Preface

The great scholars and academicians do not show any excuse regarding the time frame, economic constrain, lack of literature in the field but while doing my research studies, had to face crop lot of such huddles which perhaps no great academician could speak out in public. There is no gain in saying the fact, that Darjeeling is a ‘Diaspora,’ since the colonial days under the British regime. Many small and big communities made their permanent residence in Darjeeling, although the Lepchas, were the original domiciles of Darjeeling. Bhutias and Nepalese came in number and the Nepalese in particular have over shadowed the permanent settlers there.

Many researches have been done regarding the Gorkhaland, Nepalis, Bhutias, Lepchas and other tribal as well. But many tiny groups of inhabitants remained untouched. Belonging to such a small immigrant community, i.e., I have come across the hopes and despair, dreams and desires of the community, which provoked me to take up such a topic for my research. To my beliefs it would through some light about the immigration problems in different cities and towns of India, how to overcome from such difficulties in general and the Balmikis residing in Darjeeling in particular. It could perhaps be treated as a small humanitarian duty towards once own community who have been suffering from ignorance, superstitions, illiteracy and poverty for which they, themselves are never to be blamed. The problem of untouchability is an age old disease in India, which annihilates the social physic of our nation, more than 1/3rd of its population are direct victims of such destructive disease, for which we must find out the panacea for it. If my endeavour can create any impression upon it, I would be ever grateful to such communities.
The problem of immigration today covers many aspects of communities under different given circumstances, it has often made the global map upside down. Darjeeling is located in such a fundamental position that the lives of many nationalities are intimately and intricately related to it. Darjeeling issue is not confined within the periphery of district or state. Neither it was confined within the territory of West Bengal, nor was it national issue alone, rather it may be taken into consideration as an international issue. Due to its strategic location. Darjeeling enables us to study both micro and macro level for a positive outcome. The issues of Balmikis are fairly significant simply because of the fact that it represents one of the poorest of the poor community.

In pursuing my studies, I have received lot of encouragements from my fellows, colleagues, and teachers and from the community itself. I like to convey my gratitude to them.