

## Chapter X

### *Section A*

#### ***ATTITUDE OF GUARDIANS TOWARDS EDUCATION AND THEIR HOME BACKGROUND***

One of the prime objectives of the present work is to test the hypothesis with the correlation of data in the form of materials and information. In general terms the work is directed towards the overall understanding of educational progress in the hill areas of Darjeeling. So a background on education in the locality has been presented following the historical perspective.

The work proper is on the present day situation, naturally the temporal dimension with relatively higher coverage cannot be set aside. The study of any human society should take into consideration of minimum of two generations, at time it could be extended to one more generation. However, we are concerned with the education of more than one generation and a good deal of change is observed in the different components of education. The components include school typology, educational administration, course-curriculum, medium of instruction. In the case of education, especially as a system, there is a specific period of time, the period of the students life. The maximum is about 20 years starting from the age of 3 years and coming it an end at 23 years. This span is only covered when higher education is included but in many cases the duration is as short as five years because of discontinuance or dropping out.

In the present chapter materials on the three mentioned features have been given separately. The materials comprise of two sets namely Guardians and Students.

Each set has been presented in the form of general information, quantitative analysis, qualitative information and finally a conclusion and interpretation.

In some cases a correlation of data, where possible and the results of the above noted two sets have been attempted. Based on the conclusion the final interpretation at the end of the chapter has been arrived at.

Prior to direct involvement with the data a few points are to be indicated. In this scheme a discussion has been made on the target sample and the data collection. The desired target sample was formulated to achieve a relevant model. But in reality there are many situations and events which give rise to unavoidable constraints. Many of them could not have been anticipated. Nevertheless the data are representative in nature which fact may be helpful for the purpose of making a generalisation. A few of the constraints experience may be cited here. Despite all the effort made, some of the sources for collection of data could not be reached because of such factors as distance, non-availability of minimum transport facilities and other reason security.

There are some other problems such as lack of interest and apathy to give answers to questions.

In many of the cases the informants were very helpful. In some cases the initial apathy was dissolved through better rapport.

The problem encountered are presented so that the practical situation can be properly understood by the reader.

Here the materials with the age group are presented such as guardians and students separately also the questionnaires for both the group are also included.

(I) The questionnaire for the guardians

(ii) Distribution of Male and Female guardians of Darjeeling, Kurseong,

Kalimpong according to the age group.

The questionnaire for the guardians

1. Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Caste
4. Clan (Gotra)
5. Place of Birth
6. Educational Qualification
7. Other professional qualification
8. Salary                      Basic                      Allowance                      Deductions
9. Mention if you or your family members have any secondary source of income
10. Length of service
11. Means of Income
12. Specifically mention Husband's/Wife's age, qualifications and occupations
13. Specifically mention Parents qualifications and occupations
14. Specifically mention Sons' daughters' age, qualifications and occupations
15. Specifically mention Brothers' and Sisters' age, qualifications and occupations
16. Mode of conveyance (Distance between home and school)
17. Composition of the family
18. Home Address

19. Are you satisfied with the study of your children ?
20. How do you plan to educate your child ?
21. What do you wish your child to be after his education ? Mention the occupation
22. Is your child getting any financial assistance from the Government ?
23. Is there any other facilities you provide to your children ?  
(Tution, personal help etc.)
24. Do you have any problem regarding education of your children ?  
(Non-availability of Good school, admission and financial problem etc.)

*Distribution of Guardians (Male and Female) in terms of age group  
in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-division*

Darjeeling

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Upto 20 years	0	0	0
2. From 21 to 25 years	0	1(1%)	1(1%)
3. From 26 to 30 years	3(3%)	2(2%)	5(5%)
4. From 31 to 35 years	4(4%)	6(6%)	10(10%)
5. From 36 to 40 years	14(14%)	7(7%)	21(21%)
6. From 41 to 45 years	15(15%)	4(4%)	19(19%)
7. From 46 to 50 years	16(16%)	2(2%)	18(18%)
8. From 51 to 55 years	10(10%)	3(3%)	13(13%)
9. From 56 to 60 years	6(6%)	2(2%)	8(8%)
10. Above 60 years	3(3%)	1(1%)	4(4%)
11. N.A.-unidentified	1	0	1(1%)
	72(72%)	28(28%)	100%

Kurseong

1. Upto 20 years	0	0	0
2. From 21 to 25 years	0	0	0
3. From 26 to 30 years	1(2.22%)	3(6.67%)	4(8.88%)
4. From 31 to 35 years	3(6.67%)	3(6.67%)	6(13.33%)
5. From 36 to 40 years	3(6.67%)	5(11.11%)	8(17.78%)
6. From 41 to 45 years	6(13.33%)	6(13.33%)	12(26.67%)
7. From 46 to 50 years	2(4.44%)	0	2(4.44%)
8. From 51 to 55 years	7(15.56%)	0	7(15.56%)
9. From 56 to 60 years	3(6.67%)	2(4.44%)	5(11.11%)
10. Above 60 years	0	0	0
11. N.A.- unidentified	1(2.22%)	0	1(2.22%)
	26	19	45(100%)

Table contd.

*Kalimpong*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Upto 20 years	0	0	0
2. From 21 to 25 years	0	1(2.22%)	1(2.22%)
3. From 26 to 30 years	3(6.67%)	6(13.33%)	9(20%)
4. From 31 to 35 years	3(6.67%)	0	3(6.67%)
5. From 36 to 40 years	4(8.88%)	2(4.44%)	6(13.33%)
6. From 41 to 45 years	6(13.33%)	5(11.11%)	11(24.44%)
7. From 46 to 50 years	1(2.22%)	2(4.44%)	3(6.67%)
8. From 51 to 55 years	3(6.67%)	4(8.88%)	7(15.56%)
9. From 56 to 60 years	3(6.67%)	1(2.22%)	4(8.88%)
10. Above 60 years	0	1(2.22%)	1(2.22%)
11. N.A. - unidentified	0	0	0
	23(51.11%)	22(48.89%)	45(100%)

***Guardians' attitude towards education in Darjeeling hill areas***

Guardians may be considered as important components in education at all levels. It is a known fact that "of all the influences that surround a person from the day he is born, people are the most important. The first of course, is his mother, and as we shall see later, he should form his first social relationship with her, and these form the pattern for all others. A child's early society includes or should include, his father, his brothers and sisters, grandmother, and all who make-up the group known as the family."(1) Students are dependent on their parents almost for everything. Guardians are responsible for the total maintenance of their respective wards, and in the majority of cases the decision with regard to education of children is taken by them. In fact the family as a social unit has endured since time immemorial. Only in a family can children fulfil their physical, mental and cultural needs.

The total background of the guardians with the inclusion of education, profession, economy, social status etc. has an important bearing on the personality, mental make up and the future career of the students.

Altogether 100 guardians, male and female coming from different occupations such as service, business, transport and others have been interviewed in Darjeeling Sadar Sub-division. 45 guardians both male and female from Kurseong and 45 guardians both male and female from Kalimpong have been interviewed. The physical and mental care of the children is the first educational responsibility of the family. It is to be noted here that earlier the dominant role was played by the father or in some cases the oldest male member of the family. Sometimes a considerable amount of gender equality has been maintained and that too is observed in the decision-making role of the mother of the student. The disciplinary measures taken by parents are of one kind when father and mother both are educated and in some cases employed but perceptible change is found when only one of them is employed. However, an educated home produces educated children. It is to be

noted that with educational and professional qualifications income, occupations are also related. Educated parents can take better care of their children and give them encouragement and scope to achieve educational and professional proficiency. Educated parents will have better positions in the society and definitely earn more.

Tables 1 and 2 presented in the appendix to show educational and professional qualifications of the middle and upper-middle class guardians and also occupations of these guardians of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong Subdivisions. Data shows that education upto graduate level in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong is more than other levels.

In Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong also the next highest level of qualification is the secondary level.

With regard to professional qualifications it was found in Darjeeling Subdivision, Kurseong and Kalimpong that most of the educated guardians have acquired B.T. and J.B.T. degree.

Data revealed that as far as the primary occupations of guardians in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong are concerned a good number is in Government Service. Next highest group is engaged in business. The other largest group of guardians are engaged in private and semi-Government services.

Educational and professional qualification is important because it develops open mind and wisdom. Parents having wisdom could help their children to develop wisdom too. Educated guardians also develop among their children a positive attitude towards education and occupation.

***Religion of the Guardians*** - presented in the appendix in Table 3.

Though in a secular state due to materialistic outlook religion does not totally control the life of the people. But it is believed that "religion is a way of life as well

as a system of beliefs." So its influences is still strong. There are many religious group in Darjeeling District. Data on largest religious group of guardians shows that Hindus in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong are respectively found to constitute 69%, 57.7% and 68.88% respectively.

The next largest religious community of guardian according to data collected shows that Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong are respectively having Buddhist guardians who respectively constitute 22%, 22.22% and 24.44%.

These random data clarifies the position of different religious groups in the hill society, re-establishes the fact that the number of Hindus is greater than that of other groups. Hindus are followed by Buddhist community. Then comes Christian and Muslim communities. However, because of the cosmopolitan nature of this hill area the views of guardians belonging to different communities do not vary at all regarding their children's education.

*Marital status and composition of the family presented in the  
Appendix in Table 4 and Table 5*

The table 4 shows on marital status of guardians that as much as 88% male and female guardians are married and settled in Darjeeling. In Kurseong and in Kalimpong total of 88.59 and 84.44 guardians are married.

The number of unmarried guardians is always less. Here unmarried guardian means, in case of parents death brothers and sisters become the guardian.

However, a smaller no. of widows or separated guardians are also observed.

On the composition of the family in Table 5 the data shows that in Darjeeling 63.77% of the families, in Kurseong a total of 62.22% and in Kalimpong 62.22% of families are single families where as 37% in Darjeeling, 40% in Kurseong and 37.78% in Kalimpong are found to be joint families. It is to be pointed out that well-

settled guardians always take better care of their children where as unmarried widow or widower may have many individual financial or social problems which might distract their attention to other areas rather than on their wards. Fortunately, we get a fewer number of such guardians in this category as far as the data indicate. It has been found that in single families the condition of children is much better than in joint families. In single families guardians give more attention to their children's needs. It is to be noted here that joint families are breaking down now a days due to financial and other family problems consequently in the hill region we thus get a greater number of single families.

Though there are disadvantages and advantages found both in joint and single families at present the single family is preferred in the hill area for many reasons which are primarily financial.

*Data on the length of service (Table 6) and distance between home and place of work (Table 7) and mode of conveyance (Table 8) are presented in the appendix.*

Length of service of the guardians was taken into account because while in service the guardians could give more family comfort and attention to their children.

In Darjeeling sub-division it has been found that 12% guardian's length of service is from 26 to 30 years. As much as 27% guardians length of service varies from 21 to 25 years. In Kurseong it is observed that of guardians both 26.67 male and female's length of service varies between 26 to 30 years. The next group which constitute 15.56% of the guardians has a length of service varying between 16 to 20 years and an equal proportion of guardians length of service is also observed to be from 21 to 25 years too. In Kalimpong similarly 20% guardians working period is

also found to be varying from 26 to 30 years and again another 20% working period is also from 31 to 35 years.

Data on distance between home and place of work and on mode of conveyance was also taken into account. These data is considered important because if a guardian goes far from his home to his place of work it becomes impossible for him or her to pay attention to family problems or children's education etc. because it takes so much of time and energy.

It has been found from the table 7 that in Darjeeling 82% of the guardians covers a distance that varies between half to four k.m. everyday to reach their place of work. A maximum of five to eight kilometers of distance are covered by a total of 8% guardians including both males and females. In Kurseong, 75.56% guardians both males and females go half to four k.m. to reach their place of work. Upto 4 and 8 km of distance generally found to be covered by as low as 6.67% of guardians both males and females. In Kurseong 68.89% guardian walks from half to four k.m. distance. Similarly maximum of 4 to 8 k.m. distance is covered by as much as 15.56% male and female guardians.

A survey of the mode of conveyance from the Table 7 in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions shows that most of the guardian cover walking distance. A very small number cover a wide-distance such as Tung, Sonada or Kurseong and they go by bus or shared taxi.

In general it has been found that for majority of guardians the place of work in these three hill sub-divisions is found to be quite near, within a distance varying between one to 3 kms. This indicates that most of the guardians have time to help their wards in their various needs. Many guardians said that they personally help their children in their studies.

***Locality of Birth and area of place of birth (Tables 8 and 9)***

It will be seen from Table 8 that locality of birth out of a total number of guardians interviewed as much as 76% guardians in Darjeeling were born in Darjeeling Sadar sub-division. Very few were born in other parts of the hill areas such as Kurseong and Kalimpong. Very few came from other parts of India and Nepal.

In Kurseong it is found that 62.22% were born in Kurseong itself 20% guardians were born in Darjeeling and settled in Kurseong and 11.11 guardians were born in Kalimpong settled in Kurseong.

Similarly, it is observed that 88.87% of the guardians were born in Kalimpong itself. Very few however came from Darjeeling or Sikkim.

Area of place of birth shows in Table 9 that in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively a large no. of guardians were born in urban areas table 9 also indicates that as high as 90% guardians were born in Darjeeling, 68.89% guardians in Kurseong proper and 60% were born in Kalimpong proper. Education as a force for social regeneration goes together with living and bring forces in the social order. The present social order especially in town area is complex and complicated. Guardians living in town, adjust to the complicated social life and accordingly their children also learn to adjust. Guardians living in the town areas give more facilities and privileges, to their children than the guardians in the rural areas. However, locality of birth and area of place of birth of guardians were taken into account because the process of transmission of social and cultural traditions takes place properly in the urbanised and cultured family. Education as a major force re-organises the past experience for future generations and this way society grows and develops.

*Salary (Table 10), Secondary Source of Income (Table 11) and Primary occupation (Table 12) of the Guardians of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions are presented in the Appendix in the Tables 10, 11 and 12.*

Students are dependent on their parents economically. Parents are to provide for their food, clothing, education, recreation and various other needs. To have some idea about this the parents salary or income and primary and secondary sources of income are given due place as far as their occupations are concerned. It shows that all the male guardians interviewed are a working lot area. Few female guardians are also working. Major portions of the guardians are Government service holders some are found working in Semi-Government and non-government concerns and lastly business holds a very important occupation.

Concerning income or salary (table 10) shows that in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions 39%, 28.88%, 20% guardians earn between Rs.2500 and Rs.5000/- respectively.

As much as 16% guardians in Darjeeling, 11.11% in Kurseong and 4.44% in Kalimpong earn between Rs.5000 and Rs.7500/-.

10% guardians in Darjeeling 4.44% in Kurseong, 6.66% guardians in Kalimpong earn between Rs.1001 and Rs.2500/-.

A very small percentage of guardians i.e. 4.44% from Kurseong - earn that varies between Rs.7500 and Rs.10,000/-. An equal percentage share of guardians from Kalimpong is found to earn the same amount and from Darjeeling it is observed that only 3% earning an amount varying between Rs.7500 and Rs.10,000/-.

Secondary source of income means earning through some other means. It is to be pointed out that in a joint family more than two members sometimes earn and that also can be taken as a secondary source of income.

The table 11 shows that in Darjeeling total 32%, in Kalimpong total 15.55% and in Kurseong 26.26% guardians have secondary source of income from other members of the family.

Secondary source of income also means income that comes from landed property and private business etc.

