

Chapter-4

Livelihood conditions of Tea Gardens Women

4.0 Introduction: The tribal people are mostly dominated in the tea belt of North Bengal. Socio-economically they belong to the lowest rung of the social ladder. They reside in peripheral situations and feel much vulnerable because of poor social exposures in society. Normally they are indentured, isolated and deprived sections of the society, live within the boundary of tea gardens and isolated from the mainstream of society. They are illiterate and ignorant, so, not aware of different labour welfares and social security schemes in their workplaces (Ghosh, 2014). In the tea gardens, the majority of worker is female as they are suited for tea leaves plucking. So planters targeted women in tea plantation due to their plucking efficiency, obedience, high attendance in work and their availability (Gurung & Roy Mukherjee, 2018). But in the tea gardens of Terai, the women, adolescent girls even children continuously working but they don't know their basic rights in tea gardens (Das et al., 2006). They are paid very low wages and provide welfares and social benefits such as housing, medical facilities, education for children, subsidized ration, drinking water supply, land for cultivation and firewood which are statutory obligations (under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951). These facilities only allotted for the family of permanent workers and their bonafide dependents (Mukherjee, 2007; Dutta, 2015). The provision of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 entitled other benefits i.e. subsidized food, slipper, umbrella, raincoat, blanket, provident fund, the bonus in festivals due to marginal living, they expensed more for fooding and minimum for education. They also supplied fuel, yet sometimes they purchase and collect from shelter trees of tea gardens and nearby forests (Datta, 2017). The living environment of the tea garden workers is very deplorable which is unhygienic and unhealthy, their homestead area is too small even they cook within their living rooms and reared livestock (goat, cow, and poultry) in attached places of the living room (Barkat et al., 2010). The majority of workers living in *Katcha* houses and its condition are very poor mostly made of *tin* and plastic, *triple* and *chattai*. According to the statutory provisions of Plantation Labour Act, 1951 (clause 8), there was an effective arrangement of drinking water in every labour houses of the plantation which is unavailable in the majority of tea gardens moreover workers enjoyed company quarters have not sufficient lights and ventilation in houses which leads prone of diseases. The majority of workers are casual deprived form housing accommodation; they built houses their own hardship or share houses of permanent workers for living. They are also deprived

of basic needs in tea gardens i.e. pure drinking water, crèches, schools, proper health facilities, sanitation and wages on due time, even authority subtract money for providing facilities that also not really exist in workers' households (Borah, 2013). As a result, the livelihood condition of tea gardens people is miserable just they working for food in the mouth. They will remain starved if not work any day. So, their demands and requirements are nominal and their standard of living is much low. They use materials that are very simple such as earthen pitcher, aluminum utensils and very limited furniture. According to the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, there was the provision of separate latrines and urinals for males and females which are totally absent in the tea garden. There is only one tea garden named Kamalpur TG where the community latrine and bathroom found as debris, no further repairing has been done till to date. Workers practices open field defecation. Women travel a long-distance consuming more than 15 minutes for fetching drinking water found in Azmabad TG, Meriview TG, Gangram TG, Gayaganga TG, Putinbari TG, Vijoyagar TG, Sukna TG, Marapur TG, KiranChandra TG, Fulbari TG, Raipur TG, Joypur TG, Shikarpur TG.

The present chapter deals with the livelihood condition of the tea gardens people of Terai of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, where family characteristics (family head, religion, ethnicity, mother tongue and their speaking languages, family type and family size) demographic structure (i.e. age-sex composition, marital status, educational attainment, occupation), their consumption pattern (i.e. handling, consumption pattern, consumption of subsidizes ration), households environments (i.e. homestead, types of houses, housing environments, sanitation, drinking waters, drainage facility, household assets) decadal transformation of livelihood.

4.1 Family Profile and Characteristics:

The family profile of households indicates the scenario of a family compositional pattern of their livelihood. In the absence of reliable data on the socio-economic condition of women in the Terai tea gardens, the study has been preceded for portraying the scenario of women in Tea gardens of Terai.

- ❖ **Head of the Family:** The male-headed families are found in the study areas but women manage family and take decision important fields of the household which also non-existence extent (Datta, 2017). But the heads of the family is older one who

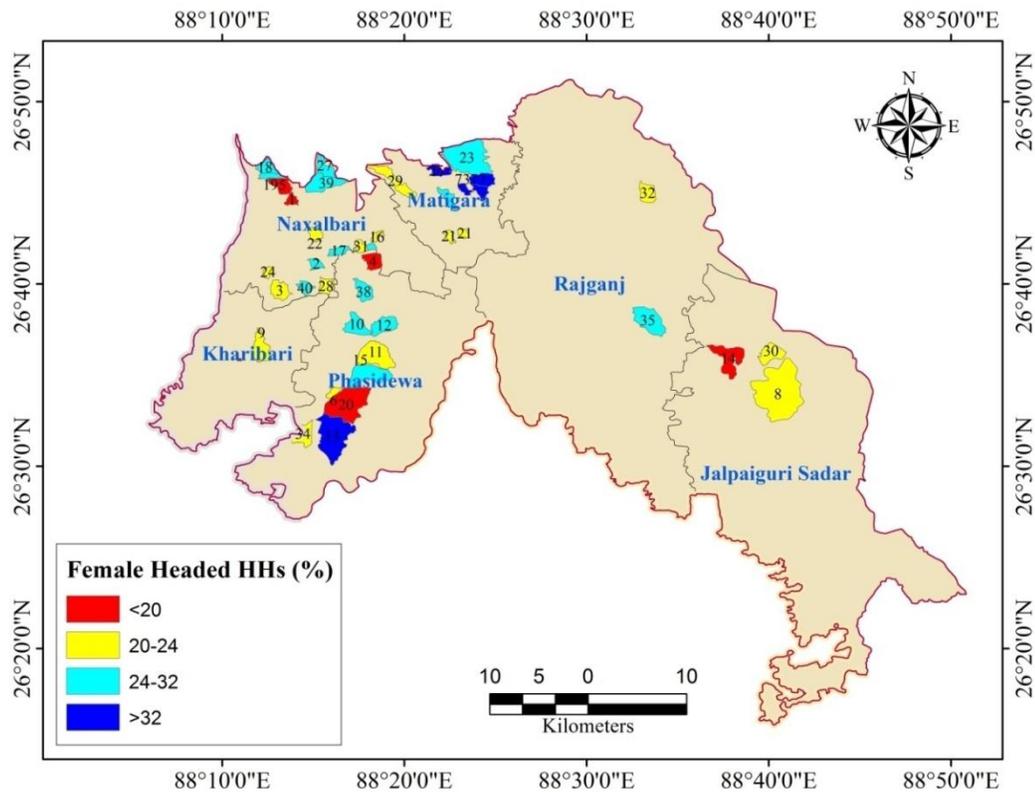
controls household. But during the investigation, it is revealed that the head of the family is always not aware of conscious and literate for managing family.

Table 4.1: Head of the Family (in percentage)

Region	Male headed					Female-headed			
	Husband	Father in law	Father	Other male members	Total	Respondents	Mother in-laws	Mother	Other female members
Terai	60.90	11.60	1.80	0.80	75.10	15.50	6.80	2.30	0.30
Darjeeling	60.69	11.43	1.71	0.69	74.52	16.46	6.63	2.29	0.11
Jalpaiguri	62.40	12.80	2.40	1.60	79.20	8.80	8.00	2.40	1.60

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

From the table 4.1, most of the family (75.10 per cent) is headed by a male (husband of women, father in law, father and other male members) and remaining 24.90 per cent households headed by a female (respondent themselves, mothers-in-law, mother and other female members). It is also noticeable that the percentage of the male-headed house is more in Jalpaiguri than the Darjeeling district (APPENDIX-III). It is observed that there are 35.00 per cent tea gardens (14 in number) were more than 80 per cent of households



Map 4.1: Female Headed Households in Tea Gardens

are male-headed. In the study areas, the female-headed households also found which indicates the women's dominance in the surveyed tea gardens. It is clear from Map 4.1 that less than 20 per cent female-headed households are reported in the tea gardens named Denguajhar TG, Joypur TG, Satish Chandra TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Meryview TG, Bagdogara TG, Gayaganga TG, Motidhar TG, Sayedabad TG. While 24-32 female-headed HHs reported in Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Fulbari TG, Azmabad TG, Kamalpur TG, Paharghomia TG, Sannysithan TG, Nishchintapur TG, Atal TG, Trihana TG, Vijoyagar TG, Kamala TG. On the other hand, more than 32 per cent female-headed HHs found in tea gardens named Shikarpur TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Ord Terai TG, Gangaram TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG, Dagapur TG, New Chamta TG, Sukana TG, Hansqua TG, Jayantika TG.

❖ **Mother Tongue:** The study of Sarit Bhowmik in the tea gardens of North Bengal revealed plantation people forget native language due to long reside (2-3 generation) in tea gardens and speaks in a mixture of Multilanguage called *Sadri*. So, the majority of women (63.70 per cent) reported that *Sadri* is their mother tongue. *Sadri* as mother language was reported in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri (85.60 per cent). About 13.60 per cent respondents response to *Oraon* languages as mother tongue which is reported in the tea garden of Darjeeling (15.20 per cent) compare to Jalpaiguri (2.40 per cent). On the other hand, 5.90 per cent respondents reported to *Adivasi* as mother tongue such as *Mundari, Bengali, Nepali, Rajbanshi, Santhal, Hindi* although spoken by some but not prominent in the study area (Fig. 4.1).

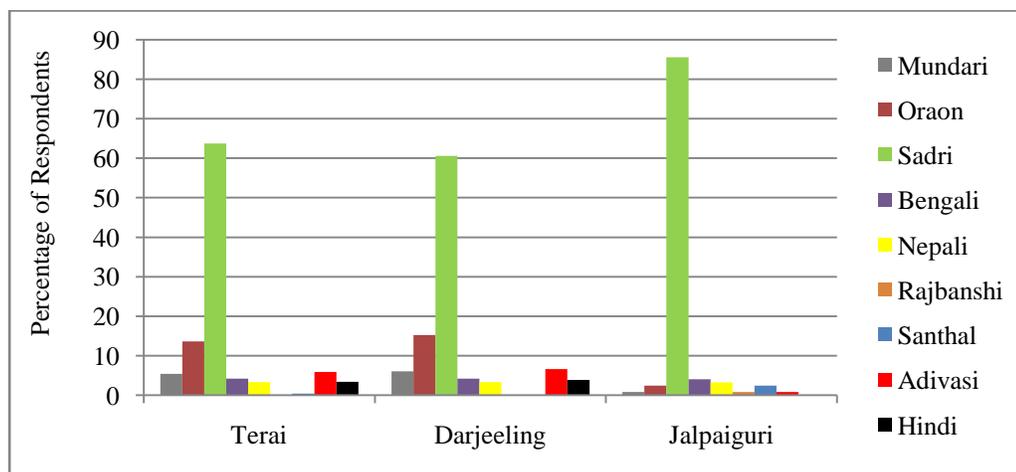


Fig 4.1: Mother Language in Tea gardens

❖ **Languages:** The study shows people in the tea gardens speak in multi-languages and understood multi-languages also. So, most of the respondents speak in *Sadri* (75.60 per cent) where they replied *Sadri* as a mother tongue in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (88.80 per cent) and Darjeeling (73.70 per cent).

Table 4.2: Spoken language (in percentage)

Region	Sadri	Oraw	Bengali	Behari	Sadri & Bengali	Nepali	Ranbanshi	Hindi	Adivasi	Santhal
Terai	75.60	3.80	3.60	1.60	2.10	2.80	0.20	3.30	6.60	0.40
Darjeeling	73.70	4.34	3.54	1.83	2.40	2.74	0.11	3.77	7.43	0.11
Jalpaiguri	88.80	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.80	0.00	0.80	2.40

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

But 6.60 per cent respondents replied that they speak in *Adivasi* language which is spoken by more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (7.43 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (0.80 per cent) district. On the other hand, 3.80 percent respondent speaks in *Oraon*, found in the tea garden of Darjeeling only. While *Bengali* and *Hindi* speaking respondents found much less i.e. 3.60 per cent and 3.30 per cent respectively (Table 4.2).The *Behari*, *Nepali* and *Ranjbanshi* speaking respondents are also found in the study area.

❖ **Type of Family:** In the study area, majority of respondents (50.20 percent) replied that they belong to the nuclear family (Fig. 4.2) (the composition of wife, husband and their dependents child)found mostly in the tea garden of Darjeeling (50.29 percent) compare to Jalpaiguri (49.60 percent). Whereas 39.60 per cent belong to joint and extended family (the composition of wife, husband, children, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, father, mother and other members) in the study area. In the tea garden of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri 39.89 per cent and 37.60 per cent of families are joint. While 8.60 percent respondents belong to the broken family (the composition of either wife or husband and their children) found more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (8.91 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (6.40 per cent). Only 1.60 percent respondents belong to Single-family (the composition of only wife and husband) found a wide variation in Jalpaiguri (6.41 percent) and Darjeeling (0.91 percent) of the study area.

