.35(B), 5.35 (C), 5.35(D) shows the financial and physical progress report of employment generation under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) during the year 2010-2011 within the sixteen gram panchayats of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari

Block. Table 5.35 (A) shows 17115 number of household in total were issued Job card till 31st of March 2011, out of which 5487 were Scheduled Tribes. Gram Panchayat Lower Sonada-II had the highest total number i.e. 1921 of household with job card issued while Gram Panchayat Ghoom Khasmahal , had the lowest total number i.e. 454 of household with job card issued. Gram Panchayat Gorabari 'M' Hope had the highest number i.e. 739 of Scheduled Tribes household with job card issued. Whereas Gram Phanchayat Ghoom Khasmahal had the lowest number i.e. 138 of Scheduled Tribes household with job card issued. 6334 number of household were provided employment from April 2010 till March 2011. Gram Panchayat Dhothray Kallej Valley had the highest number of household i.e. 905 with employment being provided. While Gram Panchayat Upper Sonada had the lowest number of household i.e. 113 with employment being provided. NREGS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost-sharing basis between Centre and the State. The fund received by Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block during the year 2010-2011 from the Centre was Rs. 3,80,41,217 while from State there was no fund for the corresponding year. The fund was further allotted to sixteen gram panchayats of the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block. The total expenditure on wages of unskilled workers was Rs. 2,01,59,604, on wages of semi skilled workers was Rs.10,11,913, on wages of skilled workers was Rs. 41,06,567. The total expenditure on material was Rs. 84,52,903. The cumulative expenditure of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block was Rs. 34764109, which was spent on carrying out the scheme in the sixteen gram panchayats of the block. The households which were issued job cards belonged to below poverty line. Every willing household belonging to below poverty line were firstly were supposed to get registered on the basis of the prescribed format provided by the respective gram panchayat. The application was to be submitted to the concerned gram panchayats. Every registered household was provided job card by the concerned gram panchayat.

Tables 5.36(A), 5.36(B) and 5.36(C), shows the financial and physical progress report of employment generation under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) during the year 2010-2011 within the six gram panchayats of Mirik Block. Table 5.35 (A) shows 9492 in total number of household were is issued Job Cards. The households which were issued job cards belonged to below poverty line. Every willing household belonging to below poverty line were firstly were supposed to get registered on the basis of the prescribed format provided by the respective gram panchayat. The application was to be submitted to the concerned gram panchayats. Every registered household was provided job card by the concerned gram panchayat. Out of six gram panchayats of Mirik Block, Soureni-II had the highest number i.e. 2317 households which were issued job card whereas gram panchayat Duptin had the lowest number i.e. 848 households which were issued job card. In MirikBlock there were 3123 of household belonging to Scheduled Tribes which were issued job cards.

Table 5.36(A):

Mirik Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.										
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative No. of household issued Job Card (till reporting month)				Cumulative No. of HH demanded employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative Labour Budget estimation of employment provided (till reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH Provided employment (till the reporting month)	Cumulative No. of HH working under NREGA (till the reporting month)	Cumulative Labour Budget estimation of Person days (till reporting month)
		SC	ST	Others	Total					
1.	PGSD-I	33	319	978	1330	8846	47170	8846	Nil	47170
2.	PGSD-II	32	364	691	1087					
3.	DUPTIN	59	460	329	848					
4.	SOUREN I-I	16 2	542	1394	2098					
5.	SOUREN I-II	23 3	784	1300	2317					
6.	CPGP	28 7	654	871	1812					
TOTAL		80 6	3123	5563	9492	8846	47170	8846	0	47170

Table 5.36 (B)

Mirik Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.								
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative Person days generate (in Lakhs) (till the reporting month)					No. of H.H which are beneficiary of Land reform/ IAY	Disable beneficiary
		SC	ST	Others	Total	Women		
1.	PGSD-I	50649	25333	205157	281139	88861	179	81
2.	PGSD-II							
3.	DUPTIN							
4.	SOURENI-I							
5.	SOURENI-II							
6.	CPGP							
TOTAL		50649	25333	205157	281139	88861	179	81

Source; Mirik Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

Table 5.36(C)

Mirik Block: Employment generation under NREGS during the year 2010-11 up to the month of 31 st March 2011.										
Name of the Block	O.B.	Release during the current year		Cumulative Expenditure						Closing Balance
		Centre	State	On unskilled wages	On semi skilled & skilled wages	On material	Administrative Expenses		Total	
							Recurring	Non Recurring		
Mirik	63396	46500000	0	28114161	5867668	11119838	964823	421479	46487969	5063396

Source; Mirik Block Office.

Out of the six gram panchayats Soureni-II had the highest number i.e. 784 of households belonging to Scheduled Tribes which were issued job cards whereas gram panchayat Pahilagaon School Dara-I had the lowest number i.e. 319 of households belonging to Scheduled Tribes which were issued job cards. In Mirik Block, 8846 of households have been provided employment from April 2010 till March 2011. 179 of households were also beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and 81 of the workers were also disabled beneficiaries. NREGS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost-sharing basis between Centre and the State. The fund received by Mirik Block during the year 2010-2011 from the Centre was Rs. 4,65,00,000 while from State there was no fund for the corresponding year. The total expenditure on wages of unskilled labourers were Rs. 2,81,14,161 and expenditure for wages on semi skilled and skilled labourers were Rs. 1,11,19,838. Out of the cumulative expenditure of Rs. 4,64,87,969 in the Mirik block for carrying out the scheme 60.48% were spent on wages and 39.52% were spent on materials.

Table 5.37

Name of the Block	No. of identified Backward Villages in the Block	Total No. of Families in those Backward Villages	No. of families provided with Job-Cards
Mirik	19	2992	250

Source; Mirik Block Office.

The Table 5.37 shows that out of the six gram panchayats of the Mirik Block, 19 villages have been identified as backward villages and there are 2992 families residing in those backward villages. Out of 2992 families 250 families have been provided with Job cards.

Table 5.38

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Cumulative No. of Job Card Issued (Since Inception)	Cumulative No. of Household provided employment (2010-2011)	Total No. of NREGS Schemes Executed (2010-2011)	Total No. of NREGS Completed
PGSD-I	1330	1210	18	2
PGSD-II	1087	989	19	5
DUPTIN	848	795	13	4
SOURENI-I	2098	1988	31	7
SOURENI-II	2317	2098	42	9
CPGP	1812	1766	50	15
TOTAL	9492	8846	173	42

Source; Mirik Block Office.

The Table 5.38 shows cumulative number of job card issued in the Mirik Block is 9492. The total number of Households provided employment from April 2010 till March 2011 was 8846. Gram Panchayat Soureni-II had the highest number i.e. 2098 of households which were provided employment while Gram Panchayat Duptin has the lowest number i.e.795 of households which were provided employment. The wages of the labourers were being paid through the accounts in banks and post offices. The total number of bank account opened till March 2011 was 6694 and the total number of post office account opened till date was 2329. 173 of NREGS schemes were executed from April 2010 till March 2011. Gram Panchayat Chenga Panighatta had the highest number i.e. 50 of NREGS Schemes executed in the year 2010-2011 out of which 15 NREGS work has been completed. Out of 173 NREGS Schemes executed in total in Mirik Block 42 has been completed.

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swaroggar Yojana (SGSY) aims at alleviating rural poverty by facilitating creation of self-employment opportunities for the poor. Under this scheme poor, particularly the poor women are organised into self help groups. According to the guidelines of SGSY, after the formation of a group, the members would rely on their own savings, with the government providing training and infrastructural support. After six months of formation, the SHGs are graded first by the banks and government officials and those found eligible are allowed to open cash credit account in a bank, part of which is contributed by the government and do not bear any interest. The money in cash credit account could be withdrawn for consumption or for taking up micro enterprises. The SHGs, which pass the first grading becomes eligible for scheme based lending after being graded for the second time. Only Grade I groups with six months experience are supposed to be graded for the second time.