It has been found that most of the guardians are not vocal about their income. So the data received are not very satisfactory. Most of the guardians kept silence regarding their salary and secondary source of income. However, parents try to earn more to meet their children's present needs and also to train them for future vocation or occupation.

About primary source of income or occupations in Darjeeling (Table 12) it has been seen that a total of 34% are engaged in Government Services. The second largest percentage of guardians are found to be engaged in non-government concern i.e. a total of 23% and the 3rd largest group i.e. 23% is in business according to data collected in this regard.

In both Kurseong and Kalimpong a total of 28.88 37.77% guardians are engaged in Government service. In Semi-government or private concerns we observe from Kurseong and 17.78% and 24.44% guardians are engaged from Kalimpong, 12%, 20% and 22.23% guardians are engaged in teaching in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively.

In business 13.33% and 11.11% are engaged in Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively.

***Data collected on partners qualification and occupation from the male and female guardians in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions presented in the Tables 13 and 14.***

It is said "the purpose of education is not to produce mere scholars,

technicians and job hunters, but integrated men and women who are free of fear, for only between such human beings can there be enduring peace.”(3)

It is a known fact that educated parents can produce educated children with a view to procuring information as whether husband and wife both are educated parents/guardians of the children have been interviewed.

It has been seen from the data so collected that a total of 39% parents are graduate guardians in Darjeeling. Similarly, in Kurseong 33.33% and in Kalimpong 42.22% graduate guardians are observed. Secondary level is done by a total of 23% guardians from Darjeeling, 28.87% from Kurseong and 17.73% from Kalimpong.

A total 7% of guardians did higher secondary levels from Darjeeling, 17.73% from Kurseong and 11.11% from Kalimpong.

In the post graduate level we get only small proportions of female's percentage that is 5.00% in Darjeeling, 8.88% in Kurseong and 2.22% in Kalimpong.

Modern home is facing problems which were unknown to the predecessors. In the earlier societies, life was simple but with the development of civilisation life became complex and people specially from mediocre families find it difficult to cope with the fast changing world. First thus the necessity is to have economic stability at home. To meet children's first necessity many parents are found working. In Darjeeling district also we found many working parents. A total of 16% guardians are found in Government service in the region. In Kurseong 20.00%, in Kalimpong, 20% are also found in Government Services. In Darjeeling, in non-government sector it has been found that total 9% guardians are engaged in Kurseong total 8.88% and in Kalimpong total 13.33% guardians are engaged.

In Darjeeling district business also holds an important place. In Darjeeling 9% of the parents interviewed are engaged in business; in Kurseong 8.88% are in

business and 8.88% are engaged in business in Kalimpong. However, in all three sub-divisions a large number of female partners are housewives.

***No. of children found in a family-data collected from the three hill sub-divisions presented in the appendix (Table 15)***

It is observed at present that man has developed his capacity to put off death while continuing to procreate at very high levels. "According to the theory of vital evolution, population moves through three stages : (1) an agrarian low-economic economy characterised by high birth and low death rates (India's image until recently); (2) a decline in death rates while birth rates remain steady (India's current image) and (3) a decline in the birth rates and the establishment of a small family pattern. In the west, demographic growth was anticipated by economic development. Moreover changes, in the type of economy e.g. from agricultural to industrial are themselves considered to cause modifications in the population of a country." To observe whether here in Darjeeling hill area people are conscious of population explosion data was collected on the number of children a family is having. However, it has been found that norm of the country is somehow maintained in upper and middle class family of Darjeeling district. It has been observed in Darjeeling that 84% are having children between 1 to 3 in Kurseong 77.78 guardians and in Kalimpong 73.33 guardians maintaining the norm by having 1 to 3 children. In all three hill sub-divisions a very small percentage of parents are having more than three children.

Population control is indeed very important at present because children suffer in large families. They get deprived of their parents love and attention because parents are overburdened with the problem of family. However, at present most of

the educated parents are aware of the problem of large family and so small family is preferred, hill area is no exception to that matter.

Guardians views regarding their children's education, occupation disciplinary problem facilities rendered, scholarships received etc. are presented in the appendix in the Tables no.19,19(a),19(b),19(c),19(d),19(e).

Table 19 The guardians when asked about the level of satisfaction with their children's study a very few gave to the point answer. In Darjeeling 62% guardians, 57.78 in Kalimpong, 22.22 in Kurseong showed indifferent attitude towards their wards. A very few guardians from three hill sub-divisions gave positive or negative answer about their level of satisfaction with the children's study.

Table 19a It is found that primarily for economic reasons the guardian's at present are over cautious and over careful with regard to career building of their children. The most fundamental point in framing their career is education side by side with family care and income. For a better career, the students must get excellent results. Most of the jobs with higher income and status in the employment areas are science, medicine, technical and vocational fields. This does not mean that arts and commerce stream do not have any worth. In both the above mentioned streams the coverage is minimum; candidates are very large in number and the level of competition is intense. In this field guardians support in financial matters is very important. Guardians may be categorical into different levels according to the consideration of education, profession and status. In accordance with the same, the ambitions connected with the future career of the students are formulated.

Whenever guardians plan for their children's education, it has been found that in Darjeeling's three sub-divisions most of the guardians express their opinion

for higher education. It has been seen from the table 19A that in Darjeeling most of the educated guardians opt for their children's post-graduate level in any fields of study such as science and arts course, engineering, medical etc.

A big group of guardians inclusive male and female 28% opts for graduate level in science, arts, engineering, medical etc. Quite a large number of guardians i.e. 19% gives importance to children's decision in Darjeeling sub-division.

In Kurseong 26.26% guardians and 24.24% guardians in Kalimpong opt for post-graduate level in any field of study. For graduate level in different fields 24.44% guardians from Kurseong, 17.17% guardians from Kalimpong opt and 13.33% guardians from Kurseong and 17.17% from Kalimpong depends on their children's decision.

Table 19b presented in the appendix shows guardians' planning for children's occupation which shows that medical line is preferred by a large number of guardians i.e. 16% from Darjeeling, 15.15% from Kurseong and 20% from Kalimpong. Engineering is preferred by 12% from Darjeeling, 11.11% from Kurseong and 4.44% from Kalimpong. However, 22% guardians from Darjeeling 17.17% from Kurseong and 17.17% from Kalimpong said that they leave it to their children to decide. It is indeed a good sign to observe children's attitude towards a particular profession.

Table 19c presented in the appendix to show how guardians provide various facilities to their children. It is observed that guardians are becoming conscious of their children's welfare. Attempts are made to admit children to better schools; private tuitions are also provided. Materials related to education and school uniforms are arranged. These facilities are not always given because guardians would like to see their children intelligent and smart but it is their idea for children holding a better position in the society. Illusions of this nature are more dominant in town areas than rural circumstances. In the town area the exposure to ideas is

greater and accordingly the level of expectation is comparatively higher than rural situation. Everywhere even in the hill areas the majority of guardians prefer a good school, preferably a missionary school for their children if they can afford the expenses. It is clear from the table 24 that most of the well off guardians provide tuition to their wards. (32% guardians from Darjeeling, 15.56% from Kurseong and 26.67% from Kalimpong).

Personal help is rendered by 22% of guardians in Darjeeling, 25.66% parents in Kurseong and 26.67% in Kalimpong.

Though most of the guardians take care of their children's education, a large no. also remain indifferent; education is considered a routine work on the part of children. The reason for this is that in the hill areas many people prefer an easy going life and they do not have very clear ideas about the competition and complex conditions in different fields of education and occupation throughout India.

*Table 19d* - Most (85% from Darjeeling 85.55% guardians from Kurseong, 82.22% from Kalimpong sub-divisions) of the guardians from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong denied that their children are getting scholarships from any sources either Government or from non-government sources.

