

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Introduction

The Darjiling district, having the shape of an irregular triangle, is the northern most district of the state of West Bengal. Geographically, the district is at the height of 300 to 12000 feet from the mean sea level and the northern portion of the district is a part of the Greater Himalaya. The study area Siliguri Sub-division consists of a portion of the outlying hills of the lower Himalayas and stretching along the base of the hills known as Terai (District Gazetteers, 2001). The Sub-division is bounded by Jalpaiguri district and some part of Bangladesh in the east, the state of Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal in the south, Kurseong and Mirik, two C.D. Blocks of Darjiling district in the north and Nepal in the west (Census Handbook, 2011).

2.2 Physical Profile

2.2.1 Physiography

The Terai region from which the Sikkim Himalayas take their rise is only three hundred feet above sea level, the mountains rising abruptly from the plains in spurs of from six thousand to ten thousand feet densely clothed with forest to their summit. The Terai stretches along the base of the hills, a low lying strip shut in on the north by the giant outliers of the Himalayas. Geographically, this tract belongs to the plains of India, but geologically it is a sort of neutral, being composed in places neither of the alluvium of the plains nor the rocks of the hills, but for a great part, of alternating beds of sand, gravel and boulders brought down from the mountains.

Darjiling Himalaya which comprises Dooars, is included in the sub region of North Eastern Himalaya. The district is subdivided into five micro regions, which are, (i) Darjiling Himalayas, (ii) Kurseong Range, (iii) Kalimpong Range, (iv) Western Dooars, (v) Mahananda Tract. Among these five two micro regions come under Siliguri Sub-division; Western Dooars & Mahananda Tract (Census Handbook, 2011).

a. Western Dooars

This region is mainly spaced over the foothills of the Himalayas; mainly it is a plain land gently sloping from north to south. Some parts of Siliguri Sub-division namely, Kharibari C. D. Block, Naxalbari C. D. Block, Phansidewa C. D. Block and Kurseong C. D. Block, are included under this area. Geological formations of this plain is alluvium, older alluvium and laterite siwalik system. General elevation of this land is 80 meters to 300 meters (Census Handbook, 2011).

b. Mahananda Tract

This is primarily a plain land having elevation of 100 to 150 meters. Towards north of this region river Balason meets Mahananda and being fed with heavy rainfall. This area is agriculturally very productive. In terms of the area this is the smallest regional division in the district. The main soil type is recently formed alluvial, swallow black and brown, brown soil. River beds are consisting of layers of sand, slit and clay with occasional gravel beds (Census Handbook, 2011).

2.2.2 Drainage

The Terai portion of the district is low-lying belt of country, traversed by numerous rivers and streams rushing down from the hills by the upland ridges which mark their sources. The main drainage systems of Terai region are by three rivers Mechi, Mahananda and Balason (Hunter, 2012).

2.2.2.a The Mechi

The Mechi takes its rise under the Rangbang spur in the Singalila range on the Nepal Frontier, and flowing from north to south marks the western boundary of the district from its source. After it entering the Terai, divides into two branches near the lower Mechi forest and eventually join the Mahananda in Purnia district, Bihar. The banks of the river are sloping, and well cultivated in the Terai, as well as in certain places in the hills. The bed is sandy in the plains and stony in the hills. The river is fordable throughout the year, except when flooded immediately after heavy rainfall (Hunter, 2012).

2.2.2.b The Mahananda

The Mahananda has its source near Mahaldiram to the east of Kurseong. After leaving the hills it flows in a southerly direction as far as Siliguri, where it changes its course a little to the west forms the boundary line between the Terai and Jalpaiguri as far as Phansidewa in the extreme south-east of the district. After leaving Darjiling, the Mahananda passes through Purnia district

in Bihar and Malda in West Bengal, and finally falls into the Ganges in the Rajshahi district of Bangladesh. The river receives no tributaries of any importance within the limit of Darjiling, and attains its full volume only after leaving the district (Hunter, 2012).

2.2.2.c The Balasan

The Balasan River takes its rises at Lepcha Jagat a few miles to the southwest of the station of Darjiling. It flows a southerly course till soon after it enters the Terai, where it divides into two streams. One called the new Balasan which joins the Mahananda on its right bank just below Siliguri, on the other hand the old Balsan continues its southward course till passing out of the Terai and joins the Mahananda in Purnia district, Bihar. The banks of the Balasan in the hills are mainly covered with jungle but in the Terai, they are fairly cultivated. The bed is stony in the hills and sandy in the plains. The major tributaries of Balasan in the hills are Bing, Rammuk, on the left and in the plains Rakti, Sukhna, Rohini and Panchanai. All the tributaries are on the left Bank (Hunter, 2012).

2.2.3 Vegetation

Vegetation of Darjiling district can be divided into two groups 1.Plain forest and 2.Hillforest. The main forests in Terai region are the Mechi forest, Balasan forest, Champasari jhar, Dhalkajhar etc. The Sal is the most important tree in the Plain region. The Mechi forest covers an area of 1183 acres and contains very little timber of value or size. It has only about five hundred full grown trees of Sisu and Khayer. Balasan, a Sisu and Khayer forest, on the banks of Balasan river, is same as Mechi Forest. It contains a very little or no full grown timber. This is caused by the flood, carrying down stones and rocks which hurt the bark of the trees at very early stages (District Gazetteers, 2001).

2.3 Social Profile

2.3.1 Population Growth in Siliguri Sub-division

The first regular census of the district was carried out in the year of 1871-72 and the result gave a total population of 94,712 persons, the average density of the population being 81 per square mile. When the next census was carried out in 1881, the population increased to 155,179 or more than 63 percent. Whereas the Terai tract is infected by malaria, and the mortality is exceptionally high. In the first census in 1872, the total population in Terai region is 47,985 which is increased to 63241 in 1881 census, growth rate by 31.79 percent. In the next census in 1891 decadal growth was only 15.43 percent. There can be no doubt that the decrease in growth percentage is

solely due to the incompleteness and inaccuracy of the first census. Table 2.1 is showing the decadal growth of Siliguri Sub-division from 1951 to 2011. The highest decadal growth by 68.04 percent was recorded in 1961 census and the lowest decadal growth by 18.63 percent was recorded in 2011 census.

Table 2.1 Population Growth of Siliguri Sub-division, 1951-2011

Year	Population	Decadal Growth in percent
1951	130832	25.15
1961	219,848	68.04
1971	301,799	37.28
1981	472,895	56.69
1991	615,101	30.07
2001	818581	33.08
2011	971,120	18.63