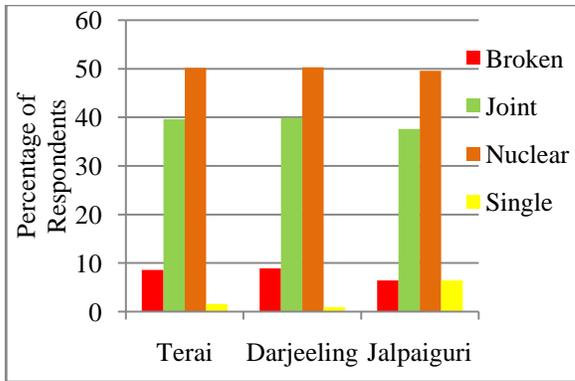


Fig 4.2: Family Types

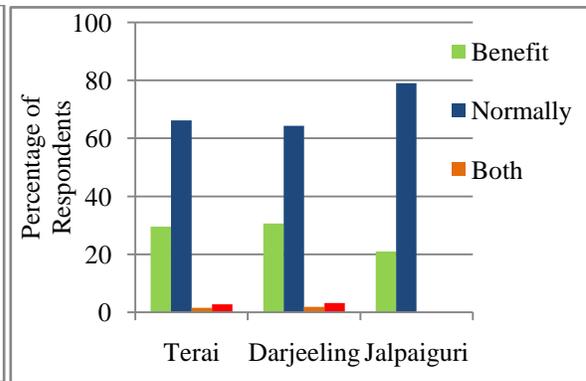


Fig 4.3: Causes of Nuclear Family

In the study areas, the majority are of families are nuclear families, i.e. 66.14 percent, due to more members in the family they formed nuclear families normally (Fig. 4.3) which is mostly found in Jalpaiguri (79.03 per cent) than Darjeeling (64.32 per cent) of the study area. While 29.48 percent respondent prefer nuclear family as they get benefits (permanency and other facilities) 20.97 percent and 30.68 percent in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling respectively are nuclear family. Although 2.79 percent because of the scarcity of land they formed nuclear families found only in the tea garden of Darjeeling of Terai.

❖ **Family Size:** The family size is a matter of concern in the tea garden. Table 4.9 expressed majority of family (45.40 per cent) is small (below 4 members). 44.80 percent and 45.49 percent respectively in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling are small size and it has been reported in the TG named Shikarpur TG (52.00 percent), Raipur TG (52.00 percent) of Jalpaiguri and New Chamta TG (68.00 percent), Ord Terai TG (64.00 percent), Gangaram TG (64.00 percent) and Jayantika TG (64.00 percent) of Darjeeling families are small size. While 44.20 percent family belong to medium size (4-6 members) found in Saraswatipur TG (64.00 percent), Joypur TG (48.00 percent) of Jalpaiguri and Sayedabad TG(64.00 percent), Kamalapur TG(56.00 percent), Bijlimoni TG (52.00 percent), Taipoo TG (52.00 percent), Vijoynagar TG(52.00 percent) of Darjeeling. Whereas only 10.40 percent families belong to large family (above 6 members) reported in 11.20 percent and 10.29 percent in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling respectively, large families are found in Raipur TG (16.00 percent), Denguajhar TG (16.00 percent) of Jalpaiguri and Naxalbari TG (24.00 per cent), Satish

Chandra TG (20.00 percent), Sukna TG (16.00 percent), Bijlimoni TG (20.00 percent) and Motidhar TG (20.00 percent) of Darjeeling.

Table 4.3: Family Size

Region	Family size			Total
	Small(<4 members)	Medium (4-6 members)	Large (>6 members)	
Terai	454(45.40)	442(44.20)	104(10.40)	1000(100.00)
Darjeeling	398(45.49)	387(44.23)	90(10.29)	875(100.00)
Jalpaiguri	56(44.80)	55(44.00)	14(11.20)	125(100.00)

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

4.2 Population Structure and Characteristics:

❖ **Age-Sex Composition:** The age-sex composition of the study areas, where the female population (51.22 percent) is more than the male population (48.78 percent) in the study area. About 10.32 percent people are under age group of 15-19 where male is 4.95 percent and female is 5.37 percent and 12.18 percent people are in the age group of 20-24 whereas male is 5.71 percent and female is 6.47 percent and found 11.69 percent people in age group of 25-29, where male and female is 5.73 percent and 5.96 percent respectively. Although the population in the lower age group of 0-4 and 5-9 is 7.39 percent and 9.99 percent respectively where people of the old age group of 60-64 and 65-69 are 2.40 percent and 1.04 percent respectively.

In Jalpaiguri district, most of the people (11.30 percent) are in the age group of 25-29, whereas the male is 5.40 percent and female is 5.90 percent. Near about 11.29 per cent people are in the age group of 5-9 whereas male and female are 5.56 percent and 5.73 percent respectively. On the other hand, 11.13 per cent populations are in the age group of 20-24 whereas 4.55 percent and 6.58 percent are male and female. The old-age populations in the age group of 60-64, and 65-69 is 2.87 percent and 0.84 percent respectively. While in the tea garden of Darjeeling, people mostly (12.33 percent) are in the age group of 20-24 where male and female 5.88 percent and 6.45 percent and 11.75 percent population are the age group of 25-29 where male and female is 5.78 percent and 5.97 percent respectively. On the other hand, 10.30 per cent people are in the age group of 15-19, where the male is 4.82 percent and female is 5.51 percent respectively. The

lower age group of 0-4 and 5-9 the people are 7.05 percent and 9.80 percent respectively wherein the old age group of 60-64 and 65-69 the population is 2.34 percent and 1.06 percent respectively. The populations in the age group of 15-59 are much more than a dependent age group of 0-14 and above 65 year of the people (APPENDIX-IV).

❖ **Marital Status:** Table 4.4 showing the nuptiality scenario of the study area, where 45.76 percent of people are married where 23.03 percent and 22.73 per cent are male and female. Although found a small variation in the tea garden of Darjeeling (45.94 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (44.52 per cent). On the other hand, 47.85 percent people are unmarried where 24.55 percent is male and 23.30 percent is female and reported in tea garden of Jalpaiguri (49.75 per cent) is slightly higher than Darjeeling (47.58 per cent). People are under categories of a widow, widower and divorcee also found in the study area.

Table 4.4: Marital status

Region	Unmarried		Married		Widow		Divorcee	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Terai	24.55	23.3	23.03	22.73	1.01	5.16	0.00	0.21
Darjeeling	24.49	23.09	23.14	22.8	0.92	5.32	0.00	0.24
Jalpaiguri	24.96	24.79	22.26	22.26	1.69	4.05	0.00	0.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

❖ **Educational Attainment:** The educational status of workers in the study area is also very poor, because of struggle at early stages for their livelihood. As a result, they do not get opportunities to utilize their intellectual skills and interaction with educated people so feeling a lack of different issues of human resources (Chowdhury et al., 2011). The education of tea gardens people is a matter of concern because of their illiteracy and level of education is very poor (Fig. 4.4). In the study areas, 68.45 per cent people are literate where the male is much higher (37.72 percent) than of female (30.74 percent). Literacy of the tea garden of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri is 68.87 per cent 65.42 per cent respectively. Only 20.58 per cent attain a primary level whereas the male (11.23 per cent) are more than female (9.35 per cent). About 25.88 per cent people attain upper primary, whereas male and female is 14.08 per cent and 11.80 per cent respectively. Only 13.29 per cent people attain at the secondary level education and

found variation in male (7.14 per cent) and female (6.15 per cent). Whereas 6.07 percent attained the higher secondary level education where male and female is 3.58 per cent and 2.49 per cent respectively. But only 2.47 per cent and 0.17 per cent people attain at graduation and post-graduation level of education (Fig. 4.5).

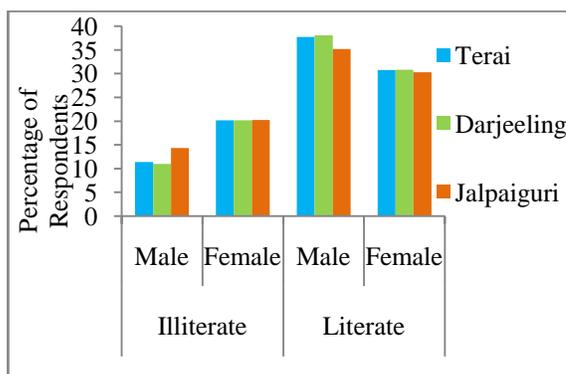


Fig. 4.4: Educational Status

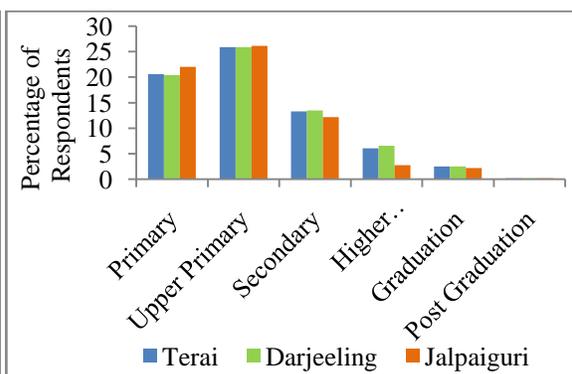


Fig 4.5: Highest Educational attainment

❖ **Occupation:** The study reveals the tea gardens people are engaged mostly in tea garden work occupation of diversification. Table 4.5 shows 21.26 per cent people are permanent workers. In Jalpaiguri (23.44 per cent) reported higher than Darjeeling (20.95 per cent). But in the study area, *Bigha* or temporary worker (18.02 per cent) is less than permanent workers as reported in the tea garden of Darjeeling (18.69 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (13.32 per cent).

Table 4.5: Occupational Structure

Region	PW	<i>Bigha</i>	Daily labour	Stay in home	Driving	Housewife	Constructional workers	Retire	Work in a commercial shop
Terai	21.26	18.02	4.15	7.59	0.88	3.56	1.35	5.14	1.33
Darjeeling	20.95	18.69	3.88	7.44	0.94	3.49	1.44	5.01	1.30
Jalpaiguri	23.44	13.32	6.07	8.60	0.51	4.05	0.67	6.07	1.52

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

About 4.15 percent workers are daily labour, variation found in Jalpaiguri (6.07 per cent) and Darjeeling (3.88 per cent). Whereas 34.34 per cent people are engaged in other occupations (comprises students and child), significantly found in tea garden of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. Although 5.14 per cent people are retire and not work in tea gardens, yet found in Jalpaiguri (6.07 per cent) than Darjeeling (5.01 per cent). Where

1.35 percent people are constructional labour. 1.44 per cent and 0.67 per cent constructional labourers are found in the tea garden of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri respectively. While 3.56 per cent women are housewives engaged in house chores. On the other hand, 1.33 per cent people are involved in running commercial shop. Moreover, 1.85 per cent people are involved in government services. In Jalpaiguri, 1.18 percent and in Darjeeling, 1.95 percent workers are engaged in govt services. The people engaged in private job and agriculture is very limited in the study area.

4.3 Family Expenditures: The nature of income-expenditure of tea gardens people reflects their economic condition and standards of living. Since the economic condition of the tea garden workers is nominal because their purchasing power and consumption pattern are very poor for economic hardship. Their requirement is very least and expenses meager in consumption for a living (Table 4.6). Most of their earning are expensed averagely Rs. 3283.10 in food which is just higher in the tea garden of Darjeeling (Rs.3299.77) than Jalpaiguri (Rs.3166.40). After food, expenses a lot in drinking Rs.516.28 monthly found more in Darjeeling (Rs. 525.37) than Jalpaiguri (Rs.452.64). Whereas they expense in education Rs. 389.89 monthly reported in the tea garden of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri is Rs.396.61 and Rs.342.88 respectively. Although their expense in health, housing, clothing, ceremonies, transport, electricity, animal husbanding are least for livelihood.

