

## Preface

The thesis on “**A Study on Socio- Economic Conditions of Slum dwellers of Siliguri Municipal Corporation: A Geographical Analysis**” is written based on my research work and field survey carried during the period 2016-2018. In this thesis I tried to highlight the Socio-Economic conditions of the slum dwellers of Siliguri Municipal Corporation based on the primary and secondary data collected during the survey.

The unprecedented urbanization has resulted growth of slums in most countries. Slums are not only found in developing countries but in developed countries also. It is seen that people from different places came to Siliguri in search of employment. They are unable to afford the high rent of residential areas and encroach the open spaces and settle there. As a result many illegal settlements develop on unsuitable sites. As the slum dwellers primary importance is survival also they give less importance to housing and infrastructural facilities. As the income level is low the slum dwellers have no option but to stay in areas with inadequate water supply, sanitation, garbage disposal, drainage etc. as the physical and social environment of slums are deteriorated it affects the health conditions of the slum dwellers.

As slums are congested there is no option for horizontal expansion. Older slums are more congested. The privacy of slum dwellers is hampered due to overcrowding and congestion inside the slums.

Hence to focus on the physical, socio-economic condition of slum dwellers micro-level studies were necessary. The present work is therefore an attempt to study the growth of slums, socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers, infrastructural facilities in slum zones, the environmental conditions of slums and how it affects the health of slum dwellers. In handling the data, I realized the limitations of census data on slums and other office related data on slums, especially when the areal unit of study is slums in wards of Siliguri Municipal Corporation. Therefore to know the ground truth of socio-economic condition of slum dwellers I had to generate the primary data from the field. I have proved the assumed hypothesis in the thesis by acute statistical techniques.

The thesis is divided into Eight chapters. The first chapter is related with Introduction, Location details and Slum Scenario of Siliguri Municipal Corporation. The second chapter describes the growth of slums of Siliguri Municipal Corporation. The third chapter describes the demographic structure of slum dwellers. The fourth chapter describes the socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers. The fifth chapter deals with the Infrastructure facilities in slum zones. The sixth chapter deals with Health status of slum dwellers. The seventh chapter describes the Appraisal of Government schemes for improvement of slums in Siliguri. The eighth chapter describe the recommendation and conclusion. I tried to give in each chapter most recent data and examples.

For the proper presentation of my work, with the supreme sense of gratitude I would like to thank my Supervisor Dr. Ranjan Roy for his continuous guidance, encouragement and active co-operation throughout my research work without which it would have been extremely difficult for me to complete the research work. I also express my gratitude to him for the constant suggestions along with comments, advices he has given me at various levels of this study and the real autonomy that he has given to explore the topic. My special thanks to all the faculty members for the valuable suggestions regarding this study and also all the staff members of the Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal for their kind cooperation with me.

My sincere thanks goes to all the Officers of Urban Poverty Elevation (U.P.E) cell, Siliguri Municipal Corporation who extended their co-operation and help during data collections. I also thank the other officers of various departments of Siliguri Municipal Corporation for providing me valuable information and documents relating to my topic of thesis.

My special thanks goes to the slum dwellers who co-operated with me and helped me to gather information which I could not find in any book and without which this work would not have been possible.

I owe my gratitude, respect and thanks to my brother, Mr. Dipankar Bose, for providing constant encouragement and helping me in data collection during the field survey and

data compilation in the composition of thesis without which it would have been difficult to accomplish this research work.

I express my sincere thanks to my Parents for their motivations, co-operations and mental support which I needed in difficult times. I am immensely grateful to my little daughter Namrata for all her sacrifices and giving me strength to complete this thesis.

Date:

**(Ranjita Roy Sarkar)**