Source: Census of India

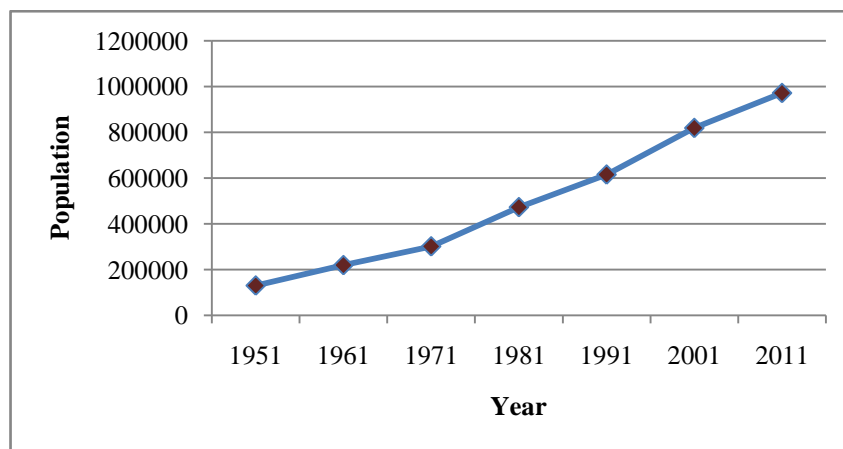


Fig. 2.1: Trends of Population Growth in Siliguri Sub-division, 1951-2011

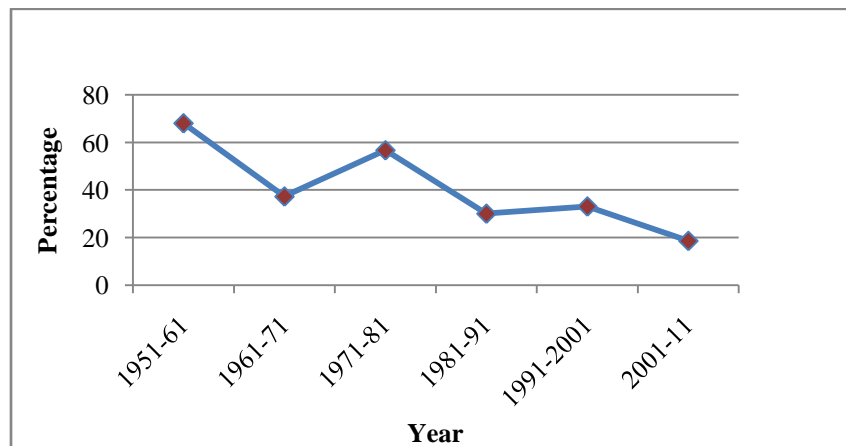


Fig. 2.2: Decadal Growth of Population in Siliguri Sub-division, 1951-2011

2.3.2 Distribution of Population, Population Density and Sex Ratio

As per Census 2011, the total population of Darjiling district is 18, 46,823 and out of which total population of Siliguri Sub-division is 9,71,120 which is almost 52.58 percent of the total population of the district, consisting 2,09,970 households and it makes this Sub-division the most populated Sub-division of the district. The male population of Siliguri Sub-division stands 4,97,002 which is 51.18 percent of the total population and the female population stands 4,74,118 which is 48.82 percent of the total population. Population density of four blocks and one municipal corporation under the Sub-division shows an uneven pattern. Where Siliguri MC (Part) has the highest population density with 14654/sq km, the Phansidewa C.D. Block has the lowest with 655/sq km. The overall population density of the Sub-division is 1217/sq. km which is more than the district figure (760/ sq. km). The sex ratio of the Sub-division is 954 which is lower than the sex ratio of Darjiling district (1005). Among four C.D. Blocks and one Municipal Corporation only two C.D. Blocks namely Phansidewa C. D. Block (972) and Kharibari C. D. Block (962) have higher sex ratio than that of the Siliguri Sub-division. Two Gram Panchayats namely Hatighisa (1011) under Naxalbari C.D. Block and Hetmuri (1019) under Phansidewa C.D. Block have higher sex ratio than that of the Darjiling district (Census 2011).

Table 2.2 Gram Panchayat-wise Distribution of Population, Population Density and Sex Ratio, 2011

Name	Area in Sq.km	No. of HH	Total Population	Male	Female	Density/km ²	Sex Ratio
Siliguri Sub-division	797.81	209970	971120	497002 (51.18)	474118 (48.82)	1217.23	954
Matigara C.D. Block	132.61	42666	197278	101023 (51.21)	96255 (48.79)	1487.66	953
Champasari	65.07	9400	44408	22476 (50.61)	21932 (49.39)	682.42	976
Matigara I	7.02	4962	22361	12068 (53.97)	10293 (46.03)	3186.55	853
Matigara II	5.66	7250	34186	17664 (51.67)	16522 (48.33)	6042.6	935
Atharakhai	14.21	11375	49885	24973 (50.06)	24912 (49.94)	3510.65	998
Patharghata	40.65	9679	46438	23842 (51.34)	22596 (48.66)	1142.48	948
Naxalbari C.D. Block	188.12	35752	165523	85054 (51.39)	80469 (48.61)	879.88	946
Nakshalbari	24.94	7282	33637	17122 (50.90)	16515 (49.10)	1348.92	965

Name	Area in Sq.km	No. of HH	Total Population	Male	Female	Density/km ²	Sex Ratio
Upper Bagdogra	51.6	8685	39290	20786 (52.90)	18504 (47.10)	761.48	890
Hatighisa	32.99	4388	20725	10305 (49.72)	10420 (50.28)	628.29	1011
Gossaipur	15.58	5190	23774	12294 (51.71)	11480 (48.29)	1525.88	934
Lower Bagdogra	9.24	4463	20292	10545 (51.97)	9747 (48.03)	2196.86	924
Maniram	53.78	5744	27805	14002 (50.36)	13803 (49.64)	516.98	986
Phansidewa C.D. Block	312.1	42138	204522	103719 (50.71)	100803 (49.29)	655.31	972
Hetmuri	54.98	7257	34510	17091 (49.52)	17419 (50.48)	627.69	1019
Bidhan Nagar I	44.31	6030	30060	15221 (50.64)	14839 (49.36)	678.41	975
Bidhan Nagar II	38.75	5510	27064	13564 (50.12)	13500 (49.88)	698.44	995
Chathat Bansaon	49.9	5751	29098	14921 (51.28)	14177 (48.72)	583.1	950
Ghoshpukur	51.95	6421	31448	15804 (50.25)	15644 (49.75)	605.36	990
Jalash Nijamtara	37.14	6446	30723	16021 (52.15)	14702 (47.85)	827.26	918
Phanshidewa	35.07	4723	21619	11097 (51.33)	10522 (48.67)	616.38	948
Kharibari C.D. Block	144.88	23352	109251	55671 (50.96)	53580 (49.04)	754.08	962
Binnabari	26.12	3754	18000	9138 (50.77)	8862 (49.23)	689.17	970
Buraganj	60	6727	32168	16262 (50.55)	15906 (49.45)	536.11	978
Kharibari Panishali	15.06	4852	21370	10939 (51.19)	10431 (48.81)	1419.15	954
Raniganj Panishali	43.7	8019	37713	19332 (51.26)	18381 (48.74)	862.95	951
Siliguri MC(Part)	20.1	66062	294546	151535 (51.45)	143011 (48.55)	14654	944

Source: Census of India, 2011

2.3.3 Rural Urban Population Distribution

Table 2.3 shows the rural urban population distribution of Darjiling district and Siliguri Sub-division. The urban population of this Sub-division is 44.89 percent and rural population is 55.11 percent. In Darjiling district, rural population is 60.58 percent and urban population is 39.42 percent. So, in the study area rural population percentage is lower than that of the district percentage but urban population percentage is higher of the district's urban population percentage. This is as because 30.33 percent of the total population in the Sub-division lives in Siliguri MC (Part).