Table 4.6: Monthly average expenditure (in Rs.) in HHs

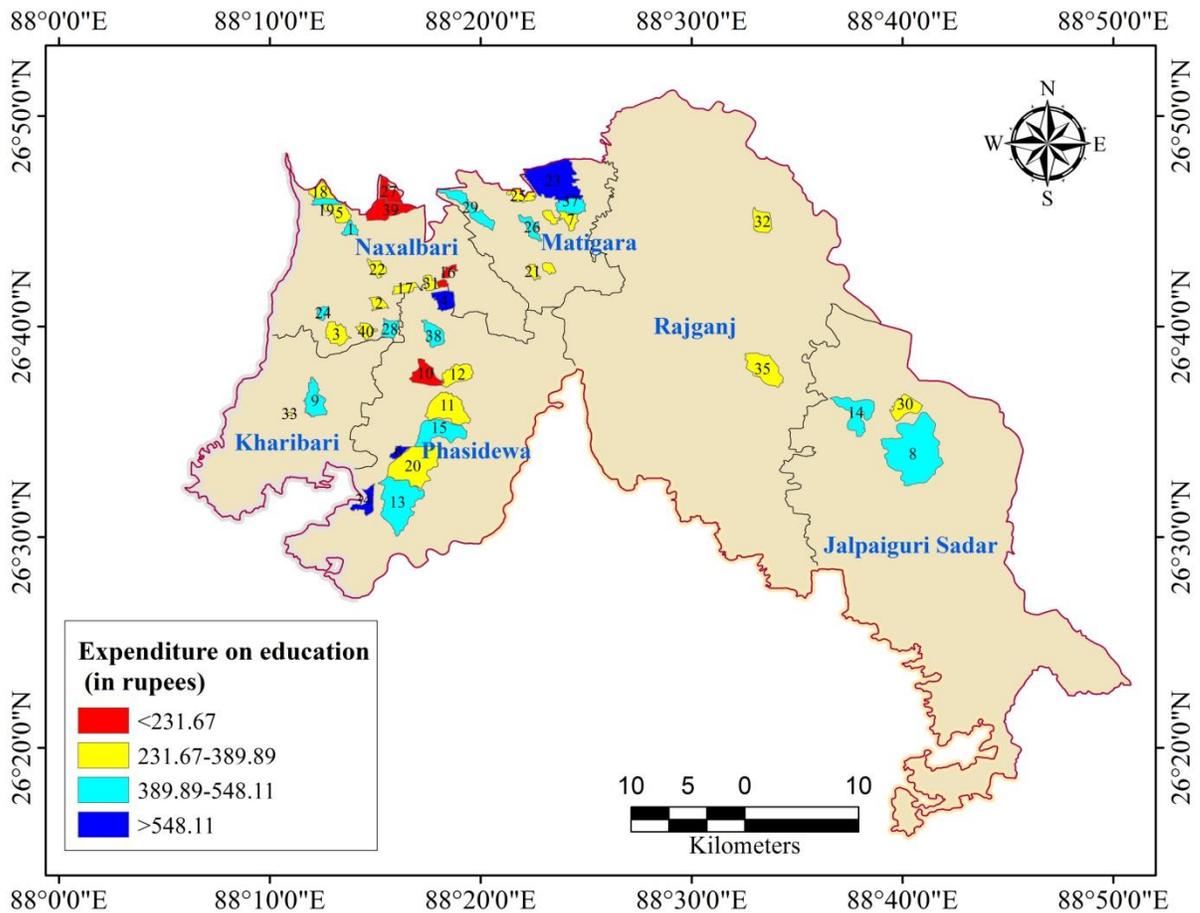
Region	Food	Education	Health	Drink	Housing	Clothing	Animal	Ceremonies	Transport	Electric	Others
Terai	3283.1	389.89	80.70	516.28	190.75	236.52	5.07	103.2	274.62	164.61	508.55
Jalpaiguri	3166.4	342.88	82.12	452.64	141.38	216.4	0.40	79.28	253.68	142.13	438.4
Darjeeling	3299.77	396.61	80.50	525.37	197.8	239.4	5.74	106.62	277.61	167.82	518.57

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

❖ **Expenditure on Food Consumption:** The study reveals that most of their earning expenses on food wherein 35 per cent tea gardens (14 in number) named Denguajhar TG, Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Fulbari TG, Azmabad TG, Ord Terai TG, Sannyasithan TG, Vijoyanagar TG, Jayantika TG, Kamala TG, Sayedabad TG, and Sukna TG expensed Rs. 2953.80 to Rs.3283.10 monthly for food. About 32.50 percent tea gardens (13 in number) expensed Rs.3283.10 to Rs.3612.40. whereas more than Rs. 3612.40 expensed for food reported in 17.50 percent tea gardens namely Joypur TG, Matigara

TG, New Chamta TG, Belgachi TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG and remaining 15 percent of the tea garden reported the expenses less than Rs.2953.80 monthly for food in the study area (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on Education:** Education for tea gardens people is vital due to their. They expense very least in education than other sectors of their living. Map 4.2 reveals where only 5 tea gardens named (Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Bagdogra TG, Bijlimoni TG, and Sayedabad TG) expensed more than Rs.548.11 for education. Whereas 37.50 per cent tea gardens (15 in number) expense Rs. 231.67 to Rs.389.89 and also Rs. 389.89 to Rs.548.11 monthly for their child education. Only 5 tea gardens expense less than Rs. 231.67 monthly for their child education (Map 4.2).



Map 4.2: Expenditure on Education in Tea Gardens

❖ **Expenditure on Health:** Health is a vital issue of social phenomena in the study area. The tea gardens employees (permanents workers) are benefitted in health care and

medicine from tea gardens hospital. Due to poor facilities, they go to the outer practitioner or doctor and government hospital for treatment during illness. They expense more than Rs.99.45 100 per month reported in 9 tea gardens such as Denguajhar TG, Satish Chandra TG, Sukna TG, Azmabad TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Kamala TG. Whereas workers expense Rs. 61.95 to Rs. 80.70 for health purposes reported in 13 tea gardens (32.50 per cent) of the study area. There are 17.50 percent tea gardens (7 in numbers) where they expense less than Rs. 61.95per month for health purposes (Table 4.7).

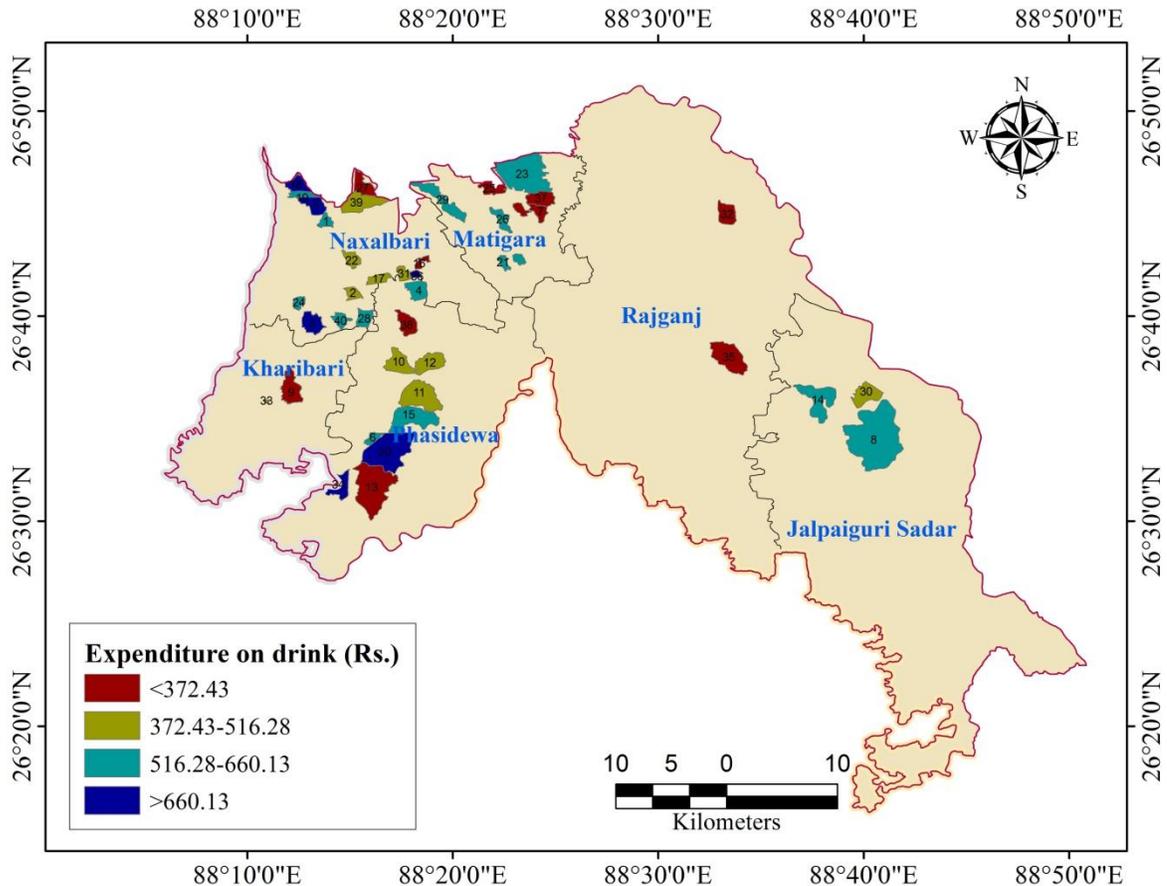
Table 4.7: Monthly Expenditure on Health

Expenditure in Rs.	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
<61.45	Fulbari TG, Nishchintapur TG, OrdTerai TG, Sannasithan TG, Gangaram TG, Gayaganga TG, Jayanatika TG	7	17.50
61.45-80.70	Joypur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Dagapur TG, Putinbari TG, Atal TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Vijohnagar TG, Bijlimoni TG, Hansqua TG,Sayedabad TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG	13	32.50
80.70-99.45	Raipur TG,Sikarpur TG, Mohorgaon&Gulma TG, Matigara TG, New Chamta TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Bagdogra TG, Motidhar TG	11	27.50
>99.45	Denguajhar TG, SatishCh TG, Sukna TG, Azmabad TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Kamala TG	9	22.50
Total	Mean: 80.70, SD: 18.75	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

❖ **Expenditure on Rice beer drink:** Drinking is common in the tea garden. They drink rice beer as a tonic of energy for daily work due to struggling from morning to evening in tea garden even children used marriages, festivals and other ceremonies where a few families of the tea gardens produced it for selling (Ghosh & Das, 2004). In most of the tea gardens (35.00 percent and 14 in numbers) they expense averagely Rs. 372.43 to 516.28 and also Rs. 516.28 to 660.13per month for drinking purposes and 15

percent tea gardens (6 in numbers) in each category expensed more than Rs. 660.13 and less than Rs. 372.43 monthly for these purposes reported in 15.00 per cent tea garden (Map 4.3).



Map 4.3: Expenditure on Drink in Tea Gardens

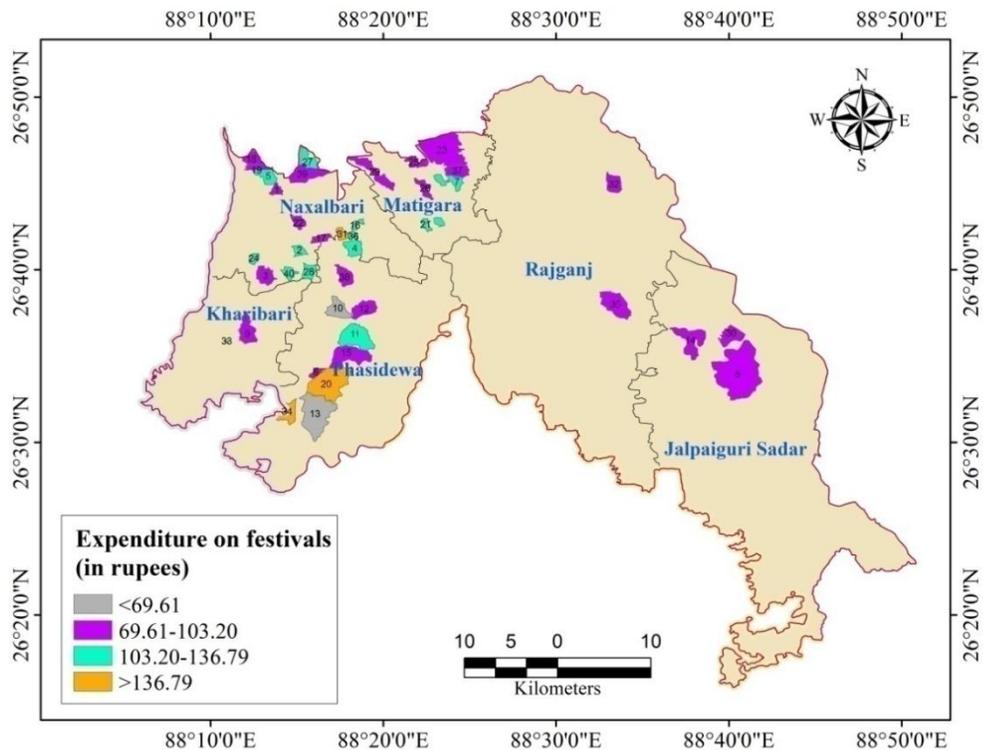
❖ **Expenditure on House Repairing:** There was the provision of repairing of permanent workers but found they are deprived of fund for repairing houses. It is found that workers expensed Rs. 92.24 to Rs. 190.75 repairing homes reported in most of the tea gardens (47.50 percent). While finding 15.00 percent TGs (6 in numbers) such as Belgachi TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Paharghomia TG, Sannyasithan TG expensed more than Rs. 289.26 monthly for housing repairing (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on Clothing:** Clothing is a basic need for living. They purchase clothes in one or two times during their occasion. The study reported that workers in

42.50 percent tea garden of the study (17 in numbers) expensed Rs. 236.52 to Rs.318.12 per month for closing and they also expensed Rs. 154.92 to Rs.236.52 monthly reported in 27.50 per cent tea gardens (11 in numbers). Whereas 15 per cent tea gardens (6 in numbers) expensed more than Rs. 318.12 and less than Rs. 154.92 to purchase clothes (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on Animals Husbandry:** In 62.50 percent tea gardens (25 in number) where respondents replied that they do not expense for animal food where more than Rs. 40.00 monthly expressed for animal monthly reported in 2.50 per cent of tea garden Rs. 20 .00 to Rs. 40.00 monthly expended in animal husbandry found in 10.00 percent tea gardens (4 in numbers) named Matigara TG, Atal TG, Kamalapur TG, Meryview TG (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on Ceremonies and Festivals:** Because of poverty they don't expense so much for religious ceremony and festival they always believed in traditionalized *puja* like *batpuja*, *boring puja*.



