

Chapter 5

Research Setting: The Places and Peoples under study

- **Physical and Infrastructural Characteristics of the Villages Under Study**
- **Physical and Infrastructural Characteristic of the Towns Under Study**
- **Demographic Characteristics of the Villages and Towns Under Study**
- **Demographic Analysis of the Villages and Towns Under Study**
- **Implementation of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the Villages and Towns of West Sikkim**
- **Findings**

CHAPTER 5

RESEARCH SETTING: THE PLACES AND PEOPLES UNDER STUDY

For the empirical study of the present research work, four study areas were selected. As it is a comparative study between rural and urban areas, out of four study areas, two villages and two towns were selected from West district of Sikkim to represent the rural-urban educational scenario. The name of the villages are: Bariakhop or Burikhop and Timburbong and the two selected towns are: Gyalshing or Geyzing and Nayabazar which are the only two notified town areas of West Sikkim by the U.D.H.D. Village area of Sikkim is locally called as '*Busty*' and town area as '*Bazar*'.

5.1 Physical and Infrastructural Characteristics of the Villages Under Study:

i) Timburbong *Busty*:

This village of West district of Sikkim is situated about 4 Kilometres from Soreng sub-division. The village lies between Soreng sub-division and Bariakhop village. According to the 'Khatian' number 1735 available at Land Revenue Department, the area of Timburbong block excluding Tharpu area is as follows:

Pani Khet: 132.6600 hectare, Sukha bari: 239.000 hectare, Barren Land: 12.8640 hectare, Cardamom land: 16.9240 hectare, Khasmahal land: 25.0600 hectare, Gaucharan: 299.600 hectare, 'Khatian' number 657 gives detail about Tharpu area:

Panikhet: 62.094 hectare, Sukha bari: 82.2220 hectare, Cardamom: 1300 hectare, Khasmahal: 24.3880 hectare and Gaucharan Barren land: 11.0280 hectare.

Different castes and communities co-exist peacefully in this village. Among them Subba tribe and Brahmin caste are dominant. The village is under Soreng police station. Timburbong belongs to 43 gram panchayat unit of Timburbong block. The village has five distinct wards. They are :

i) Upper Timburbong

- ii) Timburbong
- iii) Lower Timburbong
- iv) Upper Tharpu
- v) Lower Tharpu

The five wards are very widely scattered, extending from Gompadara situated at a very high altitude to Tharpu (a valley). For communication, people of this place avail private jeep service on regular basis and bus service by the State Government (Jorethang to Sombaria service).

The lifestyle of the people here is very simple and they mainly depend on agriculture which is their main source of livelihood. Besides agriculture, some people are also engaged in business or service sector. Though majority of the villagers follow Hindu religion, some people follow Christianity and a few follow Buddhism. Nepali and Subba are the two languages mainly spoken at Timburbong village. The village has two post offices, one library 'Sudarshan Pariwar' which was established in 2007 by the villagers themselves. The library is full of only Hindu religious books. There are 4 ration shops, 4 tea stalls including two school canteens, 8 small village clubs, 4 tailor shops, 3 I.C.D.S. centres, 1 Rural Marketing centre, 1 milk production centre, 2 Private husking and oil mills, 1 D.H.H. office (Directorate of Handloom and Handicraft), 1 monastery or 'gompa', 1 church, 3 temples among which 2 are private and one was established with the help of government fund. There are two government secondary schools which were established in 1947 and 1951, one lower primary school and 3 private schools in this region. After completion of class X, students join either Bariakhop Senior Secondary School or Soreng Senior Secondary School or Sombaria Senior Secondary School.

Hundred per cent households of this village enjoy electrification facility. For water supply there is P.H.E. or R.D.D. connection. Most of the houses are 'kutcha' made of mud, cement and a structure made of bamboo called 'igra'.

According to the Census 2001 survey, total households of this village are 582 and total population is 2928 including ethnic and non-ethnic communities, service holders, businessmen and voters.

There is no weekly market or a permanent market in this village. People of this place are dependent upon Soreng market for marketing purposes.

ii) **Burikhop or Bariakhop *Busty***

It is a remote village in the West district of Sikkim. The village is under Soreng police station of Soreng sub-division of West district of Sikkim. It belongs to 45 gram panchayat unit. The village is situated at about 10 kilometres from Soreng sub-division. People of this place used to worship goddess of jungle 'Bon Bureni'. Thus they started calling the place as 'Burikhop'. 'Khop' means an interior place. Later on, the political leaders announced the name of this place as 'Bariakhop'. Total area of this village is 780.198 hectare including 5.6200 hectare 'pani khet', 406.7240 hectare 'sukha bari', 146.5200 hectare barren land, 87.0000 hectare cardamom land, .6060 hectare 'suntalabari' and 133.7280 hectare government land. (Khatian No. 1829, Land Revenue Department, Soreng).

Though it is a very remote place, there is one government senior secondary school which was established in 1949 and upgraded from secondary to senior secondary in the year 2002. The village is connected with Soreng (Sub-Division of West district) and Sombaria (a small town, 9 kilometres away from Bariakhop) by a metal road on which there is limited private jeep services on regular basis. Along with that, people of this place avail the government bus service (S.N.T.) facility from Jorethang to Sombaria on regular basis. But during rainy season people can not enjoy this facility as the road condition becomes poor due to land-slides.

The total number of households in this area is 245 and the total population is 1255 (State socio-economic census 2005, provisional) including ethnic communities, some businessmen, few service holders from other states and all voters of this place. From the year 2005 onwards, every Thursday, a small local market called 'haat' has been organised by the local people with the help of political leaders. For the rest of the week days, people are dependent on nearest Soreng, market as they call 'Soreng Bazar' for shopping purposes.

People of this village are very simple by nature. Their main source of income is agriculture. There are a large number of owner cultivators, few non-cultivating owners, very few share croppers, agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, some

businessmen and a good number of government servants reside in this place peacefully.