Table 2.3 Rural Urban Distribution of Population, 2011

Name	Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Darjiling District	1118860 (60.58%)	566965 (50.67%)	551895 (49.33%)	727963 (39.42%)	370294 (50.87%)	357669 (49.13 %)
Siliguri Sub-division	535221 (55.11 %)	272511 (50.92%)	262710 (49.08 %)	435899 (44.89 %)	224491 (51.50 %)	211408 (48.50 %)

Source: Census of India 2011

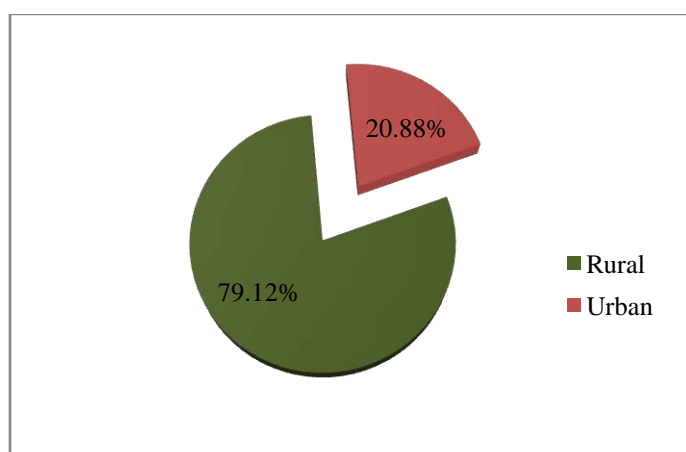


Fig: 2.3: Rural Urban Population Distribution in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

2.3.4 Social Groups

Table 2.4 is showing the caste-wise distribution in different blocks of Siliguri Sub-division. According to 2011 census, concentration of SC population is highest in Kharibari C.D. Block which is 53.61 percent followed by Matigara C.D. Block 35.75 percent. It is lowest in Siliguri MC (Part) (8.84 percent). In Naxalbari and Phansidewa C.D. Blocks Scheduled Caste population are 26.78 percent and 29.68 percent respectively. Total percentage of SC Population in Siliguri

Sub-division is 26.79 percent. In case of Scheduled Tribe population, the highest concentration is found in Phansidewa C.D. Block i.e. 30.61 percent followed by Naxalbari and Kharibari C. D. Blocks with 19.57 percent and 19.46 percent respectively. In Siliguri MC (Part) the percentage is lowest (1.26 percent). 89.90 percent of population in Siliguri MC (Part) belongs to others population category which consists of population of general and other backward class category. As the scheduled tribe population has been mainly concentrated in the tea garden areas and all the tea gardens in the Sub-division are in rural areas, that is why the tribal population percentage is very low in Siliguri MC (Part) and higher in other blocks under the Sub-division. Though a large number of SC & ST population come in Siliguri MC (Part) in search of work but usually due to constrained income resources they don't reside there permanently.

Table 2.4 Block-wise Distribution of Different Social Groups in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

Name	Total Population	SC Population	Percentage of SC Population	ST Population	Percentage of ST Population	Others Population	Percentage of Others
Matigara C.D. Block	197278	70527	35.75	26484	13.42	100267	50.83
Naxalbari C.D. Block	165523	44328	26.78	32388	19.57	8807	53.65
Phansidewa C.D. Block	204522	60704	29.68	62595	30.61	81223	39.71
Kharibari C.D. Block	109251	58570	53.61	21262	19.46	29419	26.93
Siliguri Municipal corp. (part)	294546	26042	8.84	3703	1.26	264801	89.90
Siliguri Sub-division	971120	260171	26.79	146432	15.08	564517	58.13

Source: Census of India, 2011

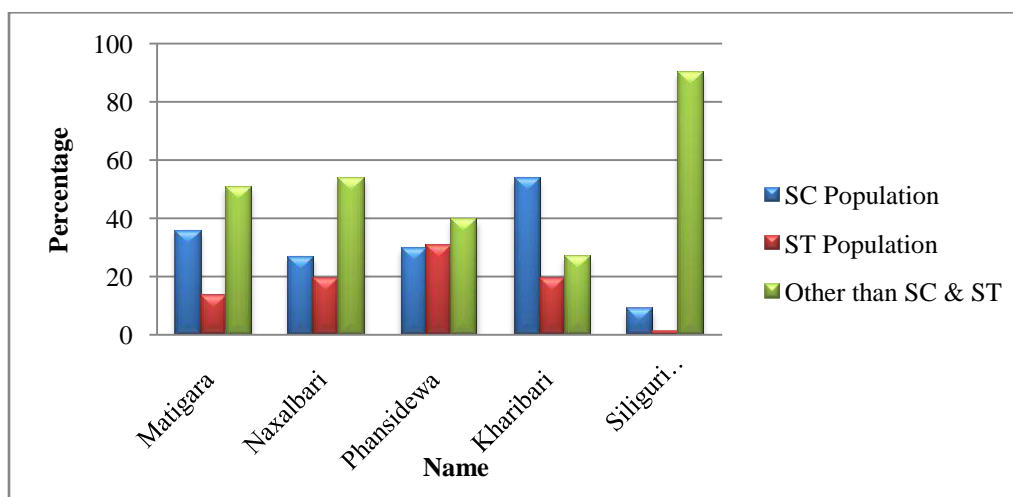


Fig. 2.4: Distribution of Different Social Groups in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

Table 2.5 Tribal Groups in Siliguri Sub-division

Tribal Groups	No. of HH	Percentage
Oraon	182	34.34
Santal	127	23.96
Munda	97	18.30
Mal Pahariya	34	6.42
Mech	27	5.09
Tamang	25	4.72
Chik Baraik	22	4.15
Kheria	16	3.02

Source: Field Survey 2019-20

According to the census 2011, there are 41 distinct tribal groups in the Darjiling district. The table 2.5 shows the percentage share of different tribal groups in the study area. There are primarily eight tribal groups can be found in the study area. The dominant three tribal groups are Oraon, Santal and Munda. The percentage shares of these three tribal groups are 34.34 percent, 23.96 percent and 18.30 percent respectively. So, Oraon are the main dominant tribal group of the study area. The Oraon tribals are mainly the inhabitant of Chhotonagpur, Jharkhand. In the sub-division they are the main source of tea garden labourers. According to their belief they relish to work as labourers (Dutta, 1984). During field survey it has been observed that there is a trend of adopting Christianity among the Oraon people in the study area. The Santals are the second largest tribal groups in the study area. They prefer to stay at a close proximity with the jungle. Jungles hold a great important to their life. In the sub-division majority of them work as plantation labourer or as agricultural labourer. They are very good at agriculture. Their house includes a great influence of mud. The Munda group is an ethnic tribal group mainly inhabitant of Chhotonagpur Plateau. They also can be found in Assam, Odisha and West Bengal. Due to their contribution to the Indian freedom struggle, they are one of the respected tribal groups in history. They are considered as the totally tea garden tribe in the sub-division. Almost all of them are concentrated and associated with tea gardens in the study area. The other tribal groups except these three are Mal Pahariya (6.12 percent), Mech (5.09 percent), Tamang (4.72 percent), Chik Baraik (4.15 percent) and Kheria (3.02 percent).

2.3.5 Religious Groups

The Table 2.6 is showing the major religious groups in four C.D. Blocks and in Siliguri MC (Part) under Siliguri Sub-division in Darjiling district. The percentage of Hindu population is very high in most of the blocks. The highest Hindu population is found in kharibari C.D. Block with 91.01 percent followed by Siliguri Municipal Corporation 90.86 percent. In Matigara and

Naxalbari C.D. Blocks the percentage of Hindu population is 87.51 percent and 86.03 percent respectively. The lowest Hindu population is found in Phansidewa C.D. Block that is 59.68 percent whereas the Muslim and Christian population is quite high that is 23.57 percent and 16.18 percent respectively. The reason behind the high percentage of Christian population in this area is religious conversion among Hindu STs.. In Siliguri MC (Part) the Christian population percentage is lowest (1.06 percent) among the five. Other religious groups are very less in Siliguri Sub-division. Percentage of Sikh population is only 0.14 percent, Buddhist and Jain population is 0.78 percent and 0.11 percent respectively.