Table 5.39

Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block: SHG Groups.						
Sl. No.	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Total Groups	1 st grade	2 nd grade	Wome n	Defunc t
1.	Sukhia Simana	8	3	2	5	7
2.	Permaguri Tamsang	12	11	-	4	5
3.	Plungdung	13	4	-	4	-
4.	Rangbhang-Gopaldhar	29	26	8	5	4
5.	Pokhriabong-I	15	8	3	5	6
6.	Pokhriabong-II	31	14	1	6	12
7.	Pokhriabong-III	51	38	20	5	31
8.	Ghoom Khasmal	22	17	14	14	3
9.	Lingia marybong	10	4	-	2	1
10.	Rangbull	34	32	11	12	2
11.	Dhothray Kallej Valley	31	22	7	5	17
12.	Lower Sonada- I	22	15	5	7	6
13.	Lower Sonada- II	11	10	4	1	6
14.	Upper Sonada	9	6	5	4	1
15.	Moondakothi	22	12	4	4	-
16.	Gorabari 'M' Hope	17	2	-	1	12
	Total	337	227	81	84	113

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

In the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block for the execution of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) poor people of the rural areas have been encouraged to form SHGs. In this scheme poor women of the rural areas belonging to below poverty line are encouraged to form SHGs for creating self employment opportunities. The Table 5.39 shows that in the Block, there are 337 of total SHGs found working till June 2011. 227 of SHGs have passed

the 1st grading. 81 of SHGs have been graded for second time. 84 SHGs included only women members while 113 of the SHGs lay defunct in the Block.

- 1) Total number of SHG Groups -337.
- 2) Cluster- 2
 - Name of Cluster- i) Triveni Cluster (Pok-III) Defunct
 - ii) Dhotria Cluster (Dhotria Kalej Valley)
- 3) Sub-Cluster-16
 - a) Ghoom khasmal- 4
 - b) Rangbull- 4
 - c) Pokh III – 1
 - d) Munda kothi – 2
 - e) Rangbhang Gopaldara – 2
 - f) Lingia Marybong-2
 - g) Lower Sonada – 2

4) Backward Village-

Total no. of backward village- 15

- a) Goat Kharka
- b) Balasun T.E.
- c) Tungsun
- d) Munshigaon
- e) Rahadara busty
- f) Balasun Busty
- g) Lower DhajayBusty
- h) Tamkhulay T.E.
- i) Jawbari
- j) Majwa
- k) Chattakpur Forest village
- l) Milling Hatta Busty
- m) Bashghari
- n) Sunwar Busty

Total no. of groups formed in backward villages- 32 groups formed.

Table 5.40

: Report on Backward Villages:									
Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block [for the month of June 2011]									
Name of the G.P.	Name of the identified backward villages	No. of families	No. of SHS required to be formed	No. of SHG formed		No. of families involved	No. of SHG received RF	No. of SHG received credit other than SGSY	No. of SHG received project loan
				Linked with SGSY	Linked with other programme				
Mundakothi	Goat kharka	98	10			Nil			
Dhoteria K Valley	Balasune T.E.	149	14						
	Tungsun	405	22						
	Munshigoan	186	18	3		30			
Parmaguri Tamsang	Rahadara busty	164	14	2		20			
Plungdung	Balasiun busty	181	14						
	Pubung T.E.	99	10	6		66	1		
Pok- III	Lower Dhajay busty	109	14	5		50	5		
Pok-II	Tamkhulay T.E.	251	14	3		30			
Rangbhang gopaldhara	Jawbari	42	5	Nil	2 (DWCRA)	20	Nil		
	Majuwa	89	9	5		50	5		1
Upper Sonada	Chattakpur forest village	64	6	2		21	2		
Lower Sonada-I	Milling hatta busty	19	2	1		10			
Gorabari M Hope	Bashghari	90	10	1		10	1		
	Sunwar Busty	161	14	2		20	14		
Total		2107	176	30	2	327	28		1

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

Table 5.40 (contd.)

Report on Backward Villages: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block [for the month of June 2011]					
Name of the G.P.	Name of the identified backward villages	SHG received basic training		SHG received skill development	
		No. of SHG	No. of member	No. of SHG	No. of member
Mundakothi	Goat kharka				
Dhoteria K Valley	Balasune T.E.				
	Tungsun				

Report on Backward Villages: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block [for the month of June 2011]					
Name of the G.P.	Name of the identified backward villages	SHG received basic training		SHG received skill development	
		No. of SHG	No. of member	No. of SHG	No. of member
	Munshigoan				
Parmaguri Tamsang	Rahadara busty				
Plungdung	Balasan busty				
	Pubung T.E.	1	3	1	10
Pok- III	Lower Dhajay busty	5	10	5	45
Pok-II	Tamkhulay T.E.				
Rangbhang gopaldhara	Jawbari	1	2		
	Majuwa	5	30	5	26
Upper Sonada	Chattakpur forest village	2	4	2	15
Lower Sonada-I	Milling hatta busty				
Gorabari M Hope	Bashghari	1	2	1	10
	Sunwar Busty				
Total		15	51	14	106

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office and Gram Panchayat Offices.

The Tables 5.40 show the physical progress of SHGs of 15 identified backward villages of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block. The 15 identified backward villages had 2107 of families. 176 of SHGs were required to be formed out of which 32 of SHGs were formed in these 15 backward villages till June 2011. In the village Jawbari of Gram Panchayat Rangbhang Gopaldhara, two of the SHGs were also linked with the scheme Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA). The 327 of families were involved in these SHGs in these backward villages of the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri Block. 51 members of 15 SHGs received basic training. 14 SHGs received training in skill development and 106 members have also undergone training in skill development.

Table 5.41: Present position regarding Caste Certificate to ST for the month of June 2011 in Mirik Block.	
Application Received	825
Certificate Disbursed	618

Source Mirik BlockOffice

The Table 5.41 shows that in the Mirik Block 825 application was received out of which 618 were disbursed till June 2011. The application received for ST certificates and also SC or OBC certificates in the Mirk Block were sent to Sub divisional Office in Kurseong wherefrom the applicants were issued certificates.

Table 5.42

Present position regarding Caste Certificate to ST/ SC/ OBC for the month of June 2011 in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block.				
	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Opening Balance	34	201	21	256
Application Received	40	90	20	150
Cumulative Total	74	291	41	406
Certificate Issued	07	20	10	37
Application Rejected	04	30	15	49
Application Pending	63	241	16	320

Source: Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block Office

The Table 5.42 shows in the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokri Block 90 application was received till June 2011. 20 applicants were issued ST certificates from the Block while 30 applicants were rejected.

In the study area (16 gram Panchayats of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block and 6 gram panchayats of Mirik Block) there is no special welfare programme for the tribes of the region. The welfare programmes which were administered in the gram panchayat and block were for rural upliftment and rural development. The tribes of the region were indirectly benefitted from these schemes. Although the governmental agencies have helped in uplifting the poor tribals, it has enabled the tribals to raise their standard of living. However, very few tribal beneficiaries have received assistance through these welfare schemes administered through panchayats in comparison to the total tribal population inhabiting in the panchayat areas. Moreover the beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Tribe category under schemes like Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which comprised of five schemes namely, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme were minimum.

Besides this wage employment (under NREGS), mere housing loan (under IAY) and old age pension (under IGNOAPS) did not make them self-sufficient. The strategy of increase in wage employment and provision of providing house building and house repair loans and also mere old age pension has neglected the entrepreneurial aspect and self-sustained development efforts on the part of the tribals of the region. Moreover wage employment through

programmes like NREGS, produced negligible income generating asset for the poor tribals, but not sustained income generating asset. More programmes like Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) should be encouraged which generates self-employment.

According to Md Ayub Mallick, the poor tribals lacked entrepreneurial initiative. Entrepreneurial development is meaningful, viable and productive way of utilizing the material and human resources. This development among the rural tribal population is the imperative need in the part of the countries embarking on small industry development programmes. The entire success of small enterprise promotion in rural-tribal communities hinges on marketing the products of the neo-entrepreneurs. In the initial stages the promotional agencies should help in marketing the products. The new and the emerging entrepreneurs may be weak to organize the marketing of their products on their own. The promotional agencies may go in for internal or external export of the indigenous channels. Such a support would sustain the ongoing entrepreneurs. In this respect panchayats have important role to play. Mere management of development would not make tribal development a sustainable one with fair and equitable distribution of income, power and opportunities following an ecologically sound and acceptable production system for both growth and development.⁴⁶

Apart from IAY and NREGS, various programmes were in operation in the study area but in all these developmental and welfare programmes there was minimum effort in improving the health and sanitation problems of the tribals of the region. Another most important problem realised during survey was most of the beneficiaries are from the lower category. Due to their economic hardships and low economic background the beneficiaries mostly consume the loan and for this reason local banks were not interested in providing loans to the poor tribals living in the rural areas. It was realised from the survey that very few beneficiaries were able to generate income from the given schemes and welfare programmes. Majority of them did not utilise their loan amount for the actual purpose, some of them utilised their loan amount for other purposes different from the purpose for which their loan was sanctioned. This leads to inability to the repayment of loan. Non-repayment of loan is prevalent among the tribes and non-recovery of bank loans is a menace. The poor tribals should be motivated and guided to utilise the funds and loans provided to them properly and for a purpose.

