

Chapter IV

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE SAMPLE TRIBALS AND OFFICIALS

(Section I : The Clientele)

The tribals, who are the focus of this study, face a variety of problems due to their poor means of earning. Viewed in this context their needs are basic, urgent and demanding. Without an understanding of the nature of their primordial and newly emerging needs, their resources, the socio-economic compulsions and inherent institutional constraints, no study for their development would be fruitful. Moreover the details regarding age, sex, religion, numerical and linguistic composition of the household members, their civic conditions, rural-urban distribution, occupational and income distribution, level of literacy etc. help in unearthing many facts about the nature and content of interpersonal interactions in the society. Further, they provide answers to many questions that may arise in course of scientific investigation. ¹

4.02 Of the 160 tribal households taken up for this study, 130 (81.25 per cent) were direct beneficiaries of government sponsored schemes and remaining 30 (18.75 per cent) the non-beneficiaries.

Sex wise distribution of Respondents :

4.03 The following table shows that in a total of 160 tribal respondents, predominantly 133 (83.13 per cent) were males and 27

(16.87 per cent) females. The percentage of males and females in both categories of beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents of the sample households more or less correspond to each other. The table also indicates the poor involvement of tribal women in the development schemes.

Table 4.1 : Sex wise Distribution of Beneficiary & Non-Beneficiary tribals.

Sex	Beneficiary	Non-beneficiary	Total
Male	108(83.07)	25(83.33)	133(83.13)
Female	22(16.93)	5(16.67)	27(16.87)
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

Scheduled Tribes Communities wise distribution of Households :

4.04 The principal Scheduled tribe communities living in the ITDP areas of Darjeeling district are Oraon, Santal, Munda, Kheria, Malpaharia, Kharwar, Mahali and others. The 160 sample tribal households were found belonging to more than ten different tribal communities. However, only three tribes viz., Oraon, Santal and Munda were found to be predominant ones in the area. The following table shows the distribution of the respondent households according to different tribal communities. It appears therefrom that the Oraon had been the predominant tribe accounting for 58.12 per cent followed by Munda (15.63 per cent) and Santal (11.25 per cent). These three tribal communities taken together constitutes 85 per cent of the total sampled households. The other tribes viz., Mahali, Malpaharia, Kheria, Korwa, Turi, Nagesia etc. are comprised in rest 15 per cent of Scheduled Tribes households.

Table 4.2: Tribe wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl.No.	Name of Tribes	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
1	Oraon	73(56.15)	20(66.67)	93(58.12)
2	Munda	20(15.38)	5(16.67)	25(15.63)
3	Santal	14(10.77)	4(13.33)	18(11.25)
4	Others	23(17.70)	1(3.33)	24(15.00)
Total		130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

Religion wise distribution of households :

4.05 The distribution of the surveyed households according to the religions professed by them is shown in the table below :

Table 4.3 : Religion wise Distribution of respondents

Sl. No.	Religions	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
1.	Hindus	13(10.00)	04(13.33)	17(10.63)
2.	Muslims	--	--	--
3.	Christians	41(31.54)	02(6.67)	43(26.87)
4.	Buddhist	--	--	--
5.	Animists	66(50.77)	24(80.00)	90(56.25)
6.	Others	10(7.69)	--	10(6.25)
Total		130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It can be observed from the above table that animism or worshipping nature prevailed among the tribal communities. Of all the tribal households surveyed 90(56.25 per cent) professed animism or worshipped nature. This was followed by christianity 43(26.87 per cent) and the Hinduism 17(10.63 per cent). However, not a single respondent reported professing Islam or Buddhism in the study area. The animism had been the religious practices of these tribes from tradition. Although, Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions did not form the traditional background of the tribal communities, the influences, spread and adoption or conversion into Hinduism and Christianity had been gradually increasing in past decades. The spread of Christianity amongst

the tribals has been mostly because of the proselytisation process. Although, this process runs absolutely counter to the national policy and Tribal Sub Plan evolved for tribal development, i.e., preservation and protection of culture and traditional heritage of the tribals. Two mouzas viz., Sadhramjot (Bagdogra G.P.) and Baraghoria (Bidhannagar G.P.) comprised of predominantly Christian tribes. The Christian tribes were, however, found comparatively more developed than tribes professing other religions.

