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INTRODUCTION

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1.1. Background

Today the world is undergoing urbanization at a rapid rate. Now the process of urbanization is happening so fast that it has never been seen before. Urbanization refers to the shift of the population from rural areas to city areas which decreases the proportion of people living in rural areas. This is a process whereby people adopt urban way of life from rural life (Chen et al., 2014). Urbanization is closely connected with industrialization and modernization. Economic developmental activity is an indispensable part of urbanization. It is a gradual process by which cities and towns are established as large number of people come from the countryside and start living for their livelihood, work and to get other benefits. It is predicted that by 2050 about more than 60% of Africa and Asia and more than 85% of the developed world will be urbanized (Urban life, 2012). Notably, the United Nations has also assumed that nearly all global population growth by 2030 will be absorbed by cities and over the next 13 years there will be about 1.1 billion new urbanites (Cohen, 2015, p. 4). Through this chapter we will endeavour to understand a basic overview on urbanization process and environmental rights along with urban environmental challenges in the world and in India.

Cities have always been a subject of fascination and study due to their complex nature. They have been analyzed from various perspectives, such as moral entities, products of human history, ecological systems, and economic entities. Moreover, cities have been seen as centers of political control and as a unique mode of human existence. Scholars have shown diverse interests in studying cities, including the physical and social environment, the city's morphology, history, challenges, urban way of life, and the origins, growth, and transformations of cities. Urbanization refers to the transformation of a society's economic, social, and cultural aspects. It involves the movement of people and processes towards urban areas, resulting in the expansion of urban areas and

population. Urbanized societies, where the majority of people live in towns and cities, mark a significant milestone in human social evolution. The densely populated urban areas bring about a level of human interaction and social complexity that has never been experienced before. This complexity arises from the sheer size and population of contemporary urbanized societies, which is unprecedented in human history. According to Davis (1961), urbanization is a relatively new phenomenon, and its rapid growth and potential are still not fully understood or realized.

Throughout history, these cities have always been a major attraction for many people. Even those who didn't live there were influenced by their unique way of life. The world has seen many changes in society, economy, and politics, but cities have always played a central role in these transformations. The shift from scattered settlements to concentrated cities brought about significant societal changes. This urbanization represents humanity's desire to progress and develop.

The pace of urbanization in developing nations is significantly faster than in developed nations, and it is not accompanied by extensive industrialization but rather rapid expansion in the service sector (Macbeth & Collinson, 2002, p. 58). It has been noted that unplanned urbanization has detrimental effects on human health and the environment, leading to the proliferation of slums and unstable infrastructure. The concentration of a large population in a limited area puts immense strain on transportation, housing, and drainage facilities, while also generating substantial amounts of waste and pollution, which have a profoundly negative impact on the environment. Due to heavy load of huge population in urban areas, cities face several environmental problems such as decline and contaminated water supplies, rise of air pollution, inadequate sanitation facilities and huge amount of solid and liquid waste. Due to large number of population migration and

unplanned urban structure have been posing serious threat to environmental protection and increasing vulnerability to infectious diseases and congestion.

Between 2001 and 2011, West Bengal experienced a rapid rate of urbanization. To comprehend the urbanization growth pattern in the state, a thorough analysis of urbanization at the district level is necessary. According to the 2011 census, Malda district had the highest urbanization rate in West Bengal, standing at 88.52 percent. South 24 Parganas and Murshidabad also exhibited fast urbanization rates, with 62.91 and 58.87 percent respectively. Jalpaiguri district also surpassed the 50 percent mark in terms of urbanization rate. However, it is worth noting that Malda only accounted for 13.8 percent of the urban population. Howrah and North 24 Parganas held significant percentages of the urban population in West Bengal, with 63.3 and 57.59 percent respectively. Kolkata recorded the highest urban population percentage, reaching 100 percent. On the other hand, Uttar Dinajpur, Paschim Medinipur, North 24 Parganas, Bardhaman, and South Dinajpur had lower rates of urbanization.

Mitchell (1956) presents a comprehensive view of urbanization, defining it as the process of transitioning into an urban environment. This includes the movement of individuals or processes towards urban areas, as well as the expansion of urban territories and the growth of urban populations. The author emphasizes the dual nature of urbanization, highlighting both its demographic aspect, which involves the migration to urban areas, and its sociological aspect, which encompasses the behavioural changes that occur as a consequence of living in a city. The urban way of life is characterized by a unique and distinct manner of living. Thompson (1935) presented a definition of urbanization as the migration of individuals from small agricultural communities to larger communities that primarily emphasize government, trade, manufacturing, or related activities. Conversely, Anderson (1960) described urbanization as more than a mere movement of people from

rural areas to cities and from agricultural labour to urban jobs. Urbanization encompasses profound transformations in people's mind-set and conduct, along with alterations in their societal principles.

McGee (1967) clearly explained the living conditions and urban problems in developing countries. The rapid growth of cities in these countries is evident in their physical appearance. People are forced to live in makeshift settlements made of flimsy materials on any available land in the outskirts of the city. The attempt to build a sense of community and civic pride is hindered by the increasing population and poverty, leading to urban chaos. Rapid urbanization puts a strain on the sustainable development of these urban areas in many developing nations. It also has a significant impact on the environment and ecosystem of the urban area.

In general, environment refers to the surroundings. It comes from the French word 'environ' which means 'encircle'. It is related to whatever is around us. The dictionary definition of environment refers to external conditions that affect the growth of humans, animals, plants, and the conditions in which they live or work (Singh, 1995, p.15). As per the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, the environment comprises of water, air, land, and the connections between them. It also encompasses human beings, animals, plants, microorganisms, and property. C.C. Park (1980) defines environment as the overall conditions that surround humans at a specific time. It is made up of three main components: physical, biotic, and energy. The physical or non-living environment includes the lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. The biotic component can be further divided into the environment of plants and animals. The energy component encompasses solar and geothermal energy.

India, one of the world's fastest growing countries, is experiencing a significant decline in its environment, particularly in urban areas. The rapid process of urbanization poses

new challenges to the environment and ecosystem. Ensuring sustainable development is a crucial concern in modern times. The concern for sustainable development is another key issue of modern time. Sustainable development means that future generation must not be deprived under any circumstance due to over use of resources by us. It is based on the notion of socio-economic development with ecological constraints.

Jenkings (2009) defined sustainable development as the responsible use of resources to ensure their availability for future generations while maintaining development in the present. Sharpley (2000) suggests that development and sustainability can sometimes have conflicting effects, but neoclassical economists argue that there is no contradiction between the two.