The welfare programmes in the study area do not follow the necessary pre-requisites like the assessment and development of natural resources in the rural areas, identification of the imperative needs of the poor and tribals, development of infrastructure and development of viable technology, which will be accessible to the weaker sections and would promote modernisation and productivity of their occupations and not just for their survival. The introduction of the Panchayati Raj institutions has enabled power to be decentralized. Planning from below is meant for decision taken by the local level village leaders. Panchayats have helped in creating awareness among the rural masses and motivating them about their rights and duties in the matter of development priorities, functions and processes.

5.11 The Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents:

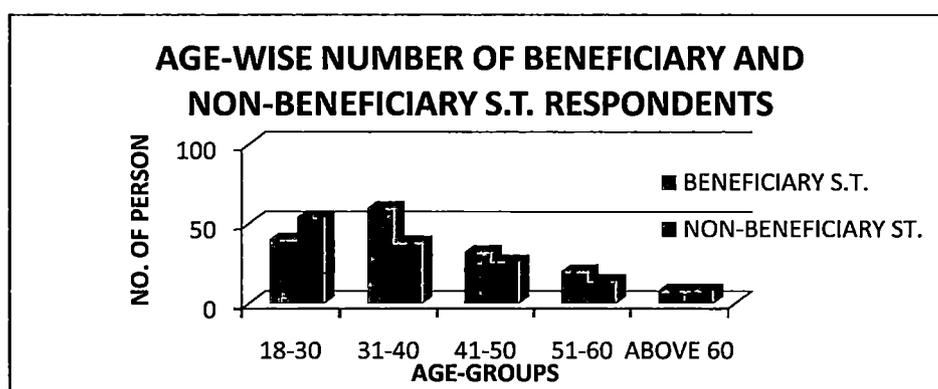
The study has been confined to the 16 gram panchayats of Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari Block and 6 gram panchayats of Mirik Block of the Darjeeling District. From the rural areas of these two blocks, 300 respondents have been interviewed for study. Out of 300 respondents, 160 (53.3%) respondents were beneficiaries of government sponsored welfare schemes, while 140 (47.3%) respondents were non beneficiaries. All the 300 respondents belonged to Scheduled Tribe category. From the 16 gram panchayats of Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhari 115 beneficiary respondents and 100 non beneficiary respondents were taken, while from the 6 gram panchayats of Mirik 45 beneficiary respondents and 40 non beneficiary respondents were taken for study.

Table 5.43

Age-wise Distribution of Respondents.						
Age in years	Non-Beneficiary ST		Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
18-30	54	38.57%	40	25%	94	31.33%
31-40	38	27.14%	60	37%	98	32.66%
41-50	26	18.57%	32	20%	58	19.33%
51-60	14	10%	20	12.50%	34	11.33%
61& Above	8	5.71%	8	5.00%	16	5.33%
Total	140	100%	160	100%	300	100%

Source: Field Survey

Figure 5.2



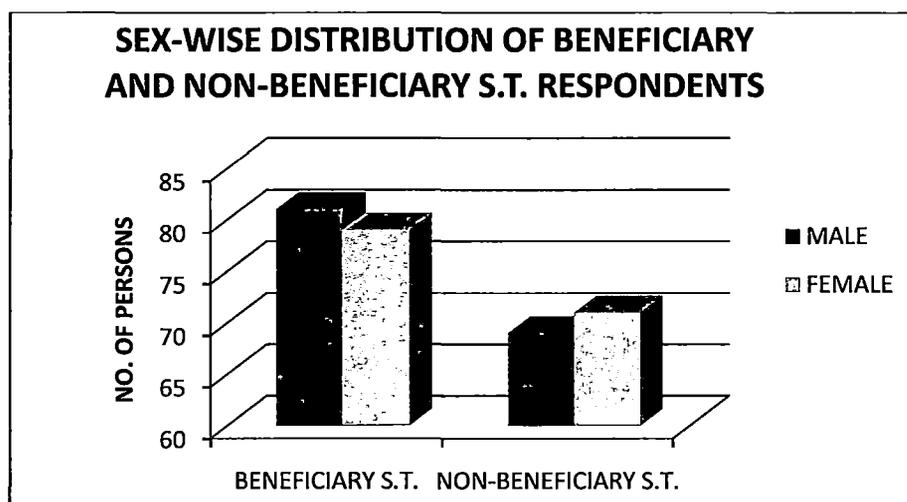
The Table 5.43 and Figure 5.2 show the age-wise distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary Scheduled Tribes respondents. It is observed from the Table 5.43 that more than 80 percent respondents fell under the age group of 18 to 50 years. Also most of the non-beneficiary respondents also fell within the same age group. 38.6% of the non-beneficiary fell under 18-30 age group. This implies that the unemployed youths can be more fruitfully be employed in various income generating self-employment schemes.

Table 5.44

Sex-wise Distribution of Beneficiary and Non-beneficiary Respondents.						
Sex	Beneficiary ST		Non-Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
Male	81	50.62%	69	49.28%	150	50%
Female	79	49.37%	71	50.71%	150	50%
Total	160	100%	140	100%	300	100%

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.3



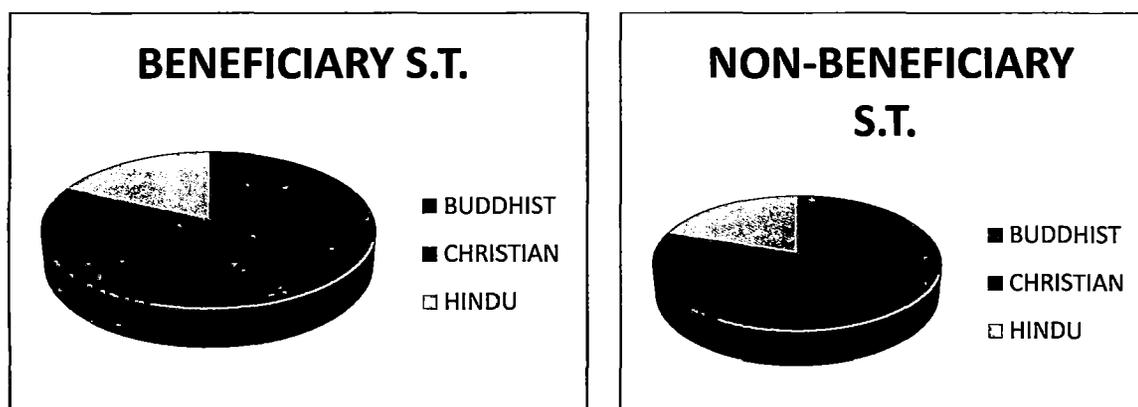
The Table 5.44 and Figure 5.3 show that in total of 300 Scheduled Tribe respondents, predominantly 150 (50%) were males and 150 (50%) were females. The percentage of males and females in both categories of beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents more or less correspond to each other.

Table 5.45

Religion-wise Distribution of Beneficiary and Non-beneficiary Respondents.						
Religion	Beneficiary ST		Non-Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
Buddhist	119	74.37%	86	61.42%	205	68.33%
Christian	12	7.5%	26	18.57%	38	12.66%
Hindu	29	18.12%	28	20%	57	19%
Others	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%
Total	160	100%	140	100%	300	100%

Source:Field Survey.