4.06 It was also found out that among the tribes professing Christianity, mostly i.e. 38 (88.37 per cent) were Oraons. Similarly, 24 (55.81 per cent) of Christian tribe respondents were found literate whose educational attainment ranged from class/standard I to X. It was also observed that as many as 39 (90.69 per cent) household among tribal Christians had one or more members educated in their family. While 28 (65.12 per cent) of them were found below the poverty line with annual family income being less than officially prescribed ceiling of Rs.6400; 15 (34.88 per cent) were, however, above the poverty line. In other words, it may be said that the average Christian families were not as backward as the non-Christian tribes.

Distribution of Respondents according to their age :

4.07 The following table gives the distribution of respondents according to their age :

Table 4.4 : Age - group wise Distribution of Respondents.

Age in Years	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
1 - 17	--	--	--
18 - 30	26(20.00)	14(46.67)	40(25.00)
31 - 40	52(40.00)	08(26.67)	60(37.50)
41 - 50	30(23.08)	02(6.66)	32(20.00)
51 - 60	14(10.77)	06(20.00)	20(12.50)
61 & above	08(6.15)	--	08(5.00)
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It may be observed from the table that more than 80 per cent of respondents fell under the age group of 18 to 50 years. At the same time , most of the non-beneficiary respondents also fell within the same age group. This implies that the unemployed youths within these age groups can be more fruitfully employed in various income generating self-employment schemes.

Average Size of Family :

4.08 The average size of the sample tribal households is given in the table below. The average size of these households thus computed for all the 10 ITDP mouzas taken together is 5.40. The average size of non-beneficiary households was 4.33 which is, however, lower than that of the beneficiary families having 5.65.

Table 4.5 : Distribution of Average-size of respondents' Families

No. of Members in Family	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
1 - 5	67(51.54)	22(73.33)	89(55.63)
6 - 10	57(43.85)	08(26.67)	65(40.62)
11 - 15	06(4.61)	--	06(3.75)
16 & Above	--	--	--
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It may further be revealed from the above table that nearly 45 per cent of tribal families comprised 6 to 15 members in families of which 26.67 per cent were non-beneficiary families.

Annual Income wise distribution of households :

4.09 The annual income of families is very relevant in order to determine the extent and intensity of poverty among families. It is on the basis of annual income of the families, it is decided whether a family is under the poverty line or not. A family having an annual income of Rs. 6400 or less is considered to be a family below poverty line in rural areas. Under the poverty alleviation programmes of the government, the poor families are assisted to reach an annual income level above Rs. 6400 by providing family oriented economic schemes. However, the cut off line for identification of the poor families for assistance is Rs. 4800 as annual income per family. Again in order to ensure that the poorest of the poors get assistance first, it is ensured that families with an annual income level up to Rs. 3500 are assisted first.³ This cut off line and priority mark in terms of annual income for assistance under different anti-poverty programmes were also followed in the study area at the time of field investigation.⁴

4.10 The 38th round of National Sample Survey gave further break up of the families below the poverty line⁵ These were :

Annual income range (in Rs.)	Description of poor families
i) up to 2265	Destitute
ii) 2266 - 3500	Very Very poor
iii) 3501 - 4800	Very poor
vi) 4801 - 6400	Poor

4.11 The following table makes an attempt to distribute the Respondent tribal families according to the above annual income

range and description of poor families :

Table 4.6 : Annual Family-Income wise Distribution of Respondents

Annual Income in Rs.	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
1 - 2265	22(16.92)	01(3.33)	23(14.37)
2266 - 3500	32(24.62)	14(46.67)	46(28.75)
3501 - 4800	35(26.92)	07(23.33)	42(26.25)
4801 - 6400	18(13.85)	03(10.00)	21(13.33)
6401 - 10,000	14(10.77)	01(3.33)	15(9.37)
10,001 & above	09(6.92)	04(13.34)	13(8.13)
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It is seen in the table that of 'total' respondent families, 23(14.37 per cent) were destitutes, 46(28.75 per cent) very very poor, 42(26.25 per cent) very poor, and 21(13.33) as poor. It also appears that a total of 28(17.50 per cent) of the respondent families were above the poverty line mark of Rs. 6400. This indicates that the families above the poverty line have either been raised with the assistance of anti-poverty family oriented schemes or were wrongly identified at the time of providing assistance..