The village is divided into five different wards. They are:

- a) Upper Bariakhop
- b) Bich Gaon
- c) Lower Bariakhop
- d) Rengyang Bariakhop
- e) Rengyang Ghattay

There are 6 ration shops, 4 tea stalls, 1 'Gempa' or 'Gompa' (Monastery), 2 private schools, 3 clubs. Tailor shops are available only on 'haat' day. There is no community temple but 5 temples are there which are built on personal interest. Only three families are converted into Christianity and they assemble in one place for their prayer and religious rituals. There is one V.L.W. centre, milk production centre, M.P.C.S. horticulture farm. There are two I.C.D.S. centres and the village also possesses a post office and a public health centre.

Most of the dwellings of this place are '*kutcha*' made of bamboo, woven structure locally called as '*igra*' and mud. The high altitude of this place is suitable for cardamom cultivation. Besides cardamom, potato, peas, cabbage are some major produce of this area. There is one natural source of water or spring. For drinking water R.D.D. connection is present in every household and hundred percent households enjoy electrification facilities. Though most of the villagers are poor agriculturist and a large section of the people are illiterate but they all send their children to government schools to study. Before the upgradation of the senior secondary school, the children of Bariakhop used to go to Soreng Senior Secondary School for further studies.

This village is composed of mainly ethnic groups and very few non-ethnic groups of people are here. . Bariakhop is inherited mainly by Nepali people among them , Gurung caste is numerous in population. Among the ethnic communities, Nepalese including various caste groups and tribes namely Gurung, Sherpa, Chhetri, Rai, Tamang, Dahal are peacefully co-existing here. The village is not inhabited by Bhutia and Lepcha ethnic communities. Religion-wise Buddhism is the dominant

religion. Besides, there are three Christian families and a few Hindu religious groups. Previously Gurung caste of Nepalese community used to practice Hinduism but later on they converted to Buddhism.

Mainly Nepali speaking people are here at Bariakhop. Though caste and tribe-wise people have their own mother tongue but generally people prefer to use Nepali language to communicate with each other in this village.

5.2 Physical and Infrastructural Characteristics of the Towns Under Study:

i) Geyzing or Gyalshing Town:

It is the district head quarter of West district. The town area is very small. According to the data available at Land Revenue Department, the total area of Geyzing bazaar is 3.504 hectare which includes plot-wise 2.5600 hectare, .6040 hectare, .2200 hectare and .120 hectare dry field only.

Pelling, one of the famous tourist spot of West Sikkim is only 1 kilometre away from Geyzing town. From Gazing, one can avail government bus service to Siliguri, Gangtok and Jorethang on regular basis. Apart from this, private jeep services are also available. Plainsmen from different regions of India mainly from Bihar, U.P. Rajasthan etc. came to this place and settled here from a long time ago mainly for trade and business purposes. Among the ethnic communities Nepali and Bhutia people inhabit the town area where Nepalese are numerous dominant group. According to Census 2001, the total population of Geyzing Bazar was 828 and total households were 161. Majority of the ethnic people are service holders or businessmen and few of them are owner cultivators and non-agricultural labourers.

There is one Central Bank of India, one State Bank of Sikkim, one private bank called 'Siddhi', one mosque, one district hospital, one community centre including a community library, booking counter of Sikkim Nationalised Transport, super market, 'haatghar' i.e. fixed vegetable market, private taxi stand and police station. Every Sunday people assemble here for weekly 'haat'. Within the 'bazaar' i.e. town area there is no government school but at a very short distance (1 kilometre approximately) there is Government Senior Secondary School, Kyongsha where up to class V both boys and girls study. From class V to XII the school is exclusively for girls. Besides

that, one Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya i.e.Sanskrit college is also situated near the girls' school. From 2008 one degree college (for humanities stream only) was supposed to be start here. Within 2 kilometres there is one missionary school known as Saint Mary's Senior Secondary School and within 10 kilometres from the town, there are various government and private schools.

As it is a district headquarter, various government offices are scattered here and there.The headquarter is located at Tikjuk which is 7 kilometres (approximately) from the bazaar area and which is situated on the way to Pelling. Some of the departmental offices like Power, Zilla Panchayat,D.E.S.M.E. are on the way to Kyongsha school.

People of this place speak Nepali and Bhutia. Nepali community includes various tribal and caste groups viz. Chhettri, Pradhan, Subba, Gurung,Rai, Baraily, Mukhia, Biswakarma, Kotwal, Darjee etc. So far the religion is concerned; this place is inhabited mainly by Hindus, quite a large number of Buddhists and very few Christians can be found in Geyzing town.

ii) **Nayabazar Town :**

It is one of the two notified town areas of West district of Sikkim. Area- wise and population- wise Nayabazar is very small. It has close proximity to Jorethang town of South Sikkim. Though it is a notified town area by the Department of Urban Development and Housing Development (U.D.H.D.), it is governed both by the village panchayat as well as by the U.D.H.D. Department as till now, there is no municipality or corporation. It falls under the Zoom Gram Panchayat Unit.

The town is under Nayabazar police station. Two petrol pumps are situated here. Before the Jorethang area expanded, it was a flourishing town where once in a week, people used to come to the weekly market (haat) to purchase different items and to sell their vegetables and goods. But recently Jorethang became the centre of transaction and Nayabazar lost its previous popularity. One small market is there but people of different places prefer to go to 'Jorethang Bazar' for shopping purposes. Every Sunday,along with Jorethang 'haat', Nayabazar also organises (unofficially) a small 'haat' where the vendors come and sell different products like ginger, orange, toys, utensils etc. The businessmen of the Nayabazar display their items and products in front of their shops.