Table 2.6 Block-wise Distribution of Different Religious Groups in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

Name	Percentage to total Population							
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Others Religion	Religion not stated
Matigara	87.51	5.22	5.37	0.10	1.45	0.02	0.26	0.07
Naxalbari	86.03	5.69	6.57	0.20	1.31	0.02	0.02	0.16
Phansidewa	59.68	23.57	16.18	0.07	0.23	0.01	0.18	0.08
Kharibari	91.01	4.59	3.70	0.02	0.36	0.01	0.13	0.17
Siliguri MC (part)	90.86	6.29	1.06	0.24	0.56	0.32	0.02	0.64
Siliguri Sub-Div.	82.81	9.42	6.36	0.14	0.78	0.11	0.11	0.27

Source: Census of India, 2011

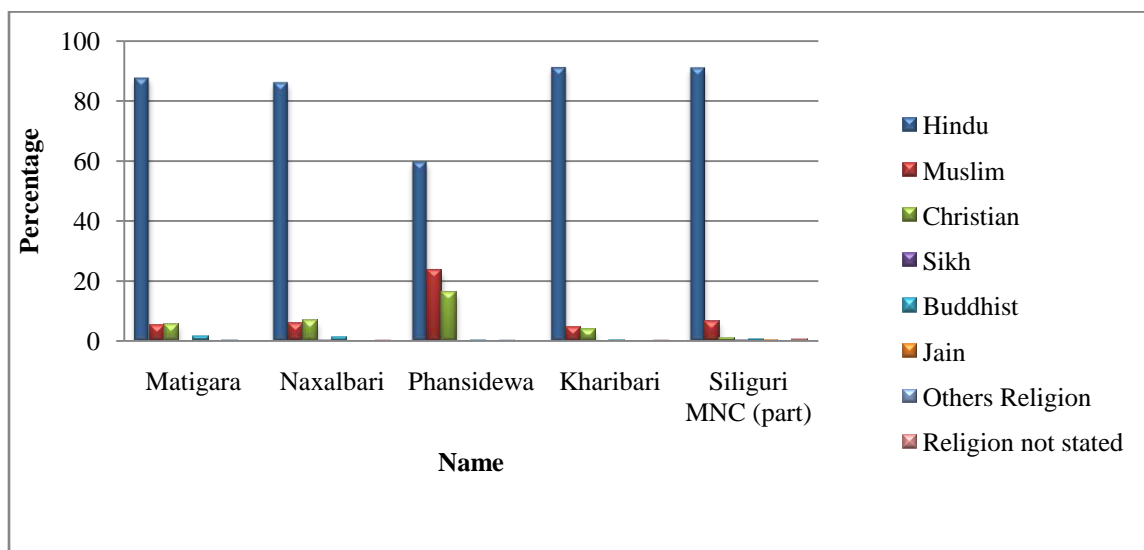


Fig. 2.5: Distribution of Different Religious Groups in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

2.3.6 Literacy Rate

Literacy rate in Siliguri Sub-division according to 2011 census is 75.56 percent which is higher than the national average (74.04 percent) but lower than the state average (76.26 percent).C.D. Block-wise all the four blocks have lower literacy percentage than the literacy percentage of the Siliguri Sub division. In case of Siliguri MC (Part) (86.43 percent) literacy percentage is higher than both the national and state average as well as the average of the Sub-division. Though the male literacy percentage of the Sub-division (81.93 percent) is lower than the national average (82.14 percent), it is higher than state average (81.69 percent). The female literacy percentage of the Sub-division is 68.88 percent which is higher than the national average (65.46 percent) and lower than the state average (70.54 percent).

Table 2.7 Gram Panchayat-wise Literacy Rate and Gender Gap, 2011

Name	Literacy rate			Gender Gap
	Total	Male	Female	
Siliguri Sub Division	75.56	81.93	68.88	13.05
Matigara C. D. Block	74.78	81.75	67.43	14.32
Champasari	71.19	78.88	63.30	15.58
Matigara I	83.05	88.90	76.08	12.82
Matigara II	72.47	79.00	65.48	13.51
Atharakhai	79.90	85.55	74.24	11.31
Patharghata	70.21	78.71	61.18	17.54
Naxalbari C. D. Block	75.47	82.70	67.84	14.86
Nakshalbari	73.14	79.90	66.16	13.74
Upper Bagdogra	83.85	90.11	76.80	13.31
Hatighisa	62.57	71.89	53.31	18.58
Gossaiपुर	77.17	84.19	69.67	14.52
Lower Bagdogra	83.27	88.76	77.35	11.41
Maniram	68.53	76.87	60.14	16.73
Phansidewa C. D. Block	64.46	72.63	56.06	16.57
Hetmuri	60.90	70.26	51.82	18.45
Bidhan Nagar I	66.69	74.11	59.04	15.07
Bidhan Nagar II	59.54	68.02	51.07	16.94
Chathat Bansaon	57.08	64.46	49.30	15.16
Ghoshpukur	66.52	75.42	57.56	17.86
Jalash Nijamtara	70.13	77.80	61.70	16.10
Phanshidewa	71.49	78.61	63.90	14.71
Kharibari C. D. Block	67.37	76.00	58.37	17.63

Name	Literacy rate			Gender Gap
	Total	Male	Female	
Binnabari	61.82	71.96	51.26	20.71
Buraganj	62.48	72.04	52.74	19.30
Kharibari Panishali	71.31	78.21	64.08	14.13
Raniganj Panishali	71.81	79.89	63.27	16.62
Siliguri MC (Part)	86.43	89.82	82.84	6.98

Source: Census of India, 2011

Likewise the total literacy percentage, none of the four blocks have higher literacy percentage than the Sub-division. The male (89.82 percent) and the female (82.84 percent) literacy percentage of Siliguri MC (Part) under Darjiling Sub-division are higher than the literacy percentage of Siliguri Sub-division. The male-female gap of literacy percentage is prominent in Siliguri Sub-division. The male-female gap of literacy percentage in Siliguri Sub-division is 13.05 percentage points which is lower than the national figure (16.68 percentage points) and higher than the state figure (11.15 percentage points). All the four blocks under Siliguri Sub-division have higher male-female gap of literacy percentage than the Siliguri Sub-division. Siliguri MC (part) (6.98 percentage points) has the lower male-female gap of literacy percentage than that of the Siliguri Sub-division. The Highest and the lowest literacy percentage among 22 Gram Panchayats under Siliguri Sub-division are seen at Upper Bagdogra (83.85 percent) and at Chathat Bansgaon (57.08 percent) respectively. The Highest male and female literacy percentage among 22 Gram Panchayats under Siliguri Sub-division can be seen at Upper Bagdogra (90.11 percent & 76.80 percent respectively) and the lowest male and female literacy percentage can be seen at Chathat Bansgaon (64.46 percent & 49.30 percent respectively). The highest male-female gap of literacy percentage can be seen at Binnabari (20.71 percentage points). Among the four blocks, the most literacy percentage-wise backward is Phansidewa C.D. Block. The literacy percentage is only 64.46 percent. For both male and female the literacy percentage of this block is the lowest among the four blocks. For male it is 72.63 percent and female it is 56.06 percent. This is mainly due to the highest ST population concentration in this block in the Sub-division. The low literacy percentage among tribals is drowning down the overall literacy percentage of the block. The literacy percentage in Matigara and Naxalbari C.D.Blocks are comparatively higher. In Naxalbari block it is 75.47 percent and in Matigara it is 74.78 percent. The geographical position and concentration of urban centers in these two blocks compare to the other two blocks in the Sub-division are the main reasons behind this.