Map 4.4: Expenditure on Festivals in Tea Gardens

Where workers spend Rs.69.61-103.20 monthly for it reported in 52.50 percent tea gardens (21 in number). There are 30.00 percent tea gardens (13 in number) named Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalpur TG, Naxalbari TG, Ord Terai TG, Paharghomia TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bagdogra TG, Gayaganga TG, Singhiajhora TG where people spend Rs. 103.20-136.79 monthly for ceremonies of religious purposes (Map 4.4).

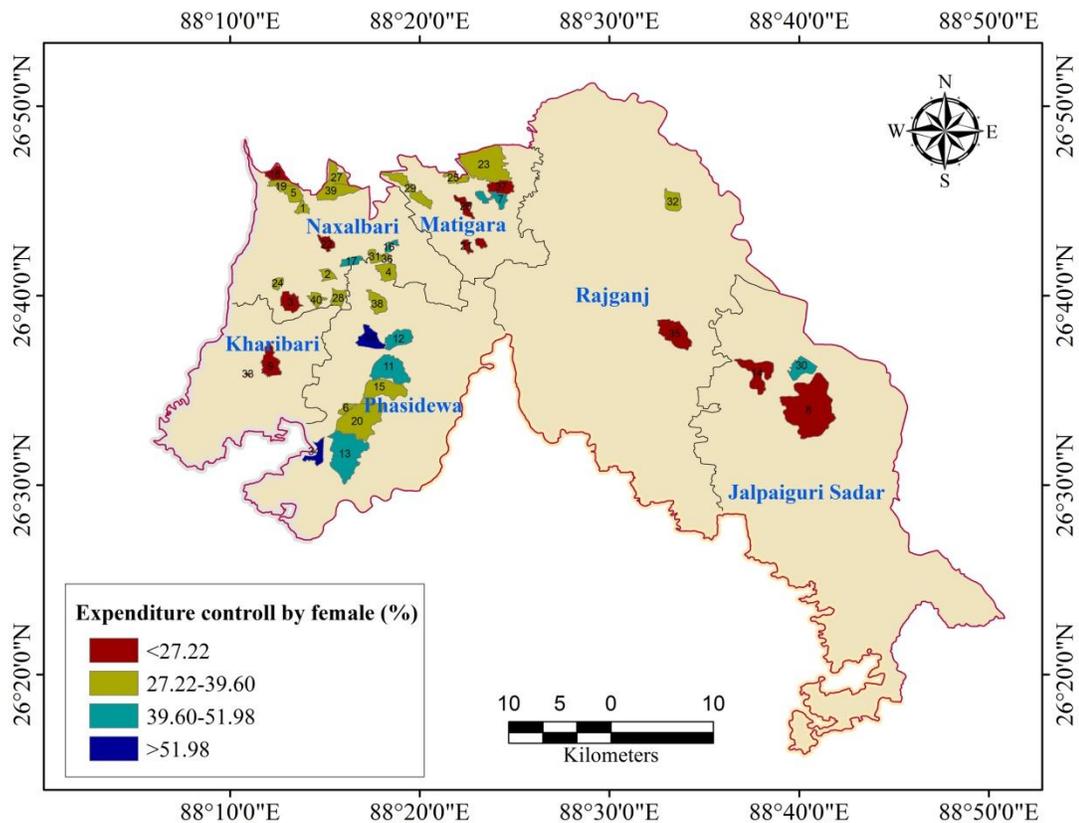
❖ **Expenditure on Transport:** Since tea gardens are isolated, so people across along for marketing and visiting relative's houses and expenses to some extent for this purpose. There are 35.00 percent tea gardens, wherein the expensed Rs. 221.10-274.62 and Rs. 274.62-328.14 and wherein 15.00 percent tea gardens (6 in number) named Meryview TG, Paharghomia TG, Vijoynagar TG, Kamala TG, Motidhar TG, Sayedabad TG women expensed more than Rs. 328.14 (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on Electricity:** The study reveals almost all the households of tea gardens are electrified and they paid some amount for electricity consumption. Whereas 45.00 per cent of tea gardens pay electric bill amounting Rs.164.61-181.06. whereas 32.50 per cent tea gardens (13 in numbers) pay Rs.148.16-164.61. 10 percent tea garden (4 in number) named Belgachi TG, Kamalpur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, and Trihana TG pay more than Rs. 181.06 for electricity (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Expenditure on other consumption:** In the study area the worker's expense in others (subscription, ration, hospitality) 35.00 percent tea gardens (14 in numbers) workers expensed Rs. 396.25-508.55 and also Rs. 508.55-620.85 respectively. In 15.00 percent tea gardens such as Ashapur TG, Kamalpur TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Kamala TG and Singhiajhora TG reported an expenditure of Rs. more than 620.85 per month for other purposes (APPENDIX- V).

❖ **Control over Family Expenditures:** In the tea gardens, control in family expenditures is very important because most of the workers remain drunk and expense much without management and conscious. The study shows the expenditure mostly controlled by the women indirectly of the households. Although family expenditure also supervised by husband (53.00 per cent) found more in Jalpaiguri (56.20 per cent) than Darjeeling (52.11 per cent). Whereas women control the family expenditure 37.10 per cent that found more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (37.94 per cent) than Jalpaiguri

(31.20 per cent). Although 4.70 per cent respondents replied that the family managed by their son prominently in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (4.80 per cent) and Darjeeling (4.69 per cent). Although in the tea gardens of Darjeeling, 0.69 per cent of respondents jointly control the expenditures. Father, mother, brother, daughter, in-laws also managed the expenditure of families which is very least (Map 4.5). On the other hand, more than 51.98 per cent women control family expenditures reported in 4 tea gardens (Gangaram TG, Hansqua TG, Jayantika TG, Sayedabad TG). In 45 per cent (18 in number) tea gardens where 39.60-51.98 per cent women managed the families' expenditures. Whereas only there 5 tea gardens less than 27.22 per cent Respondents control family expenditure where male is mostly involved in family management (Map 4.5).



Map 4.5 Expenditure controlled by Female in Tea Gardens

4.4 Food Habit: Due to violation of the provision of PLA, 1951 the workers of the tea gardens suffering from malnutrition and starvation, where death is very common in the tea gardens of North Bengal (Dasgupta, 2009). So, the standard of living is low due to poverty.

The nutritional consumption of the tea gardens people is nominal. They have a rare habit in consuming milk, egg because of their social taboo and they occasionally prefer animal meat (pig and also prefer poultry meat) when they get wages although, they have no weekly dietary routine due to economic hardship. Even they take pulse, merely which is essential for bodies. They also cook local pulse (a mixture of rice sap and Aram leave). Although the food habit of people in most of the tea gardens of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri is similar where they take a three-time meal of a day in the morning; they take breakfast (*Muri, Roti* and *Panta Vat*) noon around 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. they take lunch after returning in-home or at workplaces. They take a diner. Therefore the food item is nutritionally very poor to health and suffered from malnutrition. Although in most of the tea gardens, the respondents replied that they are still alive due to the subsidized cereal crop of *Khadya Sathi* in the study area.

4.5 Food Security: People enjoy the total security with subsidized rate through Public Distribution System (PDS) under categories of APL (Above Poverty Line), BPL (Below Poverty Line), Antyodaya, etc. but study reveals that most of the households (49.00 per cent) of tea garden don't have ration cards (Fig. 4.6). 50.00 per cent tea gardens of Darjeeling and 46.00 per cent tea gardens of Jalpaiguri have no ration card. Only 15.00 per cent households are BPL, In the tea garden of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling 38.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent respectively are BPL families. But 35.00 per cent households are APL, found more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (38.00 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (14.00 per cent). Although most of the household workers have tea gardens ration cards (TGR) to receive kind material (cereal crop, sugar, tea) supplied by the authority. Whereas 30 tea gardens people haven't get Digital Ration Cards (DRC) also only 7.50 per cent tea gardens (3 in number) named Bijlimoni TG, Belgachi TG, Saraswatipur TG, where 60 to 95 percent respondents replied they received DRC and more than 95 per cent respondents received DRC reported in only 2 tea gardens named Marapur TG, Shikarpur TG (Table 4.8). Although the Government of West Bengal implemented a food and nutrition scheme named '*Khadya Sathi*' on January 27, 2016, for ensuring the food and nutrition (35 Kg food grain at the rate of Rs.2 in each family) for socio-economically backward people with very subsidized rates. But in the study areas, it is observed that after implementation of '*Khadya Sathi*' the PDS (Public Distribution System) have been abolished where all the

families of tea garden not getting food grains, even they deprived of a fixed amount of food grain (35 Kg per month)(Fig. 4.7).

Table 4.8: Received of Digital Ration Card

Households (%)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Nil	Fulbari TG, Nishchintapur TG, Ord Terai TG, Sannasithan TG, Gangaram TG, Gayaganga TG, Dagapur TG, Putinbari TG, Atal TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Vijoynagartg, HansquaTG, Sayedabad TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG, Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Matigara TG, New Chamta TG, Ashapur TG, Manjha TG, Bagdogra TG, Motidhar TG, Satish Chandra TG, Azmabad TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Kamala TG	30	75.00
<25	Sukna TG, Jayanatika TG	2	5.00
25-60	Joypur TG, Raipur TG, Denguajhar TG,	3	7.50
60-95	Bijlimoni TG, Belgachi TG, Saraswatipur TG,	3	7.50
>95	Marapur TG, Shikarpur TG,	2	5.00
Total		40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

whereas 11.00 per cent survey households are totally deprived of this food security '*Khadya Sathi prakalpa*' which is acute in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (20.00 per cent) than Darjeeling (10.00 per cent). Whereas 60.00 per cent households are not getting this fixed amount of food grains which is more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (64.00 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (37.00 per cent).

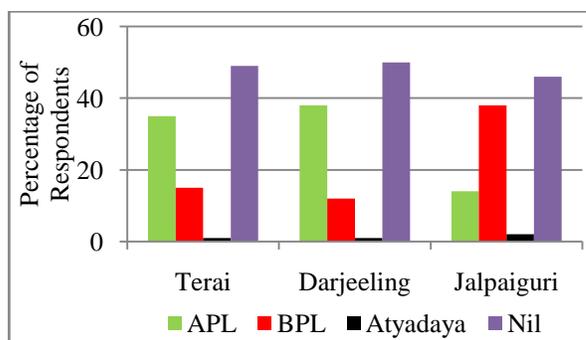


Fig 4.6: Government Ration Card

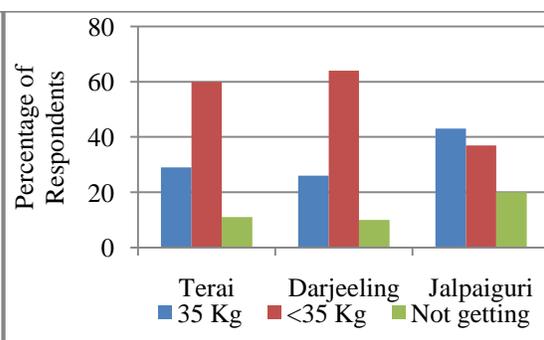


Fig 4.7: Food grain receive under Khadya Sathi Pakalpo

4.6 Households Environments:

❖ **Homestead Areas:** There was a provision of housing accommodation (two living room, one kitchen with sufficient kitchen gardening) and its repapering to the tea garden worker (PLA, 1951) with the hygienic environment but the study reveals the residing space is very small and also not enough campus with kitchen gardening. In some tea gardens, workers construct houses in a large area (Shikarpur TG, Meryview TG) (Fig. 4.8). So, apparently, most of the households (84.57 percent) possess a homestead area of 2.50-4.50 *Katha* even 12.34 percent households shared area of less than 2.50 *Katha* which is unhygienic to live reported in the tea garden of Darjeeling (12.34 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (12.80 per cent). On the other hand, only 2.90 per cent households shared more than 4.50 *Katha* areas for living which mostly found in households of Darjeeling (3.09 per cent).