On one side of the town area there is a slaughter house. The town is connected to Jorethang town through a bridge called 'Akar Bridge' over Rangit river. The town is connected with Geyzing (headquarter of West district) and Soreng sub-division by roadways. There is one post office, one bank i.e. Central Bank of India, and D.H.H. centre (Directorate of Handloom and Handicraft). The town has only one Government Junior High School where children can study up to class VIII. After that they can join the nearby senior secondary school which is situated at Jorethang in South Sikkim or they can study upto class X at Zoom secondary school which is about 5 kilometres from the town.

According to the 'Khatian' number 363 available at Land Revenue Department, total area of Nayabazar town is 12.4990 hector which includes 2.7930 hectare dry field, 4.1680 hectare cultivated land and 5.5380 hectare non-cultivated land. Total households of this town are only 209 and total population is 996 including all ethnic and non-ethnic groups (Census 2001, provisional).

People belonging to different castes and communities inhabit this place. Among them, Bihari and Marwari are numerously dominant. Among the ethnic communities, Nepalese are dominant in number and very few Bhutia people inhabit this place. Biharis, Marwaris and Bengalis are mainly engage in business and a few are service holders. Majority of the workforce of ethnic groups are engaged as either non-agricultural labourers or job holders in government as well as private sectors.

During the survey it was noticed that there is a vast economic disparity between the rich and the poor. The poor who work mainly as coolies (locally called as 'namley'), hawker etc. came from Nepal long ago in search of jobs and settled here as slum-dwellers on rental basis. They have voting right and they are counted as local people. They do not possess any landed property. The service holders and big businessmen have *pucca* houses.

Multi linguistic groups are also present here but generally people speak Nepali language to communicate with each other. Hinduism is the dominant religion though some follow Buddhism and a very few follow Christianity .

5.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Villages and Towns Under Study:

The demographic characteristics of Sikkimese population in our study areas are presented in Table 5.1. The demographic features of the study areas of West

Sikkim have been presented in the heads like population structure, family type, family size, economic status, occupations of the household, land ownership, yearly income, marital status, age at marriage, types of marriage, forms of marriage, literacy and educational status of the people.

Table: 5.3.1: Demographic Characteristics of the Villages and Towns under Study

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns
		Timurbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	No. %
1.	Population Structure							
	a) Total Population (Ethnic community)	1430 57.71	1048 42.29	2478 79.07	367 55.95	289 44.05	656 20.93	3134 100
	b) Total male population	682 47.69	544 51.91	1226 49.48	188 51.23	150 51.90	338 51.52	1564 49.90
	c) Total female population.	748 52.31	504 48.09	1252 50.52	179 48.77	139 48.10	318 48.48	1570 50.10
2.	The family:							
	a) Total no. of Households	266 55.42	214 44.58	480 75.59	92 59.35	63 48.65	155 24.41	635 100
	b) Family type:							
	Incomplete	21 7.89	27 12.62	48 10	8 8.70	7 11.11	15 9.68	63 9.92
	Nuclear	168 63.16	137 64.02	305 63.54	71 77.17	42 66.67	113 72.90	418 65.83
	Extended / Joint	72 27.07	40 18.69	112 23.33	12 13.04	14 22.22	26 16.77	138 21.73
	Single	5 1.88	10 4.67	15 3.13	1 1.09	-	1 0.65	16 2.52

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timburbong	Bariakhop	Total	Geyzing	Naya bazaar	Total	
		No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	
	C) Family Size:							
	Consist of 1-3 members	44 16.54	62 28.97	106 22.08	35 38.04	18 28.57	53 34.19	159 25.04
	4-5 members	116 43.61	78 36.45	194 40.42	50 54.35	32 50.79	82 52.90	276 43.46
	6-9 members	93 34.96	63 29.44	156 32.5	7 7.61	13 20.63	20 12.90	176 27.72
	10-12 members	11 4.14	10 4.67	21 4.38	-	-	-	21 3.31
	13 & above	2 0.75	1 0.47	3 0.63	-	-	-	3 0.47
	Average size of family	5.38	4.90	5.16	3.99	4.59	4.23	4.94
3.	Economic Status							
	a) Total earner	367 25.66	269 25.67	636 25.67	135 36.78	80 27.68	215 32.77	851 27.15
	i) Total male earner	313 45.89	228 41.91	541 44.13	94 50	65 43.33	159 47.04	700 44.76
	ii) Total Female Earner	54 7.22	41 8.13	95 7.59	41 22.91	15 10.79	56 17.61	151 9.62

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timburbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	
	b) Total Dependents	1063 74.34	779 74.33	1842 74.33	232 63.22	209 72.32	441 67.23	2283 72.85
	i) Total male	398 58.36	322 59.19	720 58.73	98 52.13	86 57.33	184 54.44	904 57.80
	ii) Total female	665 88.90	457 90.67	1122 89.62	134 74.86	123 88.49	257 80.82	1379 87.83
4.	Occupations of the Household							
	a) Owner cultivator	157 59.02	149 67.76	302 62.92	8 8.70	3 4.76	11 7.10	313 49.29
	b) Share-cropper	6 2.26	3 1.40	9 1.88	-	-	-	9 1.42
	c) Non-cultivating owner	8 3.01	8 3.74	16 3.33	-	-	-	16 2.52
	d) Agricultural Labourers	15 5.64	2 0.93	17 3.54	-	-	-	17 2.68
	e) Non-agricultural labours	5 1.88	1 0.47	6 1.25	1 1.09	22 34.92	23 14.84	29 4.57
	f) Business	16 6.02	19 8.88	35 7.29	41 44.57	16 25.40	57 36.77	92 14.49
	g) Govt. Service/White Collar	59 22.18	36 16.82	95 19.79	42 45.65	22 34.92	64 41.29	159 25.04
5.	Land Ownership							
	a) Marginal (upto 2.50 acres)	204 76.69	177 82.71	381 79.38	46 50	19 30.16	65 41.94	446 70.24
	b) Small (2.51 lares - 5.00 acres)	13 4.89	25 11.68	38 7.92	13 14.13	6 9.52	19 12.26	57 8.98
	c) Medium (5.01 acres - 10.00 acres)	8 3.01	7 3.27	15 3.13	5 5.43	-	5 3.23	20 3.15
	d) Large (above 10.01 acres)	2 0.75	3 1.40	5 1.04	3 3.26	-	3 1.94	8 1.26
	e) Landless households	39 14.66	2 0.93	41 8.54	25 27.17	38 60.32	63 40.65	104 16.38