A very small no. of guardians mentioned about non-government and government scholarship. The answer of many guardians were most of the time non-specific. Though it is a known fact that tribal scholarship, merit-cum-means scholarship are given from the Government sources. Many non-government philanthropic organisations also give scholarships to the needy children.

*Table 19e* Lastly we come to the problem regarding education of children which is presented in Table 19e. Today everywhere guardians are very much concerned with various problems connected with education, health and hygiene. All over the world social menaces are observed such as gambling, drug-addiction even sexual-aberration etc. The problem is not with the little children but with the intermediate

stage that is adolescence, a period which is very susceptible to external influences for both boys and girls. Guardians are afraid of such problems because they may create chaos in the expected career of their children. So many guardians are at present quite concerned about the disciplinary problem. Though Darjeeling is also having many problems regarding children's indiscipline but the data shows that quite a large number of guardians show their indifferent attitude. While asked about the problem faced by the guardians regarding their children, 48 % guardians from Darjeeling, 28.89% guardians from Kurseong and 20% guardians from Kalimpong said they have no problem with their children. A very few guardians admit that there is admission problem; 15% from Darjeeling, 13.33% from Kurseong and 20% guardians from Kalimpong admit that they faced trouble for admission of their children to school and college. A small no. of guardians mentioned about financial problem. Disciplinary problem are faced by only a total of 10% guardians in Darjeeling, 4.44% in Kurseong and 6.67% in Kalimpong.

But there are problems of drug addiction, truancy, early marriage by elopement etc. Those are common problem in Darjeeling as in other places, which are not mentioned by any guardians.

*Tables 16, 17 and 18* are presented in the appendix to show children's qualifications and occupations in the three hill-sub-divisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively. It has been observed most of the children in all three sub-divisions are continuing their study in primary and secondary levels. Less no. of children are found in graduate and post-graduate levels.

### **SUMMARY**

Guardians may be considered as an important components in education. The children depend on their parents almost for everything and the family as a social unit is existing since time immemorial; children can fulfil their physical and cultural needs only in a family. Altogether 100 guardians, male and female coming from different, occupations such as service, business, transport and others have been interviewed in Darjeeling Sadar Sub-divisions. As many as 45 guardians male and female from Kurseong and 45 guardians male and female from Kalimpong representing different from social strata such as middle and upper middle class have been interviewed.

It is a fact that educated home produces educated children because with educational and professional qualifications income, occupations are also related so the educated parents can take better care of their children and give them scope and encouragement to achieve educational and professional proficiency. The present data shows that graduate level is more than other levels. Most of the middle and upper middle class strived to get graduate degree and the next highest level of qualification is the secondary level. With regard to professional qualification besides a very small number of Doctor and Engineers many have acquired B.T. and J.B.T. degree, the reasons are not far to seek, the scope to acquire these degrees are available in Darjeeling hill areas.

The primary occupations of guardians is Government service. Next highest group is engaged in business. Another large group is engaged in private and semi-government service. However, this data collected from the literate group and it has been observed by discussions that they try to develop among their children a positive attitude towards education and occupation.

In a secular state role of religion is definitely less but it is to be pointed out that inspite of secularism influence of religion is still strong. There are many religious groups in Darjeeling hill areas among them largest group are Hindu then Buddhist followed by Christian and Muslim Communities. In the hill areas of Darjeeling cosmopolitan environment prevails which help their children to develop their adjustment capacity with others. Guardians also belonging to different religious communities does not vary at all in their opinion regarding their children's education.

Guardians marital status shows that most of the guardians are married. The number of unmarried guardians (means unmarried brothers and sisters) widow or separated guardians are always less in number. However, it is a known fact that well-settled guardians always take better care of their children, and from the interview of the guardians the other fact is also clarified that the unmarried widow or widower may have many individual financial and social problems which distract their attention to other areas rather than on their words.

Family composition gives importance on single or joint families. Though there are disadvantage and advantages found both in single and joint family but for financial difficulties and other family problem, joint families are breaking down. In the hill region we get now greater number of single families and perhaps here the condition of children is much better as single family guardians give more attention to their children's need.

Length of service of guardians and distance between home and place of work and mode of conveyance also taken into account because while in service guardian could give more family comfort and attention to their children. Information regarding distance and mode of conveyance from their place of work shows that most of the guardian do not go very far to work and it was mostly walking

distance and in their case the question of mode of conveyance is not coming only those who covers wide distance goes by bus or shared taxi. So interview and questionnaire to guardians made it clear that they have time to help their wards in their various needs and so many guardians said that they generally help their children in their studies.

Data on locality and area of birth shows that most of the guardians are born in the Darjeeling District and a large number of them were born in the urban or town proper. These two points were given importance because the process of transmission of social and cultural traditions properly takes place in the urbanised and cultured family and the guardians in the town area have given more facilities and privileges to their children than the guardians in the rural area.

Salary, primary occupation and secondary source of income were taken into account as the students are dependent on their parents economically. But very satisfactory data were not received in this field as the guardian did not give exact facts about this. However, those who are engaged in Government job it is assumed that their pay is not meagre besides it has been found most of the family member of the guardians having secondary source of income such as side-business.

Partners qualifications and occupation throws light on the fact that many of the partners from male and female side are educated and working partners in business, in government job and for private sector to meet the complications of life.

It has also been observed that at present literate and educated families are aware of the problem of large family and so small family is preferred.

Guardians views regarding their children education, occupation, disciplinary problem, facilities rendered scholarship received were counted. About the level of satisfaction with their children's study most of the guardians gave to the point answer which shows their indifferent attitude to their children's study but at the sametime most of the guardians wanted Higher education for their children in any field of study such as arts, science, medical, engineering and regarding

occupation Medical and Engineering is very preferred, however, many guardians wanted to see children's attitude towards particular profession. At present, in the hill areas also guardians would like to see their children intelligent and smart and so attempts are made to admit children to better schools, private tuitions, personal help are given importance. On the whole from the interview it is clear most of the guardians are conscious of their children's welfare.

But at the same time it is also to be mentioned that many also consider education as routine work on the part of children as hill areas easy-go-life do not give any clear ideas about competition and complex conditions in different fields of education throughout India.

No satisfactory answer were received regarding children's receiving government and non-government scholarships. Though it is a fact that tribal scholarship, merit-cum-means scholarship are given from the government sources many non-government philanthropic organisations also give scholarship to needy students.

Lastly it has been observed throughout the world guardians are now very much concerned with various problems connected with education, health and hygiene as throughout the world many social menaces are observed such as gambling, drug-addiction, sexual-aberration etc. and adolescent boys and girls are very susceptible to external-influences. Darjeeling is also having many problems regarding children's indiscipline but quite a large number of guardians show their indifferent attitude towards this problem, of course many admits problem in the field of financial and admission to good school and college.

On the whole it can be said that at present guardians are now becoming conscious for their children's development and progress in the educational and professional fields.

### *Section B*

## ***STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATION, AND THEIR HOME BACKGROUND***

In this chapter, not only is the students' attitude towards education given importance but their home background is also taken into account. In general, the aim in all education is to enable children to lead a successful life. They must get the opportunity to lead a life of useful service to themselves, society and the world at large. To this end useful habits activities and a suitable way of life should be inculcated.

For the purpose of this research it is also essential to know whether the students in the hill areas have acquired such useful habits and attitudes as are necessary for their own development.

The students were given a questionnaire and also interviewed. Data were collected from the primary, secondary, higher secondary and College students.

Date collected on Secondary and Higher Secondary and College students were given sub-division wise.

Primary school students data were collected from the school under Darjeeling Municipal and District school board only.