Figure 5.4



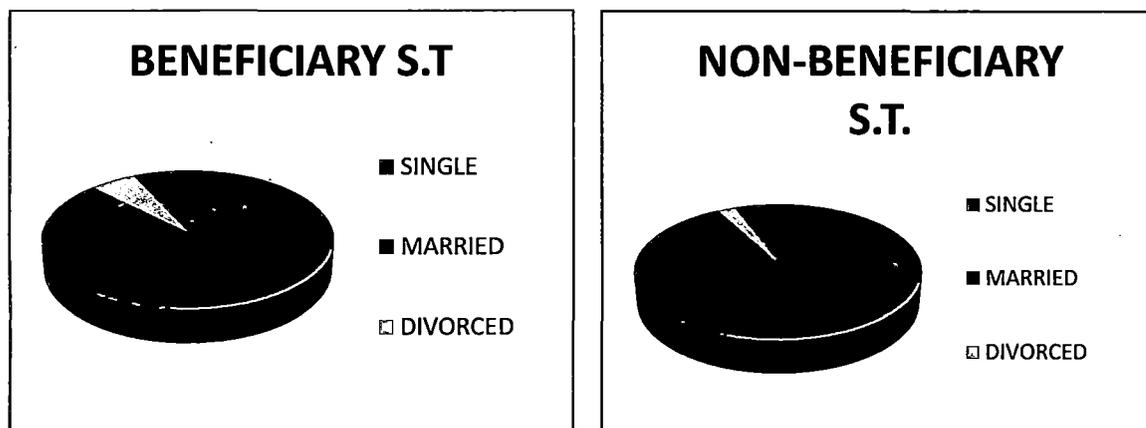
The Table 5.45 and the Figure 5.4 show the religion-wise distribution of beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents. It is observed that more than 60% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents professed Buddhism. This was followed by Hinduism (19%) and Christianity (12.66%). The Scheduled Tribes of Darjeeling are Bhutias, Lepchas, Tamangs who profess Buddhism, while Subba are Hindus and some sections of Lepchas and Tamangs have converted themselves to Christianity.

Table 5.46

Marital status-wise Distribution of Beneficiary and Non-beneficiary Respondents.						
Marital Status	Beneficiary ST		Non-Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
Single	31	19.37%	50	35.71%	81	27%
Married	109	68.12%	79	56.42%	188	62.66%
Divorced	9	5.62%	3	2.14%	12	4%
Widow/Widower	11	6.87%	8	5.71%	19	6.33%
Total	160	100%	140	100%	300	100%

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.5



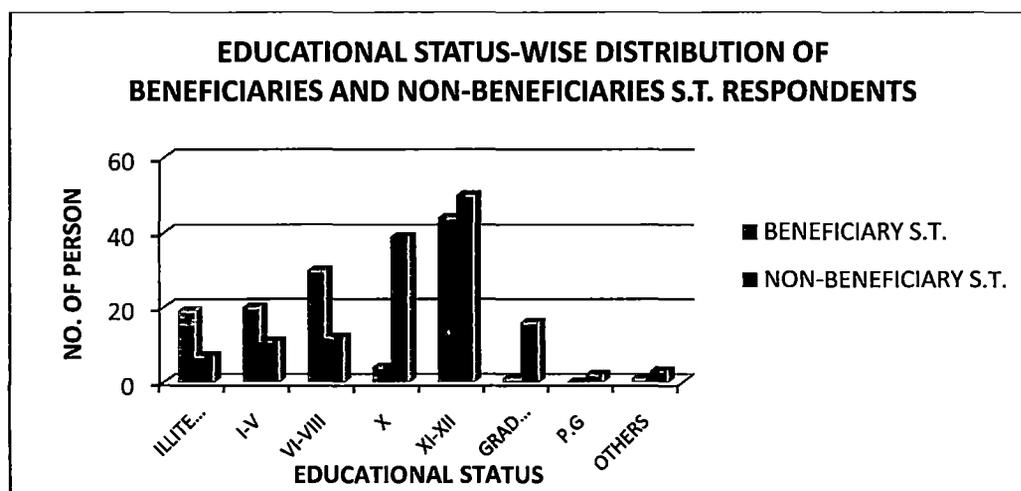
The Table 5.46 and Figure 5.5 show the marital status-wise distribution of beneficiary and non-beneficiary Scheduled Tribe respondents. It is observed that more than 55% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents are married. The percentage of both the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents who are divorcee is only 4% proving that the rate of divorce is low among the Scheduled Tribes of rural areas of the Darjeeling hill.

Table 5.47

Distribution of Beneficiary and Non-beneficiary Respondents' Educational Attainment.						
Educational Status	Beneficiary ST		Non-Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
Illiterate	19	11.87%	7	5%	26	8.67%
I-V	20	12.50%	11	7.86%	31	10.33%
VI-VIII	30	18.75%	12	8.57%	42	14%
X	45	28.13%	39	27.86%	84	28%
XI-XII	44	27.50%	50	35.71%	94	31.33%
Graduate	1	.62%	16	11.43%	17	5.67%
Post-Graduate	00	00%	2	1.43%	2	0.67%
Others (technical/professional)	1	.62%	3	2.14%	4	1.33%
Total	160	100%	140	100%	300	100%

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.6



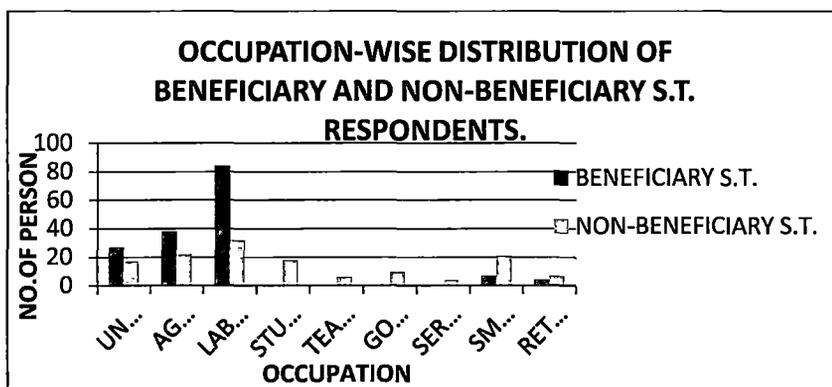
The Table 5.47 and Figure 5.6 show the distribution of beneficiary and non beneficiary respondent's educational attainment. It is observed that 8.7% of the beneficiary and non beneficiary respondents are illiterate and have never attended school nor they could read or write. While 10% of the beneficiary and non beneficiary respondents were found to have attended primary schools and have attained educational level ranging from class I to V and it was even lower (7.8%) with non beneficiary respondents. Also only 5.6 % of the beneficiary and non beneficiary respondents have graduate degree and it is even very low (0.62% only) with the beneficiary respondents. Even the percentage of tribals who have attained post-graduation (0.67%) and technical/professional courses (1.33%) are very low. This implies that the spread of education amongst the tribals of the rural areas, which is a very important prerequisite for any development work, is very poor. Mass education among the tribals has to be regularised and developed. The proportionate changes in techno-scientific and socio-cultural fields are the essential pre-conditions for tribal development. Education brings about modernisation effects, formulates motivations to change among the people, plays vital role in fulfilling the basic objectives: economy, knowledge and excellence. Apart from formal education curriculum, vocational-technical education among the tribes is essential for improving their economy and productivity.

Table 5.48

Occupation- wise distribution of Beneficiary and Non-beneficiary Respondents'						
Profession	Beneficiary ST		Non-Beneficiary ST		Total	
		%		%		%
Unemployed	27	16.88%	17	12.14%	44	14.67%
Agriculture	38	23.75%	22	15.71%	60	20%
Labourer	84	52.50%	35	25%	119	39.67%
Student	00	00%	18	12.86%	18	6%
Teaching	00	00%	6	4.29%	6	2%
Govt. Employee	00	00%	10	7.14%	10	3.33%
Services/others	00	00%	4	2.86%	4	1.33%
Small Business	7	4.38%	21	15%	28	9.33%
Retired	4	2.50%	7	5%	11	3.67
Total	160	100%	140	100%	300	100%

Source: Field Survey

Figure 5.7



The Table 5.48 and the Figure 5.7 show the occupation-wise distribution of beneficiary and non-beneficiary scheduled tribe respondents. It is observed from the Table 5.48 that 14.6 % of the beneficiary and non beneficiary respondents are unemployed, while 20% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents are engaged in agriculture. About 40% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents earn their income through labour. This is higher among the Scheduled Tribe beneficiary with 52.50% who earn their income through labour. It is observed from the table that not even 15% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents are white-collar employees and earn regular salaries. The unemployed, the poor cultivators and the labourers are at the bottom of the occupational structure and they constitute the majority. This indicates the nature of unemployment and irregularity or uncertainty of their source of income. This implies that the unemployed youths can be more fruitfully be employed in various income generating self-employment schemes.