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns
		Timurbong	Bariakhop	Total	Geyzing	Nayabazaar	Total	
		No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %
6.	Yearly Income							
	a) Income upto Rs. 6,000	37 13.91	23 10.75	60 12.5	-	5 7.94	5 3.23	65 10.24
	b) Income from Rs. 6,001 - 12,000	76 28.57	72 33.64	148 30.83	8 8.70	18 28.57	26 16.77	174 27.40
	c) Income from Rs. 12,001 - 18,000	32 12.03	28 13.08	60 12.5	-	3 4.76	3 1.94	63 9.92
	d) Income from Rs. 18,001-25,000	10 3.76	29 13.55	39 8.13	8 8.70	3 4.76	11 7.10	50 7.87
	e) Income from Rs. 25,001-35,000	15 5.64	8 3.74	23 4.79	2 2.17	4 6.35	6 3.87	29 4.57
	f) Income from Rs. 35,001-50,000	22 8.27	14 6.54	36 7.5	8 8.70	10 15.87	18 11.61	54 8.50
	g) Income above Rs. 50,000	74 27.82	40 18.69	114 23.75	66 71.74	20 31.75	86 55.48	200 31.50
7.	Marital Status							
	a) Total married	615 43.01	426 40.65	1041 42.01	179 48.77	120 41.52	299 45.58	1340 42.76
	i) Married male	306 44.87	210 38.60	516 42.09	88 46.81	60 40	148 43.79	664 42.46
	ii) Married female	309 41.31	216 42.86	525 41.93	91 50.84	60 43.17	151 47.48	676 43.06
	b) Total unmarried	760 53.15	571 54.48	1331 53.71	175 47.68	151 52.25	326 49.70	1657 52.87
	i) Unmarried male	375 54.99	318 58.46	693 56.53	99 52.66	90 60	189 55.92	882 56.39
	ii) Unmarried female	385 51.47	253 50.20	638 50.96	76 42.46	61 43.88	137 43.08	775 49.36
	c) Widower	12 0.84	21 2.00	33 1.33	4 1.09	4 1.38	8 1.22	41 1.31
	d) Widow	34 2.38	22 2.10	56 2.26	9 2.45	11 3.81	20 3.05	76 2.43
	e) Divorce / Separated	9 0.63	8 0.76	17 0.69	-	3 1.04	3 0.46	20 0.64

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timburbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	
8.	Age at Marriage							
	a) Mean age of Male	20	22	21	25	23	24	23
	b) Mean age of female	18	20	19	22	18	20	22.5
	c) Age between 9-14 years (Total male and females)	6 0.98	18 4.23	24 2.31	1 0.56	3 2.5	4 1.34	28 2.09
	d) Age between 15-18 years	147 23.90	88 20.66	235 22.57	22 12.29	36 30	58 19.40	293 21.87
	e) Age between 19-24 years	274 44.55	219 51.41	493 47.36	86 48.04	53 44.17	139 46.49	632 47.16
	f) Age between 25-30 years	128 20.81	88 20.66	216 20.75	66 36.87	24 20	90 30.10	306 22.84
	g) Age 31 & above	60 9.76	13 3.05	73 7.01	4 2.23	4 3.33	8 2.68	81 6.04
9.	Types of marriage							
	a) Monogamy	612 99.51	420 98.59	1032 99.14	176 98.32	120 100	296 99.00	1328 99.10
	b) Polygamy	3 0.49	6 1.41	09 0.86	3 1.68	-	3 1.00	12 0.90
10.	Forms of marriage							
	a) By Negotiation	243 39.51	94 22.07	337 32.37	68 37.99	42 35	110 36.79	447 33.36
	b) By love	372 60.49	332 77.93	704 67.63	111 62.01	78 65	189 63.21	893 66.64
11.	Literacy and Education							
	a) Total illiterate	335 23.43	327 31.20	662 26.72	31 8.45	65 22.49	96 14.63	758 24.19
	i) illiterate Male	110 16.13	131 24.08	241 19.66	8 4.26	22 14.67	30 8.88	271 17.33
	ii) illiterate female	225 30.08	196 38.89	421 33.63	23 12.85	43 30.94	66 20.75	487 31.02
	b) Total Literate	1095 76.57	721 68.80	1816 73.28	336 91.55	224 77.51	560 85.37	2376 75.81