Distribution of Respondents according to knowledge of Languages :

4.12 Languages recognised in the district for the official uses, in addition to the national language, are Bengali, Nepali and English. In the hill areas of the district, all these languages are in common uses for the official correspondence. But in the plains i.e. the study area of the ITDP, Bengali is most commonly used language by the people for official purposes. Other languages are used to a limited extent..

4.13 The following table presents the distribution of

tribal respondents according to their knowledge of different languages other than their mother tongues.

Table 4.7 : Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge of Languages

Languages	Reading & Writing	Only Reading	Speaking	None / Neither	Total
Hindi	41(25.63)	01(0.62)	116(72.50)	02(1.25)	160
Bengali	20(12.50)	02(1.25)	77(48.13)	61(38.12)	160
Others (including Nep. Eng.)	12(7.50)	01(1.62)	24(15.00)	123(76.88)	160

It may be observed from the table that the most of the tribals (72.50 per cent) could speak Hindi and 25.63 per cent could also read and write this. But only 48.13 per cent of them could speak Bengali and those who could read and write this was only 12.50 per cent. But Bengali being commonly used language for official correspondence and also medium of instructions in schools, most of the tribals found it difficult to deal in official matters independently. The lack of knowledge of Bengali, both reading and writing, made them to depend exceedingly on the middlemen and others even for getting the applications written or various forms filled up which were generally available in this language, for seeking any kind of assistance like relief materials, institutional credits etc. from different sources which resulted in their exploitation in various forms. The table also indicates the extent of literacy among tribals and their difficulty in following medium of instructions other than Hindi in schools.

Educational Attainment :

4.14 Education is the most important element in the development of any community. It emerges as an

important and crucial investment in the development of backward people like tribals. Education helps them in protecting their interest, preventing the exploitative elements, and promoting direct economic benefits due to increased ability to process and utilise information, knowledge and experience.

4.15 The table below presents the levels of educational attainment of the respondent tribals:

Table 4.8 : Distribution of Respondents Educational Attainment

Levels	Beneficiaries	Non Benef.	Total
Illiterates	71(54.62)	21(70.00)	92(57.50)
Non-formal	05(3.85)	01(3.33)	06(3.75)
I - IV	37(28.46)	05(16.67)	42(26.25)
V - X	15(11.53)	03(10.00)	18(11.25)
XI - Graduate	01(0.77)	--	01(0.62)
Others	01(0.77)	--	01(0.63)
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It may be observed from the table that 57.50 per cent of tribals were illiterate who did not attend school in their life time nor they could read or write anything. Similarly, other 3.75 per cent though possessed non-formal education, they could write not more than their names or addresses and even these were forgotten by few of them. The other 26.25 per cent were found to have attended primary schools and attained educational level ranging from Classes I to IV. But Primary level education also could not help much in a meaningful way specially while making correspondence with offices or otherwise. For this, secondary or higher than secondary level education would only be of some help. But the table above indicates that only 11.25 per cent of tribal respondents had education above Class V, and it was even lower in

case of non-beneficiary tribals. This implies that the spread of education amongst tribal communities which is a very important pre-requisite for any development work is very poor. It has made much headway among the tribals.

Occupational Distribution :

4.16 The following table shows the primary occupations pursued by respondents' families :

Table 4.9 : Distribution of Respondents' Families Primary Occupation

Occupations	Beneficiaries	Non-Benef.	Total
Agriculture	54(41.54)	17(56.66)	71(44.37)
Agri.& other Labours	50(38.46)	06(20.00)	56(35.00)
Share cropping	16(12.31)	02(06.67)	18(11.25)
Small Business	02(01.54)	-	02(01.25)
Service & Others	08(06.15)	05(16.67)	13(08.13)
Total	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

It may be seen that the most important primary occupation of the respondent households was cultivation of agriculture lands. The tribal households constituting 44.37 per cent were engaged in this occupation as the main choice of their economical pursuit. This was followed by a sizable number of households consisting 35 per cent involved in agriculture labours or other kinds of labour to maintain their livelihood. Some 11.25 per cent tribal families were Bargadars or Sharecroppers.

4.17 However, many of those whose primary occupation were agriculture or share cropping were also engaged in secondary occupations such as labour or construction works, small business, animal husbandry and others. They also used to get seasonal employment in the nearby tea gardens particularly during

tea plucking season. Likewise, other members of the families whose primary occupations were business or service were also engaged in cultivation and agriculture labour or other kinds of labour as their secondary occupations.

