

PREFACE

Women's participation in household decision-making which forms an integral part of any economy is often underestimated and discriminated in many respects. Mostly the women's participation in decision-making with regard to achieving of education, generation of income and access to necessary health care utilization are not given due attention or not acknowledged and address at the grass root level by the policy makers in the development agenda. Women being characterized by tradition and cultural sex discrimination, the Indian women occupy a secondary position in the household aspects, though they contribute in terms of household management which is important in continue of next generation and care of husband, children and elderly members in the household. The circumstances in this respect in North Bengal in general and Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in particular is also true with such gender discrimination. Though female main workers form the larger part of the main work force, their work participation is low and they have little or no say in decision-making.> In this research work an effort is made to investigate the role of women in the household domain and present the various socio-economic characteristics in North Bengal in general and in the two chosen districts in particular. With a logical research framework based on secondary and primary data, the main seven chapters have been devoted to the analysis of pattern of participation in household decision-making in North Bengal. The final chapter analyses the extent of disparity in decision-making and few suggestions have been recommended for improving their decision-making status.