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timburbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	
	i) Literate Male	572	413	985	180	128	308	1293
		83.87	75.92	80.34	95.74	85.33	91.12	82.67
	ii) Literate Female	523	308	831	156	96	212	1083
		69.92	61.11	66.37	87.15	69.06	79.25	68.98
	c) Literacy Standards:							
	i) Can Read and Write only	34	47	81	13	17	30	111
		3.11	6.52	4.46	3.87	7.59	5.36	4.67
				3.27			4.57	3.54
	a) Male	5	29	34	5	5	10	44
		0.87	7.02	41.98	2.78	3.91	33.33	39.64
				2.77			2.96	2.81
	b) Female	29	18	47	8	5	20	67
		5.54	5.84	58.02	5.13	12.5	66.67	60.36
				3.75			6.29	4.27
	ii) Total Primary Standard	435	308	743	58	94	152	895
		39.73	42.72	40.91	17.26	41.96	27.14	37.69
				29.98			23.17	28.56
	a) Male	248	191	439	29	58	87	526
		43.36	46.25	59.08	16.11	45.31	57.24	58.77
				35.81			25.74	33.63
	b) Female	187	117	304	29	36	65	369
		35.76	37.99	40.92	18.59	37.5	42.76	41.23
				24.28			20.44	23.50
	iii) Total Secondary Standard	480	275	755	158	92	250	1005
		43.84	38.14	41.57	47.02	41.07	44.64	42.30
				30.47			38.11	32.07
	a) Male	228	138	366	84	52	136	502
		39.86	33.41	48.48	46.67	40.63	54.4	49.95
				29.85			40.24	32.10
	b) Female	252	137	389	74	40	114	503
		48.18	44.48	51.52	47.44	41.67	45.6	50.05
				31.07			35.85	32.04
	iv) Total Sr. Sec. Standard	96	64	160	67	17	84	244
		8.77	8.88	8.81	19.94	7.59	15	10.27
				6.46			12.80	7.79

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns
		Timburbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	No. %
	a) Male	56 9.79	41 9.93	97 60.63 7.91	37 20.56	10 7.81	47 55.95 13.91	144 59.02 9.21
	b) Female	40 7.65	23 7.47	63 39.38 5.03	30 19.23	07 7.29	37 44.05 11.64	100 40.98 6.37
	v) Total Graduate/P.G. Standard	50 4.57	27 3.74	77 4.24 3.11	40 11.90	04 1.79	44 7.86 6.71	121 5.09 3.86
	a) Male	35 6.12	14 3.39	49 63.64 4.00	25 13.89	03 2.34	28 63.64 8.28	77 63.64 4.92
	b) Female	15 2.87	13 4.22	28 36.36 2.24	15 9.62	01 1.04	16 36.36 5.03	44 36.36 2.80
12.	Students							
	a) Total Children of School going age:	533	386	919	130	107	237	1156
	i) Boys	264	212	476	72	63	135	611
	ii) Girls	269	174	443	58	44	102	545
	b) Total Continuing Students	511 95.87	336 87.05	847 92.17	123 94.62	102 95.33	225 94.94	1072 92.73
	i) Boys	247 93.56	186 87.74	433 90.97	68 94.44	59 93.65	127 99.07	560 91.65
	ii) Girls	264 98.14	150 86.21	414 93.45	55 94.83	43 97.73	98 96.08	512 93.94
13.	Distribution of the students According to classes:							
	i) Total upto Class III	146 27.39	123 31.87	269 31.76 29.27	26 20	35 32.71	61 27.11 25.74	330 30.78 28.55
	a) Boys	73 27.65	72 33.96	145 33.49 30.46	13 18.06	29 46.03	42 33.07 31.11	187 33.39 30.61
	b) Girls	73 27.14	51 29.31	124 29.95 28.00	13 22.41	6 13.64	19 19.39 18.63	143 27.93 26.24

S No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timburbong No. %	Bariakhop No. %	Total No. %	Geyzing No. %	Naya bazaar No. %	Total No. %	
	ii) Total upto class IV & V	97 18.20	79 20.47	176 20.78	10 7.69	23 21.50	33 14.67	209 19.50
	a) Boys	52 19.70	46 21.70	98 22.63	7 9.72	7 11.11	14 11.02	112 20
	b) Girls	45 16.73	33 18.97	78 18.84	3 5.17	16 36.36	19 19.39	97 18.33
	iii) Total of class VI to VIII	122 22.89	78 20.21	200 23.61	22 16.92	22 20.56	44 19.56	244 22.76
	a) Boys	44 16.67	41 19.34	85 19.63	10 13.89	10 15.87	20 15.75	105 18.75
	b) Girls	78 29.00	37 21.26	115 27.78	12 20.69	12 27.27	24 24.49	139 27.15
	iv) Total of Class IX & X	76 14.26	23 5.96	99 11.69	18 13.85	10 9.35	28 12.44	127 11.85
	a) Boys	42 15.91	10 4.72	52 12.01	11 15.28	5 7.94	16 12.60	68 12.14
	b) Girls	34 12.64	13 7.47	47 11.35	7 12.07	5 11.36	12 12.24	59 11.52
	v) Total of class XI & XII	40 7.50	21 5.44	61 7.20	26 20	7 6.54	33 14.67	94 8.77
	a) Boys	18 6.82	11 5.19	29 6.70	16 22.22	5 7.94	21 16.54	50 8.93
	b) Girls	22 8.18	10 5.75	32 7.73	10 17.24	2 4.55	12 12.24	44 8.59
	v) Total of Graduate/P.G.	30 5.63	12 3.11	42 4.96	21 16.15	5 4.67	26 11.56	68 6.34
				4.57			10.97	5.88

Sl No.	Demographic Characteristics	Villages			Towns			Total Villages & Towns No. %
		Timurbong	Bariakhop	Total	Geyzing	Naya bazaar	Total	
		No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	
	a) Boys	18 6.82	6 2.83	24 5.54 5.04	11 15.28	3 4.76	14 11.02 10.37	38 6.79 6.22
	b) Girls	12 4.46	6 3.45	18 4.35 4.06	10 17.24	2 4.55	12 12.24 11.76	30 5.86 5.50
14.	Ethnic Groups: (Number of households)							
	A. Nepali	266 55.42	214 44.58	480 78.30	72 54.14	61 45.86	133 21.70	613 96.54
	a) Sharma	100 15.04	100 0.47	100 8.54	100 2.78	96.83 1.64	85.81 2.26	44 7.18
	b) Chhetri	46 17.29	32 14.95	78 16.25	23 31.94	18 29.51	41 30.83	119 19.41
	c) Pradhan	30 11.28	01 0.47	31 6.46	11 15.28	01 1.64	12 9.02	43 7.01
	d) Gurung	-	108 50.47	108 22.5	08 11.11	02 3.28	10 7.52	118 19.25
	e) Rai	08 3.01	22 10.28	30 6.25	08 11.11	19 31.15	27 20.30	57 9.30
	f) Subba	121 45.49	-	121 25.21	05 6.94	06 9.84	11 8.27	132 21.53
	g) Others	21 7.89	50 23.36	71 14.79	15 20.83	14 22.95	29 21.80	100 16.31
	B. Bhutia	-	-	-	20 90.91 21.74	02 9.10 3.17	22 100 14.19	22 3.46
15.	Religious Groups: (Number of households)							
	a) Hindu	255 83.08	52 16.94	307 75.43	61 61.00	39 39	100 24.57	407 64.09
	b) Bhuddist	3 1.85	159 98.15	162 78.64	29 65.91	15 34.10	44 21.36	206 32.44
	c) Christian	8 72.73	3 27.27	11 50.00	2 18.18	9 81.82	11 50.00	22 3.46