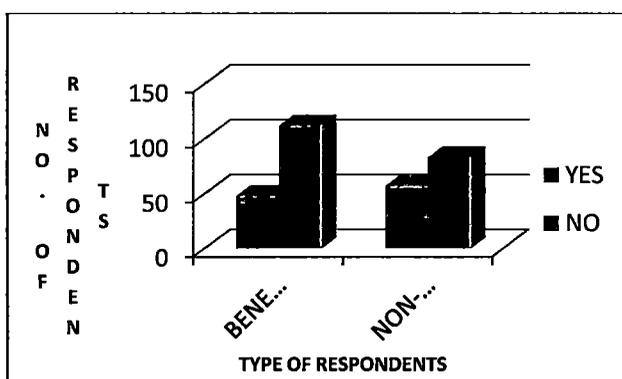
5.12 Empirical findings of the study:

Table 5.49

Age-wise answer to the question:												
Are you aware of various Constitutional safeguards/privileges provided to the Scheduled Tribes?												
Age- group	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	10	6.25	30	18.75	25	17.9	29	20.7	35	11.7	59	19.7
31-40	15	9.38	45	28.13	17	12.1	21	15	32	10.7	66	22
41-50	12	7.50	20	12.50	8	5.7	18	12.9	20	6.7	38	12.7
51-60	8	5	12	7.50	5	3.6	9	6.4	13	4.3	21	7
61-above	3	1.89	5	3.13	2	1.4	6	4.3	5	1.7	11	3.7
Total	48	26.9	112	70	57	40.7	83	59.3	105	35	195	65

Source:Field Survey

Figure 5.8



The Table 5.49 and the Figure 5.8 shows that only 35% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents are aware of various safeguards and privileges provided by the Constitution of India to the Scheduled Tribes, while 65% of the tribal respondents have no knowledge about the various constitutional safeguards and privileges provided to the Scheduled Tribes. This is even worse with the beneficiary respondents where only 26.9% of the beneficiary scheduled tribe respondents are informed about the constitutional safeguards and privileges to the scheduled tribes, whereas among the non-beneficiary scheduled tribes, about 40% of them are informed about the safeguards and privileges provided to the scheduled tribes. It is observed that 20% of the respondents falling on the age group 18-40 are aware of the constitutional safeguards and privileges which implies that the younger generation are more informed about the constitutional safeguards and privileges provided to the scheduled tribes, than elders. The data reveals that a very low percentage of tribals living in the rural areas of the Darjeeling hills are informed about the safeguards and privileges provided by the constitution of India to the Scheduled Tribes. The high percentage of ignorance may be due to the high rate of illiteracy and lack of knowledge and information among the tribals of the rural areas of the study area.

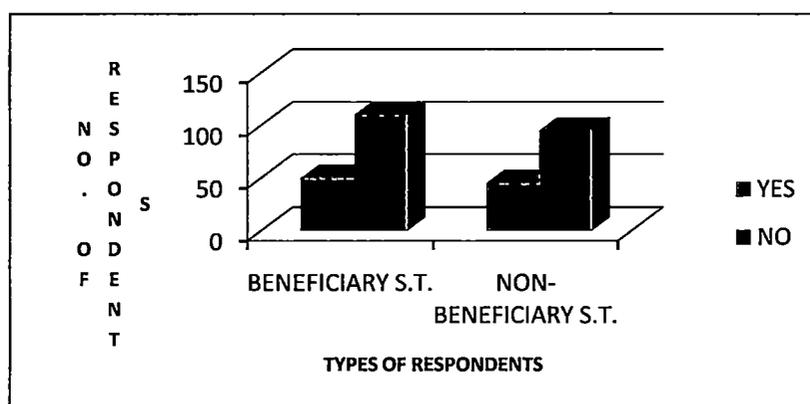
Table 5.50

Age wise answer to the question:												
Are you informed about the various benefit/welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes?												
Age- group	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	15	9.4	25	15.6	17	12.1	37	26.4	32	10.7	62	20.7
31-40	18	11.3	42	26.3	14	10	24	17.1	32	10.7	66	22

Age- group			Beneficiary ST			Non-beneficiary ST				Total		
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
41-50	8	5	24	15	9	6.4	17	12.1	17	5.7	41	13.7
51-60	8	5	12	7.5	3	2.1	11	7.9	11	3.7	23	7.7
61-above	1	0.6	7	4.4	2	1.4	6	4.3	3	1	13	4.3
Total	50	31.3	110	68.8	45	32.1	95	67.9	95	31.7	205	68.3

Source: Field Survey

Figure 5.9



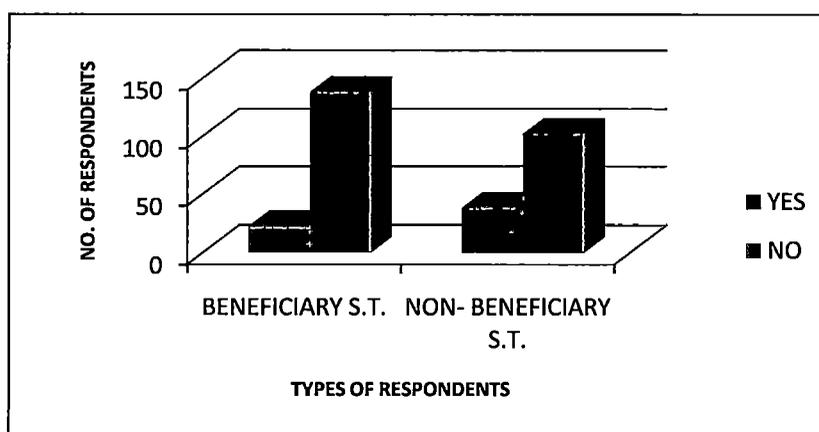
The Table 5.50 and the Figure 5.9 shows that only 32% of the beneficiary Scheduled Tribe and non-beneficiary Scheduled Tribe respondents are informed about the various benefit welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes, whereas 68% of the respondents are unaware of the various benefits/welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes. The percentage of respondents of beneficiary and non-beneficiary category, who are informed or who are ignorant about the various benefit/welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes more or less correspond to each other. Even among the beneficiary respondents the tribals who are informed about the various benefit/welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes are very low. The data reveals that a very low percentage of tribals living in the rural areas of the Darjeeling hills are informed about the various benefit/welfare schemes from Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes. This high percentage of ignorance among the tribals of the rural areas may be due to lack of education.

Table 5.51: Age wise answer to the question:

Are you aware of objectives of various welfare schemes like SGSY, NREGS, IAY, IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS provided by the Government administered under panchayats?

Age-group	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	6	3.8	34	21.3	16	11.4	38	27.1	22	7.3	72	24
31-40	10	6.3	50	31.3	8	5.7	30	21.4	18	6	80	26.7
41-50	4	2.5	28	17.5	6	4.3	20	14.3	10	3.3	48	16
51-60	2	1.3	18	11.3	5	3.6	9	6.4	7	2.3	27	9
61-above	00	00	8	5	3	2.1	5	3.6	3	1	13	4.3
Total	22	13.8	138	86.3	38	27.1	102	72.9	60	20	240	80

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.10

The Table 5.51 and the Figure 5.10 shows that more than 80% of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary Scheduled Tribe respondents are not informed about the objectives of various welfare schemes like SGSY, NREGS, IAY, IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS and the like, provided by the Government administered through panchayats. A very nominal percentage of about 20% of respondents are informed about the objectives of these various welfare schemes. About 27% of the non-beneficiaries Scheduled Tribes are aware of the objectives and guidelines of these welfare schemes and programmes. This is even worse with the beneficiary respondents with only 14% aware of objectives and guidelines of these welfare schemes. The beneficiary respondents were beneficiary to these welfare schemes like SGSY, NREGS, IAY, IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS and the like, but still most