4.18. The following table shows the involvement of other members of the respondent families in the secondary occupations :

Table 4.10 : Distribution of Respondents Families' Secondary Occupations.

Occupations	Beneficiaries	Non-Benef.	Total
Agriculture	24(18.46)	05(16.67)	29(18.13)
Agri.& other Labour	65(50.00)	19(63.33)	84(52.50)
Share cropping	02(1.54)	02(6.67)	04(2.50)
Animal Husbandry	14(10.77)	01(3.33)	15(9.37)
Rural Artisans	02(1.54)	-	02(1.25)
Small Business	12(9.23)	-	12(7.50)
Service	01(0.77)	-	01(0.62)
Others	10(7.69)	03(10.00)	13(8.13)
	130(100.00)	30(100.00)	160(100.00)

The table reveals the importance of agriculture and labours (agricultural or others) in the economic life of the tribal people of the area. The preponderance of agricultural labour or other kinds of labour as secondary occupation among majority of tribal households (52.50 per cent) and more so in case of non-beneficiary households (63.33 per cent) shows the importance of wage labour in tribal society. At the same time, this also indicates the nature of unemployment and irregularity or uncertainty of their source of income. As per a study conducted by the Siliguri Planning Organisation towards the initial stage of ITDP, 49 per cent of the tribal families were cultivators of their own land having 58 per cent of the total cultivated lands. More than 90 per cent of the cultivators were employed below 210 days and none was employed beyond 240 days in a year. ⁶

Household Assets-formation :

4.19 The assets formation is regarded as one of the important indicators of economic status of a household. Certain household equipments like - bicycles, radios, watches etc. are generally possessed by average houses and are accepted to be essential items in modern society. The nature of such asset formation found among the sample households is presented in the following table :

Table 4.11 : Respondents' Households Assets-Formation (N = 160)

Name of items	Possessed	Not possessed
Bicycles	76(47.50)	84(52.50)
Radios & tape recorders	34(21.25)	126(78.75)
Watches or clocks	45(28.13)	115(71.87)
Televisions	01(0.62)	159(99.38)
Rickshaws	07(4.37)	153(95.63)
Others	04(2.50)	156(97.50)

A comparative glance on the assets 'possessed' and 'not possessed' columns of the table leave little doubt in regard to very very poor asset formations among the tribal households. It may also be relevant here to mention that one portable Black & White television, being operated by the battery, was possessed by a tribal Panchayat member whose family member happened to be one of the beneficiaries of assistance under the poverty alleviation programme. Other included 4 Gobar Gas Plants fully subsidised by the government but 3 of them were not working at the time of field investigation.

Livestock Possessions :

4.20 Livestocks, beside household equipments, are the other indicators of families economic status. The table below shows the number of cattle, pigs, goats etc. possessed or not possessed by the respondent households at the time of field study. These also

included the livestock which were purchased and possessed by the beneficiary tribals under the different poverty alleviation schemes. Moreover, some of the animals were reared on the shared basis.

Table 4.12 : Respondents Household possession of live stocks

Description of Live- stocks	No. of Livestocks possessed by the households(N=160)						
	Nil	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11 & above
Cows	90 (56.25)	60 (37.50)	05 (3.13)	05 (3.12)	-	-	-
Bullocks	83 (51.87)	64 (40.00)	12 (7.50)	01 (0.63)	-	-	-
Buffaloes	143 (89.37)	17 (10.63)	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	99 (61.87)	34 (21.25)	16 (10.00)	08 (5.00)	02 (1.25)	01 (0.63)	-
Goats	109 (68.12)	30 (18.75)	18 (11.25)	02 (1.25)	01 (0.63)	-	-
Chicks/ Ducks	74 (46.25)	32 (20.00)	32 (20.00)	10 (6.25)	05 (3.13)	03 (1.87)	04 (2.50)

It will be seen from the table that majority of the tribal households did not possess each of the livestock, except chicks and ducks. Buffaloes were possessed by only 10.63 per cent of households which ranged between 1 to 2 only in numbers. Bullock is regarded as an essential animal basically for an agricultural family for ploughing the lands. But this was also limited only to 48.13 per cent of the households. Similarly, only 70 households constituting 43.75 per cent possessed cows, the other important economic asset. Pig rearing is supposed to be popular among tribals but the table shows that this was also limited only to 38.13 per cent of tribal households. Moreover, whatever animals were possessed by the tribals were in general of sub-standard quality. This implies that most of the tribals did not possess livestock which could have been additional sources of income to their families, and that whoever possessed them could not accrue

much benefit because of those being sub-standard in quality.