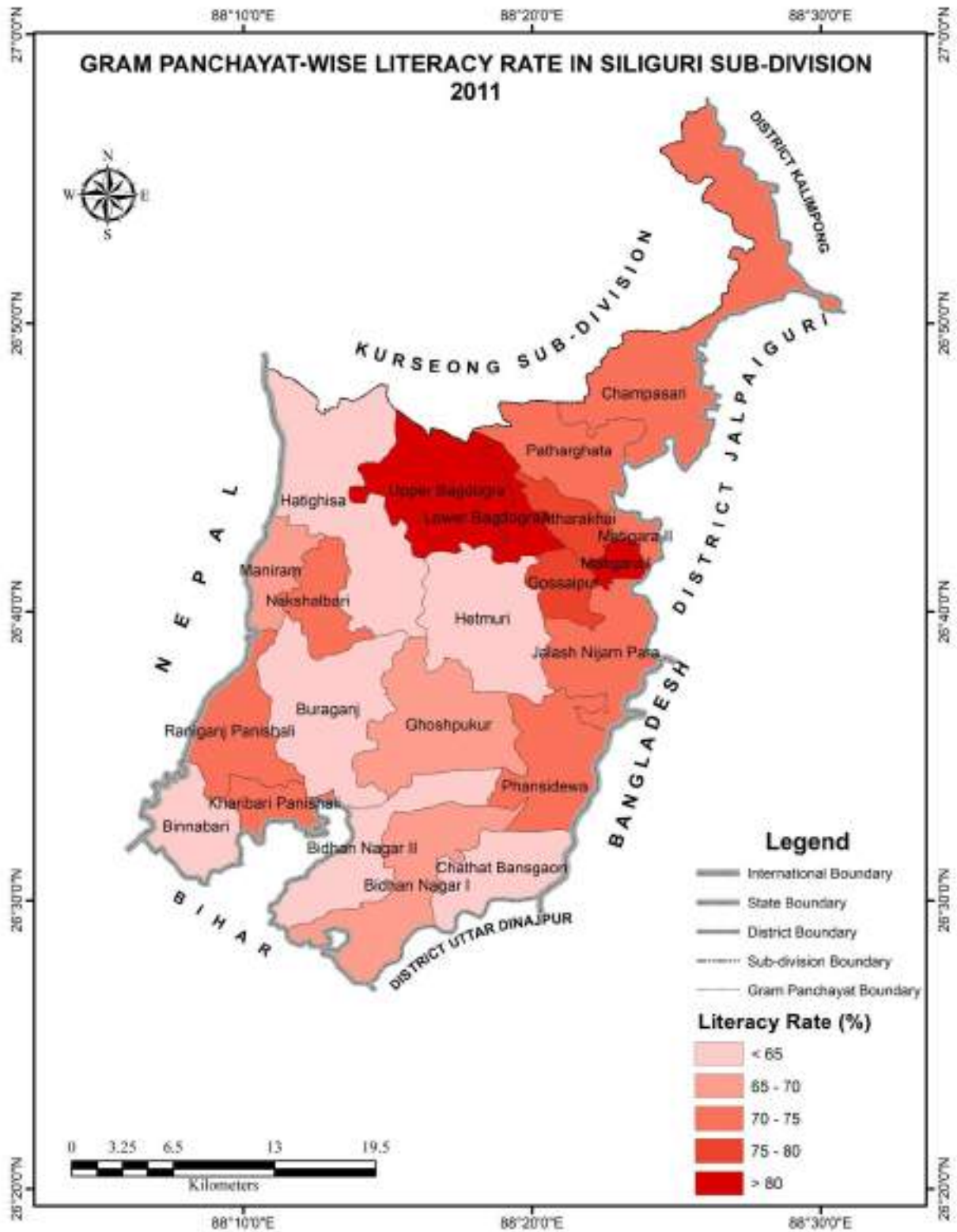


Fig. 2.6

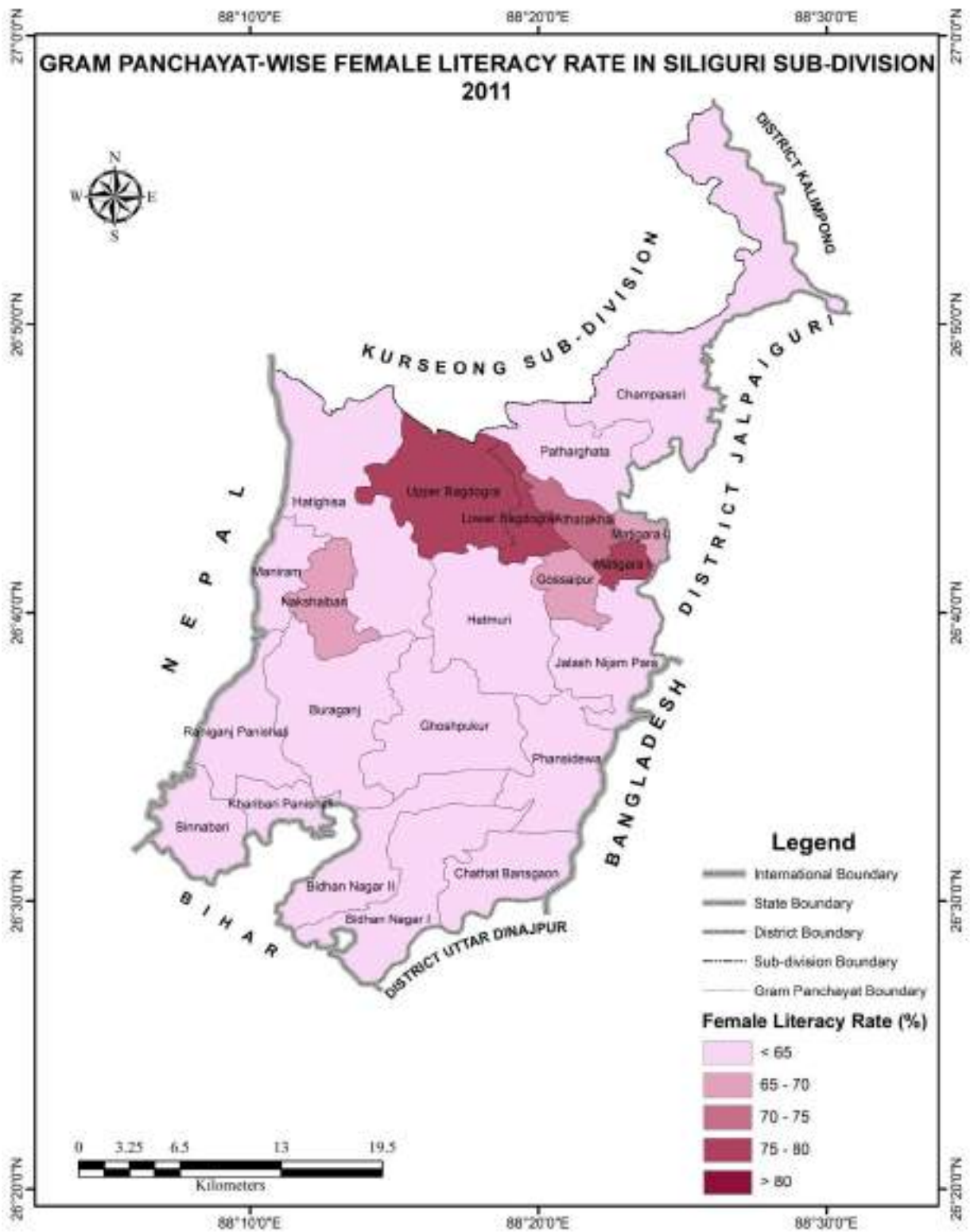


Fig. 2.8

2.3.7 Educational Institutions

The table 2.8 is showing the number of government educational institutions present in the study area, Siliguri Sub-division (Village and Town Directory, 2011). The data shows, there are a total number of 1523 government educational institutions present in the study area. Out of these the number of Pre-Primary educational institutions are 492, number of Primary educational institutions are 651, number of middle level educational institutions are 178, number of secondary & H.S level govt. educational institutions are 112 and 73 respectively. In addition to that there are 11 govt. general degree collages are there in the sub-division. There are a total no of 3 Engineering colleges and one Medical college are there in the sub-division and all of them comes under Matigara C.D. Block.