The home background was found to have a profound influence on the students. Parents try to give a suitable education to their children. It is to be mentioned here that the data was taken from the students belonging to the family of lower middle and upper middle class and the data on parents' educational qualification shows that very few students come from a family where both the parents are illiterate. The literate parents have the natural tendency for their sons and daughters for higher education. But the problem is the most parents expect the

same result from all of their children irrespective of individual differences. In course of time this results in frustration among the children. The school, according to many educationists is a miniature and better balanced society which gives opportunity to students to develop all their abilities, but also fails when it does not cater to the needs and interests of each and every student. The students have both intelligence and limitations. In order to understand each individual child, much effort is required on the part of parents and teachers.(5) "In order to restore confidence in the child and eradicate evils in society, education has to be provided according to the individual needs and limitations. No purpose of education can be rightly served if at the time of planning, the child's individuality is not kept in view."

In the questionnaire, different aspects of a student's life such as religion, age group, locality of Birth, Mother tongue, knowing other languages, composition of the family. No. of students in the family, parents qualifications and occupations, hobbies, co-curricular activities, preference for subjects were listed.

It is to be pointed out here that the parents do not show any discrimination towards the education of their daughters but personal observation reveals the fact that, daughters, side by side with their study give more of their time for household duties than sons.

The project also gives importance to students' age group. It is to be noted that the secondary section included junior secondary and higher secondary level so the age group included here ranged from 12 to 20 years, in total 808 students from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong were interviewed, Data of different age groups of primary, secondary, H.S. and College level students were given also the questionnaire included.

Table 0. 1  
 Distribution of Male and Female, Secondary and Higher Secondary  
 level students in terms of age group in Darjeeling, Kurseong and  
 Kalimpong Sub-divisions

<u>Age group</u>	<u>Darjeeling</u>		<u>Total</u>			
	<u>Boys</u>			<u>Girls</u>		
	<u>%</u>	<u>(n)</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>(n)</u>	
N.A./Unidentified	0.68	(4)	0.17	(1)	0.85	(5)
12-14	14.74	(87)	36.46	(221)	52.20	(308)
15-17	10.85	(64)	29.67	(175)	40.50	(289)
18-20	<u>3.73</u>	<u>(22)</u>	<u>2.71</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>6.43</u>	<u>(38)</u>
	<u>30.00</u>	<u>(177)</u>	<u>70.00</u>	<u>(413)</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>(590)</u>
<u>Kurseong</u>						
12-14	13.04	(12)	19.54	(18)	32.61	(30)
15-17	6.52	(6)	44.57	(41)	51.09	(47)
18-20	2.17	(2)	14.13	(13)	16.67	(15)
N.A.	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
	<u>21.74</u>	<u>(20)</u>	<u>78.26</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>(92)</u>
<u>Kalimpong</u>						
12-14	14.29	(18)	0.79	(1)	15.08	(19)
15-17	32.54	(41)	0.79	(1)	73.01	(92)
18-20	10.32	(13)	40.48	(51)	11.11	(14)
N.A.	<u>0</u>		<u>0.79</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>0.79</u>	<u>(1)</u>
	<u>57.14</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>42.86</u>	<u>(54)</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>(126)</u>

*Distribution of Male and Female, College level students(249 ) in terms of age-group in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong Sub-Division*

Darjeeling

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
15-17years	1.20	(3)	1.61	(4)	2.81	(7)
18-20 "	9.24	(23)	30.12	(8)	39.36	(98)
21-23 "	10.04	(25)	30.52	(76)	40.56	(101)
24-26 "	10.04	(25)	2.00	(5)	12.05	(30)
N.A./Unidentified	5.22	(13)	0		5.22	(13)
Total	35.74	(89)	64.26	(160)		(249)

Kurseong

15-17 years	8.62	(5)	13.79	(8)	22.41	(13)
18-20	37.93	(22)	13.79	(8)	55.17	(32)
21-23	10.34	(5)	13.79	(8)	22.41	(13)
N.A./Unidentified	1.72	(1)	0		0	
Total	58.68	(34)	41.38	(24)	100.00	(58)

Kalimpong

15-17	18.51	(10)	7.41	(4)	25.92	(14)
18-20	35.18	(19)	24.07	(13)	59.26	(32)
21-23	9.26	(5)	3.70	(2)	12.96	(7)
N.A./Unidentified	1.85	(1)	0		1.85	(1)
Total	64.81	(35)	35.20	(19)	100.00	(54)

Distribution of male and female, primary level students(240) in terms of age group in Darjeeling Municipal and District level schools.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
12-14 years	9.58	(23)	2.92	(7)	12.50	(30)
9-11	20.42	(49)	25.42	(61)	45.83	(110)
6-8	14.17	(34)	25.89	(62)	40.00	(96)
N.A.	0		1.67	(4)	1.67	(4)
Total	44.17	(106)	55.83	(134)	100.00	(240)

Altogether 1409 students from different levels of study were interviewed on different issue. A questionnaire was also set and presented in the pp.317-18 to know about students views on different aspects of life.

Next, data were collected on the religious background of the students. Religion also plays a very important role in the life of the students. It fosters a spirit of idealism among them. According to Humayun Kabir (6) "Religion resolves many of the conflicts which paralyse thought and action. It releases energies that recognize neither difficulties nor defeat."

However, it is also true that when religion emphasizes dogma and ritual it arouses friction and communal feelings. At present in India it has been observed that politics has entered into religion and this tendency is also exercising a very bad influence on the students. One good point however was that though students come from different religious backgrounds communal feelings are not found among them. The reason may be the cosmopolitan nature of the society.

(1) Data on religious background presented in the Table 1 in the appendix reveal that among primary, secondary - H.S. and College students the number of Hindus is greater than that of other religious group. In the primary level 61.67%

students, in the secondary and Higher Secondary levels, 60.17% in Darjeeling, 75.00% in Kurseong and 67.46% in Kalimpong are found to be Hindus, similarly in the College level 53.82, 68.97 and 59.25% are found to be Hindus in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively.

The second highest group is Buddhists in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. The percentage is 27.92 in primary level. In Darjeeling | Kurseong and Kalimpong the percentage of secondary and Higher Secondary and College level students is respectively 33.05, 13.04 and 14.29 and 25.30, 15.52 and 14.81 from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions.

Then come students from the Christian community followed by the Muslim community.

In Kalimpong it has been seen from the data of the Secondary and College level students that the number of Christian students are little more than the Buddhists that is 16.67 and 16.67% respectively but on the whole it has been observed that the number of Buddhists in the three hills sub-divisions is greater than that of Christian students.

However, the data collected in this regard from students conforms the data we have got from the guardians.

The locality of birth was ascertained to see in table 2 presented in the appendix whether the students have come from the same area or from the other areas or nearby districts. The data reveal that the maximum number of local students from primary level were 62.50%, from Secondary and Higher Secondary level the students from 66.61%, 71.74% and 68.25% and from College level 65.46%, 48.28%, 57.41% respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong so most of the students were born in these sub-divisions only.

As Darjeeling District is famous for many good schools specially missionary schools, students born in other parts of India and abroad also come to study here. The no. and percentage of such students are given in the table No.2.

Previously the no. of local students was found to be less than that of outsiders in these sub-divisions. Most of the students used to come from outside the district. Gradually, with the development of the hill areas the number of local students has increased very rapidly.

*Table 3* presented in the appendix shows the number of students coming from urban, rurban and rural area.

It was also necessary to ascertain whether the students come from urban rurban and rural areas. Urban areas are exclusively the town areas. Rural areas are the tea garden and outside the town area. In the hill region, the areas designated rurban were found to be less extensive than that in the plains. According to local Geographers, Sukhiapokhri, Ghoom or those areas which are situated a little away from the town area can also be taken as rurban areas. It was observed that Secondary, H.S. student, primary and College level students come mainly from urban and rural areas. Very few students have mentioned that they come from rurban areas. From primary level, 81.67% and from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively from Secondary, H.S. and College level students 76.44%, 53.33%, 53.17% and 63.45%, 48.27% and 44.44% are born and brought up in the urban areas and 10.50%, 29.36%, 30.16% Secondary and H.S. Students and 9.64%, 25.86%, 29.63% from College level students and 5.00% from primary level were born and brought up in the rural areas.