India has been witnessing serious environmental degradation issues especially in the urban areas. Some of the Indian cities are considered as most polluted cities in the world. Rapid growth in industrialization, emission of uncontrolled pollutants including emission of vehicles, municipal solid waste dumping sites, real estate pollution, destruction of forests, land degradation due to the process of urbanization etc (Shrivastava et al., 2018, p. 103). Urban areas of India are mostly over populated and environmental awareness is very poor. Despite of having laws, rules and regulations the situation is getting more worsen.

Many civil society and environmental movements have happened in the country. Many environmental awareness programmes have been conducted by government, various voluntary organizations, civil societies. Especially NGOs have been playing a very important role in the urban based environmental movements. These NGOs have always been vocal against various environmental pollution especially in urban areas in the world

and India. NGOs are working towards sustainable development of urban areas and endeavour to raise the environmental awareness.

John Locke emphasized the concept of civil society to describe a state that protects the rights of individuals. According to Hegel, civil society exists between the instinctive emotions and desires of the family and the rationality of the state. Hegel referred to this sphere of civil society as "universal egoism," where individuals pursue their own interests. In contrast, Hegel considered the state as "universal altruism" and the family as "particular altruism." Antonio Gramsci, in his "Prison Notebooks," argued that civil society acts as a bridge between the economic structure and the state. It stands between the state and the individual. Rajani Kothari (1988) believes that civil society encompasses a network of voluntary, self-governing institutions in all aspects of life. Civil society supports movements such as ecology, human rights, women's rights, and peace, which are crucial for a good life and the proper functioning of society.

Environmental civil societies or NGOs typically take up cases related to the environment such as Climate Change, Air Pollution, Deforestation, Ozone Layer Depletion, Waste Management, Biodiversity and Land Use, Energy, Conservation, Environmental degradation, Land Degradation Some of the Prominent examples of Environmental NGO working in the world and in India. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have long been recognized as crucial actors in global environmental politics. Because of their engagement in issues such as conservation and biodiversity, deforestation, transboundary air pollution, and climate change. NGOs have become significant actors on the global stage (Betsill & Corell, 2007, p. 98). The crucial role of NGOs has been described as agitators for environmental action architects of governance solutions and entrepreneurs for new sorts of initiatives.

Environmental NGOs are playing a pivotal role addressing the environmental issues such as Climate Change, Energy, Waste Management, Pollution, Biodiversity and land use. Environmental NGOs typically take up causes related to the environment such Climate Change, Air Pollution, Deforestation, Ozone Layer Depletion, Waste Management, Biodiversity and Land Use, Energy, Conservation, Environmental degradation, Land Degradation Some of the Prominent examples of Environmental NGO working in India are Greenpeace India, Awaaz Foundation, Centre for Science and Environment, Goa Foundation, CERE India, Conserve, Foundation For Ecological Security, Exnora International, Goa Foundation, WWF India and Winrock International India.

The uncontrolled actions of people have greatly impacted the urban environment in India. The living conditions and well-being of individuals have deteriorated in urban areas. The air in several cities is already highly polluted, leading to illnesses and premature deaths among the elderly and children. The streets are congested with motorized vehicles, resulting in increased use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions. Chaotic traffic is a common problem in almost all cities. The lack of proper sanitation and sewage treatment is the main cause of water pollution in urban areas. Most Indian cities do not have an efficient solid waste management system, leading to the accumulation of waste, foul smells, and increased pollution. The excessive use of plastic materials poses a significant threat to the urban environment. Additionally, noise pollution is prevalent in urban areas (Rai, 2017).

In urban areas, individuals are consistently subjected to high levels of noise, leading to detrimental impacts on their well-being and quality of life. Extensive research on the environmental impact of diseases highlights that urbanization, industrial growth, and energy usage are the primary factors contributing to environmental pollution, resulting in premature mortality and sickness (Smith, 1999, p. 573-584).

The protection of environment is a big challenge and foremost requirement of us. Our prime responsibility is to preserve and protect the environment. The protection of environment has been guaranteed by the constitution of India and many laws have been working in this regard. new part IV-A was incorporated by the 42nd amendment act in 1976. Article 51-A (g) states that it shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creature. Thus, it can be said that our constitution puts emphasis on environmental protection. It is one of the fundamental duties of every citizen to protect the natural assets concerning not only human being but also all living creatures including the wild life.

1.2. Safeguards of environmental protection in India:

The Indian constitution has Directive principles that aim to create a welfare state. One aspect of a welfare state is a healthy environment. Article 47 states that the State has a responsibility to ensure nutrition and improve the standard of living and public health. Public health is closely linked to the protection and enhancement of the environment. Article 48 focuses on organizing agriculture and animal husbandry in a modern and scientific manner. It emphasizes the preservation and improvement of breeds and prohibits the slaughter of certain animals. Article 48-A highlights the state's efforts to protect and improve the environment, as well as safeguard forests and wildlife.

Parliament in India holds the authority to pass laws for the entire nation or specific regions, as stated in Article 253 of the Indian constitution. This article empowers the parliament to create legislation that aligns with treaties, agreements, or conventions made with other countries. In simpler terms, it grants parliament the ability to legislate on matters concerning international environmental conferences or summits, with the aim of

safeguarding the environment within the country. The enactment of the Air Act and Environment Act through the utilization of Article 253 further solidifies this perspective. These acts were specifically implemented to enforce the resolutions established during the Stockholm Conference. Right to life includes rights to decent environment keeping. Article 21 in view, The Supreme Court while dealing with environmental matters under article 32 and 136 and the High Courts under Article 226 can provide justice on environmental matters and can take strong action against whoever is involved in this regard.

The Indian Forest Act (1927) is a colonial legislation enacted mainly to enable the state to acquire ownership over forests and their produce and, to facilitate trade and timber. The Wildlife Protection Act (1972), amended in 1983, 1986 and 1991, provides for the protection of wild plants and animals and regulates hunting, trade, collection of specific forest products. This act identified broad goals of establishing a network of representative protected areas and developing appropriate management systems, which take in to account the needs of local peoples and conservation requirements outside protected areas.

The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 empowers the central Government to take appropriate measures for the purpose of protecting and improving the environment. The Foreign Trade (Development and Registration) Act 1992 is designed to stimulate sustained economic growth and enhance the technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture industry and services.