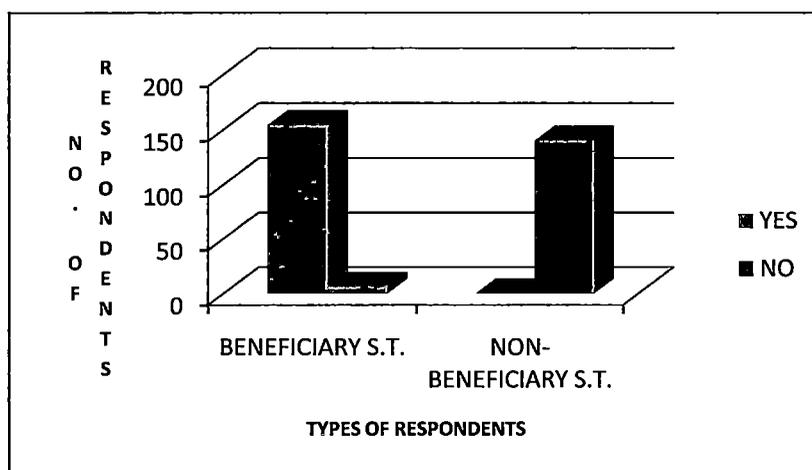
of them did not know the objectives and guidelines of these welfare schemes. 86% of the beneficiary respondents did not know about the objectives and guidelines of these schemes. They only took money as governmental help and for self employment and poverty alleviation. Only 14 % of the beneficiary respondents knew about the objectives and guidelines of these welfare schemes. They received the information about the objectives and guidelines of these welfare programmes from their respective gram panchayat officials and party-panchayat leaders of their locality. This high percentage of ignorance among the tribals of the rural areas may be due to lack of education.

Table 5.52

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you participate in Development/Welfare programmes provided by the Government? (a) Contribution through labour:												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	40	25	00	00	-	-	54	38.6	40	13.3	54	18
31-40	58	36.3	2	1.3	-	-	38	27.1	58	19.3	40	13.3
41-50	31	19.4	1	0.6	-	-	26	18.6	31	10.3	27	9
51-60	19	11.9	1	0.6	-	-	14	10	19	6.3	15	5
61-above	6	3.8	2	1.3	-	-	8	5.7	6	2	10	3.3
Total	154	96.3	6	3.8	-	-	140	100	154	51.3	146	48.7

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.11



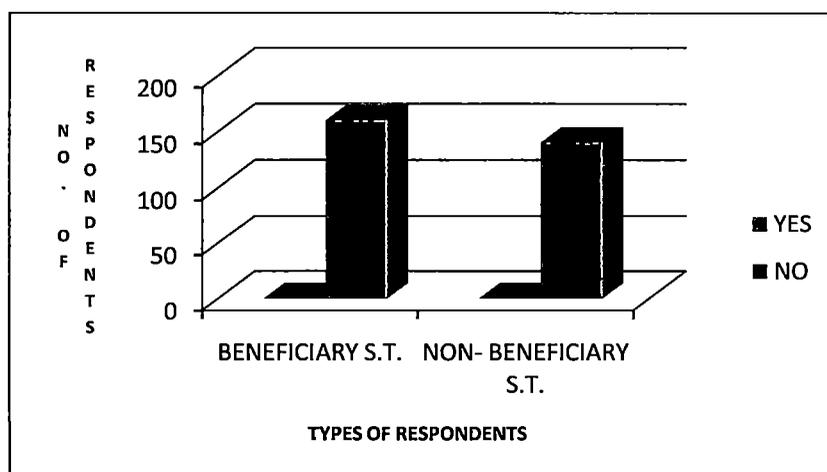
The Table 5.52 and the Figure 5.11 shows 51.3% of the tribal respondents do participate in the development / welfare programmes of the government through labour while 48.7 of the tribal respondents do not participate through labour in the development/ welfare of the government. It is observed that there is no participation of the non-beneficiary tribal respondents in these development/welfare programmes of the government, while there is 96% of tribal beneficiary's participation in the development/welfare schemes through labour.

Table 5.53

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you participate in Development/Welfare programmes provided by the Government? (b) Contribution through money:												
	Non-beneficiary ST				Beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	-	-	54	38.6	-	-	40	25	-	-	94	31.3
31-40	-	-	38	27.1	-	-	60	37	-	-	98	32.7
41-50	-	-	26	18.6	-	-	32	20	-	-	58	19.3
51-60	-	-	14	10	-	-	20	12.5	-	-	34	11.3
61-above	-	-	8	5.7	-	-	8	5.00	-	-	16	5.3
Total	-	-	140	100	-	-	160	100	-	-	300	100

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.12



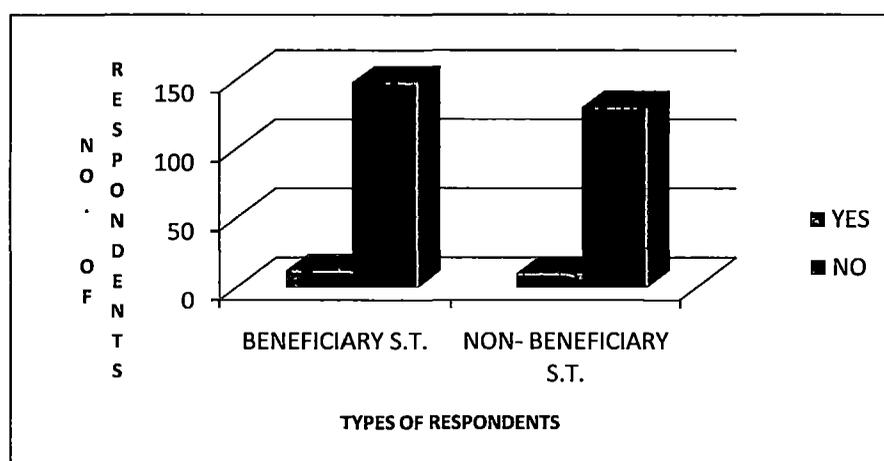
From the Table 5.53 and the Figure 5.12 it is observed that there has been no contribution through money by any of the tribal respondents, both beneficiary and non beneficiary towards the development/welfare programmes provided by the Government.

Table 5.54

Age-wise answer to the question:												
Do you participate in Development/Welfare programmes provided by the Government? (c) Contribution through decision making:												
Age-group	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	00	-	40	25	00	-	54	38.6	00	-	94	31.3
31-40	4	2.5	56	35	00	-	38	27.1	4	1.3	94	31.3
41-50	3	1.9	29	18.1	4	2.9	22	15.7	7	2.3	51	17
51-60	1	0.6	19	11.9	2	1.4	12	8.6	3	1	31	10.3
61-above	4	2.5	4	2.5	4	2.9	4	2.9	8	2.7	8	2.7
Total	12	7.5	148	92.5	10	7.1	130	92.9	22	7.3	278	92.7

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.13



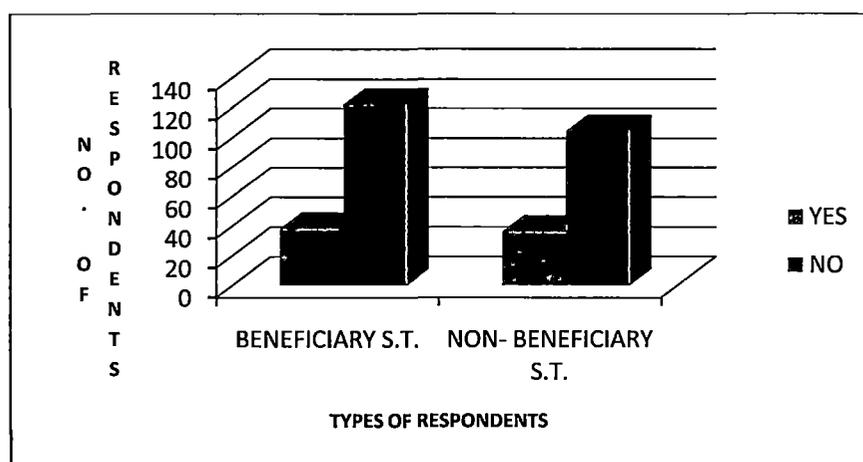
The Table 5.54 and the Figure 5.13 shows that a very nominal rate of 7.3% of the tribal respondents participate in development/welfare programmes provided by the Government through decision making, whereas 93% of the tribal respondents do not participate in the making of decisions at all as to who would get the benefits, how the benefit should be provided and how much the beneficiary would get. The decision was either made by the gram panchayat officials or the local party leader. They made decisions, took the decisions and justified the decisions. They, the tribals only heard about decisions and participated in the meetings only to raise hands and voices in favour of the decisions, but did not say anything to counteract the decision and muddle the decision making process.