Table 2.8 Educational Institutions in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

Block	Pre-Primary school	Primary school	Middle school	Secondary School	Senior Secondary school	Degree college of arts science commerce	Engineering college	Medical college	Polytechnics
Matigara	103	95	32	24	14	2	3	1	1
Naxalbari	96	87	22	11	6	4	0	0	0
Kharibari	102	88	16	8	3	0	0	0	0
Phansidewa	191	173	41	20	11	0	0	0	0
Siliguri Mc (Part)		208	67	49	39	5	0	0	1
Siliguri Sub-Division	492	651	178	112	73	11	3	1	2

Source: Village and Town Directory, 2011

2.4 Economic Profile

2.4.1 Work Participation Rate

The table 2.9 is showing the work participation rate in different Gram Panchayats and Siliguri MC (Part) under Siliguri Sub-division. WPR of Siliguri Sub-division is 37.48 percent; out of which male WPR is 54.58 percent and female WPR is 19.56 percent. So, gender gap in WPR is very much prominent. Only in Matigara (38.20 percent) and Kharibari (39.20 percent) C.D. Blocks among the four C.D Blocks and one MC (Part), WPR are higher than that of the Siliguri Sub-division. Lowest WPR can be seen in Naxalbari C.D. Block (36.77 percent). Only Matigara C.D. Block (54.68 percent) and Siliguri MC (Part) (57.71 percent) have higher male WPR than Siliguri Sub-division. Highest female WPR can be seen in Phansidewa C.D. Block (23.77 percent). Only Naxalbari C.D. Block (18.82 percent) and Siliguri MC (Part) (14.65 percent) have lower female WPR than Siliguri Sub-division. Among the 22 Gram Panchayats highest and lowest WPR can be seen in Buraganj (42.92 percent) and Chathat Bansgaon (30.78 percent)

respectively. The highest male and female WPR can be seen in Matigara I (57.86 percent) and Hetmuri (34.17 percent) Gram Panchayats respectively. And both the lowest male and female WPR can be seen in Chathat Bansgaon (48.41 percent & 12.22 percent respectively). The reason behind the lowest male and female WPR in this GP is its remote location and accessibility. It is one of the remotest and under developed area of the study area. So, resource of income is very limited in this area. The Fig 2.9 shows the WPR above 39 percent can be seen in Hatighisa (40.76 percent), Binnabari (40.80 percent), Ghoshpukur (41.01 percent), Bidhan Nagar II (41.44 percent), Hetmuri (42.26 percent) and Buraganj (42.92 percent). The main reason behind this is the highly concentrated tribal population (Table 3.1) in these areas. And among tribals WPR is very high (Table 3.48). So, these tribal WPR is playing a major role in these areas for having the high percentage of WPR.

Table 2.9 Gram Panchayat-wise Work Participation Rate, 2011

Name	WPR			Non Worker		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Siliguri Sub-division	37.48	54.58	19.56	62.52	45.42	80.44
Matigara C. D. Block	38.20	54.68	20.91	61.80	45.32	79.09
Champasari	37.48	52.38	22.21	62.52	47.62	77.79
Matigara I	37.78	57.86	14.24	62.22	42.14	85.76
Matigara II	38.61	56.03	19.98	61.39	43.97	80.02
Atharakhai	38.26	54.87	21.62	61.74	45.13	78.38
Patharghata	38.73	54.06	22.56	61.27	45.94	77.44
Naxalbari C. D. Block	36.77	53.75	18.82	63.23	46.25	81.18
Nakshalbari	35.58	53.71	16.77	64.42	46.29	83.23
Upper Bagdogra	37.56	55.11	17.84	62.44	44.89	82.16
Hatighisa	40.76	52.52	29.13	59.24	47.48	70.87
Gossaipur	34.53	54.68	12.96	65.47	45.32	87.04
Lower Bagdogra	34.09	53.39	13.20	65.91	46.61	86.80
Maniram	37.99	52.15	23.63	62.01	47.85	76.37
Phansidewa C. D. Block	37.43	50.71	23.77	62.57	49.29	76.23
Hetmuri	42.26	50.51	34.17	57.74	49.49	65.83
Bidhan Nagar I	34.95	50.47	19.03	65.05	49.53	80.97
Bidhan Nagar II	41.44	50.94	31.90	58.56	49.06	68.10
Chathat Bansgaon	30.78	48.41	12.22	69.22	51.59	87.78
Ghoshpukur	41.01	49.61	32.33	58.99	50.39	67.67
Jalash Nijamtara	36.22	53.70	17.17	63.78	46.30	82.83
Phanshidewa	33.66	51.45	14.89	66.34	48.55	85.11
Kharibari C. D. Block	39.20	54.38	23.43	60.80	45.62	76.57
Binnabari	40.80	54.45	26.72	59.20	45.55	73.28
Buraganj	42.92	53.62	31.98	57.08	46.38	68.02
Kharibari Panishali	37.89	53.75	21.26	62.11	46.25	78.74
Raniganj Panishali	36.00	55.33	15.66	64.00	44.67	84.34
Siliguri MC (Part)	36.81	57.71	14.65	63.19	42.29	85.35

