



## A STUDY ON IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON THE OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DARJEELING TOWN, WEST BENGAL

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### ***Abstract***

Globalisation always has both positive and negative impacts. Darjeeling with its vast economic potential have been witnessing the influence of globalisation on its economy as well as occupational structure and choices over the recent years. The impact of Globalisation is not only seen in the urban areas of Darjeeling town but it can be witnessed in the adjoining rural areas as well. From the study conducted it can be seen that the younger generation of Darjeeling are now more interested in working in other sectors rather than in the traditional government sectors. With increase in their educational status and as they attain more higher educational degree the level of competition is increasing day by day, thus leaving them with very little chances of getting absorbed in the government sector. The younger generations are now more open to change in their occupational choices with increasing globalisation effect among them. In fact, more lucrative opportunities are slowly creeping in the region with exchange of culture ideas and improvement in technology and communication. Thus, a major change in the occupational pattern among the people is being witnessed at present.

**Key words:** Globalisation, occupational structure, change

### **Introduction**

Economy in Darjeeling is mainly influenced by its physical and demographic factors. Its undulating topography and weather condition has contributed in the flourishing of the traditional tea estate in the region providing employment to large section of rural population in Darjeeling. The major section of the population in Darjeeling are engaged in plantation, tourism, agriculture, small scale industries and allied activities. If we look into the occupational history of Darjeeling economy, traditionally the region was well dominated by the plantation sector, Timber sawing, charcoal coal production, small manufacturing industries, agriculture and allied activities in both the hilly and the plain areas of Darjeeling. Eventually tourism industry started flourishing in the region over the mid of nineteenth century, thus adding boost to the economy of the region and attracting many foreign investments as well as large flow of migration from the neighbouring areas were witnessed in the region which lead to a very rapid pace of growth of population. With increasing population and economic development of the region from the foreign investment it ultimately led to various social problems among which proper employment among the youths was a major problem even though the opportunities were increasing in the region. Globalisation has crept in Darjeeling with constant migration flow as well as foreign investment from all regions has influenced and motivated the economy as well as the people of the region. If we look into the literacy level of the region Darjeeling has a literacy rate of 79.56% which is more than the national average (77.70%) it has seen a tremendous rise in the literacy level over the years. Which is indeed a very good social indicator of development but it has resulted in the increase in the competition level among the literates with very little skilled opportunities in the job market eventually leading to the problem of unemployment among the educated youths of Darjeeling. Therefore, the job seekers and the youths are now embracing new employment and occupational choices unlike the