There is no denying the fact that a town, even a small town, has some influence on the students, because they get more privileges and facilities than the students coming from far and inaccessible rural areas.

*Table 4* presented in the appendix to show language spoken by the students.

About language it can be said Nepali (which comes under Indo-Aryan language) is mainly spoken in the hill areas. According to the Census of 1961 they numbered 3,69,130 (1,91,206 Male and 1,77,924 female) accounting for 59% of the then population. Bengali speakers numbering 1,52,172 (61,814 male and 53,358 female) and constituting 18.4 per cent of the population in 1961 come next, while Hindi speakers numbering 47,842 (31,762 males and 16,080 females) and forming 7.7 per cent of the population occupied the third place, followed by 8,522 Oriya speakers, constituting 1.4 per cent of the population.(7)

However, we did not get any data on Oriya speaking students. The percentage of Nepali speaking students from Darjeeling Primary levels is 54.58% from H.S. and Secondary level students and College level students were 57.11%, 75.00%, 79.36% and 57.83%, 53.70%, 36.67% respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions.

In the primary level 12.08% students are Tibetan speaking from Darjeeling. From H.S. and Secondary level 17.97%, 2.17% and 2.38% and from College level 7.63%, 6.89% and 3.70% were Tibetan speaking students.(8) "Among the various branches of TibetoBurman group of the Sino-Tibetan speech family, there are according to the Census of 1961, 8171 Lepchas, 7679 Tibetans, 2388 Bhotias and 2113 Sherpa speakers forming 1.3, 1.2, 0.4 and 0.3 per cent of the district population respectively. Among the speakers of different dialects, the Tamangs number 761, Limbus 260, Sunwars 214 and Newars 19. A study of these dialects reveal that the number of their speakers has decreased progressively from the beginning of this century because of adaption of Nepali."

From the data we observe that the percentage of Hindi speaking students is greater than that of Bengali speaking students. The percentage of Hindi speaking students in the primary level is 11.25%, in the Secondary level 8.47%, 10.87%, 10.32%, in the College level 6.83%, 5.17% and 7.41% respectively in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions, whereas the Bengali speaking students in the primary level is little more such as 15.83% in H.S. and Secondary level 7.46% , 8.70% and 3.97% in the College level 14.86%, 1.72% and 1.85% respectively in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong.

The percentage of students speaking other languages is very small in all three sub- divisions.

*Table 5* presented in the appendix regarding subsidiary language.

“According to the Census of 1961, only 84,062 persons or 13.46 per cent of the total of all mother tongue group speak a subsidiary language .... the grouping of several subsidiary languages against one particular mother tongue group would provide, a fair idea of the extent of bilingualism prevalent in the district.”(9)

It has been found that a large per cent of Secondary and H.S. students and also College students are speaking English as a subsidiary language i.e. 39.49%, 32.13% from Darjeeling, 43.48%, 39.66% from Kurseong and 21.43%, 22.22% from Kalimpong. From Primary level we get 26.67% who speak English.

From Darjeeling 22.54% and 27.31% from Kurseong, 9.78% and 17.24% and 14.29% and 14.81 per cent Secondary, H.S. and College level students from Kalimpong say that Nepali is for them a subsidiary language. From Primary level we get 26.25% who speak Nepali.

Bengali occupies in the hill area 4<sup>th</sup> place among the students as far as the data reveal. According to data collected in this regard from H.S. Secondary and College level students, 7.12% and 19.68% from Darjeeling, 11.96% and 18.96%

from Kurseong, 19.84% and 22.22% from Kalimpong speak the language. From Primary level we get the data from 2.08% students knowing and speaking the language.

Darjeeling is a cosmopolitan area and so the English language is known to a large section of the students as a subsidiary language. There was an increase in the demand for the study of English after Independence. "Formerly, English had to be studied by anyone who wished to get on in life. It was a necessary condition for employment under Government. Nor could one succeed in the Professions without an adequate knowledge of the language. Even for those who look to commerce and industry, ignorance of English was a handicap. In spite of such compulsions there was a strong feeling against the language in pre-independence India .... Today when the country is free and if we wish we can altogether abolish its study there is a steadily increasing demand for it among all sections of the people and in almost all areas."

Bengali and Hindi are known by many students of the hill area because these two languages are the official language of the state and Central Government respectively.

*Table 6* in the appendix presents the composition of the family.

The composition of the family indicates whether the family is a joint or a single family. Like all other field of data such as guardians and teachers here also we observed that most of the students come from a single family.

Data collected from Secondary and H.S. students and College level students show that a large per cent i.e. 61.69 and 59.44 have come from single families. A very small percentage of students in 28.81% and 39.76% have come from joint families. 63.79 and 61.11 students from single families and 36.21 and 38.88 students

students are from joint families respectively from Kurseong, Kalimpong from the College level.

From primary level students we observe that 24.58 per cent students have come from joint family unit but from the Secondary and H.S. level students data we get a somewhat different picture of the family composition in Kurseong and Kalimpong. In Kurseong 53.26% , in Kalimpong 50.79% of the students come from joint families and a smaller percentage have come from a single family such as 46.74% in Kurseong and 48.41% in Kalimpong.

However, this figure does not indicate that joint families are preferred but unavoidable for many reasons especially for financial reasons many joint families are still existing in India.

Qualifications of the father is presented in the table no.7 in the appendix. The family is the most significant primary group and this social unit has endured since time immemorial. The family provides the foundation on which the future structure of a child's education is erected. It is a fact that educated parents always have a profound influence on their children. Even children feel proud of the fact that their father and mother are educated.

In the three hill sub-divisions a survey was done on the parent's qualifications. The maximum no. of secondary, H.S. and College level students said that their father studied up to Secondary level, the percentage of such students is 31.18% and 27.17%, 19.05% and 27.71%, 34.48% and 40.74% respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. A total of 20.34% and 28.91% per cent students from Darjeeling, 18.48% and 25.86% per cent students from Kurseong, 9.52% and 18.52% from Kalimpong secondary and College level students claim that their father studied upto graduate level.

A large no. of Darjeeling Primary level students 22.08% claim that their

father studied upto graduate level and second largest group 13.75% claim that their father studied upto secondary level.

A small group of Secondary, Higher Secondary and College level students reported that their fathers were illiterate and another small group of students reported that their parents were post-graduate students.

*Table 8* presented in the appendix shows qualifications of the mother.

The qualifications of the mother of a family are considered important. An educated mother can take proper care of her children. It is observed that quite a large number of Secondary and H.S. students respectively 28.14%, 29.61% and 20.63% from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong said that their mother studied up to secondary level. A total of 7.80% students from Darjeeling, 13.04% from Kurseong and 8.73% from Kalimpong said that their mothers were graduates.

A total of 10.42% primary level students claim that their mothers could study till secondary level and 15.00% said their mothers studied till graduate level.

We get a little different picture from the College level students of Darjeeling. A large no. of students i.e. 39.76% claim that their mothers studied upto graduate level. The second largest group i.e. 33.93% of the students interviewed claim that their mothers are literate which means perhaps that they have studied upto primary level. In Kurseong 39.65% students claim that their mothers passed secondary level and the 2nd largest group 20.69 claim that their mothers are graduate. 46.30 students from Kalimpong claim that their mothers passed secondary level and the 2nd largest group that is 11.11 per cent students said that their mothers have passed Graduate level. However, from all the sections of students we get some important infrastructures. The data on the educational level of the parents of secondary and H.S., College and primary level have tallied with the data we have collected from the guardians. It has been seen that the no. of parents who stopped at secondary level was greater than that of graduate and post-graduate level parents.