5.4 Demographic Analysis of the Villages and Towns Under Study

Villages Studied:

i) Timburbong Busty:

At Timburbong, total 266 households were chosen which cover 1430 population among whom 682 (47.69%) are males and 748 (52.31%) are females. Only Nepali ethnic community has been found here, majority of them (255 families i.e. 83.06 per cent) practice Hinduism, 8 families practice Christianity and 3 families practice Buddhism. Among the Nepalese, Subba tribe (45.49%) is numerically dominant. Different types of families are there, of which nuclear type of families (63.16%) are more. The average size of a household is 5.38 i.e. approximately 5 persons reside in each household. Among the total population, 367 (25.66%) are earners and 1063 (74.34%) are dependent people. Out of total female population, only 7.22 per cent are earners. Occupation of majority of the households is cultivation (59.02%) and they are owner cultivator. 76.69 per cent of total households possess landed property upto 2.50 acres. There are 39 (14.66%) families which do not possess cultivable land. Majority (28.57%) of the households belong to the income group of Rs 6,001 to Rs. 12,000 per year whereas 27.82 per cent earn above Rs. 50,000 per year. There are 615 (43.01%) married people. Among the total male population, 306 (44.87%) are married males and among the total female population, 309 (41.31%) are married females. There are 760 (53.15%) unmarried people, 12 (0.84%) widower, 34 (2.38%) widow and 9 (0.63%) divorce or separated person. Mean age at marriage for the males is 20 years and for the females it is 18 years. Only 0.98 per cent got married at a very early age, between 9 to 14 years. 612 (99.51%) cases of monogamous type of marriage and only 3 (0.49%) polygamous type of marriage have been found here. Marriage by love is the popular form of marriage which is followed by 60.49 per cent people. There are 335 (23.43%) illiterate persons, 1095 (76.57%) literate persons. Among the total male population, 572 (83.87%) are literate males and among the total female population, 523 (69.92%) are literate females. Among the literates, 34 (3.11%) have no formal education; but they can read and write, 435 (39.73%) have education upto primary level, 480 (43.84%) have upto secondary level, 96 (8.77%) have upto senior secondary level and 50 (4.57%) have upto graduate or post-graduate level. Total children of

school going age is 533, of which 511(95.87%) are continuing their studies at different levels.

ii) **Burikhop or Bariakhop Busty:**

From Bariakhop village area altogether 214 households of ethnic group people have been studied. The total number of households consists 1048 population among which 544 (51.91%) are males and 504 (48.09%) are females. Among the 214 households 27(12.62%) are incomplete families without any couple, 137(64.02%) are nuclear families, 40 (18.69%)are extended or joint type of family and 10 (4.67%)households are there with a single family member. The average size of a household is 4.90 i.e. approximately 5 persons reside in each household.Among the total population covered, 269(25.67%) are earners and 779 (74.33%) are dependent people. Among the total female population, only 8.13 per cent are earners. Majority of the households (66.76%) are engaged in agricultural works and they have their own cultivable land. 82.71 per cent of total households possess landed property upto 2.50 acres, only two landless households have been found during field study. This area is economically very poor. Only 18.69 per cent households earn more than Rs. 50,000 per year, majority (33.64%) have yearly income between Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 12,000. There are 426 (40.65%)married people.Among the total male population,210 (38.60%)are married males and among the total female population,216(42.86%)are married females.There are 571 (54.48%)unmarried people, 21 (2.00%)widower, 22(2.10%) widow and 8 (0.76%)divorcee or separated persons. Mean age at marriage of the females is 20 years where as it is 22 years for males. 4.23 per cent got married between 9-14 years of age. There are 420 (98.59%)cases of monogamous marriages and 6 (1.41%)cases of polygamous marriages have been found. Love marriage is the most popular form(77.93%)of marriage in this area.Out of 1048 population,327(31.20%) are illiterates and 721(68.80%) are literates.Among the total male population, 75.92 per cent are literate males and among the total female population,61.11 per cent are literate females. Among the literates,47 (6.52%)have no formal education; but they can read and write, 308 (42.72%)have upto primary level education, 275(38.14%)have upto secondary level, 64 (8.88%)have upto senior secondary level and 27 (3.74%)have upto graduate or post-graduate level. There are total 386 school going age children, of whom, 336 (87.05%)are continuing their

studies at different levels. Among the ethnic communities, only Nepalese reside here. Among them, Gurung caste (50.47%) is dominant. Nepalese of this place follow different religions. There are 159 Buddhist families, 52 Hindu families and only 3 Christian families.