4.21 To sum up, tribal households were concentrated in villages and mouzas. They lived interspersed with other plain people. There was, however, absence of contiguity of tribal hamlets in the study area. It was found out that many tribals were not brought within the preview of development schemes even within the ITDP areas. Beside this, a large number of tribal inhabitants living in the tea garden areas were not covered by the development schemes e.g. family oriented schemes under poverty alleviation programmes. The tribal women also had very low profile in the whole process of development. The tribals were mostly animists or worshiped nature. The attempt towards proselytisation of tribal religion was evident in the area. But this process runs absolutely counter to the policy and objective of the TSP evolved for the tribal development the protection and preservation of their culture and traditional heritage. However, the converted Christian tribes were not as backward as other non-christian tribes. The tribals were mostly used to Hindi spoken & written. They could also interact in Bengali but mostly could not read or write. As such for official works they had to depend very much upon middlemen and others for filling up forms for application and other papers generally available in Bengali. This dependency many a time results in their exploitation. Most of the tribals were illiterate. The education of only 11.25 per cent having secondary education could only be utilised to some extent while dealing with official matters. The percentage of literates were further lower among the non-beneficiary tribes. Most of the tribals were cultivators and many of them were also

engaged in daily labour as agricultural, construction or tea gardens Labourers. Therefore, their wage income was more seasonal, uncertain and irregular. The formation of assets among the tribals with regards to both household equipments and other livestock was also very very poor and uneconomic.

(Section II : The Officials)

4.22 The tribals who constitute the clientele group of the officials for this study are predominantly agriculture based. They are in a state of abject poverty and illiteracy, and follow age-old traditions in their livelihood, and are cut off from the mainstream of national life. Achieving quick social and economic changes in such an ecological context requires administrators who possess the attributes of "understanding, patience, perseverance and a deep sense of optimism together with a commitment to the organisational goals". ⁷

4.23 The role of the administrators as the change agents is always crucial in any innovative development task. It is more so in case of development programmes taken for the rural people, particularly the tribal communities. If the development bureaucracy have intimate knowledge about the socio-economic and cultural matrix of tribal life and particularly the weaker section of this community and if they maintain sympathetic outlook and close contact with these people, the pace of progress may become faster. But it all depends on the sociographic background of the development officials. These officials are placed at different levels to perform various tasks. ⁸

4.24 The officials as individuals have life histories of their

own and possess certain value-traits which have been developed and matured even before they joined their departments or organisations. Therefore, one of the important means by which environmental factors are brought to bear on any organisation is through the people who constitute the organisation. The organisations have their own norms and people are expected to work according to the prevailing norms. Hence, there is a continuous interaction between organisation and officials as individuals. It is of relevance, therefore, to know the officials' socio-economic background, their occupational attainments and their prior experiences. ⁹

4.25 For the purpose of the present study these officials who in one way or other were engaged in the implementation of the programmes, were selected from (i) elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, particularly from Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samity levels, (ii) personnels of financial institutions, mostly the bank officials, and (iii) the government servants basically working at grass-root level.

4.26 The total number of these officials who actually responded the canvassed official schedules was 62, comprising Panchayats' 19, banks' 20 and government servants 23. Of the total 62 official respondents, 60 (96.77 per cent) were males and only 2 (3.23 per cent) females. The socio-graphical background of the officials interviewed is represented here.

4.27 Caste, Tribe and Religious backgrounds of the officials have an important bearing on the implementation of development programmes. If the officials belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes they might be in a position to understand better

the problems and difficulties of the tribes as they themselves belong to this lot.

Caste - Tribes Status :

4.28 Caste - Tribe status of the responding-officials are presented in the following table :

Table 4.13 : Caste-tribe wise Distribution of Official Respondents

Caste/Tribes	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Bank	Govt.Servants	Altogether
Scheduled Caste	04(21.05)	01(5.0)	03(13.04)	08(12.90)
Scheduled Tribes	04(21.05)	01(5.0)	04(17.39)	09(14.52)
Others	11(57.90)	18(90.0)	16(69.57)	45(72.58)
Total	19(100.00)	20(100.00)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

The data reveal that the officials from SC and ST constituted only 12.90 per cent and 14.52 per cent respectively of the total official respondents. The officials from non-SC and ST had the predominance in every respect. It is also important that officials engaged in tribal development require personal familiarity with local situation and cultural ethos as also with the adverse forces operating there.