A large number of H.S. and secondary level primary and College level students declared that their mothers were illiterate and a small group said that their mothers held a post-graduate degree.

Table 9 presents in the appendix to show father's occupation.

The family is the original unit amongst all social groups where the children get their first acquaintance with the world. The child gets a feeling of security which makes his future progress smooth and easy because the family is leased on a pre-determined economic foundation meaning a person makes out a pre-determined economic plan for the family.

A total 27.29% and 19.28% per cent of the Secondary, H.S. and College students from Darjeeling and 30.44% and 22.41% students from Kurseong and 19.05 and 22.22% from Kalimpong stated that their father were engaged in Government services.

The next highest groups declared that their father were in business. Another large group of students stated that their fathers were engaged in agricultural works.

11.36% and 9.24% students of H.S., Secondary and College level students from Darjeeling 12.04% and 12.07% from Kurseong and 15.07% and 11.10% students from Kalimpong said that their father had no definite work.

Table 10 presents in the appendix, shows mothers occupation.

Data on mothers occupation show that a large number of mothers are housewives. In Darjeeling 17.30% and 67.87% of the Secondary plus H.S. students and College level students and in Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively 62.05% and 78.16%, 79.67% and 88.88% declared that their mothers were housewives.

A total of 4.40% and 1.61%, 21.7% and 0%, 2.38%, 1.85% Secondary, H.S. and College level students from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong declared that their mothers are engaged in Government Services.

The 3rd largest group said that their mothers are engaged in the teaching profession.

A few students from all the different levels of the students declared that their mothers had no specific job.

Data collected from the primary level students on their mothers' occupation shows 64.53% students' mothers were housewives 7.08% stated that their mothers are engaged in Government jobs, 7.92% stated that their mothers were in teaching professions and 6.25% students claim that their mothers have no definite job.

The students emotional relationship with father was shown in the Table 11 in the appendix.

A student should always be given emotional and economic security by parents, otherwise a sense of resentment or rejection will develop. Poverty and deprivation are responsible for the child's emotional problems. Children have many needs and desires that should be fulfilled. Parents must give love and affection to the child and there should never be unhealthy relation between father and mother, brother and sister. A very congenial home atmosphere develops balanced emotions among the students.

With regard to emotional relationships most of the students revealed that a good and friendly relationship with their father and mother existed. Altogether from H.S., Secondary and College level students from Darjeeling, 71.19% and 67.87% followed by students from Kurseong 93.48% and 74.14% and from Kalimpong 95.24 and 64.80 students said that they have a very good relationship with their father.

Table 12 presented in the appendix to show the students emotional relationship with mothers.

In total 71.19%, 93.48%, 95.24% Secondary and Higher Secondary and College level students from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively declared that they have a very good relationship with their mother. Data on emotional relationship with both father and mother reveal that very few expressed indifferent feelings or bad relationship.

In general hill people are amiable simple and good natured hence good relationships exists in the family so most of the students get emotional support from their parents. It is rightly said that (11) "the early days of the child constitute the period of education and character formation. Unhealthy atmosphere in the home and too much bossing by the elders make the children irritating and agitating."

Table 13 presented in the appendix on the number of members in the family.

It has been found that people in the hill areas tend to have small families. When we study data from the students about the numbers in the family they tally with those taken from the guardians.

Data reveal that a very high percentage of pupils from the secondary and H.S. levels 25.59% from Darjeeling, 28.26% from Kurseong claim that no. of children in the family is only two. From the College level we get little different data 21.69% and 36.21% students from Darjeeling and Kurseong claim of three children in the family and 35.18% students from Kalimpong declared that they have four children in the family.

In Kalimpong a high percentage of students Secondary, H.S. school level students declared that there are only three children in their family. This corresponds to the data obtained from 2nd highest group from Darjeeling and Kurseong.

Data collected from the primary level reveal that 28.33% students stated about three children in a family and 22.08 stated about two children in a family.

A very small no. of students from all the levels said that there are seven or ten children in the family.

Data reveal that people in the Darjeeling hill areas are conscious of the difficulty of having a very big family. Most of the families are having the most two or four children.

Table 14 presents the data on the head of the family members.

Data on the head of the family shown that in almost all cases the head is the father. Though in many families both parents work the father is the head. In few families where the father expired the mother becomes the head. Because of separation or divorce when children stay with their mother, the mother becomes the head of the family.

In some families the decision making role is taken by the grandmother or grandfather and in that case they become the head of the family. In some cases it has been found that they are also the earning members of the family and so naturally they become the head of the family. Of course this is possible only in a joint family.

The single family consists of father mother and their children when the father is normally the head. But there are many families where parents and near relatives of the original couple live with their children. At present the joint family system is gradually vanishing. Actually the Principal member of the family is regarded as the head of the family.

In Darjeeling 78.81% and 75.90% students of Secondary, H.S. and College level students in Kurseong and Kalimpong 86.96% and 84.48%, 84.12% and 90.74% students stated that their father was the head of the family. A total of 4.92% and 9.64%, 4.35% and 8.62%, 7.94% and 5.55% students from Secondary, H.S. and College levels of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong declared their mother to be the head of the family. In the primary level 68.75 children stated that their father is the head of the family and 14.17 children stated that their grandfather be the head.

Very few from all the levels mentioned other member of the family as head. Some children stay with an uncle and aunt who naturally become the head of the family.

The head of the family looks not only to the economic conditions of the families but also to different aspects of family life. His or her care acts in unfolding the hereditary qualities, cultivation of virtues, transmitting of the social heritage among the children. His or her responsibility is always great and has a profound influence on children.

Table 15 presents in the appendix the aims and ambition of the students.(12)

“What our children are today, the world will be tomorrow”. (12)

Human being struggle to make life richer and better and so they have aims and ambitions. With the increasing application of science and technology traditional thinking is being radically changed by new norms and ideas.(13) “Man’s spectacular conquest of time space and distance, disease and labour as the use of nuclear energy, has changed the complexion of the world.”

The student coming from a modern society inherently develops a scientific mind and a positive attitude to learning.

Rational thinking influences them in their choices of goals and means. They feel that they need recognition and prestige in the society and so to have aims and ambition of life is considered necessary.

About students ambition we have observed that a large no. of students preferred Engineering, the Medical professions and administrative jobs specially in the Secondary, H.S. and primary level.

In Darjeeling, a large no. of Secondary, Higher Secondary and primary students opted for medical professions and it is clear from the data that a total of 22.50% (Primary level), H.S., Secondary level 25.42%, 16.67%, 15.87% students

respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. For teaching professions 26.67% (Primary level), 22.88%, 21.74% and 49 per cent students opted respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong.

In Kurseong and Kalimpong a large section of students opted for administrative job such as 26.09% and 23.31%. In Darjeeling 8.81% and 13.38% (Primary level) wished to join administrative service.

From the College level students we get a little different picture. A very few opted Medicine and Engineering 36.95%, 10.34% and 12.96% preferred teaching as profession. Another large no. preferred administrative service i.e. 17.27%, 17.24% and 33.33% respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong.

However, they were not sure about financial support or opportunity for their choice.

Table 16 presented in the appendix shows hobbies of the students.

Students should develop good hobbies in order to know the multiple activities of the society around them and how multiple activities enable people to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, health, education and recreation. There are certain broad areas of knowledge and skills which all children should have and that is why hobbies are important. One can pass one's time fruitfully if one has a hobby.

Data on hobbies show that games and sports are favoured by a large section of the Secondary and H.S. student population i.e. 19.15% in Darjeeling, 32.61% in Kurseong and 24.60% in Kalimpong. In primary level also Games and Sports favoured by 23.75% students in Darjeeling. In the College level also a large section of students comprising of 20.08%, 20.69%, 18.52% are from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively.