The presence of civil societies and NGOs in modern India is a positive development. NGOs play a crucial role in areas where the government falls short. The government's bureaucratic nature often hampers its effectiveness, leaving ordinary people deprived. In such cases, NGOs step in to address the issues that the government neglects (Masihi,

2004, p.68). In a vast country like India, with a population of over 1.3 billion, not all government projects can reach the people. Therefore, the involvement of voluntary organizations is highly necessary and desirable (Goel & Kumar, 2004, p.271).

Today their presence and involvement are felt everywhere especially in environmental issues in the globe. Civil societies are often effective where administration is overburden and ineffective. Environmental civil societies have been actively working in order to protect the environment of the urban areas in India. These organisations are the warp and woof of the modern-day environmentalism in India as well as in the world. They have been successfully taking up environmental issues of urban areas and take important role to increase awareness to the people in this regard.

1.3. Scope of the study:

This research is an effort towards understanding the role of CSOs in protecting environment in the urban areas of North Bengal. This study will be based on selected civil societies led environmental movements of the selected districts of North Bengal to find out their role in environmental protection in urban areas of this region. As per 2011 census 68.11 percent of the West Bengal population resides in rural areas and 31.89 percent lives in urban areas (Census of India, 2011). According to 2011 census, North Bengal comprises with 6 districts Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Malda, Uttar (North) Dinajpur, Dakshin (South) Dinajpur. Rate of urbanization among districts also varies. Highest rate of urbanization is found in Malda district (88.52%) followed by Jalpaiguri (51.54%), Darjeeling (20.56%), Cooch Behar (12.63%), Dakshin Dinajpur (8.69%), Uttar Dinajpur (0.16%). Alipurduar and Kalimpong which have become separate districts of North Bengal respectively on 25th June 2014 and on 14th February 2017 have been included as districts head in this thesis. The present study will focus on the civil society-

based organizations and city based environmental in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar districts.

1.4. Review of literature

The studies reviewed have been segmented into four divisions namely:

- Environmentalism and sustainable development
- Social and Environmental movements
- Civil societies in environmental movements
- Environmental movements in North Bengal

1.4.1. Literature on Environmentalism and sustainable development

The understanding of environmentalism and sustainable development is crucial in order to understand environmental movements, protests, agitations in the world. Prominent works by various writers like Rachel Carson (1962), Neil Carter (2007), Emma Mawdsley (2004), Ramchandra Guha (1999), Bruno Latour (2004), Anthony Giddens (2009), Andrew Heywood (2007), Anil Kumar Dey and Arnab Kumar Dey (2009), Bill Devall (1980), Tomislav Klarin (2018), are certainly noteworthy.

Neil Carter (2007) in his book “The Politics of the Environment Ideas, Activism, Policy” emphasises the idea of environmentalism from the various perspectives such as conservative, liberalism, authoritarianism, socialism, feminism anarchism etc. The author skilfully and extensively outlines the threecore components of environmentalism.

- I. The study of political ideas and theories relating to environment
- II. The role of political parties and the emergence of organised environmental movements.
- III. The study of public policy on environmental issues at the local, national, global level.

Carter has characterised ecologism by two core ideas- the need to reconceptualise the human- nature relationship and the acceptance of the idea of limits to growth. Carter believes that as green parties entering into politics it is becoming less effective and would no longer party to protest on environmental issues. He discusses Major grass root environmental movements in US and western European nations.

Emma Mawdsley (2004) explores the perspective of India's wealthier middle class and subalterns in her work "India's Middle Classes and the Environment." The wealthier middle class in India holds positions of power and influence in society, and they consume a significant amount of environmental resources such as electricity, water, and better living conditions. They also advocate for proper waste management in urban areas. This influential group plays a role in various sectors including media, NGOs, bureaucracy, legal systems, and government. They contribute to raising awareness about the environment and promoting environmental justice for marginalized groups such as forest dwellers, small farmers, fisherfolks, and pastoralists, who are considered as subalterns.

Ramchandra Guha (1999) in his book "Environmentalism A Global History" has analysed the global environmentalism scenario. He has explained two waves of global environmental movements. First wave was started in the decade of 1860s and continued till the end of Second world war. This phase was characterised by several land agitations, scientific conservation movements, wilderness movements etc. Various environmental ideologies, views were emerging to sort out the environmental threats. The author has marked the biggening of the second wave of environmentalism with the publication of Rachel Carson's book 'Silent spring' in 1962. It created a new debate on environmentalism and paved the way for the rise of radical American environmentalism. This book also deals with the south and north perspectives of the ecological conflicts.

Racheal Carson (1962) in her famous book 'Silent Spring' has sparked the global grassroot environmental movement by explaining how chemical pesticides work, how harmful these pesticides to use in farming for both human and other species. Pesticides do not target pests exclusively. People can also be affected by it without direct exposure of it. Overuse of DDT and other pesticides put negative affect on food chain. Carson argues in favour of more environmentally friendly way of dealing with pests.

Bruno Latour (2004) explores the relationship between politics and nature in his book "Politics of Nature: How to Bring the Sciences into Democracy." He questions why political ecology should abandon the concept of nature. Latour argues that ecologism signifies the end of nature in politics and emphasizes the importance of collective efforts to protect the environment. The dynamics of the shared world differ significantly from both human politics and the politics of nature as defined by the old Constitution. Latour suggests the establishment of a new form of political ecology that redefines the traditional understanding of nature and politics.

Anthony Giddens (2009) examines the politics of climate change worldwide. He argues that climate change is directly connected to the economic activities of different countries. Giddens proposes that indirect methods are effective in addressing the challenges of climate change. Instead of solely emphasizing the dangers of climate change, promoting energy efficiency may garner a more positive response from the public. The author emphasizes the importance of considering social justice when formulating environmental policies. Governments should prioritize sustainable development to protect the environment. Additionally, renewable energy sources should be prioritized. The author also analyzes the concept of the carbon market and the geopolitical aspects of climate change. The roles of the European Union, the United States, and China in climate change politics are discussed.

Tomislav Klarin (2018) in the article “The Concept of Sustainable Development: From its Beginning to the Contemporary Issues” analyses the emergence of the sustainable development in the 1970s and specially in the 1980s. According to the author sustainable development is associated with socio-economic development in line with ecological constraints and redistribution of resources to ensure the quality of life for all. The concept of sustainable development is divided into three parts- first, initiatives of the Roman club and Stockholm conference in this regard. Second, the establishment of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WECD). Third, Rio earth declaration and others initiatives in the world perspective on sustainable development. He concludes with the challenges and solutions of sustainable development.

