

CONTENTS

DEDICATION.....	i
DECLARATION.....	ii
CERTIFICATE FROM Ph. D. SUPERVISOR.....	iii
PLAGIARISM REPORT.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v-vi
PREFACE.....	vii-viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix-xvii
CONTENTS.....	xviii-xxii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xxiii-xxv
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xxvi-xxx
LIST OF PLATES.....	xxxi
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xxxii
ABBREVIATIONS.....	xxxiii

Chapter No.	Title of the Chapter/Section/Sub-section	Page No.
-------------	--	----------

CHAPTER I	INTRODUCTION	1-29
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 Human and River Interactions	2
	1.3 Study area	4
	1.4 Statement of the problem	8
	1.5 Aims and objectives	11
	1.6 Hypothesis	11
	1.7 Materials and methods	11
	1.8 Literature review	15
	1.9 Expected outcome	20
	References	21
CHAPTER II	PHYSICAL SET UP AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE RIPARIAN INHABITANTS ALONG THE TISTA RIVER	30-64
	2.1 Introduction	30
	2.2 Physical set up of the study area	31
	2.2.1 Elevation	31
	2.2.2 Slope	32
	2.2.3 Ruggedness	34
	2.2.4 Lithology	35
	2.2.5 Geomorphology	36
	2.2.6 Climate	38
	2.2.7 Soil	41
	2.2.8 Vegetation Index	42
	2.3 Socio-economic condition of the riparian inhabitants along the Tista River	44
	2.3.1 Population	44
	2.3.2 Households	45
	2.3.3 Sex Ratio	45
	2.3.4 Scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) population	47
	2.3.5 Literacy rate	48
	2.3.6 Religious Composition	50
	2.3.7 Distribution of working population	51
	2.3.8 Net sown area	53
	2.3.9 Irrigation status	54
	2.3.10 Transport networks	56
	2.3.11 Health centres	57
	2.3.12 Commercial and co-operative banks	58
	2.3.13 Agricultural Marketing Society	60

	2.3.14 Land use scenario	61
	2.4 Conclusion	63
	References	63
CHAPTER III	ROLE OF TISTA RIVER ON LIVELIHOOD OF THE RIPARIAN INHABITANTS	65-112
	3.1 Introduction	65
	3.2 Dimensions of livelihood and considered indicators for the assessment	66
	3.3 Description of the selected livelihood dimensions and their considered variables	69
	3.3.1 Social Dimensions	69
	(i) Distribution of the respondent inhabitants based on occupation related with Tista River	69
	(ii) Reason for choosing the present occupation	70
	(iii) Reasons for living in the riparian village of the Tista River	71
	(iv) Length of time lived in the riparian villages of the Tista River	71
	(v) Distance of house of the respondent from the Tista River	73
	(vi) Age-sex structure of the respondents and their households	73
	(vii) Educational attainment of the respondents	75
	(viii) Gender-wise disparities in occupation related with Tista River	76
	(ix) Caste-wise characteristics	77
	(x) Religious orientations, uses the Tista River water for religious and festivals purposes and spiritual significance of the Tista River to the respondents	78
	(xi) Cultural diversities of different communities and its relation with the Tista River	80
	3.3.2 Economic Dimensions	81
	(i) Annual Income	81
	(ii) Income Diversity	82
	(iii) Income Distribution	83
	(iv) Deviation of Income	85
	(v) Working members and dependent population in the households	88
	(vi) Area of Landholding	89
	(vii) Livestock of the inhabitants	90
	(viii) Availability of government economic assistance schemes in the households	90
	(ix) Government focus on this region due to natural resources and economic potentiality	91
	(x) Development of eco-tourism hub positively affect their household's income	91
	3.3.3 Physical Dimensions	92
	(i) Irrigation facility (in respect of Tista Irrigation Project, Gajaldoba)	92
	(ii) Uses of farm equipments	97
	(iii) Transport facility	98
	(iv) Availability of communication networks	98
	(v) Seeds used	99
	(vi) Uses of fertilizers and manures	100
	(vii) Uses of pesticides	100
	(viii) Banking facilities	101
	(ix) Agricultural marketing society facility	102
	3.3.4 Risk Dimensions	103
	3.3.5 Environmental Dimensions	106
	3.4 Livelihood dependencies of the riparian inhabitants on Tista River	107
	3.5 Conclusion	109
	References	110
CHAPTER IV	RIVERINE HAZARDS IN THE RIPARIAN VILLAGES OF THE TISTA RIVER	113-150
	4.1 Introduction	113