Another large group favoured stamp collection. It is interesting to see that to College level and primary level students 2nd largest group preferred study or reading books.

Social Service also got a good response from the students of College and H.S.levels.

Table 17 in the appendix gave emphasis on co-curricular activities.

Co-curricular activities are essential for an academic culture. The sense of responsibility and organisational power develop through these activities. Whenever students are engaged in co-curricular activities it is found that their personality develops and a harmonious development of their mental and physical powers results through such activities and also develop a refined aesthetic sense.

Co-curricular activities are linked with children's hobbies. A large number of secondary and higher secondary students preferred games and sports.

From the primary level a largest no. of students i.e. 43.75% showed their interest for games and sports. Next highest group 9.17% preferred musical concert.

From Secondary and H.S. students we observe that 52.03% from Darjeeling, 51.09% and 53.97% respectively from Kurseong and Kalimpong take part in games and sports. NCC is also taken by a large no. of students because of compulsion.

From College level students also we observe Games and Sports are much preferred; 38.55% and 40.74% are respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. Next large group showed their preference for study. Even in primary school children's data also we observe that most of the students showed their interest for study.

Table 18 presented in the appendix showed subject preference of students.

Regarding subject preference it was found that computers and Mathematics were

liked by most of the Secondary and H.S. students in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong, whereas primary level students preferred language.

Even data shows that College level students from Darjeeling and Kurseong also showed their first preference for language. From Kalimpong we get a little different data. It is therefore observed that large no. 20.37% liked Mathematics and Computer. However, from all levels of student population least preference was shown for work education and physical education. The reason may be these two subjects are not taught properly and marks for these two subjects are not counted in the examinations.

Table 19 presented in the appendix to show availability of tuition by the students.

A large section of students said that they do not get tuition from their family members. 29.83%, 50% and 63.79% Secondary and H.S. students complain regarding tuition respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. Some complaints are made by 65.46% College students from Darjeeling 63.79% from Kurseong and 35.18% from Kalimpong.

The father helps in academic status in most cases, a total of 18.14%, 6.52% and 8.62% Secondary and H.S. students respectively from Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong declared this to be the case. Another very small percentage of students from these three hill sub-divisions said that they get help sometimes from their mother and sometimes from their father.

A large percentage of College level students also said that they mostly get help from their father for their academic study. (5.62% from Darjeeling, 8.62% from Kurseong and 18.52% from Kalimpong).

Private tutors were engaged by a few families. In Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong respectively 3.56% and 2.17% students of Secondary and Higher Secondary has reported about private tutors. From Primary level a small percentage

i.e. 6.10 said about private tutors. From the College level a very small percentages of students reported about private tutors.

Tuition is needed to sharpen the competitive instinct of the students. Ambitious parents feel that their children should be successful at all costs. For this private tuition is given. In many cases parents also help. Students need care and help regarding their academic studies. When they get it at homes from their parents, family members and private tutors they feel secured. Many shy and timid students cannot express themselves in the class; they need careful attention from the teachers and also from family members.

However, in these hill areas, a large percentage of students do not get this opportunity because of the indifferent attitude, poverty, lack of education on the part of parents.

### **SUMMARY**

The information regarding students' attitude towards education and their home background from the lower, middle and upper middle class and the data on parents qualification shows that they are mostly coming from literate families at least both the parents are not illiterate.

Religious background in the primary, secondary, Higher Secondary and College students shows that number of Hindu students is greater than that of other religious group, the second highest group is Buddhist followed by Christian and Muslims.

However, the data are found to be correct that we have got from the guardians. In many parts of India religion exercising a very bad influence on the students as politics has entered into religion but here in Darjeeling a very good point is observed that is communal feelings are not found among the students the reason may be the cosmopolitan nature of the hill areas.

The locality of birth also confirms the fact that maximum number of local students are pursuing their study. Previously many students used to come from outside the district to pursue their study in good school specially in missionary schools.

The area of place of birth shows that students are mostly coming from urban and town areas or from rural areas that is Tea Garden area in Darjeeling and Kurseong Sub-divisions as the conception of rural area is not clear to many from the name of the place of birth rural area is outlined. However, the students who were born in urban areas got more privileges and facilities from their parents than the students of rural area.

About language group it can be said that Nepali (Indo-Aryan) is mainly spoken in the hill areas at present next comes Tibetan speaking students and then comes Hindi speaking students followed by Bengali speaking students. The percentage of students speaking other languages or dialects such as Lepcha, Sherpa, Tamang, Limbu is very small in all three sub-divisions.

Informations gathered about the students speaking subsidiary languages and it has been found that a largest per cent of students are speaking English as a subsidiary language.

To many students, speaking other dialects and language, Nepali is the subsidiary language. Bengali occupies 4th place. Bengali and Hindi are known to many students of the hill area because these two languages are the official language of the state and Central government respectively.

The composition of the family from where the students are coming shows that most of the students come from a single family.

About parents qualifications a large number of students claim that their parents studied upto old H.S. and Secondary level and the second largest group said that their parents studied upto B.A. level. The data have tallied with the data we have collected from the guardians.

About mothers qualification we get a little different view, a large number of students declared that their mothers are illiterates and a small group said their mothers held a post-graduate degree.

A data on father's occupation brings out the fact which again have tallied with guardians data. A large no. of students stated their fathers were engaged in government services. The next highest groups declared that their fathers were in business. Another large group of students declared that their fathers were engaged in agricultural work, a small group said that their father had no definite work. Data on mother's occupation shows that a large number are housewives. Some students have

declared about their mothers' engagement in government jobs and also in teaching profession. A few students declared that their mothers have no specific job.

A students should always be given emotional and economic security by parents. Every child having their needs or desires and that should be fulfilled. A very congenial atmosphere at home develops balanced emotions among the students.

With regard to emotional relationship a large number of students declared that they have very good and friendly relationship with their parents. Very few expressed indifferent feelings or bad relationships.

From the information gathered from the students it has been revealed that the number of children in the family are becoming less and it has been found that people in the hill areas tend to have small families because they are conscious of the difficulty of having a very big family. Study of modern students ambition shows that a large number of students preferred Engineering, Medical Profession and administrative jobs. A very small number of students preferred teaching profession. However, we hardly observe students attitude and interest for other professions, perhaps for isolation of this place they are not aware of other types of professions.

Students' hobbies show games and sports, stamp collections are largely preferred. Reading, social service, got a poor response from the students. Their liking for co-curricular activities also shows that most of the students preferred games and sports, next highest group shows their preference for musical concert.

Regarding subject preference it was found that Computers and Mathematics were liked most, 2nd preference for language, 3rd preference for some science subjects. However, work education and physical education are given least preference by the students.

Sometimes tuition or even personal help is needed to sharpen the competitive

instinct of the students. Students need care and help regarding their academic studies. Many shy and timid students cannot express themselves in the class. They need careful attention from the teachers and also from family members.

However, a large percentage of students do not get this opportunity because of indifferent attitude, poverty in the lower middle class families and lack of education on the part of parents.

*The Questionnaire for the students*

1. School
2. Class
3. Name
4. Caste
5. Clan
6. Age - Date of birth
7. Sex
8. Religion
9. Mother tongue
10. Do you know other languages besides your mother tongue ?
11. Father's Name
12. No. of members in your family
13. Do you live in a joint-family ?
14. Excluding you how many members are studying in your family ?
15. Place of Birth
16. What does your father do ?
17. Is your mother working in office/ school or in any other Concern ?
18. Emotional relationship with your parents
19. Parents' qualification
20. Your ambition and aim in life
21. Hobbies
22. Your interest in co-curricular activities

23. Home address
24. Tutored buy (at home)
25. Subjects preferred
26. Subjects not preferred
27. Who is the head of the family ?
28. Relationship with head
29. Position in Sib.
30. Academic position in the class

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