Towns Studied:

i) Gyalshing or Geyzing Town

Total 92 households of ethnic people which constitute 367 population among which 188 (51.23%) are males and 179 (48.77%) are females are covered from this area under the present research work. Majority of the households (77.17%) are of nuclear types and the average size of a household is 3.99 i.e. approximately 4 persons reside in each household. Among the total population, 135 (36.78%) are earning members and only 22.91 per cent of the total female population are earning members. There are 232 (63.22%) dependents at Geyzing town. Occupation of majority of the households is government service or any other white collar jobs (45.65%). 50 per cent of the total households have landed property upto 2.50 acres while 27.17 per cent do not possess cultivable land. Out of 92 households, 66 (71.74%) households have yearly income above Rs. 50,000. Thus it is clear that economic condition of majority of the population is sound. There are 179 (48.77%) married people. Among the total male population, 88 (46.81%) are married males and among the total female population, 91 (50.84%) are married females. There are 175 (47.68%) unmarried people, 4 (1.09%) widower and 9 (2.45%) widows. Mean age at marriage of males is 25 years whereas it is 20 years for females. Only 0.56 per cent got married at a very early age, between 9 to 14 years. Monogamy is prevalent (98.32%) but 3 (1.68%) cases of polygamy have been found. Marriage by love is the more popular form of marriage and 62.01 per cent followed that form. There are 31 (8.45%) illiterate people and 336 (91.55%) literate people. Among the total male population, 180 (95.74%) are literate males and among the total female population, 156 (87.15%) are literate females. Among the literates, 13 (3.87%) have no formal education, but they can read and write, 58 (17.26%) have upto primary education, 158 (47.02%) have upto secondary education, 67 (19.94%) have senior secondary education and 40 (11.90%) have upto graduate or post-graduate level education. There are 130 school going age children, of which 123 (94.62%) are studying at various levels. At Geyzing, there are 72 (78.26%)

Nepali and 20(21.74%) Bhutia households who practice different religions.61 households practice Hinduism, 29 practice Buddhism and only 2 families belong to Christianity.

ii) **Nayabazar Town**

Total 63 households of only ethnic groups were selected for field study which constitute 289 population of which 150(51.90%) are males and 139(48.10%) are females.Majority of the families are (66.67%) of nuclear type.The average size of a household is 4.59.Among the total population,80 (27.68%) are earners and 209 (72.32%)are dependents.Out of total female population 10.79 per cent are earning members.Majority of the working force are engaged either in government jobs or white collar occupations or as non-agricultural labourers.60.32 per cent of total households do not have cultivable land.Only 31.75 per cent of total households have yearly income above Rs.50,000.There are 120 (41.52%)married people.Among the total male population, 60 (40%)are married males and among the total female population, 60(43.17%)are married females.There are 151(52.25%)unmarried people,4 (1.38%)widower,11(3.81%)widows and 3(1.04%) divorcee or separated people.Mean age at marriage of males is 23 years whereas it is 18 years for females.2.5 per cent married people got married at a very early age,between 9 to 14 years.Only monogamous type of marriage has been found here,of which 65 per cent are marriage by love.There are 65 illiterate people and 224 literate people.Among the total male population,128(85.33%)are literate males and among the total female population,96 (69.06%) are literate females.Among the literates,17 (7.59%)have no formal education;but they can read and write,94 (41.96%)have upto primary level,92(41.07%) have upto secondary level,17 (7.59%)have upto senior secondary level and only 4 (1.79%)have upto graduate or post graduate level education.Out of 107 school going age children,102 (95.33%)are continuing their studies at different levels.Among the the ethnic groups studied from this area, 61(96.83%) households are of Nepalese and 2(3.17%) households are of Bhutias,of which 39 households practice Hinduism,15 households practice Buddhism and 9 households practice Christianity.

5.5 Implementation of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the Villages and Towns of West Sikkim

Villages Studied:

I. Timurbong Busty:

The various achievements of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of this village are as follows:

- a) School fencing at Timurbong Secondary School.
- b) Allotment of 10 computers at Tharpu Secondary School.
- c) Appoinment of one co-ordinator and one Graduate Teacher (Arts) at Timurbong secondary School.
- d) Appoinment of one school Mother at Timurbong Secondary School.
- e) Ground protection wall at Lower Primary School (Timurbong).
- f) Construction of Mid-Day Meal Kitchen at Lower Primary School (Timurbong).
- g) School fencing for Lower Primary School (Timurbong).
- h) Mid-Day Meal kitchen for Timurbong Secondary School.

II. Bariakhop Busty:

So far the implementation of the various schemes under S.S.A. in this place are as follows:

- a) Construction of Additional Room in the Senior Secondary School amounting Rs.50,000.
- b) Facility for Safe Drinking water amounting Rs.15,000.
- c) Sanction of Community Mobilization Fund of Rs.1,500.
- d) Rs.20,000 for school Fencing.
- e) For Research Evaluation and Monitoring, Rs.1,100 has been sanctioned.
- f) Rs.15,000 for toilet construction.

- g) Rs.12,000 sanctioned as School Grant to purchase stationery goods,maps,register,bulbs,photo copy etc.
- h) Rs.10,000 was sanctioned for Maintenance purposes mainly for the repair work of computers,broken doors,windows,white washing etc.
- i) As Teachers Grant,Rs.7000 has sanctioned for the procurement of educational books,newspapers etc.
- j) Rs.16,200 has been sanctioned as Free Text Book Grant.This grant is for the procurement of learning books,C.D.s,social science books for the students of VI,VII and VIII belonging to backward communities and from poor economic background.

Towns Studied:

I. Geyzing Bazar:

As per District Elementary Education Plan (2007-08) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,the following are the sanctioned work at the Senior Secondary School,Gazing:

- a) Establishment of Cluster Resource Centre (C.R.C.) and Block Resource Centre (B.R.C.) to co-ordinate and to establish network of academic resources for planners at every level to clarify Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan norms,explain financial and management procedures,discuss audit process,identify priority issues to evolve well focused plans.
- b) Appoinment of two Graduate Teachers (Arts) and one C.R.C.Coordinator.
- c) School boundary fencing,electrification,repair of furniture,construction of toilet at the Government Girls' Senior Secondary School,Kyonsha.