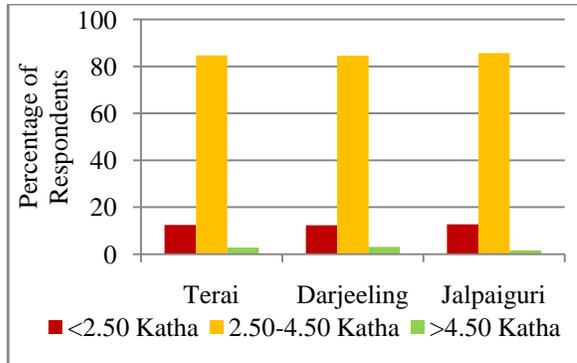


Fig 4.8: Homestead Area

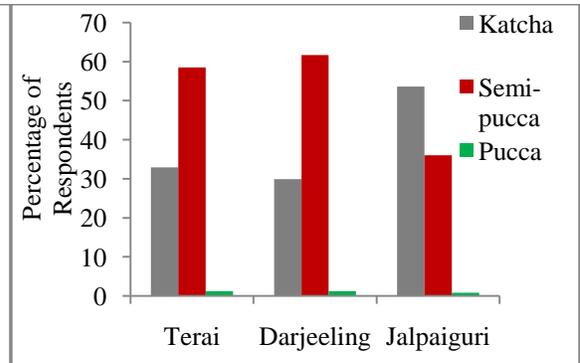


Fig 4.9: Types of Houses

❖ **Type of Houses:** There was a provision of accommodation with a hygienic environment for the employee in the tea gardens and also a provision of repairing. In the study, area houses are categories into three types i.e. *Katcha*, *Semi-pucca* and *Pucca* (Fig. 4.9). Where most of the houses (58.00 per cent) of workers are *semi-pucca* where the floor is cemented and wall and roof are other than cement (*tin*, *advester* and *tile*) which mostly observed in the tea garden of Darjeeling (61.71 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (36.00 per cent). But 32.90 percent houses are *katcha* found more in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (53.60 per cent) than Darjeeling (29.94 per cent). On the other hand, only 1.20 per cent houses of the employer are fully *pucca* and mostly found in Darjeeling (1.26 per cent).

❖ **Construction of Houses:** According to PLA, 1956 (Amendment) provision of houses for permanent worker households. Whereas only 56.30 per cent respondents residing in company quarters of poor condition found in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (40.80 per cent) than Darjeeling (58.51 per cent). The condition of company quarters is much worst, old, weak and unhygienic (Fig. 4.10). On the other hand, about 35.70 percent Respondents residing in their own constructed houses mostly *katcha* type which is found more in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri (50.40 percent) compare to Darjeeling (33.60 percent) of the study area. The workers rebuilt company quarters with the assist of some amount for

Table 4.9: Construction of Houses by Company Authority

Households (%)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
<38.15	Saraswatipur TG, Putinbari TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Paharghomia TG, Sayedabad TG	6	15.00
38.15-59.00	Joypur TG, Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, New Chamta TG, Azmabad TG, Kamalpur TG, Bijlimoni TG, Gangaram TG, Kamala TG, Motidhar TG	10	25.00
59.00-79.85	Denguajhar TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Marapur TG, Manjha TG, OrdTerai TG, Trihana TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bagdogra TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG, Jayanatika TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG	19	47.50
>79.85	Sannyasithan TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Nishchintapur TG, Matigara TG, Fulbari TG	5	12.50
Total	Mean: 59.00, SD: 20.85	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

Improving the hygienic conditions of residences while 4.80 per cent respondents residing in Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) (5.37 per cent) and also reported grievances of not getting the total sanctioned amount of house construction transparently because of political interferences. There (Table 4.9) are 5 tea gardens named Sannyasithan TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Nishchintapur TG, Matigara TG, Fulbari TG where more than 79.85 per cent respondents residing in company quarters. Where in most of the tea gardens (47.50 percent, 19 in numbers) 59.00-79.85 per cent respondents residing company houses of the study area.

❖ **Repairing of Houses:** There was also a provision of repairing houses by the company (PLA, 1951) but not found in the tea gardens. Even they remain sleepless at night during the rainy season because of the open wall and broken roof reported by a respondent named Anup Kumar of Saraswatipur TG (47 years old) of Raipur tea garden of Jalpaiguri district. Most of the respondents (53.90 percent) replied that they repaired their houses observed

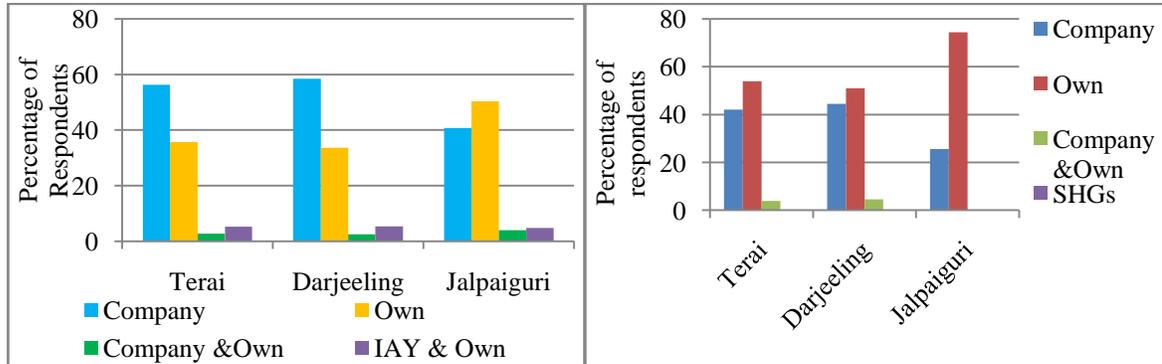


Fig 4.10: Construction of Houses

Fig 4.11: Repairing of Houses

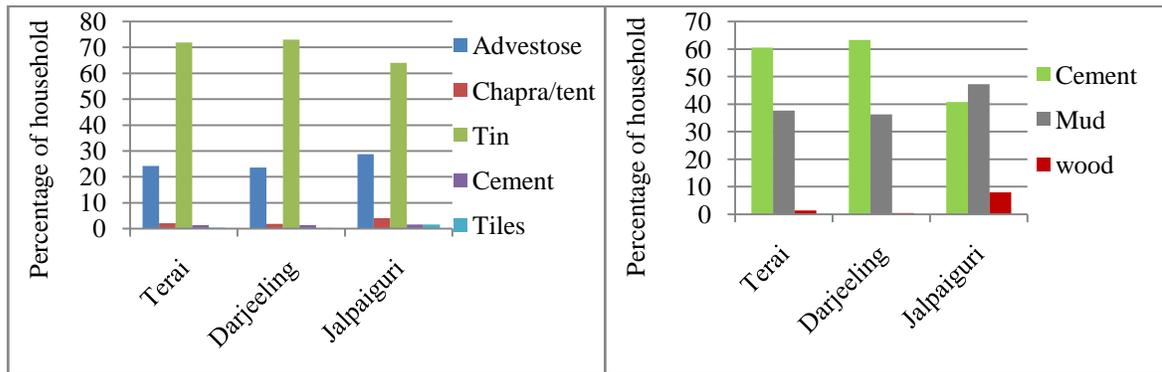


Fig 4.12: Type of Roofs

Fig 4.13: Type of Floors

more in a tea garden of Jalpaiguri (74.40 per cent). Where only 42.10 percent respondent replied company repaired houses after requisition of repairing although require a long period and mostly found in the tea garden of Darjeeling (44.46 per cent). There are four of Self Help Groups (SHGs) involved in repairing houses of tea gardens reported Gangaram TG of Darjeeling. It is also reported that in most of the tea gardens, company authorities not conscious to repair the company quarters regularly. The company allows Rs. 3800/3year for repairing yet not regular (Fig. 4.11).

4.7 Building Materials:

❖ **Type of Roof:** There are different types of roofs (such as *Asbestos*, *Chapra*, *Tin*, and *Cement*) found in the household of tea gardens. So, in the study area, most of the roof (71.90 per cent) of residing houses is made of tin (71.90 percent) mostly found 73.03 percent and 64.00 per cent in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. The roof made of *asbestos* (24.20 percent) mostly prominent in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (28.80 per cent). There also found shed, made of *triple* (2.10 per cent). Although *pucca* roof and roof made of *tile* found very least in the study area (Fig. 4.12).

❖ **Types of Floor:** The study reveals most of the floor of residing houses are made of cement (60.50 percent) found variation in a tea garden of Darjeeling (63.31 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (40.80 percent). While 37.60 per cent respondents residing on mud floor found more of the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (47.20 per cent) than Darjeeling (36.23 per cent). The workers residing double stored homes whose floor is made of wood for safely from animal hazards (elephant, leopard) mostly reported in Saraswatipur TG of Jalpaiguri (Fig. 4.13).

❖ **Type of Wall:** Although different types of wall found in residing houses of tea gardens workers. The wall made of bricks (57.70 per cent) prominent found in tea garden of Darjeeling (60.57 per cent). Due to the availability of bamboo the wall of many houses found made of local *Chatai* (22.30 per cent) mostly observed in tea garden of Jalpaiguri (30.40 percent) compare to Darjeeling (21.14 per cent). About 17.70 per cent respondents' houses wall is made of *tin* mostly observed in tea garden of Jalpaiguri (24.00 percent). Although fringes and wood walls of houses are also reported in the study area (Fig. 4.14).

4.8 Number of Bed Room: There was a provision of two living rooms, one kitchen with hygienic on environment accommodation to tea garden workers (PLA, 1951). Due to the large family size, they constructed houses. Although 2-3 residing rooms are found in the study area in most of the households (80.50 per cent). The same is found in the tea garden of Darjeeling (82.86 per cent) more compare to Jalpaiguri (67.20 per cent). Even workers living in single rooms with high congestion has been reported. About 17.80 per cent household is Darjeeling in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (32.80 per cent) (Fig. 4.15).

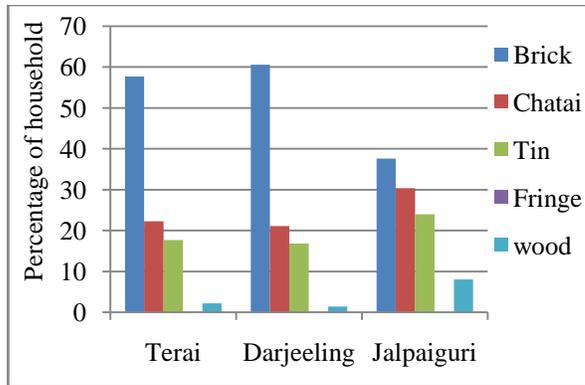


Fig 4.14: Types of Wall

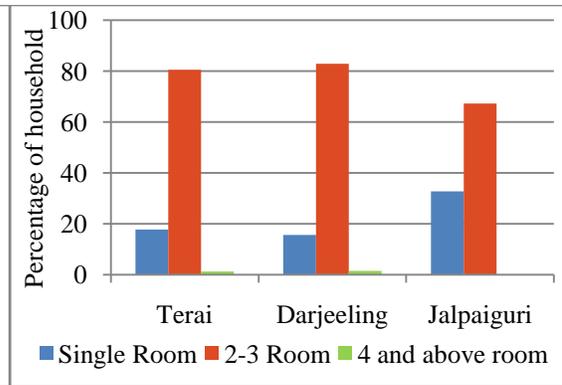


Fig 4.15: Number of Bed Room

4.9 Windows in Bed Room: The sufficient windows of the residing room indicate the healthy and hygienic conditions of houses. It is observed that the people residing in room of 3 windows which is small and shows unhygienic conditions. Although, 56.60 per cent women residing in the room with two windows found in the tea gardens of Darjeeling (59.20 per cent). On the other hand, 36.80 percent Respondents living in a room with single window which is found a wide variation in the tea garden of Darjeeling (33.20 percent) and Jalpaiguri (61.60 percent), indicate the highly unhygienic condition of residing rooms. Only 6.60 per cent respondents residing in a room with 3 windows which is found more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (7.54 per cent) of the study area(Fig. 4.16).