Andrew Heywood (2007) in his book “Political ideologies: An Introduction” attempts to explain the various dimensions of new social movements in the world. He argues that new social movements have taken birth to raise new form of political demands. New social movements are basically anti-globalization movements, anti-industrialization movements, anti-capitalist movements. According to the author, the process of globalization motivates the process of industrialization. Neo liberal globalization is a distorted form of hyper-industrialization. Unbridle growth of industrialization possess serious threats to environment and biodiversity. Environment and ecological system are facing serious threats under this circumstance.

In this book, Robert William Collin and Robin Morris Collin (2015) in their article ‘Sustainable Development: Environmental justice and sustainability’ attempts to analysis the causes and remedies of sustainable development. Authors focus on the issues of environmental disparities, sustainability, and environmental justice in the world. Environmental justice and environmental racism have been viewed as the

disproportionate, unequal policies towards a section of people who are the victims of the biased environmental policies by government. Authors have emphasized the role of environmental information and environmental decision making from the US perspective. Urban environment and sustainability are related to the meaningful and effective decision-making process.

Anil Kumar Dey and Arnab Kumar Dey (2009) in their book “Environment and Ecology” explain various environmental terms like green advocacy, green marketing, green media, environmental consultancy etc. Authors attempt to analysis the importance of environment and human environment relation for sustainable development. In the second chapter, Authors have discussed various natural resources like forest, water, mineral, food, energy, land resources in detail. Next chapters deal with various ways of pollutions and global environmental issues. Then authors discuss policies, protection systems, laws in order to save environment. Various Environmental movements like Chipko movement, silent valley movement, Narmada dam movement have been elaborated in this volume. The authors conclude by emphasising the importance of public awareness for the preservation of environment.

Bill Devall (1980) examines environmentalism from both a reformist and revolutionary perspective in his article "The Deep Ecology Movement." The reformist approach aims to create a better society without challenging the dominant social paradigm. This includes initiatives such as establishing urban parks, national parks, designated wilderness areas, and promoting organic farming. The author also explores the integration of eastern spiritual traditions with the western social paradigm. The article focuses on the themes and social structure of deep ecology, emphasizing the importance of ecological consciousness in addressing environmental issues.

Avijit Gupta (1988) in “Ecology and Development in the third world” throws light on the crisis of environmental degradation in third world nations. He postulates that rapid economic development and population pressure causing environmental degradation. Author analyses several protecting methods to save environment and advocates for an integrated approach to economic development.

Manish K Verma’s (2022) edited book ‘Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspective and Issues’ offers a complete overview of the connections between the environment and sustainable development in society, taking into account various perspectives. It includes case studies from different countries like India, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United States, Croatia, Italy, Brazil, Japan, and Kenya. These case studies cover a wide range of environmental issues such as energy justice, queer ecology, mountain cultures, incarceration, energy strategies, mining tourism, pollution control mechanisms, social impacts of oil and gas production, contract farming, gender mainstreaming, climate change, droughts, adaptation strategies, literacy, leisure, well-being, development, sexuality, sustainability, and environmental education. The book explores the negative effects of developmental activities on the global environment, highlights sustainable development initiatives in recent times, and emphasizes the need for a fair and people-centered policy framework to promote sustainable development.

1.4.2. Literature on Social and Environmental movements

A number of writers has made contributions to understand different aspects of the social and environmental movements in India and world. Works of Madhav Gadgil and Ramchandra Guha (1994), Rob White (2008), Charles Tilly (2004), Vandana Shiva (1991), Donatella Della Porta (2009), Subhas Sharma (2009), Mukul Sharma (2012),

Ghanshyam Shah (2004), Hein-Anton Van Der Heijden (2006), Arne Kalland and Gerard Person (1998), Matthew Gandy (2015), Peter S. Winch (2007) are certainly noteworthy.

Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha (1994) provided an analysis of various environmental movements in India and their ideological aspects in their work "Ecological Conflicts and the Environmental Movement in India." They distinguish between environmentalism in the first world and the third world. In the third world, environmental movements focus on the survival and well-being of people who rely directly on natural resources. These movements often oppose industrialization. In contrast, first world environmentalism emphasizes the greenness of the country and the luxurious lifestyle of its consumer society.

Rob White (2008) explores the issue of environmental crimes in his book "Crime against nature." He uses the terms green and environmental criminology to address environmental injustices. The author emphasizes the importance of public support, campaigns, and awareness programs in addressing environmental challenges. According to White, the decision-making process and people's participation play a key role in environmentalism.

Arne Kalland and Gerard Person (1998) analyze environmental movements in Asia in their article "Environmental movements in Asia." They highlight two important factors for understanding these movements. Firstly, environmental campaigns and protests often focus on local issues. Secondly, a historical understanding of environmental aspects is crucial for comprehending modern environmental crises.

In his book "Social Movement (1768-2004)", Charles Tilly (2004) provides a detailed analysis of how the organized social movement originated and became a significant point in history. The involvement of ordinary people in social movements in Great Britain and

Ireland during the 1860s played a crucial role in shaping modern social movements. Tilly emphasizes the importance of collective efforts for successful social movements. He explains different stages of social movements and refers to them as "historically specific clusters of political performances".

Donatella Della Porta (2009) in her edited book "Democracy in Social Movements" has given a close look on the various dimensions of social movements and the multilevel governance in democratic nations. Author has showed that during 1980s and 1990s many NGOs, culturally-oriented groups, trade unions, voluntary associations began to bridge their competences and to target the institutions of multilevel governance. Global justice movements express developmental structures in different levels of government. Author shows that some voluntary organizations paly very pivotal role in the making of democracy. Global environmental movements tend to incorporate democratic decision-making process more transparent and accountable, public institution should open more doors of participation of the citizens to ensure the real essence of democracy.

In his article 'Does Environmentalism Promote injustices for the poor?', Peter S. Wenz (2007) explores the relationship between environmentalism and environmental justice for the less privileged. According to the author, there are no conflicts or contradictions between these two goals. Wenz starts by presenting seven reasons that supposedly contribute to environmental injustices. He then delves into the attitudes of environmentalists in their efforts to combat issues like globalization, overpopulation, agribusiness, and free trade.

Ram Chandra Guha's book "The Unquiet Woods: Ecological Change and Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya" offers a detailed analysis of peasant movements opposing commercial forestry. In this work, Guha examines the environmentalism in India prior to

the Chipko movement. The author aims to understand the Chipko movement as a form of peasant resistance, where the peasants assert their rights over natural resources such as water, land, and forests. Guha also explores the connection between the historical peasant movements against forest degradation and the colonial history of peasant movements related to environmental concerns.

