

Preface

The Tea industry of West Bengal is an important resource which has immense contribution to promote regional, state and national economy. Although the livelihood condition of people specially workers who are engaged for producing tea is not much satisfied. They are mostly tribes known as Tea tribes. They are marginalised, deprived, ignorant, disadvantages and isolated social group from mainstream of society. Moreover women's condition is highly miserable because of their backwardness in literacy, health, standard of living, economy. The study is an attempt to understand the socio-economic condition of women in the tea gardens of Terai of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal. In the study area, most of the people are illiterate, ignorant and deprived from different government facilities related to socio-economic issues. Besides many acute social problems found in the study area such as illiteracy, underemployment, unemployment, child labour, early marriages, superstitions, lack of awareness in different contemporary issues. For assessing the socio-economic condition of women in Terai of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts both primary and secondary data have been used in study where the secondary data has been collected from Census report, Tea statistics, Tea gardens authority, Labour organisation, Government offices and Health centres. Primary data are collected by door to door survey with the help of schedules in selected tea gardens of study area. After that, data has been processed, analysed, synthesized using statistical techniques.

The study divided into nine chapters, chapter-I Introduction, chapter-II gives a brief outline on geographical profile of the tea gardens of study areas, chapter-III highlights the chronological history and growth of tea gardens, chapter-IV gives an idea about livelihood condition of tea garden women in tea gardens, chapter-V encompasses social condition of women in tea gardens, chapter-VI deals economic condition of women in tea gardens, chapter-VII highlights problems of tea garden women, chapter-VIII deals suggestive strategies for development of women in tea gardens, chapter-IX comprises summaries of the research work and draw a conclusion.

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