4.10 Kitchen Environments:

❖ **Kitchen Space:** The tea garden people cooking found in *Baranda* (attach to the living room), even within the living room and open space due to shortage of living space. In the study area, most of the women (72.60 percent) replied that they cook in a separate place from the living room found in the tea garden of Darjeeling (72.30 percent) and Jalpaiguri (74.40 percent). While 18.60 percent Respondents replied that they cook in to attach to the living room (*Baranda*) which creates an unhygienic and unhealthy environment during cooking with firewood which found more in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (19.20 per cent) and Darjeeling (18.51 per cent). Even workers cooking within

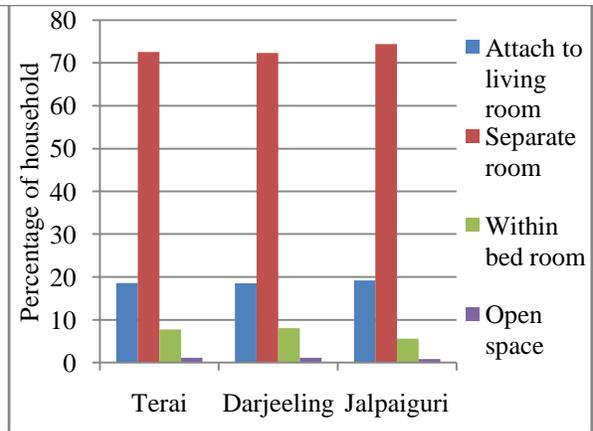
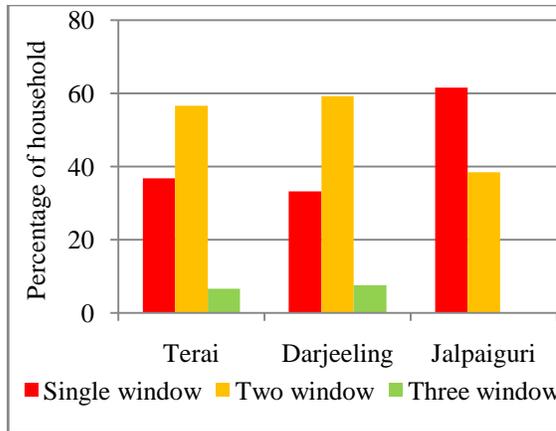


Fig 4.16: Number of Window in residing Houses

Fig 4.17: Types of Kitchen

the living room with firewood reported in 7.70 per cent household and mostly found in the tea garden of Darjeeling (8.00 per cent) them also cooking in open spaces due to shortage of living space of the study area (Fig. 4.17).

❖ **Type of Chullah:** The use of *chullah* for cooking is an important indicator of the standard of living. Most of the respondents (86.80percent) replied that they cooking in ordinary *chullah* and also found in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (88.80 percent) and Darjeeling (86.51 percent). Whereas 6.30 per cent women use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking and mostly benefitted to UJJALA scheme found in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (7.20 per cent). While 6.60 per cent respondents use LPG and ordinary *chullah* for cooking in the tea garden of Darjeeling (7.09 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (3.20 per cent) comparatively (APPENDIX-V).

❖ **Cooking Fuel:** The tea gardens workers procure firewood for cooking and supplied from company authority and also received some allowance for cooking (permanent workers household) but it is not available for the casual workers' household (Saikia et al., 2012). The study reveals that they are deprived of the actual quantity of firewood (provisioned in PLA, 1951). During the survey, it is observed that in most of that the tea gardens (40.00 per cent, 16 in number) where 70-90 per cent respondents replied they get firewood for cooking but not supplied actual amount (Table 4.10). Only 7 tea gardens named Raipur TG, Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Nishchintapur TG, Sannyasithan TG, Jayanatika TG, Hansqua TG, where more than 90 per cent

respondents get firewood from a company but not sufficient for throughout the year. On the other hand, 50-70 per cent Respondents stated that

Table 4.10: HHs benefitted from fuel Supply

Households (%)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
<53.71	Saraswatipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Naxalbari TG, Gangaram TG,	4	10.00
53.71-71.10	Denguajhar TG, Joypur TG, New Chamta TG, Ashapur TG, Azmabad TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalpur TG, Marapur TG, Manjha TG, Meryview TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogra TG,	13	32.50
71.10-88.49	Fulbari TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, Sukna TG, Atal TG, Kiran Chandra TG, OrdTerai TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bijlimoni TG, Gayaganga TG, Kamala TG, Motidhar TG, Sayedabad TG, Taipoo TG, Singhiajhora TG,	16	40.00
>88.49	Raipur TG, Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Nishchintapur TG, Sannyasithan TG, Jayanatika TG, Hansqua TG,	7	17.50
Total	Mean: 71.10, SD: 17.39	40	100.00

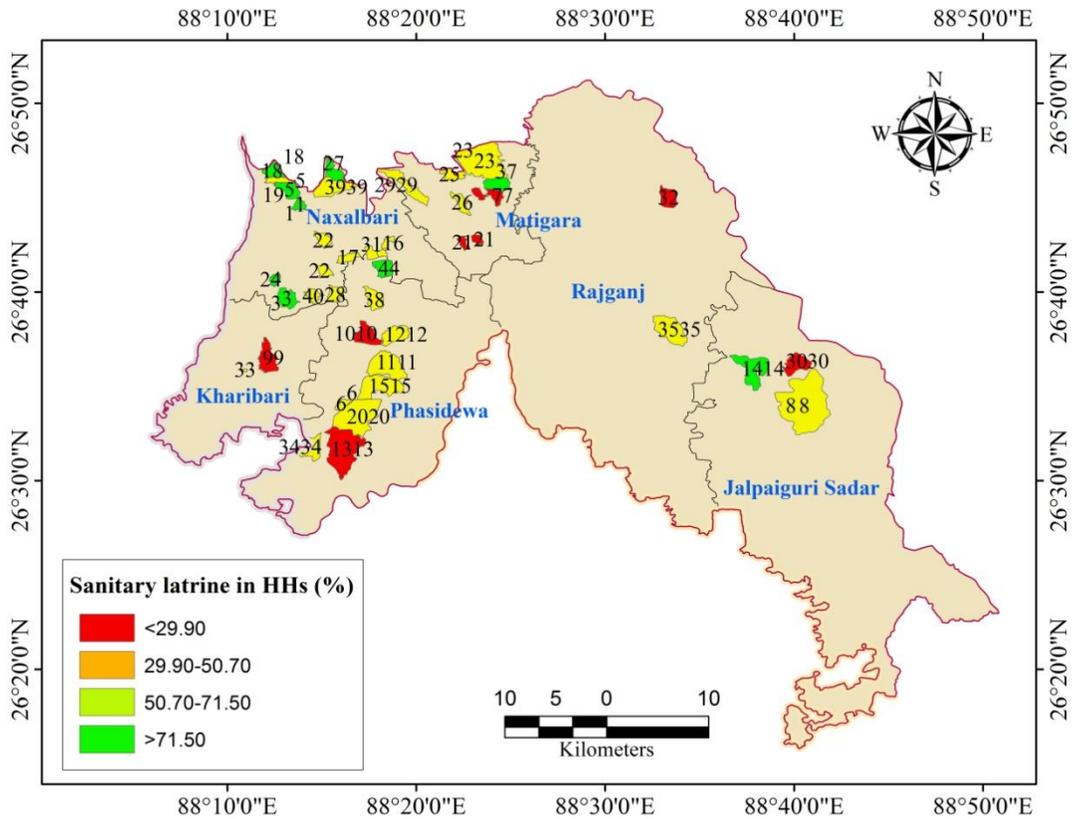
Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

they get wood from the company reported in 32.50 per cent tea gardens (13 in number) which is irregular and not sufficient. As a result, the worker collects firewood from tea garden or nearby *Jungles*.

4.11 Sanitation:

The study denotes the sanitation system in the tea garden is miserable and pathetic where sanitation facility is absent in half of the households of the tea gardens of the study area. Even people defecate in the open *jungle* and tea bushes near the *Nala* and drain. While the excreta of children thrown out near to residing places which create an unhygienic situation when washed to Dug well. There are 35.00 per cent TGs (14 in number) where sanitary latrine present in 50.70-71.50 per cent households. Whereas sanitary latrine present below 29.90 per cent households of 9 tea gardens named Joypur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Fulbari TG, Nishchintapur TG, Kamalpur TG, Sannyasithan TG, Gangaram TG, Singhiajhora TG (Map 4.6). On the other hand, about 22.50 per cent tea gardens (9 in

numbers) named Denguajhar TG, Dagapur TG, Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Atal TG, Azmabad TG, Meryview TG, Paharghomia TG, Vijoyagar TG, Motidhar TG and sanitation latrine present in more than 71.50 per cent households of the study area.



Map 4.6 Sanitation facilities in Tea Gardens

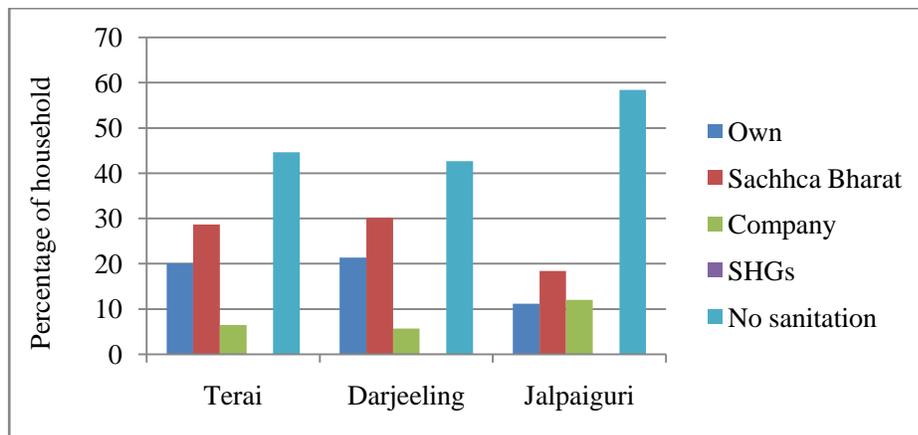


Fig. 4.18: Scheme under Sanitation

Although sanitary latrines (Fig. 4.18) of the tea gardens are prepared under schemes of Saccha Bharat (28.70 percent) because of their poverty and lack of awareness in health and hygiene mostly found in the tea gardens of Darjeeling (30.17 per cent) compare to

Jalpaiguri (18.40 per cent). Whereas only 20.10 percent household construct sanitary latrine which indicates awareness in sanitation found in the tea gardens of Darjeeling (21.37 per cent) and Jalpaiguri (11.20 per cent). About 6.50 per cent household construct latrine by the company, although there was a provision to provide sufficient sanitary latrine and maintenance for the employee of the tea gardens which is mostly observed in Jalpaiguri (12.00 per cent). As result workers of tea gardens are deprived of this health hygiene facility.

4.12 Drinking water:

❖ **Sources of Drinking Water:** The access to hygiene drinking water is a basic need to primary health but tea garden people suffering from water-borne diseases due to unhygienic conditions (Chowchury et al., 2011). There was the provision of sufficient drinking water supply to the employee of the tea gardens (PLA, 1951) which also not found properly. Even they collect the water beyond 0.5 Km from their household collected from various water sources such as tube well, dug well, tap and pipeline (Fig. 4.19). They collect especially (nonearning members of the households i.e. girl, retired members of family and wife) water for cooking and domestic purpose. Most of the respondents (60.90 percent) collect water from dug well, although not hygienic reported more in tea garden of Darjeeling (61.90 per cent) compare to Jalpaiguri (53.60 per cent). Whereas 26.30 percent women collect drinking water from the tube well found a variation in Jalpaiguri (32.80 percent) and Darjeeling (25.37 percent). They also collect drinking water from tap and pipeline in the study areas.

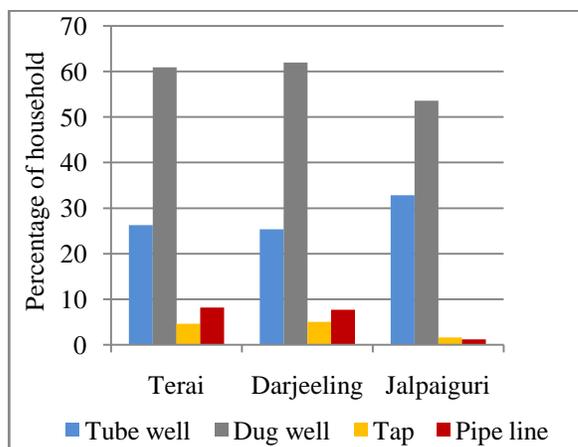


Fig 4.19: Sources of Drinking water

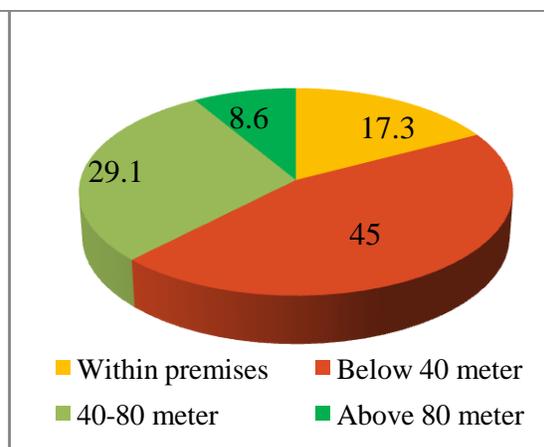


Fig. 4.20: Distances of water sources

❖ **The distance of Water Source from House:** In the study area, the workers suffering from pure hygienic drinking water. As per UNDP MPI (Multi Poverty Index) the household from which the source of drinking water is 0.5 Km is recognized as deprived of drinking water. The study denotes (Fig. 4.20) only 17.30 percent household collects water from a premise found more in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (33.60 per cent) than Darjeeling (14.97 per cent) (Table 4.11). Most of the households (45.00 per cent) collect water from a distance of fewer than 40 meters of tea garden. Whereas 8.60 per cent respondents replied they collect water from a distances more than 80 meters reported in Marapur TG, Azmabad TG, Vijoyanagar TG, Fulbari TG, Gangaram TG, Gayaganga TG, Paharghomia TG of Darjeeling.