Source: Census of India 2011

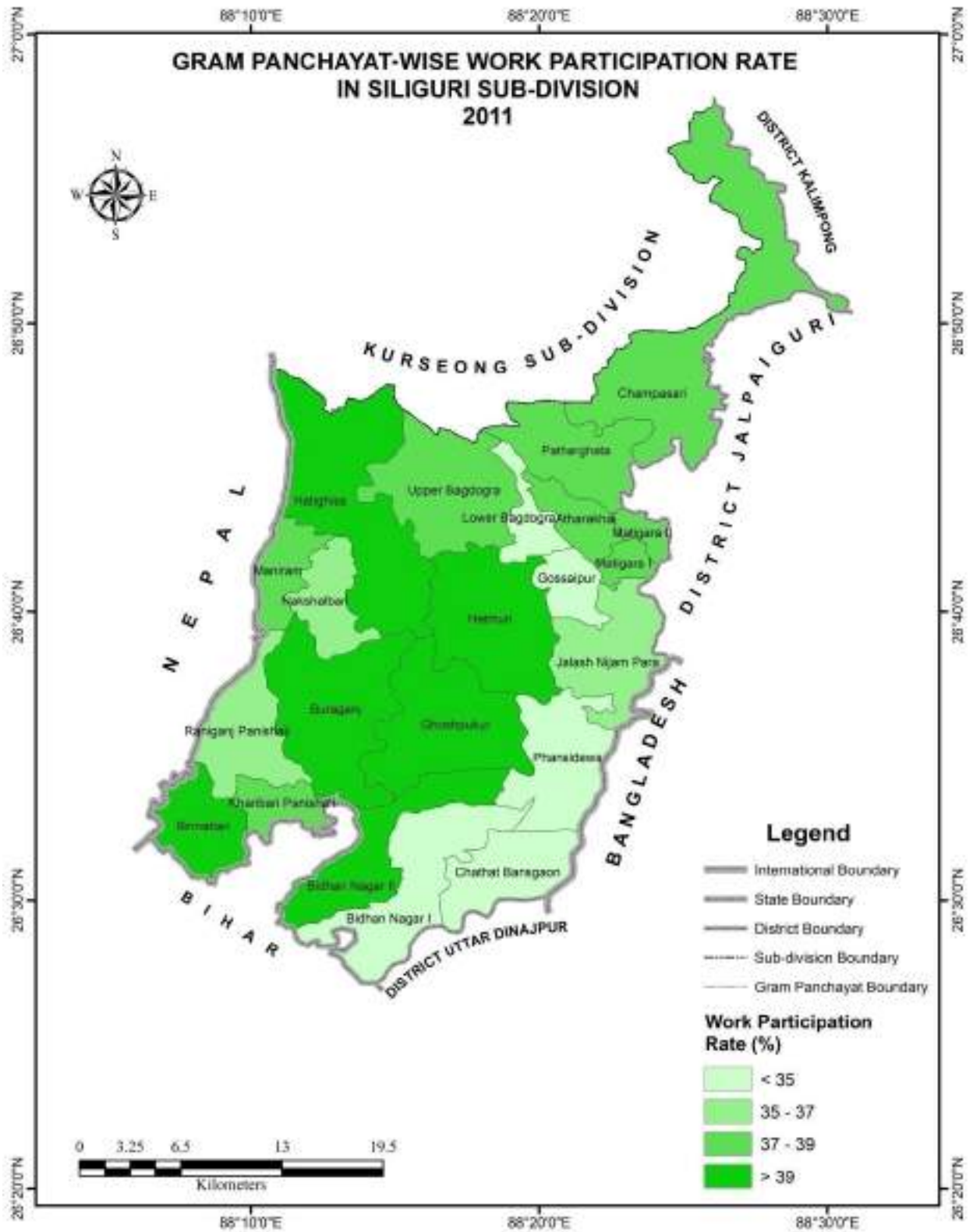


Fig. 2.9

**Table 2.10 Gram Panchayat-wise Distribution of Main Worker and Marginal Worker,
2011**

Name	Main Worker			Marginal Worker		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Siliguri Sub Division	83.42	89.06	66.91	16.58	10.94	33.09
Matigara C. D. Block	88.65	92.08	79.24	11.35	7.92	20.76
Champasari	85.97	88.38	80.15	14.03	11.62	19.85
Matigara I	94.87	96.32	87.99	5.13	3.68	12.01
Matigara II	90.27	94.64	77.16	9.73	5.36	22.84
Atharakhai	88.85	93.77	76.33	11.15	6.23	23.67
Patharghata	86.82	89.40	80.29	13.18	10.60	19.71
Naxalbari C. D. Block	81.92	87.58	64.84	18.08	12.42	35.16
Nakshalbari	87.78	91.55	75.27	12.22	8.45	24.73
Upper Bagdogra	85.27	90.25	67.98	14.73	9.75	32.02
Hatighisa	75.70	82.95	62.77	24.30	17.05	37.23
Gossaiपुर	83.95	89.45	59.07	16.05	10.55	40.93
Lower Bagdogra	81.08	85.52	61.62	18.92	14.48	38.38
Maniram	74.56	81.68	58.61	25.44	18.32	41.39
Phansidewa C. D. Block	77.67	84.62	62.42	22.33	15.38	37.58
Hetmuri	66.41	72.20	58.01	33.59	27.80	41.99
Bidhan Nagar I	82.55	88.10	67.46	17.45	11.90	32.54
Bidhan Nagar II	77.96	83.24	69.48	22.04	16.76	30.52
Chathat Bansaon	83.56	86.31	72.11	16.44	13.69	27.89
Ghoshpukur	73.34	80.61	62.07	26.66	19.39	37.93
Jalash Nijamtara	84.17	92.48	55.86	15.83	7.52	44.14
Phansidewa	83.26	91.93	51.69	16.74	8.07	48.31
Kharibari C. D. Block	73.17	83.08	49.28	26.83	16.92	50.72
Binnabari	67.84	82.19	37.67	32.16	17.81	62.33
Buraganj	72.28	82.73	54.37	27.72	17.27	45.63
Kharibari Panishali	75.54	85.95	47.93	24.46	14.05	52.07
Raniganj Panishali	75.56	82.20	50.89	24.44	17.80	49.11
Siliguri MC (Part)	88.72	92.67	72.24	11.28	7.33	27.76

Source: Census of India 2011

Most of the working population of Siliguri Sub-division is engaged in main working category. 83.42 percent of working population works as main worker and only 16.58 percent works as marginal worker. Out of the four C.D. Blocks only Matigara C.D. Block has the higher main worker percentage (88.65 percent) than the Sub-division. The two blocks Kharibari (26.83 percent) and Phansidewa (22.33 percent) have highest percentage of marginal worker in the Sub-

division. The Fig 2.11 and Fig 2.12 show that in the study area marginal worker percentage can be found a lot more among females than that of the males. Here 33.09 percent of female working population works as marginal worker and only 10.94 percent male working population works as marginal worker. In Kharibari and Phansidewa C.D. Blocks this female marginal worker percentage rises even more. In Kharibari block 50.72 percent of female workforce work as marginal worker. In Phansidewa block this percentage is 37.58 percent. The main reason behind the high percentage of working females working as marginal worker is there structure of occupations. Most of the females work as daily labourers in some construction sites or in some tea gardens, specifically at the time of plucking.

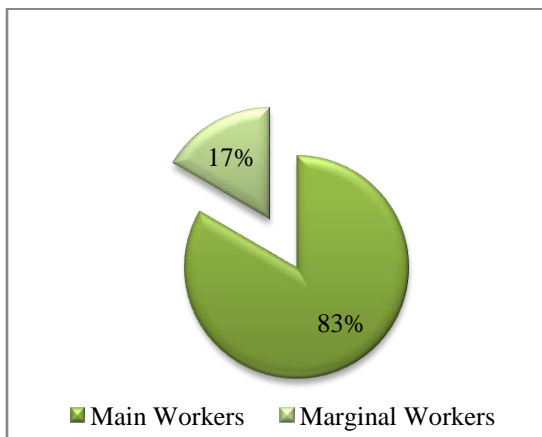


Fig. 2.10: Distribution of Main & Marginal Workers in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

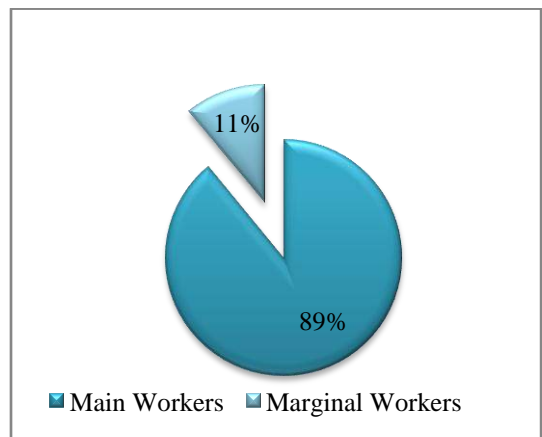


Fig. 2.11: Distribution of Male Main & Marginal Workers in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