Nayabazar:

The achievements of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in this town area are as follows:

- a) Allotment of Mid-Day Meal Kitchen amounting Rs.50 thousand at Nayabazar J.H.S.

- b) Allotment of one computer, cyclostyle machine in the same school.
- c) Establishment of toilet and electrification at Nayabazar J.H.S.
- d) Appoinment of Primary Teacher at Sipsu Primary School which is the Feeder School of Nayabazar J.H.S., located 4 kilometres (approximately) from the town area.

5.5 Findings

Out of the four places under investigation, Gyalshing or Geyzing and Nayabazar are the two notified town areas of West district of Sikkim, while the remaining two places i.e. Bariakhop and Timburbong are located in rural areas. Among these, Bariakhop village is situated in the remote corner of West Sikkim. Unlike the other states of India, the size and population of the town areas of Sikkim are less than its rural or village areas. The total area of Geyzing is only 3.504 hectare and Nayabazar town is only 12.4990 hectare whereas the total area of Bariakhop village is 780.198 hectare and Timburbong village is 1085.832 hectare including forest areas.

Population-wise both the town areas are dominated by plainsmen like Bihari, Marwari and Rajasthani etc., who mainly came here for business and service purposes and then settled down permanently. Among the ethnic groups, people from different parts of Sikkim came and settled in the town areas. According to the census 2001, total households in Geyzing town were 161 and total population was 828 whereas total population of Nayabazar town was 996 and there were 209 households. In Nayabazar, the slum area is located within the town itself. Among the villages under study, Bariakhop has total 245 households with total 1255 population (State Socio-Economic Census 2005) and Timburbong village has 582 households with 2928 population. It is to be noted here that the households and population of the study areas include voters, businessmen, service holders and people from other parts of this State staying on rental basis in these areas. But for the investigation purpose, only those households and people were counted who are the actual residents of these places who possess domicile certificate and belong to any of the ethnic communities of Sikkim.

Geyzing is composed of both Nepali and Bhutia ethnic groups among which Nepalese are numerously dominant. Nepalese include various caste and tribes viz.

Chhetri, Pradhan, Subba, Sherpa, Thapa, Rai, Gurung, Baraily, Mukhia, Biswakarma, Kotwal, Darjee etc. Majority of the ethnic groups follow Hindu religion, followed by Buddhism and only a few practice Christianity.

Among the ethnic groups of Nayabazar, there are mainly Nepali castes and tribes such as Rai, Chhetri, Thapa, Subba, Darjee, Sherpa, Gurung, Pradhan, Biswakarma, Pariyar. Very few Bhutia people stay here. Hinduism is the dominant religion. Some Buddhists and a few Christians also live in this town area.

Bariakhop village is composed of mainly Nepali ethnic groups consisting of various castes and tribes such as Gurung, Sherpa, Chhetri, Rai, Tamang, Sharma, Pradhan. There is no Bhutia or Lepcha habitation here. In terms of numerical strength, Gurungs are dominant. So far the religious groups are concerned in Bariakhop village, Buddhist group is the dominant one, only 3 families have converted to Christianity and 52 Hindu families are there. Though the Gurung caste of Nepalese community previously practiced Hinduism, later on they converted to Buddhism.

Timurbong is inhabited by various castes and tribal groups of Nepalese ethnic communities. Among them, Subba tribe is numerically dominant. Others are Sharma, Pradhan, Chhetri, Shankar, Rai, Sarki, Mohora, Dhital, a few Sherpa and Tamangs etc. In terms of numerical strength, Hindu religious groups are dominant here. A few Christians and a very few Buddhists reside here.

Rural areas are governed by local self government i.e. village panchayat. Each village is divided into five wards. But the two notified town areas of West Sikkim i.e. Geyzing and Nayabazar are governed by U.D.H.D. as well as village panchayat.

The two villages have their respective agrarian background. Other than agriculture, some people are engaged in government jobs, business etc. But in town areas, due to the impact of urbanisation and industrialisation, people are mainly engaged in government service, business and non-agricultural labour force.

The average size of a household of village areas is 5.16 persons whereas the average size of a household of town areas is 4.23 persons. Thus, it is observed that in villages, the family size is little larger than that in the urban areas. People of all four study areas prefer to live in nuclear type of family.

In the urban areas, total number of earners is much higher than that of the rural areas. Especially, there is a vast difference between the rural and urban areas with regard to its total female earners which is obviously higher in urban areas.

In the villages, the mean age at which boys get married is lower than that of the towns. Whereas the mean age at which girls get married is same between rural and urban areas. Marriage by love is a more popular form of marriage both in rural and urban areas. The incidence of polygamous type of marriage was found to be negligible at the time of conducting this survey and comparatively such incidences were found to be more in Geyzing town, but in Nayabazar town incidence of this type of marriage was not noticed at all.

The educational status of the rural and urban areas of the West Sikkim reveal a hopeful and positive picture as both in rural and urban areas under study, the rate of literacy is superseding the rate of illiteracy and it is quite interesting that the literacy rate of one of the village areas i.e. Timburbong is slightly less than one of the urban areas under study i.e. Nayabazar. But in case of the standard of higher education, Geyzing town is quite ahead of the other study areas. The standard of higher level of education in the two villages and Nayabazar town is not promising.

In the rural areas, there are altogether 919 children of school going age, out of these children 847 (92.17%) are continuing their studies at different levels. Among the total school going age boys, 433 (90.97%) are continuing their studies and among the total school going age girls, 414 (93.45%) are continuing their studies. In the urban areas, out of 237 children of school going age, 225 (94.94%) are continuing their studies. Among the total school going age boys, 127 (94.07%) are continuing their studies and among the school going age girls, 98 (96.08%) are continuing their studies.