Table 4.11: Distances of Sources of Drinking Water

Region	Within premises	Within 40 meters	40-80 meters	Beyond 80 meters
Terai	17.3	45	29.1	8.6
Darjeeling	14.97	46.17	29.71	9.15
Jalpaiguri	33.6	36.8	24.8	4.8

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

4.13 Sewage Facilities in Households: The drainage facilities of households indicate a healthy environment. During the investigation, it is found that in most of the households (47.00 per cent) drain is not present which is the tea garden of Jalpaiguri than Darjeeling. Where *katcha* drainage is present in 50.80 per cent indicates a variation in Jalpaiguri

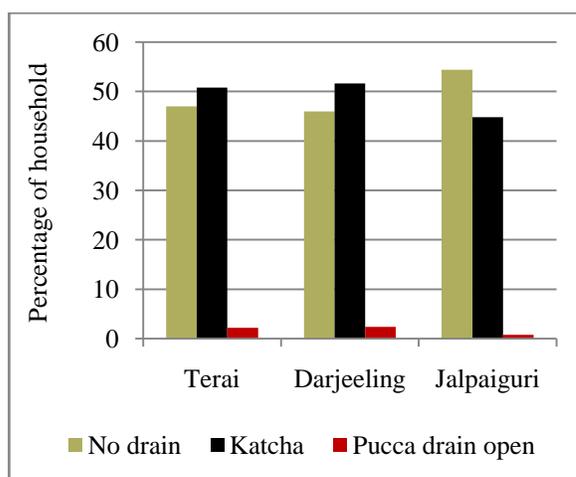


Fig. 4.21: Sewage facilities

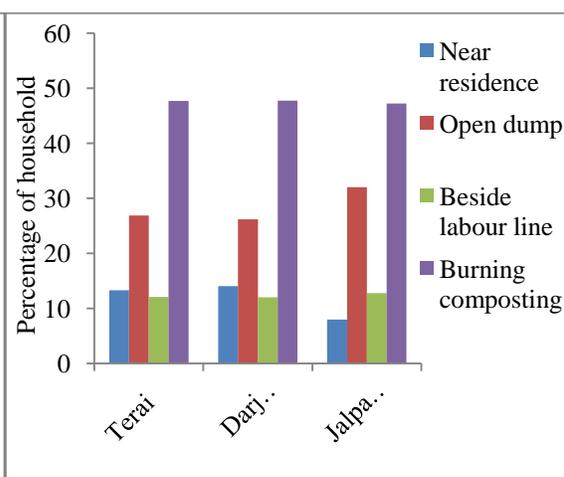


Fig. 4.22: Garbage facilities

(44.80 per cent) and Darjeeling (51.66 per cent). There also found *pucca* open drain in the households (2.20 per cent) more in the tea garden of Darjeeling (2.40 per cent) (Fig.4.21).

4.14 Waste Disposals: The healthy environment of houses depends on the disposal of waste. It is observed wastes are disposed of in a nearby residence, labour line and in an open dump of tea garden. Most of the respondents replied (47.70 percent) they accumulate the garbage near to campus and burn later, whereas 26.90 percent respondents replied that they dispose of waste in open dump which also creates unhygienic situation found more in the tea garden of Jalpaiguri (32.00 per cent) than Darjeeling (26.17 per cent). On the other hand, about 13.30 per cent and 12.10 per cent women replied they dispose of waste near the residence and labour line also (Fig.4.22).

4.15 Household Quality of Living: For assessing the household quality of living of tea garden people of the study area the Household Quality of Living Index (HQLI) has been framed up using 29 variables falls under three distinctive domains such as Quality of Housing Index (HHs living in Company built Houses, HHs Occupying at least 3.5 Katha in Size, Repairing benefits enjoying from Company, HHs having Semi-pucca houses, HHs having at least two dwelling rooms, Dwelling room having at least two windows, HHs having separated kitchen room), Basic Amenities Index (Drinking water within the premises, Electricity connection, LPG for cooking, Sanitary latrine within premises, Drainage facility for water outlet) and Assets Index (Television, Fan, Light, Electric Press, Refrigerator, Cycle, Motor bike, Clock, Electric Mixture, Radio, Mobile, Computer, Pressure cooker, Chair, Table, Showcase, Cot). The percentage of availability in HHs of each variable has been considered in each tea garden under three domains (APPENDIX-VI). Then, the value of each variable is normalized by using this formula '(Dimension Index= (Actual- Minimum)/(Maximum-Minimum)'. The value of each domain of each tea gardens is extracted by taking average normalized values of selected variables under each domain where value near to 1 indicates good facilities or amenities and near to 0 indicates poor facility or amenities (Table 4.12). Finally, HQLI is a combine score of QHI, BAI and finally, it is divided into four categories based on quartile i.e. Low Household Quality of Living (<0.44), Moderately Low Household Quality of Living (0.44-0.55) and Moderate Household Quality of Living (0.50-0.56) and Moderately high Household Quality of Living (>0.56). Where the value of mean HQLI is 0.50 and the median value is 0.51

Table 4.12: Household Quality of Living Index of the tea gardens

District	Name of TGs	QHI	BAI	AI	HQLI
Jalpaiguri	Denguajhar TG	0.58	0.51	0.46	0.52
	Joypur TG	0.50	0.47	0.36	0.44
	Raipur TG	0.29	0.39	0.33	0.34
	Saraswatipur TG	0.26	0.31	0.31	0.29
	Sikarpur TG	0.31	0.24	0.38	0.31
Darjeeling	Fulbari TG	0.64	0.46	0.42	0.51
	Satish chandra TG	0.72	0.66	0.55	0.65
	Dagapur TG	0.77	0.49	0.56	0.61
	Gulma TG	0.50	0.56	0.69	0.58
	Matigara TG	0.64	0.38	0.37	0.46
	New chamta TG	0.46	0.31	0.48	0.41
	Nischintapur TG	0.79	0.24	0.39	0.48
	Putinbari TG	0.41	0.33	0.51	0.42
	Sukna TG	0.56	0.63	0.45	0.55
	Ashapur TG	0.61	0.45	0.41	0.49
	Atal TG	0.73	0.65	0.64	0.67
	Azmabad TG	0.60	0.51	0.56	0.56
	Belgachi TG	0.58	0.41	0.56	0.52
	Kamalpur TG	0.51	0.47	0.39	0.46
	Kiran ch TG	0.65	0.48	0.37	0.50
	Manjha TG	0.54	0.35	0.40	0.43
	Marapur TG	0.54	0.51	0.55	0.54
	Meryview TG	0.38	0.57	0.58	0.51
	Naxalbari TG	0.21	0.49	0.45	0.38
	Ord terai TG	0.58	0.40	0.55	0.51
	Paharghomia TG	0.34	0.64	0.50	0.49
	Sannysithan TG	0.71	0.37	0.26	0.44
	Trihana TG	0.76	0.63	0.48	0.62
	Vijaynagar TG	0.62	0.69	0.65	0.65
	Bagdogra TG	0.67	0.47	0.74	0.63
	Bijlimoni TG	0.56	0.63	0.49	0.56
	Gangaram TG	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.35
	Gayaganga TG	0.54	0.45	0.47	0.49
	Hansqua TG	0.77	0.55	0.62	0.65
	Jayantika TG	0.65	0.62	0.43	0.57
	Kamala TG	0.56	0.53	0.49	0.53
	Motidhar TG	0.57	0.61	0.50	0.56
	Sayedabad TG	0.39	0.54	0.37	0.43
Singhiahjhora TG	0.66	0.33	0.43	0.47	
Taipoo TG	0.63	0.45	0.38	0.49	
Terai	Mean	0.55	0.48	0.47	0.50
	Median	0.57	0.48	0.47	0.51
	SD	0.15	0.12	0.11	0.09

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

slightly higher than the average value. In the tea gardens named Denguajhar TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Atal TG, Trihana TG, Vijoyanagar TG, Bahdogra TG, Hansqua

TG, Bijlimoni TG where the value of HQLI is above average. The value of HQLI is below average found in tea gardens named Saraswatipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Joypur TG, Matigara TG, Kamalpur TG, Sannyasithan TG, Naxalbari TG, Gangaram TG (Table 4.12). The standard of household quality living are classified into four groups based on quartile (Table 4.13).

Low Household Quality of Living (below 0.44): The low household quality of living reported in 9 tea gardens such as Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Naxalbari TG, Gangaram TG, New Chamta TG, Putinbari TG, Manjha TG, Sayedabad TG. Where only 3 tea gardens (Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG and Shikarpur TG) of Jalpaiguri district and remaining are in Darjeeling district.

Moderately Low Household Quality of Living (0.44-0.50): 10 tea gardens (25.00 percent) are in these categories where only Joypur TG is in district Jalpaiguri and the remaining 9 tea gardens are in Darjeeling district of Terai.

Table 4.13: Household Quality of Living in the Study area

Household Quality of Living (score)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Low (<0.44)	Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Sikarpur TG, Naxalbari TG, Gangaram TG, New Chamta TG, Putinbari TG, Manjha TG, Sayedabad TG	9	22.50
Moderately Low (0.44-0.50)	Matigara TG, Nischintapur TG, Ashapur TG, Kamalpur TG, Paharghomia TG, Sannyasithan TG, Gayaganga TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG, Joypur TG	10	25.00
Moderate (0.50-0.56)	Denguajhar TG, Fulbari TG, Belgachi TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, OrdTerai TG, Kamala TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Sukna TG,	9	22.50
Moderately high (>0.56)	Satish Chanra TG, Dagapur TG, Mohorgoan & Gulma TG, Atal TG, Azmabad TG, Trihana TG, Vijaynagar TG, Bagdogra TG, Bijlimoni TG, Hansqua TG, Jayantika TG and Motidhar TG	12	30.00
Total	Q ₁ : 0.44, Q ₂ : 0.50, Q ₃ : 0.56, Q ₄ : 0.67	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

Moderate Household Quality of Living (0.50-0.56): About 22.50 per cent tea garden (9 in numbers) is in this category. Whereas only Denguajhar TG is in the district of Jalpaiguri and the remaining 8 tea gardens are in Darjeeling district of the study area.

Moderately High Household Quality of Living (>0.56): 12 tea gardens (30.00 percent) are in these categories where all the tea gardens are in Darjeeling district of Terai region.