Vandana Shiva (1991) "Ecology and Politics of Survival: Conflicts Over Natural Resources in India" explains the ecological movements of the third world. According to Shiva, third world environmental movements resist the destructive force of market economy. The author explains that multilateral development organizations provide loans to poor people who are dependent on agricultural and forest natural resources in environmental sensitive areas. Due to unbridled growth of market economy, the livelihood of human and survival of environment are being heavily hampered. Hence, most of the movements in third world are against the developmental programmes which are causing serious damages to the survival economy of the poor and also destructive to biodiversity. Shiva concludes that these movements are based on the survival and the existence of life and not based on profit.

Eamonn Carrabine, Pam Cox, Maggy Lee, Ken Plummer, and Nigel South (2009) discussed environmental injustices in their book "Criminology: A sociological introduction" from the perspective of green criminology. The authors argue that environmental degradation has been ongoing but has been exacerbated by globalization. They also emphasize the importance of incorporating both risk and rights discourses in green criminology, and advocate for a global approach that examines transnational justice within expanding global economies. The book provides a comprehensive overview of primary and secondary global environmental problems, including air and water pollution, deforestation, species decline, and animal abuse. It also examines increasing illegal or

negligent actions by governments and corporations, which may involve the violation of rules set by regulatory bodies. The book further analyzes major environmental struggles and green movements using factual data.

In his article 'Globalization, Environmental Movements, and International Political Opportunity Structures', Hein-Anton Van Der Heijden (2006) explores the significance of Political Opportunity Structure (POS) in global environmental movements. The author thoroughly investigates the role of POS and International Political Opportunity Structure (IPOS) to gain a better understanding of these movements. The article examines the contributions of IPOS, including the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, and IMF, in facilitating transitional environmental movements. Additionally, it analyzes the impact of globalization, NGOs, and Environmental Movement Organizations (EMOs) in this context.

Ghanshyam Shah (2004). "Social Movements in India: A Review of literature" has articulated tribal movements on the rights over natural natural and forest resources, preservation of natural and social environment, abandonment of many projects. Tribal movements raise issues like forest and agrarian rights, rehabilitation programmes, displacement issues. Shah has viewed Tribal movements are the struggle of their own survival and existence through nature

Christopher Roots (2008) in his article "Environmental movements" has attempted to analysis the meaning, evolution, dimensions of modern environmental movements. This paper analyses the role of environmental journalism, environmental protection agencies, green parties in the protection of environment. Author discusses the usefulness of local environmental based action plan. Environmental politics of third world has also been critically analysed in this paper.

Mukul Sharma (2012) in his article “Dalits and Indian Environmental Movements” throws light on the Dalit influence on Indian environmental movements. Author points out that the significance of empowering Dalits in environmental protection in our country. In this article a new aspect of Indian environmentalism has been given from the perspective of Dalits which opposes Brahminical tradition. Author discusses the role of Jotiba Phule, Ambedkar, Periyar against the injustices against Dalits as well as environmental injustices.

In his article titled "From urban ecology to ecological urbanism: an ambiguous trajectory," Matthew Gandy (2015) provides a thought-provoking analysis of urban ecology from the perspective of botany and natural sciences. The author explores terms such as 'ecological urbanism,' 'landscape urbanism,' and 'cosmopolitan ecology' in relation to urban ecology. Gandy emphasizes the importance of political mobilization in addressing urban environmentalism.

Subhas Sharma (2009) in his book “Why people protest: An analysis of ecological movement” attempts to explore how development putting possible threat to indigenous and local people and ecology. This book analyses various environmental movements in India and the world. Various important environmental issues such as destruction of forests, building roads, mega dam constructions in the name of developmental projects.

Uma Singh Nabhi (2006) in their article “Environmental movements in India: An assessment of their impact on state and non-state actors” discusses ancient Indian tradition of worshipping nature as God. Vedic texts, upanisads, puranic tradition gives cosmological view of our world. This paper analyses environmental challenges in the contemporary India and upholds environmental related movements by dalits, tribals, forest and hill dwellers, fisher folks etc.

Geetanjay Sahu (2008) in his paper “Public interest environmental litigations in India: Contributions and complications” focuses on the role of PIL in the protection of environment in the country. This paper deeply analyses significant environmental related PIL cases such as Dehradun lime Stone quarrying case, The Ganga water pollution case, Delhi vehicular pollution case, Oleum gas leak cases ect. Judgements of these cases have been analysed with several complications of PIL in India.

Yanqi Tong (2005) in his article “Environmental movements in transitional societies: A comparative study of Taiwan and China” attempts to analyse the changing dimensions of environmental issues in Taiwan and china. Since 1950 Taiwan experienced exponential economic growth which made an adverse effect on environment in taiwan. China’s economic boom is responsible of rapid environmental degradation in the recent decades. This paper examines the role of environmental NGOs to cop with this challenges in Taiwan and China.

Ashol swain (1997) in his article “Democratic consolidation? environmental movements in India” emphasises various environmental movements in India. He shows after independence Indian leadership wanted quick economic growth based on modern industry and agricultural reform through Nehruvian policy. But immediately several environmental movements started like forest movements, big dam movements led by civil societies. This paper examines the nature and dimensions of civil society led environmental movements in india.

1.4.3. Literature on role of civil societies in environmental movements

Civil societies have been playing a huge role in environmental movements. Civil societies and environmental movements are inextricably linked. Notable writers have given contributions in order to understand the role of civil societies in environmental

movements. Writes like Habibul Haque Khondker (2001), Hein-Anton Van der Heijden (2002), David Potter (1996) Dildip Sandhu and Pooja Arora (2012), Syed Tanvir Badruddin (2015), Thomas E. Kilnk (2008) are noteworthy.

Habibul Haque Khondker (2001) in his article 'Environmental Movements, Civil Society and Globalization: An Introduction' gives an insightful analysis the role of civil societies in environmental movements in democratic nations. He emphasises Daniel Goh's views on the cohabitation of development and environment. It is viewed as environmental movements as seen as a cross class or multi class and cultural struggle where economic development, technology, ecological concern does not harm each other and happen side by side. Author argues in favour of global civil society to deal with global environmental issues and sustainable development.