Table 5.55

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you think that the funds provided by the Government for various welfare schemes are utilized properly?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	5	3.1	35	21.9	15	10.7	39	27.9	20	6.7	74	24.7
31-40	13	8.1	47	29.4	6	4.3	32	22.9	19	6.3	79	26.3
41-50	8	5	24	15	6	4.3	20	14.9	14	4.7	44	14.7
51-60	7	4.4	13	8.1	6	4.3	8	5.7	13	4.3	21	7
61-above	5	3.1	3	1.9	3	2.1	5	3.6	8	2.7	8	2.7
Total	38	23.8	122	76.2	36	25.7	104	74.3	74	24.7	226	75.3

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.14



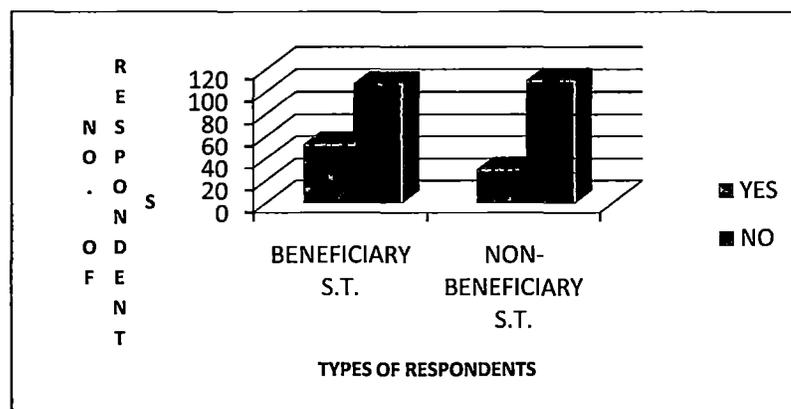
The Table 5.55 and the Figure 5.14 show that only 25% of the tribal respondents feel that the funds for various welfare schemes are utilized properly, while 75% of the tribal respondents feel that the funds provided by the government for various welfare schemes are not utilised properly. The respondent not only felt that the funds are not utilised properly but also criticised the functioning of panchayat authorities for non-utilisation of fund properly. These respondents also expressed that they were not getting adequate benefits and more facilities should be provided to them for, living lives with more certainty and for getting more employment opportunities. They were also not satisfied with the selection of beneficiaries. They said that depressed and poor families were least benefitted. It implies that the respondents tried to point out the procedural and substantive defects of providing benefits to the beneficiaries. In fact, those who needed, did not get benefit, and those who got the benefit, were devoid of their own, choices. Schemes were superimposed on the beneficiaries. Due to superimposition of projects the spontaneous involvement of the tribal people in development programmes becomes absent.

Table 5.56

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you think that grants given by the Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes are adequate?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	11	6.9	29	18.1	13	9.3	41	29.3	24	8	70	23.3
31-40	19	11.9	41	25.6	8	5.7	30	21.4	27	9	71	23.7
41-50	14	8.7	18	11.25	4	2.8	22	15.7	18	6	40	13.3
51-60	5	3.1	15	9.4	3	2.1	11	7.8	8	2.7	26	8.7
61-above	4	2.5	4	2.5	2	1.4	6	4.3	6	2	10	3.3
Total	53	33.1	107	66.9	30	21.4	110	78.6	83	27.7	217	72.3

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.15



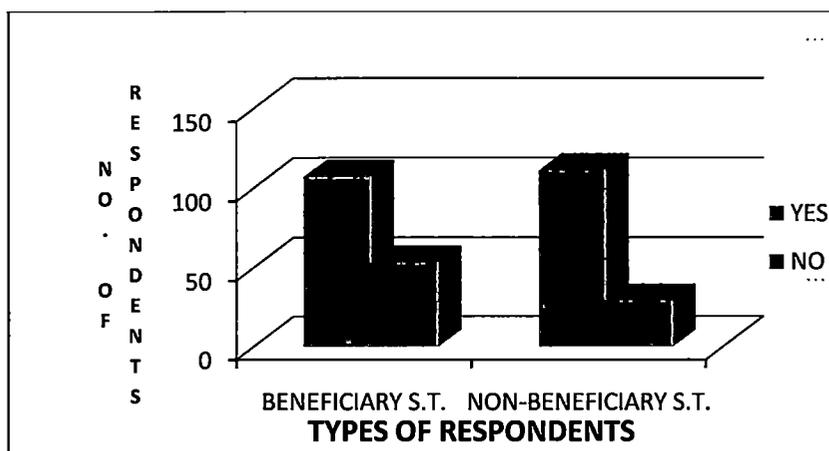
From the Table 5.56 and the Figure 5.15 it is observed that only 27.7% of the tribal respondents felt that the grants given by the government for the development of Scheduled Tribes are adequate. While 72.3% of the tribal respondents felt that the grants given by the Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes are not adequate. Most of the tribal respondents said that both the financial and technical help from the government was meagre and more facilities should be provided to them for, living lives with more certainty and for getting more employment opportunities. Moreover in the study area (16 gram Panchayats of Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari Block and 6 gram panchayats of Mirik Block) there is no special welfare programme for the tribes of the region. The welfare programmes which were administered in the gram panchayat and block were for rural upliftment and rural development. The tribes of the region were indirectly benefitted from these schemes. It implies that a special welfare programme for the tribals of the region should be administered.

Table 5.57

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you think Panchayats play important role in providing help and assistance to the poor/tribals?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	28	17.5	12	7.5	48	34.3	6	4.3	76	25.3	18	6
31-40	41	25.6	19	11.9	28	20	10	7.1	69	23	29	9.7
41-50	22	13.7	10	6.2	18	12.8	8	5.7	40	13.3	18	6
51-60	11	6.9	9	5.6	9	6.4	5	3.6	20	6.7	14	4.7
61-above	5	3.1	3	1.9	8	5.7	—	—	13	4.3	3	1
Total	107	66.9	53	33.1	111	79.3	29	20.7	218	72.7	82	27.3

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.16



The Table 5.57 and the Figure 5.16 shows that more than 70% of the tribal respondents felt that panchayats play important role in providing help and assistance to the poor and the tribals. Also 67% of beneficiary respondents agreed that panchayat played an important role in providing help and assistance to the poor/tribals. It is observed that the majority of the respondents in the study area are very much dependent on governmental help through panchayats as the way to growth and development. It implies that the panchayats constitute the foundation on which the entire edifice of rural development stands. The gram panchayats which function at the grass-root level and are in direct touch with the people, carry the responsibility of implementing various development programmes, projects and schemes at the village level, in terms of identification of beneficiaries, location of project sites etc. The panchayats are responsible for the adoption and implementation of schemes and measures for the development of agriculture, cottage industries, water supply, execution of any function assigned by the state government, and coordination and implementation of development plans, schemes, projects and programmes relating to the development policy of the state government at the block and district respectively and through various standing committees. Therefore, the implementation of rural development programmes through panchayats has produced desired results and the employment generation programmes have benefitted the local people by creating some useful assets and tackling poverty.

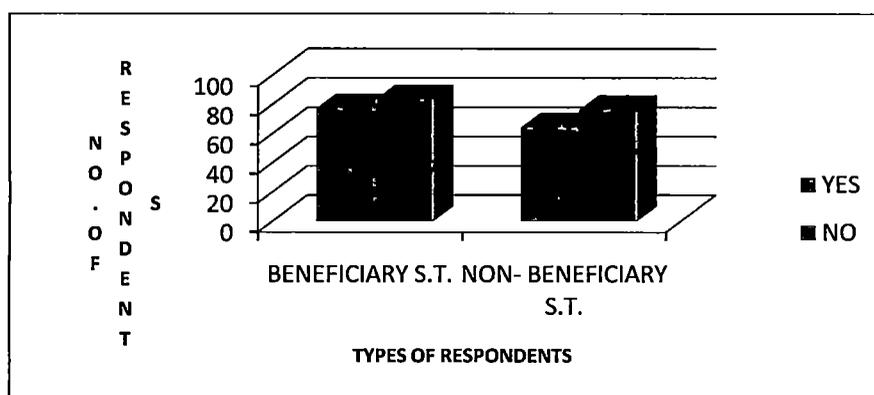
Table 5.58

Age wise answer to the question:												
Are you interested in Politics?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	21	13.1	19	11.9	34	24.3	20	14.3	55	18.3	39	13
31-40	32	20	28	17.5	10	7.1	28	20	42	14	56	18.7