Religious Background :

4.29 Similarly, the following table shows the distribution official respondents on the basis of their religions :

Table 4.14 : Religion-wise Distribution of Official Respondents

Religions	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Bank	Govt.Servants	Altogether
Hindus	15(78.95)	19(95.0)	18(78.26)	52(83.87)
Muslims	-	-	01(4.35)	01(1.61)
Buddhists	-	-	03(13.04)	03(4.84)
Christians	01(5.26)	01(5.0)	-	02(3.23)
Others	03(15.79)	-	01(4.35)	04(6.45)
	19(100.00)	20(100.0)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

The table indicates that a large number of official respondents belonged to the Hinduism. There were none from Muslim and Buddhism in respect of the Panchayat and Bank respondents. However, one respondent was found practicing Christianity in the government servant category. In all there was predominance of the Hindu officials (83.87 per cent) while remaining respondents (16.13 per cent) were found practicing different other religions.

4.30 All these imply that tribals forming the backward and weaker sections of the population get constant interactions with officials belonging mostly to other general castes and predominant Hindu religion. Therefore, it may be pointed out that some kind of socio-religious gap existed between the officials and the clients. This weaker segment of our society which is at the receiving end is prone to get captivated by the value system of the general and high caste Hindus. ¹⁰ However, the low percentage of the officials from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and female indicates that the administrative staff does not fully represent the weaker sections of society.

Rural-Urban Background :

4.31 Further, it is evident from the following table that a

majority of official respondents had their place of origin in rural areas, though a sizable number (33.87 per cent) in 'altogether' category hailed from urban areas. Urban background was prominent in respect of bank personnel and government servants, while the Panchayat members were mostly from rural areas. The preponderance of officials with rural background facilitate proper understanding of the problems of rural tribals while executing development programmes.

Table 4.15: Rural-Urban Distribution of Respondent Officials

Place of origin	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Banks	Govt.Servants	Altogether
Rural	18(94.74)	11(55.0)	12(52.17)	41(66.13)
Urban	01(05.26)	09(45.0)	11(47.83)	21(33.87)
Total	19(100.00)	20(100.0)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

Distribution of Parents' occupations of the officials :

4.32 It may be relevant here to state that occupations of the parents' may also help towards shaping the attitude of the offsprings. The following table attempts to identify the parents' occupations of respondent officials :

Table. 4.16: Distribution of Parents' occupation of Officials

Parental Occupations	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Banks	Govt.Servants	Altogether
Agriculture & allied	11(57.89)	03(15.0)	04(17.39)	18(29.03)
Business	03(15.79)	01(15.0)	09(39.13)	13(20.97)
Artisan	-	-	01(04.35)	01(01.62)
Service	03(15.79)	15(75.0)	07(30.43)	25(40.32)
Others	02(10.53)	01(05.0)	02(08.70)	05(08.06)
Total	19(100.00)	20(100.00)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

It is revealed that only 29.03 per cent of officials in 'altogether' category had experiences of agriculture and allied

activities which they might have derived from their parents' occupations. But 40.32 per cent officials parents' occupation was 'service' followed by 'business'(20.97 per cent). This indicates that most of the officials may lack the aptitudes, and favourable attitude in an essentially agriculture and rural or tribal areas oriented administration.

Educational Attainment of Official Respondents :

4.33 The following table shows the educational attainment of these officials :-

Table. 4.17 : Distribution of Officials' Educational Attainment

Educational Standard	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Banks	Govt.Servants	Altogether
upto IV	04(21.05)	-	-	04(60.45)
V - X	10(52.64)	-	02(08.70)	12(19.35)
XI - Graduate	04(21.05)	12(60.0)	10(43.48)	26(41.94)
Post-Graduate	01(5.26)	03(15.0)	06(26.09)	10(16.13)
Other (including technical, professional)	-	05(25.0)	05(21.73)	10(16.13)
Total	19(100.00)	20(100.00)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

It may be observed from the above table that 14(73.69 per cent) of Panchayat members possessed only secondary education up to the standard X (Madhyamik Pariksha/Matriculation), while 21.05 per cent had their education from Higher Secondary to Graduate levels. Only one was found with Post-Graduate education. On the other hand, 60 per cent of bank officials had education up to graduation and 40 per cent post graduation and having other technical professional educations. Among the government servants, except two, 91.30 per cent had education up to the graduation, post graduation and other technical-professional levels. If the category of

'altogether' the officials is taken into consideration, 25.80 per cent had only secondary level education while others(74.20 per cent) possessed up to graduate, post-graduate and technical-professional levels.