Hein-Anton Van der Heijden (2002) discusses the origins of green political parties and NGOs in global environmental politics in his article "Political Parties and NGOs in Global Environmental Politics." According to the author, green political parties, which play a crucial role in protecting the environment, were established in most European countries from the late 1970s onwards. However, due to the failure of political parties to address environmental issues effectively, NGOs emerged to take action. The author categorizes environmental organizations into six main types, including global environmental mass organizations, transitional organizations, international environmental think tanks, international umbrella organizations, national level NGO-coalitions, and broad international coalitions focused on specific environmental issues.

Dildeep Sandhu and Pooja Arora (2012) "Role and Impact of Environmental NGOs on environmental sustainability in India" provide a very analytical documentation of the NGOs as prominent stakeholders in environmental protection and sustainability.

Environmental NGOs are playing pivotal role addressing the environmental issues such as climate change, energy, waste management, biodiversity, pollution and land use. NGOs in India are raising environmental awareness to public, industry and government on environmental issues. NGOs have been playing crucial role in developing partnership between industry and government for the environmental sustainability.

Syed Tanvir Badruddin (2015) in his article "Role of NGOs in the protection of Environment" attempts to analyse the role, functions, structure of NGOs in India. The author examines various NGOs like Greenpeace, Assam science society, Bombay natural history society, Kalpavarish etc. The article provides an overview of Narmada Bachao Andolan, Kerala sastra sahitya parisad, World fund for nature India, Centre for environmental education, Winrock International India, Tata Energy and Research Institute (TERI), Awaaz foundation etc. Author emphasises the need for Government, NGO and people collaboration for the protection of environment and sustainable development

David Potter (1996) has explored the impact of NGOs and the dynamics of environmental issues in his book "NGOs and Environmental Politics: Asia and Africa." The book covers a wide range of topics related to NGOs, including their influential role in addressing global environmental problems, the activities of civil societies and voluntary organizations in environmental conservation, the activities of transitional NGOs, and the role of NGOs from both the northern and southern perspectives. The author analyzes various tactics employed by NGOs, such as lobbying, campaigns, and protests, to influence national and international actors. The book also pays special attention to the political context in India, examining aspects like agenda setting, policy choices, and policy implementations by NGOs.

In his article "The Role of Environmental NGOs: From China to the Netherlands," Thomas E. Kilnk (2008) examines the functions and structure of NGOs in both China and the Netherlands. Prior to 1994, there were no ENGOs in China, but now there are over 2000 registered ENGOs working towards environmental development. The former President of China, Hu Jintao, played a crucial role in promoting environmental protection and allowing the emergence of ENGOs in China. However, the author highlights the government restrictions and limitations faced by ENGOs in China. On the other hand, the Netherlands has always had a strong civil society system. The National Environmental Policy Plans (NEPP) in the Netherlands paved the way for the establishment of ENGOs. ENGOs in the Netherlands hold a significant position in the environmental decision-making process and enjoy more freedom from the government compared to China.

Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu, Fikret Adaman, Begüm Özkaynak, Hande Paker (2017) in article "The Effectiveness of Environmental Civil Societies Organization: An Integrated Analysis of Organizational Characteristics and Contextual Factors" explains the role of civil societies (CSOs) towards environmental sustainability. Here CSOs comprises transitional NGOs, local and national civil society organizations, grassroots initiatives, social movements, trinational coalitions and networks. Author explains the mobilization, politicization of environmental civil society organizations.

In their publication titled "Civil society in an age of environmental accountability: How local environmental nongovernmental organizations reduce U.S. power plants' carbon dioxide emissions," Don Grant and Lon Bogdan Vasi (2017) explore the impact of NGOs in mitigating the release of anthropogenic greenhouse gases into the environment through the promotion of environmental norms. The authors highlight that countries with a higher number of NGO memberships tend to exhibit lower rates of greenhouse gas emissions.

This study investigates the significant contribution of civil society organizations in addressing the issue of carbon emissions by power plants in the United States.

Jo Crotty (2003) in his article “Managing civil society: democratisation and the environmental movement in a Russian region” examines the role and functions of CSOs in Russian federation since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This paper critically analyses the functions by overseas agencies within Samara environmental Movement (SEM).

Paul Wapner (1995) in article “Politics beyond the state: Environmental activism and world civic politics” provides an analytical documentations of the transnational activist groups such as Greenpeace, European Nuclear Disarmament (END), Amnesty international etc. Evolution of global NGOs and their changing natures to meet the global environmental challenges has been discussed in this paper.

In his book 'The New Environmentalism? Civil Society and Corruption in the Enlarged EU', Davide Torsello (2012) explores the various forms and contexts of environmentalism. The book reveals how corruption is generated during the planning and implementation of these projects. In each case, it becomes clear that environmental movements emerge as a response to these processes, using corruption as a means to challenge political institutions at regional and state levels, and to convey their goals to local citizens. By highlighting how revelations of corruption are used to promote civic participation in environmental movements and impact institutional trust, this book deepens our understanding of the decline in legitimacy and trust in local and global political institutions.

Professor Emerita Krishna Mallick (2021) in her book ‘Environmental Movements of India: Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Navdanya’ offers a detailed account of three significant movements in India’ providing inspiration to grassroots activists striving for

environmental justice. Each movement addresses a distinct crisis and impacts a specific group of people. The Chipko movement gained fame for its courageous women who embraced trees in the Himalayan forest. The Narmada movement fought for the rights of villagers displaced by a massive dam. Lastly, the Navdanya movement advocated for hundreds of thousands of farmers who lost their livelihoods due to a compact between the Indian government and promoters of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). In her extensively researched book, "Environmental Movements of India: Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Navdanya," Mallick presents these movements within a framework that explores Hindu Vedic wisdom, Development Ethics, Global Environment Ethics, Feminist Care Ethics, and the Capability Approach.

Liz Sonneborn (2007) in the book *The Environmental Movement: Protecting Our Natural Resources* provides a great introduction to the movement that emerged in the late 1800s in the United States. It was a response to the depletion of forests and the pollution caused by the increasing number of factories. Moreover, it provides valuable information on how environmentalism has evolved into a global endeavor, with organizations like Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund leading the way.

Ishwar Chandra Naik (2016) in the book 'Environmental Movements, States and Civil Society' provides a detailed sociological study on the environmental movements in Odisha, with a specific focus on the tribal movement in the Kashipur block of Rayagada District. The author explores the extent of tribal reliance on minor forest products and the impact of industrialization and development on their traditional livelihoods. These movements primarily oppose the mining industry in the state, as they are deeply concerned about the land, water, and forests, which are vital natural resources and the sole source of their livelihoods. The developmental model followed by independent India has often led to conflicts between livelihood and the environment, as the government

tends to marginalize the already marginalized sections of society in the pursuit of development projects. The tribes of Odisha have undertaken these environmental movements to assert their right to use the natural resources they have relied on for generations. These movements have brought a new perspective to Indian democracy, governance systems, and civil society. The study also examines the role of the state and civil society in relation to environmental movements.