	4.2 Historical records on Tista and its associated riverine hazards in the Sub-Himalayan West Bengal	114
	4.3 Assessment of the riverine hazards in the study area	118
	4.3.1 Assessment of flood susceptibility zonation of the study area	118
	4.3.1.1 Selection of flood susceptibility parameters	118
	(i) Elevation	119
	(ii) Slope	119
	(iii) Relative Slope Position	120
	(iv) Plan Curvature	120
	(v) Topographic Ruggedness Index	121
	(vi) Topographic Position Index	121
	(vii) Valley Depth	121
	(viii) Convergence Index	122
	(ix) Rainfall	123
	(x) Topographic Wetness Index (TWI)	123
	(xi) Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)	123
	(xii) Distance to River	124
	(xiii) Lithology	125
	(xiv) Geomorphology	126
	(xv) Land Use and Land Cover	126
	4.3.1.2 Weighting and ranking by Analytical Hierarchy Process method	126
	4.3.1.3 Consistency checks	129
	4.3.1.4 Mapping of flood susceptibility zonation	129
	4.3.1.5 Description of the flood susceptibility zonation	131
	4.3.1.6 Validation of the flood susceptibility model	133
	4.3.2 Assessment of channel shifting of the Tista River	134
	4.3.2.1 Lateral shifting of the active channel	135
	4.3.2.2 Bank line shifting	137
	4.3.2.3 Historical channel migration zone	139
	4.3.3 Assessment of bank erosion of the Tista River	141
	4.3.3.1 Identification of bank erosion-prone sites	141
	4.3.3.2 Case studies on major bank erosion-prone sites	144
	4.4 Conclusion	147
	References	147
CHAPTER V	EFFECT OF THE RIVERINE HAZARDS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE RIPARIAN INHABITANTS	151-193
	5.1 Introduction	151
	5.2 Effects of floods, bank erosion, and river channel shifts on riparian inhabitants	151
	5.3 Riparian area-wise vulnerability due to riverine hazards of the Tista River	155
	5.3.1 Warning levels of the Tista River	155
	5.3.2 Flood damages by the Tista River	157
	5.3.3 Negative tendency of population growth in the riparian villages	159
	5.4 Analysis of the riparian hazards-induced livelihood vulnerability of the riparian villages along the Tista River	160
	5.4.1 Methodology for livelihood vulnerability assessment	161
	5.4.2 Major components and their sub-components for LVI assessment	162
	5.4.3 Calculation of LVI	162
	5.4.4 Description of major components and their sub-components	163
	(i) Socio-demographic Profile	163
	(ii) Livelihood Strategies	164
	(iii) Social Safety	166
	(iv) Health Condition	167
	(v) Food Supports	168
	(vi) Water Supports	170
	(vii) Flood Hazards	171

	(viii) River Bank Erosion	173
	(ix) River Channel Shifts	174
	(x) Climatic Variation	176
	5.4.5 Livelihood Vulnerability Index (LVI)	177
	5.4.6 Index dimension of LVI based on LVI-IPCC framework	180
	(i) Adaptive Capacity	180
	(ii) Sensitivity	182
	(iii) Exposure	183
	5.4.7 LVI based on the LVI-IPCC approach	184
	5.4.8 Relationship analysis	186
	5.4.9 Significance test	188
	5.5 Conclusion	190
	References	191
CHAPTER VI	HUMAN INTERFERENCES ON THE TISTA RIVER	194-241
	6.1 Introduction	194
	6.2 Human interferences on the Tista River	195
	6.2.1 Channel encroachment and increasing population pressure in the study area	196
	6.2.2 Land use change scenario of the study area	200
	6.2.2.1 LULC classification	200
	6.2.2.2 LULC change detection	203
	6.2.2.3 Accuracy assessment of the LULC classes	204
	6.2.3 Groundwater scenario of the study area	206
	6.2.4 River bed materials extraction activity and its effects on Tista River	207
	6.2.5 Negative Impact of Tista Barrage Project on Tista River	211
	6.2.6 Interventions by embankments and spars	214
	6.2.7 Water quality assessment of the Tista River	216
	6.2.7.1 Site-wise water quality assessment of the Tista River	216
	6.2.7.2 Site-wise different water quality parameter assessment	217
	6.2.8 Assessment of channel transformation and habitat modification of the Tista River	229
	6.2.8.1 Selection of the survey sections	229
	6.2.8.2 Application of the RHS method	229
	6.2.8.3 Analysis of the sections based on different elements	230
	6.2.8.4 Habitat quality assessment	234
	6.2.8.5 Habitat modification assessment	235
	6.2.8.6 Shannon-Wiener diversity index	236
	6.2.8.7 Significance test	237
	6.3 Conclusion	239
	References	240
CHAPTER VII	PERCEPTIONS OF THE RIPARIAN INHABITANTS CONCERNING THE TISTA RIVER	242-275
	7.1 Introduction	242
	7.2 Study on perceptions of the riparian inhabitants concerning the Tista River	245
	7.3 Level of agreement and disagreement on the basis of selected perceptions parameters	247
	7.4 Reliability test of the constructs	248
	7.4.1 CONSTRUCT-I: Perception of communities' association with the linear nature of the Tista River	250
	7.4.2 CONSTRUCT-II: Perception concerning the availability of information on the Tista River	252
	7.4.3 CONSTRUCT-III: Understanding the benefits (goods and services) and perception connection to use aspects of the Tista River	254
	7.4.4 CONSTRUCT-IV: Perception concerning the significance or value of the Tista River	256

	7.4.5 CONSTRUCT-V: Perception concerning the health of the Tista River	258
	7.4.6 CONSTRUCT-VI: Perception of human interferences on Tista River	259
	7.4.7 CONSTRUCT-VII: Perception on conservation and management of the Tista River and its water resources	262
	7.4.8 CONSTRUCT-VIII: Inhabitants' opinion on participation in Tista River management activities	266
	7.5 Assessment of the relation between awareness and living standard of the respondents	269
	7.5.1 Composite index of respondents' awareness (CIRA)	269
	7.5.2 Composite index of respondents' living standard (CIRLS)	269
	7.5.3 Calculation of CIRA and CIRLS	270
	7.5.4 Statistical relation between CIRA and CIRLS	270
	7.6 Conclusion	271
	References	272
CHAPTER VIII	CONCLUSION	276-282
	8.1 Major findings of the research	276
	8.2 Significance of the research	278
	8.3 Policy implications	279
BIBLIOGRAPHY		283-298
APPENDIX		299-317
	Appendix-A	299
	Appendix-B	301
	Appendix-C	307
	Appendix-D	308
	Appendix-E	312
PUBLISHED ARTICLES		
SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS		