

## Preface

*Though Darjeeling, the queen of Hills, produces the best tea of the world which is often called as "the champaign of tea" and though the production and productivity of the same is hovering around a certain figure over almost two decades, unfortunately, it appears that not much structured effort has been made from the experts concerned to investigate into the causes of its stagnation and the remedies thereof. The people concerned only put forward their views or opinions in the context of Darjeeling tea which were not based on any scientifically laid out studies. Studies regarding the impact of this stagnation on the plantation workers are also difficult to locate in the literature. Being associated with Tea Research Association and that too with its branch in Darjeeling, I felt the urge of investigating the causes of this stagnation in Darjeeling tea industry and understand its impact on the life and living of the plantation workers. The need to find out the possible measures to tackle the problem and the possible impact of those measures on the socio-economic condition of the plantation workers of Darjeeling hills was also felt.*

*I in this context, I must convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Milindo Chakraborty, Senior Lecturer, St. Joseph College, Darjeeling and Dr. Rajat Subhra Mukhopadhyay, Reader, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, North Bengal University for their constant guidance in different steps of conducting this study. I am also thankful to the managers, executives and workers of those gardens from which relevant information were collected. Thanks are due to Mr. Ranen Dutta and Miss Bandana Mukhia of Darjeeling Planters Association and different officials of Tea Board for providing me with information required for this study.*

*I am thankful to the management of Tea Research Association, for*

*according permission for carrying out this study. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank my colleagues in Darjeeling and Dikom who helped me in several ways to conduct this work.*

*Lastly, I should not forget to thank my daughter Miss Suchismita De and wife Mrs. Chhanda De, for the active assistance and the constant inspiration I received from them.*

*I shall feel highly rewarded if my humble effort comes to any help in pushing the Darjeeling Tea Industry out of stagnation.*

*Date : 28/2/2017*

*Place : NBU*

  
*Swapan Kumar De*