Dorceta E. Taylor's (2016) in his book 'The Rise of the American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection' provides a detailed social history. It explores the diverse U.S. conservation movement from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Taylor examines how race, class, and gender influenced every aspect of the movement. The book covers various endeavors such as the creation of parks, wildlife protection, forest conservation, and outdoor recreation. Taylor emphasizes the interconnectedness of these efforts with the ideologies of the 19th century. Initially led by privileged white urban elites, who discriminated against the lower class and were involved in slavery and the seizure of Native lands, the movement later benefited from the contributions of marginalized groups such as the poor, working class, people of color, women, and Native Americans. Taylor's work provides a comprehensive analysis of the movement's motivations, conflicts, problematic practices, and achievements in a fresh and insightful manner.

1.4.4. Literature on Environmental movements in North Bengal

Present work is based on North Bengal region. This region has been witnessed many environmental movements. Work of Dr. Ranjita Chakraborty (2014) is noteworthy.

Dr. Ranjita Chakraborty (2013) in a project report titled, "The Political Economy of the Anti-Dumping Movement in Siliguri" focussed on the anti-dumping movement launched

by the residents of the locality against the environmental degradation of the locality due to the dumping of the solid waste generated within Siliguri. The study inferred that the movement could bring out the issues before the government as well as before the judiciary. However, the movement couldn't generate much support within the population of greater Siliguri. The study emphasises specifically on the political and economic variables that motivated the movement as well as shaped its trajectory.

Dr. Ranjita Chakraborty (2014) in an article titled "Protesting Environmental Pollution: Urbanization and Environmental Pollution" focussed on the nature of environmental pollution due to unplanned urbanisation in Siliguri resulting in a collective protest by the aggrieved residents who lived near the place where every morning truckloads of solid waste generation from the city of Siliguri was dumped. This entailed a situation of human rights violation of the residents who suffered from various diseases not just due to air pollution but also water pollution caused due to the toxic gases released from the decaying waste.

Sourish Jha (2010) in his article 'The Struggle for Democratizing Forests: The Forest Rights Movement in North Bengal, India' discusses forest movements and struggles in India have a long history of fighting against colonial rule. In North Bengal, these movements have been ongoing since the 1960s. Unfortunately, despite the dedicated efforts of these movements, the livelihood opportunities for forest dwellers have only worsened over time. The Wildlife Act of 1972 and the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 further strengthened the oppressive forest bureaucracy. The introduction of the Joint Forest Management Programme in the 1990s, supported by the Forest Policy of 1988, was supposed to empower forest dwellers economically and socially through their participation in forest protection activities. However, this initiative failed miserably in the region. In 2000, a movement was launched to demand land and livelihood rights for forest

dwellers, given the dire circumstances. With the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in 2006, the movement gained new momentum as it continued to fight against the biased implementation of the Act. This article provides a brief overview of the movement, highlighting its significance and evolving priorities over the years.

1.5. The Statement of the problem

Since the constitution of India has adopted a welfare form of state, its primary duty is to develop the quality of life of the citizen from every aspect. Environmental issues are one of the issues that not have given proper attention since the independence of India. Environmental issues in West Bengal along with North Bengal have not been taken proper care of. Environmental degradation and environmental pollution have made human life miserable specially in the urban areas of North Bengal. Environmental degradation is not only the cause in these urban areas of North Bengal, but the proper environmental structures and planning that should have been framed have not yet been developed. These environmental problems have since taken a large shape in the city areas of North Bengal.

At different times and in different ways local people have formed protest against the environmental issues. Environmental justice movements have been taken place. Collective action among the people is very crucial for the success of any social movement. Identity construction plays an important role in the collective action (Porta & Diani, 2006, p. 67). According to Pruijt, urban movements are kind of social movements through which citizens endeavour to achieve some control over urban environment. The urban environment comprises the build environment, the local political process and the social fabric of the city (Ritzer, 2007, p. 34). So this is important to find out the nature of the urban environmental movements in North Bengal. As no such deep work has been conducted to look into this serious matter so far. Role of socio economic and political

conditions are to be deeply analysed to understand the nature of such environmental movements in these urban areas of North Bengal.

Most of these environmental movements have got supported by Civil Society Organizations. Civil Society Organizations are undoubtedly important stakeholders in environmental issues in India and in the world. From the Stockholm conference in 1972, the importance of CSOs have been increased a lot in global environmental perspective. The Civil Society is considered as the intermediate sphere between the market and the state. CSOs can be understood as social and political power of households, civil movements and social associations. The term civil society is not confined to Non-Governmental Organizations, it includes other non-state associations as well, attempting to bring together the desires of individual and the policies of state (Ahmed, 2018, p. 16-39). In North Bengal especially in many urban areas civil societies are playing active role to lead urban based environmental movements. The nature of structure of these CSOs are important to understand. Their nature of funding, activities, organisational structure, reasons of success and failure of environmental movements etc are some issues which need to be deeply analysed.

1.6. Research Gap, Research Objectives, Research Questions:

1.6.1. Research Gap

After analysing closely, the works of various eminent scholars on this issue it is important to note that the area of environmental movements and the role of civil societies in the urban areas of north Bengal have been underrated. Very few research has been conducted on the role of civil society in the urban environmental movements of north Bengal so far. Most of the published works generally concentrate on the various other dimensions of environmental movements in India but very little attention has been paid on the civil

society led urban environmentalism in the country as well as in north Bengal. Such attentions like the role of the people in these environmental movements, the role of the civil societies in these urban environmental movements, the role of administration, the success and failure of these urban based environmental movements have not been adequately analysed. So therefore, due to absence of prominent works on this serious issue, this research tries to make an attempt to look closely on this matter and to produce effective remedies to the existing loopholes.

1.6.2. The study has the following objectives:

1. To understand the nature of civil society led environmental movements in the urban areas of North Bengal.
2. The study work aims to understand the role of civil society organizations facilitating such movements.
3. The proposed study endeavours to understand certain collective actions to ensure successful movements.
4. The research also tries to look into the reasons for unsuccessful environmental movements despite collective actions.
5. To observe the nature of organizations, mobilizations, structures and strategies adopted with them collective actions for environmental justice.

1.6.3. The research questions are the following:

1. What is the nature of civil society led environmental movements in North Bengal?
2. What are the Civil Society Organizations and their different roles that are facilitating such movements?