Age - Group wise distribution of Officials :

4.34 The following table represents the age-group wise distribution of the respondent officials :-

Table. 4.18: Age-group wise Distribution of Officials

Age-group (in years)	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Banks	Govt.Servants	Altogether
upto 20	-	-	-	-
21-30	02(10.52)	02(10.0)	02(08.69)	06(09.68)
31-40)	06(31.58)	12(60.0)	15(65.22)	33(53.22)
41-50)	08(42.11)	06(30.0)	02(08.69)	16(25.81)
51 & above	03(15.79)	-	04(17.40)	07(11.29)
	19(100.00)	20(100.0)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

The table reveals age-group wise maximum number of officials(53.22 per cent) were between 31 and 40 years, and 25.81 per cent were in 41-50 years of age group while below 30 years and above 51 years were only around 10 per cent each. Thus, the table indicates that there was preponderance of the energetic younger staff posted at the field level administration.

Monthly - Income wise Distribution of Officials :

4.35 The table below displays the data regarding total monthly income of the officials' families :-

Table. 4.19: Distribution of Officials according to Income-group

Income Group in Rupees	C a t e g o r i e s o f r e s p o n d e n t s			
	Panchayat	Banks	Govt.Servants	Altogether
1-1000	-	-	-	-
1001-2000	06(31.58)	-	03(13.04)	09(14.51)
2001-3000	07(36.84)	01(05.0)	06(26.09)	14(22.58)
3001-4000	05(26.32)	02(10.0)	08(34.78)	15(24.19)
4001-5000	-	02(10.0)	03(13.04)	05(08.07)
5001 and above	01(05.26)	15(75.0)	03(13.05)	19(30.65)
Total	19(100.00)	20(100.0)	23(100.00)	62(100.00)

It shows that most of the officials 38(61.29 per cent) had monthly income of their families from Rs. 1001 to Rs. 4000. In this income-group almost 94.74 per cent of Panchayat members and 73.91 per cent government servants fell. Only 8.07 per cent had Rs.4001 to Rs.5000 as income in the altogether category. But again 30.65 per cent of altogether officials had more than Rs.5001 as their monthly family income. This was basically because 75 per cent of bank personnel received better salary than other officials.

4.36 To sum up, the officials were formed of predominantly caste Hindus while the clients were mostly 'animists' and 'christians'. As such, they were influenced very much by the value system of the caste Hindus represented by the officials. This created some kind of socio-religious gap between the officials and the tribals. Though the elected panchayat representatives had the rural background, a sizable number of bank personnel and government servants had urban background. Most of the officials also lacked experiences of rural areas, agriculture and other allied activities, because only few of their parents' occupations were allied to agriculture or rural areas. Nevertheless, there was predominance of energetic younger

staff posted at the field level. Some of the bank officials did not have much experience of working in rural areas. The family income of Panchayat members and government servants working in the field were not as good as bank officials which might lead them to resort to insincere practices.

References

1. Parvathamma, C, Scheduled Caste and Tribes : A Socio-Economic Survey, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi, 1984. p. 41.
2. -----, Evaluation Report on Integrated Tribal Development Project, Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, Govt. of India, New Delhi, 1987. p. 23.
3. -----, Integrated Rural Development Programme : A Manual, Deptt. of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi, 1988.
4. -----, Annual Action Plan (1990-91) and also (1991-92) under IRDP of DRDA, Siliguri, Darjeeling. p. 9 and E5 respectively.
5. -----, Annual Action Plan (1987-88) under IRDP of DRDA, Darjeeling. p. 6.
6. -----, Action Plan (1980-85), Tribal Sub-Plan Area (Area No. 16) Siliguri Sub-Division, SC & TW Deptt., Darjeeling. p. 3.
7. Roy, Ramasray, Bureaucracy and Development, Manas Publisher, New Delhi, 1975. p. 143.
8. Kabra, G. D., Development of Weaker Sections, Inter-India Publications, New Delhi, 1984. p. 76.
9. Roy, Ramasray, Op. cit.
10. Kabra, G. D., Op. cit. pp. 77-78.