Age wise answer to the question:												
Are you interested in Politics? ...												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
41-50	16	10	16	10	10	7.1	16	11.4	26	8.7	32	10.7
51-60	8	5	12	7.5	8	5.7	6	4.3	16	5.3	18	6
61-above	-	-	8	5	2	1.4	6	4.3	2	0.7	14	4.7
Total	77	48.1	83	51.9	64	45.7	76	54.3	141	47	159	53

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.17



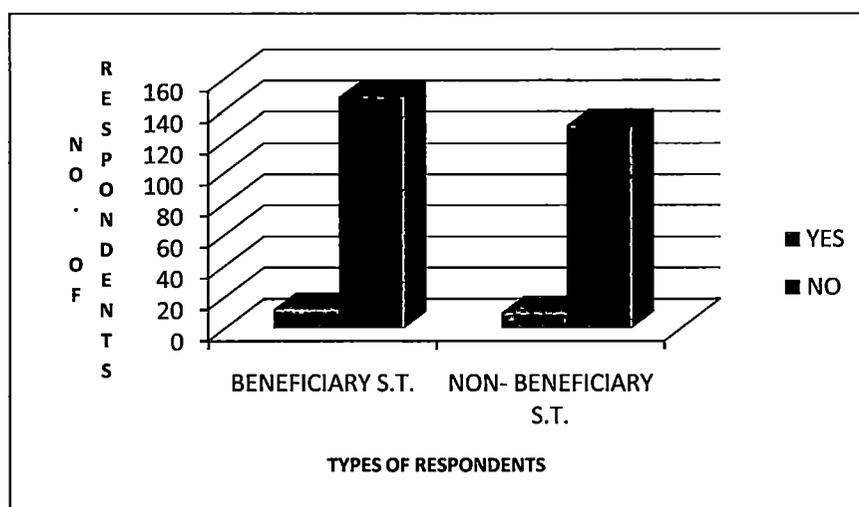
From the Table 5.58 and the Figure 5.17 it is observed that 47% of the tribal respondents are interested in politics, while 53% of the tribal respondents are not interested in politics. The respondents that fell under the age groups 18-50 were more interested in politics. The reason can be due to the present political situations of the region. The Darjeeling hills were undergoing political agitation for the state of Gorkhaland, with the formation of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJMM) headed by Bimal Gurung in 2007. Since the local masses participated actively in the agitation, so in the process also became interested in politics. The three years of agitation of the Darjeeling hills reached an agreement with the State Government on 18th July 2011 at Paintail village near Siliguri for forming Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, a semi-autonomous administrative body which will replace Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 32 years.

Table 5.59

Age wise answer to the question: ...												
Do you participate in Gram Sansad/ Gram Sabha or any of such kind of meetings held in your locality?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	00	-	40	25	00	-	54	38.6	00	-	94	31.3
31-40	4	2.5	56	35	00	-	38	27.1	4	1.3	94	31.3
41-50	3	1.9	29	18.1	4	2.9	22	15.7	7	2.3	51	17
51-60	1	0.6	19	11.9	2	1.4	12	8.6	3	1	31	10.3
61-above	4	2.5	4	2.5	4	2.9	4	2.9	8	2.7	8	2.7
Total	12	7.5	148	92.5	10	7.1	130	92.9	22	7.3	278	92.7

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.18



From the Table 5.59 and Figure 5.17, it becomes clear that very few tribal respondents of 7.3 % do attend and participate in Gram Sanad/Gram Sabha or any of such meetings held in the locality, while a large section of respondents of 93% do not participate in Gram Sansad/ Gram Sabha or any of such meetings held in the locality. Therefore it can be understood that the rural people rarely participated in Gram Sansad/Gram Sabha or any of such meetings held in locality, where the formulation of development programmes are decided i.e. who will take

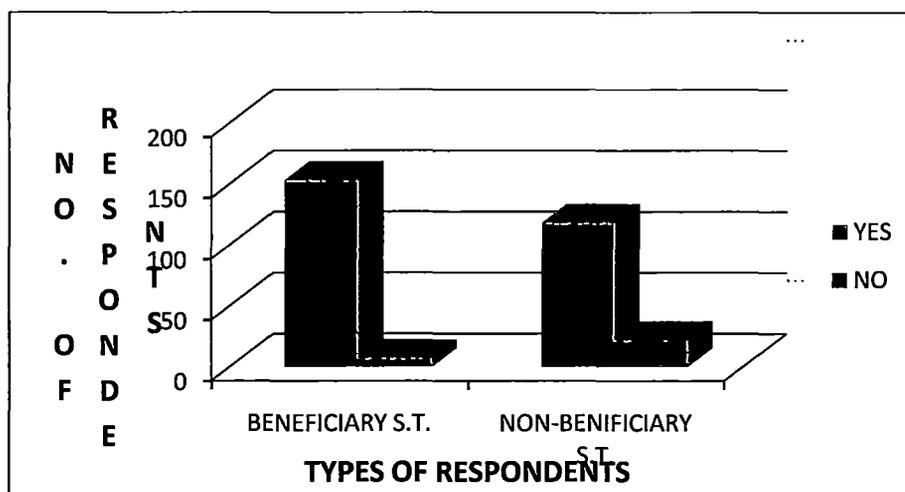
the benefits, how the benefits be percolated down and the overall decision making process. Understanding from the views of the respondents it is evident that party-panchayat leaders, gram sansad members, Pradhans, gram panchayat officials contributed in the control over the decision-making process. In Darjeeling hills the last panchayat election was held in 2000 and after the term ended in 2005 there was no election held. The Pradhans and other elected representatives to gram panchayats continued with their office till 2008. After the existing Pradhan and elected members resigned no panchayat elections was held as a part of boycott movement to the revived Gorkhaland movement under the leadership of Bimal Gurung. Therefore it was the gram panchayat official who more-or-less controlled the decision-making process after 2008 till date because of the absence of Pradhans who convened the meetings of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Sansad and other such meetings of the locality. Moreover the rural people were not aware of various development programmes and schemes given by the government. So even if they participated in such meetings they only heard the decisions and participated the Gram Sansad and Gram Sabha meetings to raise hands and voices in favour of decisions, but did not say anything that counteract the decision and muddle the decision making process.

Table 5.60

Age wise answer to the question:												
Do you vote in elections?												
	Beneficiary ST				Non-beneficiary ST				Total			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
18-30	40	25	-	-	48	34.3	6	4.3	88	29.3	6	2
31-40	60	37	-	-	30	21.4	8	5.7	90	30	8	2.7
41-50	28	17.5	4	2.5	22	15.7	4	2.8	50	16.7	8	2.7
51-60	19	11.9	1	0.6	12	8.6	2	1.4	31	10.3	3	1
61-above	6	3.7	2	1.2	6	4.3	2	1.4	12	4	4	1.3
Total	153	95.6	7	4.4	118	84.2	22	15.7	271	90.3	29	9.7

Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.19



The Table 5.60 and the Figure 5.19 show that 90% of the tribal respondent of the rural areas vote during elections. It is observed that the tribals take part in elections because they do not want to alienate themselves from the mainstream politics. Though they cast votes during elections, they participate in elections only as a social duty. In Darjeeling Hills, last panchayat elections were held in 1995 and 2005. The rate of participation in voting of the total rural population in the panchayat election of 1995 held in all the blocks of Darjeeling hills was 70% which is positive, while 30% of the rural population was apathetic to participation. Whereas the rate of participation in voting of the rural population in the panchayat election of 2000 held in all the blocks of Darjeeling hills is 68% which is positive, while 32% of the rural population was apathetic to participation. This implies that maximum of rural people do participate in voting during elections. Though a significant number of tribal voters turn out to the polling booths, most of them do not know the significance of voting, their rights and duties and their role in the political system. They are neither conscious of the electoral process nor aware of the role they should play in the society. They elect the candidates whom they support without keeping in mind the socio-economic background of the candidates, their leadership qualities and without being aware of principles and policies of their party. The local leaders and power seekers meet the voters at the time of elections and influence and motivate them by providing them job opportunities, higher wages and money. Hence it can be concluded that the interest in politics is greater among the people of lower category, illiterates, cultivators, labourers than in that of medium and high categories and literate people. They are politicized, but not politically socialized in the real sense of term.

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