3. Why do we see certain collective actions emerging into successful movements?
4. Why do we see certain collective actions for environmental justice becoming a failure?
5. What is the nature of organizations, mobilizations, structures and strategies adopted with them collective actions for environmental justice?

1.7. Significance of the study:

The present study is significant because it addresses urban environmental issues which have adverse effect on a large population of the select eight districts of North Bengal. Due to the rapid growth of urbanization, many environmental issues are mounting up in the urban centres of North Bengal. This study focuses the role of civil society organizations in the protection of urban environment of the present research area. It also shed light on the success and failures of civil society organization led urban environmental movements in the present research area. The present study attempts to understand the structure of CSOs along with their methods of activities to address the urban environmental challenges in North Bengal. The study highlights prominent urban environmental protests, campaign in the research area. Finally the thesis can also advance the field of urban environmental studies of North Bengal. Therefore it can contribute to the understanding of civil society organizations led urban environmental movements in North Bengal.

1.8. Hypothesis

- The presence of CSOs are positively facilitating environmental movements in the urban areas of North Bengal.
- The CSOs are not able to ensure a successful movement for protection of environment in the urban areas of North Bengal.

1.9. Research Methodology:

1.9.1. The Fundamentals:

Given the nature of the research problem outlined above, we proposed utilizing a qualitative research approach in our study. Qualitative research is a comprehensive methodological approach that encompasses various research methods such as interviews, focus groups, observation, and action research. Within the framework of qualitative research, we gain an analytical and exploratory understanding of the issues at hand. In social research, it is crucial to reflect upon our theoretical, normative, and social positions, as our behaviours cannot be separated from the specific social contexts and environments in which we operate. The interview method is extensively employed in this study, involving structured sets of questionnaires for direct observation. In order to get clear data from the field we have divided the samples into four categories such as respondents from common people, respondents from the people who are associated with urban environmental movements and campaigns, respondents from CSOs and respondents from the people representatives.

1.9.2. Sources of Data

To ensure the study's objectivity, participants were chosen using a simple random sampling method. Data has been taken through structured and unstructured interviews with 25 questions. We interviewed 50 respondents from common people of each of the eight urban centers: Darjeeling municipality, Mirik Municipality, Kalimpong Municipality, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Jalpaiguri Municipality, Cooch Behar Municipality, and Alipurduar Municipality areas. The participants, who from common people, were divided into male and female categories. Additionally, we categorized the respondents based on their educational qualifications, distinguishing between post-

secondary and pre-secondary levels. Furthermore, we divided the respondents into business and non-businessperson categories to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the research study. The researcher believes that business persons play a crucial role as stakeholders and determinant factors in the urban environmental situation.

In our research, we have closely observed the urban environmental activities, movements, and protests in the first six urban areas. Within these areas, we have documented significant environmental movements in certain places, as well as moderate and small-scale environmental protests or campaigns in others. To gain a deeper understanding of these movements and campaigns, our researcher has visited the specific areas where they are taking place and engaged with the local communities. During these visits, the researcher has discussed the details of the environmental movements with the people involved, as well as explored the role of civil societies in these initiatives. However, it is interesting to note that in the cities of Cooch Behar and Alipurduar, despite facing numerous environmental challenges, there have been no intense environmental movements or campaigns observed. The researcher has closely examined the reasons behind this absence of environmental protests, seeking to understand why these cities have not seen such initiatives despite the challenges they face. Through thorough analysis of field data, we have explored the factors contributing to the lack of environmental protests or campaigns in these areas.

The researcher has engaged in discussions with twenty different CSOs that are involved in urban environmental protection. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the research study, the researcher conducted interviews with the founding members and office bearers of these CSOs. The interviews delved into various aspects such as organizational structures, funding systems, memberships, and activities. Additionally, the researcher also sought the perspectives of several Ministers, ex-ministers, and

chairpersons of different municipalities to gain insights into the administration's understanding of the urban environmental aspect of North Bengal.

1.9.3. Data collection and analysis:

We started by conducting a thorough examination of various sources such as books, journals, news articles, census reports, gazette publications, and websites. Our goal was to gain a comprehensive theoretical understanding of the subject matter. In order to collect data, I personally visited all eight cities to observe the ground situation regarding urban environmental issues. I made an effort to communicate with individuals involved in environmental protest movements and campaigns. Additionally, I reached out to respondents from civil society organizations and the administration. Apart from conducting interviews, I also visited municipalities and met with party leaders to gather a substantial amount of data. To gain a deeper understanding of the study area, we employed the political ethnography method, which allowed us to derive intensive knowledge. The data we collected has been organized and analyzed using statistical methods.

1.10. Chpaterization of the thesis:

Chapter I: Introduction: It contains statement of the research study, statement of the problem, literature review, research gap, research objectives, research questions, hypothesis, methodology, organisation of the thesis.

Chapter II: Urbanisation and Environmental Rights: Contestations and Resolutions: This chapter deals with conceptualising urban environmentalism, sustainable development, environmental rights. This chapter attempts to understand the trend of urbanization process in the world, India, West Bengal and North Bengal with major causes of urbanization. This chapter tries to conceptualise the major environmental

rights in India along with prominent international summits and conferences environmental challenges and sustainable development. This chapter also discusses various theoretical aspects of environmentalism.

Chapter III: City Based Collective Actions for Environmental Justice: A Review:

This chapter analyses emerging urban collective actions for environmental justice in India. This chapter deals with features and major facets of environmental justice. This chapter closely analysis the historical evolution of environmental justice movements and the major environmental justice movements in the world. The evolutions of environmental movements and prominent contemporary urban environmental justice movements in India have been analysed. The role of civil society organizations in the environmental movements in the urban areas also has been deeply examined in the chapter. This chapter endeavours to find out the success and failures of CSOs led urban environmental movements in the world and in India.

Chapter IV: Field work: This chapter deals with field work of the present study. The researcher has visited the selected districts in the thesis universe. The data has been collected through several methods. The researcher has used random sampling method to collect data. The data has been gathered from the respondents of common people, respondents of civil society organizations, respondents of agitators, respondents of administration and government through direct interviews and telephonic conversations. The researcher has also gathered data from secondary sources such as various governmental reports and newspaper articles, journals, books.

Chapter V: Summary and Conclusions: This chapter is associated with summary and conclusions of the study. The chapter analyses the basic summary of the present research.

This chapter highlights the major findings of the research along with this some suggestions and the future scope for further study.