4.16 Standard of Living: The standard of living of an individual and classes indicate the level of wealth, comfort, material goods, and necessities availed by individual and classes in a particular geographic area. For assessing the standard of living of women in tea garden a combined score of 7 domains such as Standard of Health (HHs having Sanitary Latrine, HHs having Drinking Water in Premises, HHs having Drainage System, HHs uses Disposal of Waste at particular place), Social Security Schemes (Respondents having a Ration card, HHs benefitted from Khadyasathi, Respondents Working in NREGA scheme, Respondents enjoyed Pension Scheme, Respondents enjoyed Security Scheme, Respondents having Bank account), Material Well Being (HHs having T.V, Respondents access Mobile), Households Economy (Per capita income, Per capita consumption), Households Size (Number of members in HHs), and Standard of Education (Percentage of Net Primary Enrolment, Percentage of Effective Literacy rate, Percentage of Adult Literacy rate) consists of 18 variables have taken into consideration. The facility available in HHs (%) of each variable under each domain has been considered in each Tea garden (APPENDIX-VII). Then, the value of each variable of each tea garden is normalized using this formula 'Dimension Index= (Actual-Minimum)/(Maximum-Minimum)' and Simple Average Method has been followed where value near to 1 indicates the good condition and near to 0 indicates the poor condition (Table 4.14) and divided into four categories based on quartile i.e. Low Standard of Living (<0.47), moderately low Standard of Living (0.47-0.52) and Moderate Standard of Living (0.52-0.62). Moderately high Standard of Living (>0.62). Although the mean value of SLI is 0.54 and the Standard Deviation is 0.10. the SLI value is above from average value of SLI found in the tea gardens named Denguajhar TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bijlimoni TG, Kamala TG, Sayedabad TG. The SLI value is below average found in Gangaram TG,

Table 4.14: Standard of Living Index of the tea gardens

District	Name of TG	SH	SE	SSS	HS	HE	MWB	SLI
Jalpaiguri	Denguajha TG	0.61	0.75	0.52	0.54	0.44	0.60	0.58
	Joypur TG	0.54	0.32	0.50	0.62	0.44	0.26	0.45
	Raipur TG	0.64	0.54	0.57	0.46	0.18	0.08	0.41
	Saraswatipur TG	0.28	0.65	0.53	0.62	0.00	0.26	0.39
	Shikarpur TG	0.35	0.52	0.69	0.31	0.27	0.34	0.41
Darjeeling	Fulbari TG	0.47	0.24	0.45	0.38	0.28	0.70	0.42
	Satish chandra TG	0.54	0.88	0.59	0.92	0.38	0.74	0.68
	Dagapur TG	0.58	0.62	0.66	0.23	0.93	0.73	0.63
	Mohorgaon & Gulma TG	0.59	0.66	0.51	0.54	0.85	0.55	0.62
	Matigara TG	0.22	0.45	0.45	0.69	0.48	0.63	0.49
	New Chamta TG	0.23	0.59	0.56	0.00	0.60	0.82	0.47
	Nischintapur TG	0.30	0.51	0.55	0.54	0.37	0.56	0.47
	Putinbari TG	0.39	0.67	0.60	0.15	0.61	0.59	0.50
	Sukna TG	0.50	0.70	0.49	0.54	0.56	0.66	0.58
	Ashapur TG	0.51	0.66	0.61	0.00	0.83	0.56	0.53
	Atal TG	0.60	0.83	0.85	0.38	0.74	0.96	0.73
	Azmabad TG	0.45	0.76	0.53	0.31	0.72	0.71	0.58
	Belgachi TG	0.33	0.75	0.77	0.62	0.67	0.66	0.63
	Kamalpur TG	0.35	0.23	0.26	0.62	0.24	0.60	0.38
	Kiran chandra TG	0.35	0.54	0.57	0.46	0.41	0.40	0.46
	Manjha TG	0.30	0.97	0.61	0.15	0.60	0.33	0.49
	Marapur TG	0.51	0.63	0.75	0.46	0.63	0.85	0.64
	Meryview TG	0.53	0.90	0.53	0.62	0.81	0.60	0.66
	Naxalbari TG	0.48	0.25	0.38	0.77	0.55	0.48	0.48
	Ord terai TG	0.37	0.85	0.72	0.23	0.41	0.44	0.50
	Pahar ghomia TG	0.64	0.24	0.58	0.85	0.54	0.74	0.60
	Sannysithan TG	0.27	0.92	0.44	0.38	0.53	0.40	0.49
	Trihana TG	0.50	0.50	0.72	0.31	0.42	0.74	0.53
	Vijaynagar TG	0.57	0.99	0.72	0.54	0.53	0.69	0.67
	Bagdogra TG	0.41	0.74	0.40	0.46	0.60	0.70	0.55
	Bijlimoni TG	0.60	0.81	0.64	1.00	0.61	0.60	0.71
	Gangaram TG	0.32	0.79	0.56	0.00	0.21	0.11	0.33
	Gayaganga TG	0.37	0.95	0.38	0.54	0.04	0.67	0.49
	Hansqua TG	0.50	0.89	0.59	0.62	0.44	0.63	0.61
	Jayantika TG	0.64	0.73	0.58	0.08	0.37	0.51	0.49
	Kamala TG	0.60	0.80	0.65	0.46	0.83	0.74	0.68
	Motidhar TG	0.41	0.33	0.60	0.69	0.48	0.66	0.53
	Sayedabad TG	0.73	0.78	0.60	0.92	0.60	0.38	0.67
Singhiahjhora TG	0.13	0.67	0.39	0.54	0.69	0.44	0.48	
Taipoo TG	0.52	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.16	0.25	0.47	
Terai	Mean	0.46	0.65	0.57	0.48	0.50	0.56	0.54
	Median	0.49	0.67	0.58	0.54	0.53	0.60	0.52
	SD	0.14	0.21	0.12	0.25	0.22	0.20	0.10

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

Kamalpur TG, Shikarpur TG, Raipur TG and Joypur TG. Finally the values of SLI are categorized into four groups based on quartile (Table 4.15).

Low Standard of Living (below 0.47): The low standard of living is found in 8 tea gardens such as Saraswatipur TG, Kamalpur TG, Gangram TG, Joypur TG, Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Fulbari TG and Kiran Chandra TG. Where Saraswatipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Joypur TG and Raipur TG are in Jalpaiguri and the remaining four are in the Darjeeling district of Terai.

Moderately Low Standard of Living (0.47-0.52): Most of the surveyed tea garden (30.00 per cent, 12 in numbers) is in this category. Where all the tea gardens of these categories fall in Darjeeling district.

Moderate Standard of Living (0.52-0.62): 22.50 per cent tea gardens (9 in numbers) are this category such as Hansqua TG, Denguajhar TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Azmabad TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogra TG, Motidhar TG of Darjeeling district.

Moderately High Standard of Living (>0.62): Most of the surveyed tea garden (27.50 per cent, 11 in numbers) is in this category. Where all the tea gardens of these categories fall in Darjeeling district.

Table 4.15: Standard of Living in the Study area

Standard of Living	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Low (<0.47)	Saraswatipur TG, Kamalpur TG, Gangram TG, Joypur TG, Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Fulbari TG, Kiran Chandra TG	8	20.00
Moderately Low (0.47-0.52)	Matigara TG, Nischintapur TG, Manjha TG, Sannyasithan TG, Gayaganga TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG, New Chamta TG, Putinbari TG, Jayantika TG, OrdTerai TG, Fulbari TG	12	30.00
Moderate (0.52-0.62)	Hansqua TG, Denguajhar TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Azmabad TG, Paharghomia TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogra TG, Motidhar TG	9	22.50
Moderately High (>0.62)	Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Mohorgoan&Gulma TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Vijaynagar TG, BijlimoniTG, Kamala TG, Sayedabad TG	11	27.50
Total	Q ₁ : 0.47, Q ₂ : 0.52, Q ₃ : 0.62, Q ₄ : 0.73	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

4.17 Decadal Transformation in Livelihood Status of Women in Tea Gardens of Terai:

To investigate the decadal livelihood status of tea garden women in Terai ‘Composite Index’ in livelihood has been framed by taking two economic i.e. annual income, economic condition and eleven social parameter i.e. social condition, mobility, cultural interaction, family education status, housing condition, exposure to mass media, livestock rearing, protein intake, expenditure on clothing, sanitation condition and drinking water facility which have been changed or not in last decade. Where women are asked about their above condition whether is increased/improved or decreased/deteriorated or remain unchanged/same in last one decade. On the basis of their responses, ‘+1’ weightage is given for ‘increased/improved’ and ‘-1’ weightage is given for ‘decreased/deteriorated’ and finally ‘0’ weightage is given for ‘unchanged/same’. After that, they are summed up and divided by a number of households to get the average score value of each variable. Finally, to get finally score value, the average score value of all variables is summed up where positive (+) score value indicates positive livelihood change and the Negative (-) score value indicates Negative livelihood change. Whereas positive and negative livelihood changed has been found in tea gardens of the study areas (APPENDIX-VII).

Table 4.16: Livelihood Change in the tea gardens of Terai

Sl. No.	Livelihood Changed	Name of Tea Gardens	No. of TGs
1	Positive	Mohorgaon & Gulma TG, Atal TG, Azmabad TG, Belgachi TG, Kiran chandra TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Bagdogra TG, Bijlimoni TG, Satish chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Nischintapur TG, Sukna TG, Meryview TG, Naxalbari TG, Ordterai TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG, Jayantika TG, Kamala TG, Motidhar TG, Motidhar TG, Denguajhar TG, Fulbari TG, Matigara TG, Putinbari TG, Ashapur TG, Kamalpur TG, Paharghomia TG, Sayedabad TG, Singhiajhora TG, Taipoo TG	34(85.00)
2	Negative	Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Gangaram TG, Joypur TG, Saraswatipur TG, New Chamta TG	6(15.00)
Terai			40(100.00)

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

Positive livelihood Change found in 85.00 per cent tea gardens (34 in number) of the study area. On the basis of the livelihood change score, High positive livelihood change in a decade found in the tea gardens named Belgachi TG (143.00), Manjha TG (134.00), Atal TG (125.00), Azmabad TG (117.00), Bagdogra TG (117.00), Bijlimoni TG(123.00), Gayaganga TG (102.00) etc. while slight livelihood changed found in Singhiajhora TG (10.00), Kamalpur TG (10.00), Denguajhar TG (29.00), Matigara TG (16.00) of the study area.

Negative livelihood Change also found in tea gardens of the study areas although not much reported only in 6 tea gardens such as Raipur TG (-125.00), Shikarpur TG(-76.00), Gangaram TG(-73.00), Joypur TG(-28.00), Saraswatipur TG(-15.00), New Chamta TG(-21.00). The high negative livelihood change found in Raipur TG(-125.00) and followed by Gangaram TG, Shikarpur TG, and Joypur TG (Table 4.16).

4.18 Conclusion: The standard of living of the tea gardens workers of Terai is miserable and inhuman because of their socio-economic backwardness and deprivation of provisional benefits. Generally, they are uprooted and living in houses within the tea garden. They have no scope to use the land for economic and commercial purposes for better livelihood. They are 3-4 generation workers working for food to the mouth. Although have the housing accommodation (with two-room and attach kitchen along with hygienic environment) but during the investigation, it is observed that the household environment is worst for healthy living. Bagdogra TG, Marapur TG, Gangram TG, Sayedbad TG, Kamala TG, Putinbari TG, Naxalbari TG, Fulabari TG of Darjeeling and Shikarpur TG, Saraswatipur TG of Jalpaiguri workers living in a shed made of the *tripal* and broken and fragile wall and livestock (Goat, Cocks) entering freely and create unhygienically. The occupational diversification is very low so unemployment and underemployment are subsequently acute in the study area. Where only permanent workers worked throughout the year and but the casual workers get opportunities to work only in peak season and stay home or work locality in remaining time and not benefitted in welfare benefit so go outsides for work(Delhi, Kerala, Punjab, Mumbai) decent wages. The permanent workers are less inclined to change their occupation due to welfare benefits than casual workers facing constraints for better jobs due to illiteracy and lack of skill in work. Besides their

educational level is too low for better employment within and outside tea gardens. Due to lack of awareness, literacy and proper thinking, they are poor to live and manage the family expenses but don't frame plans for futures living where the standard of living of the tea garden people not so good for economic backwardness and social hindrances where they earn Rs. 2800 to Rs. 3000 monthly but can't save due to lack of family planning and management and for illiteracy. Although women play a vital role in maintaining the families, they expense their earning even their husband's earning accurately. They also manage the entire domestic works (daily cooking, cleaning, and washing of clothes, fuel collection for cooking, fetching water) due to lack of awareness in basic health cares, facing different types of diseases such as fever, malaria, diarrhoea, abdominal disorder, weakness, headache, etc. Even don't wash their hands properly before food preparation, taking meal and after defecation. In these regards, the government and non-government should take the initiative to develop their livelihood and standard of living especially women in the tea gardens of the study areas. For maintaining the healthy environment of the residential plot (labour lines) of tea gardens, it is necessary to implement immediately proper sewage facilities, pure drinking water, and proper waste disposal. Therefore, women and community participation are crucial for promoting the water and sanitation environment. Due to their isolation from the mainstream of society feeling insecurity and socio-economic condition depend on some welfare and securities bonus, gratuity, PF, subsidized ration etc. and income from tea gardens which make them socio-economically survived. Finally, the problems need to overcome for uplifting their livelihood condition of tea gardens workers of Terai of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri district.

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Report

Plantation Labour Act, 1951

Plantation Labour Act, 1956(Amendment)



Plate 4.1: Type of Roof, Kiran Chandra TG



Plate 4.2: Deplorable Housing condition, Kamala TG



Plate 4.3: Deplorable Housing condition, Jayantika TG



Plate 4.4: Deplorable Housing condition, Sayedabad TG



Plate 4.5: Type of wall, Motidhar TG



Plate 4.6: Type of wall, Shikarpur TG



Plate 4.7: Deplorable conditions of Houses, Saraswatipur TG



Plate 4.8: Housing condition, Raipur TG



Plate 4.9: Houses repaired, Swaraswatipur TG



Plate 4.10: Open Kitchen Space, Dagapur TG



Plate 4.11: Coking Fuel, Trihana TG



Plate 4.12: Sanitary Latrine, Vijoyanagar TG



Plate 4.13: Source of Drinking water, Joypur TG



Plate 4.14: Sewage problems, Ord Terai TG



Plate 4.15: Rice of Khadyasathi Prokalpo, Gangaram TG



Plate 4.16: Preparing food elements, Hansqua TG