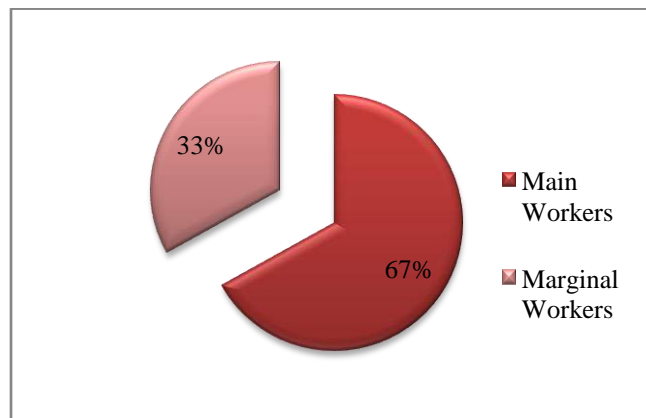


Fig. 2.12: Distribution of Female Main & Marginal Workers in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

2.4.2 Occupational Structure

According to 2011 census working population is divided into four categories; Cultivators, Agricultural Labourers, Household Industry Workers and Other Workers. Here other worker includes Daily Labourer, Services Sector worker, Plantation worker, Non household industry worker, Transportation worker etc. (Fig.2.13). In Siliguri Sub-division out of the total working population 6.08 percent are cultivators, 8.13 percent are agricultural labourers, 2.54 percent are household industry workers and 83.25 percent are engaged in other working category.

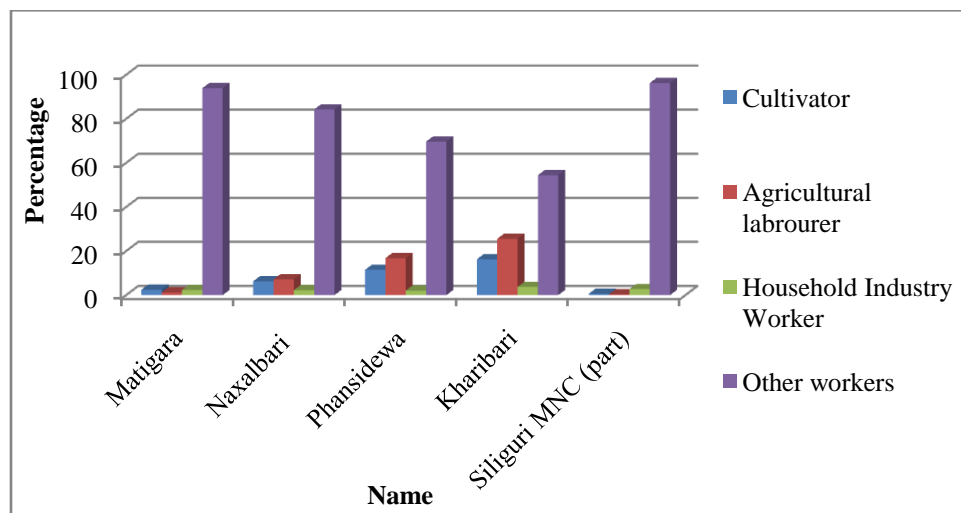


Fig. 2.13: Distribution of Occupational Structure in Siliguri Sub-division, 2011

Likewise the Sub-division, in all of the Gram Panchayats a large number of working population is engaged in other working category. This mainly includes plantation worker and labourer. Diversification of working categories is rare in the study area. Some significant number of Cultivator and Agricultural labourer can be seen only in the Gram Panchyats under Phansidewa and Kharibari C.D Blocks. In Pansidewa C.D. Block 16.80 percent and 11.48 percent of the working population works as Agricultural labourer and Cultivator respectively. In Kharibari C.D. Block the percentages are 25.56 percent and 16.29 percent respectively (Table 2.11). But in all the Gram Panchayats magnitude of Household industries is almost negligible.

Table 2.11 Gram Panchayat-wise Different Occupational Structure, 2011

Name	Cultivator			Agricultural labourer		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Siliguri Sub Division	6.08	6.97	3.48	8.13	7.12	11.08
Matigara C. D. Block	2.46	2.45	2.47	1.28	1.13	1.68
Champasari	3.97	4.29	3.20	1.89	1.55	2.71
Matigara I	2.60	2.58	2.73	1.11	1.00	1.64
Matigara II	1.52	1.38	1.91	1.17	1.07	1.45
Atharakhai	1.05	1.10	0.91	0.58	0.63	0.43
Patharghata	3.17	2.96	3.73	1.62	1.40	2.18
Naxalbari C. D. Block	6.30	7.12	3.83	7.18	6.37	9.63
Nakshalbari	4.64	5.39	2.13	7.36	7.03	8.45
Upper Bagdogra	1.82	1.47	3.03	0.97	0.89	1.24
Hatighisa	9.68	12.38	4.88	11.93	11.46	12.78
Gossaipur	5.64	6.46	1.95	3.12	2.66	5.17
Lower Bagdogra	2.41	2.24	3.19	2.00	1.21	5.44
Maniram	14.81	18.65	6.22	18.39	17.73	19.87
Phansidewa C. D. Block	11.48	14.69	4.45	16.80	17.50	15.27
Hetmuri	4.09	5.29	2.35	6.75	6.86	6.59
Bidhan Nagar I	7.02	8.57	2.83	13.76	14.24	12.46
Bidhan Nagar Ii	6.79	9.60	2.28	12.21	12.23	12.17
Chathat Bansaon	18.17	20.92	6.70	45.60	45.61	45.55
Ghoshpukur	8.21	10.69	4.37	4.54	4.62	4.41
Jalash Nijamtara	17.48	19.44	10.82	18.24	15.74	26.78
Phanshidewa	28.38	33.74	8.87	32.53	29.15	44.86
Kharibari C. D. Block	16.29	20.41	6.37	25.56	20.75	37.17
Binnabari	23.08	29.72	9.12	38.24	32.15	51.01
Buraganj	16.72	22.40	6.98	20.01	16.30	26.38
Kharibari Panishali	12.06	15.53	2.89	33.65	29.06	45.81
Raniganj Panishali	14.72	17.14	5.70	19.53	14.50	38.21
Siliguri MC (Part)	0.62	0.44	1.36	0.40	0.32	0.73

Source: Census of India 2011

Table 2.11 Continued. Gram Panchayat-wise Different Occupational Structure, 2011

Name	HH Industry Worker			Other Worker		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Siliguri Sub Division	2.54	2.16	3.68	83.25	83.76	81.76
Matigara C. D. Block	2.34	2.16	2.83	93.92	94.25	93.01
Champasari	1.87	2.03	1.48	92.27	92.14	92.61
Matigara I	1.53	1.46	1.84	94.76	94.96	93.79
Matigara II	2.21	2.16	2.36	95.11	95.38	94.27
Atharakhai	2.92	2.47	4.05	95.46	95.79	94.62
Patharghata	2.65	2.34	3.43	92.56	93.30	90.66
Naxalbari C. D. Block	2.25	1.85	3.47	84.27	84.67	83.07
Nakshalbari	2.08	1.96	2.49	85.92	85.61	86.93
Upper Bagdogra	1.83	1.41	3.30	95.39	96.24	92.43
Hatighisa	2.21	1.90	2.77	76.17	74.26	79.57
Gossaipur	3.09	2.32	6.59	88.15	88.56	86.29
Lower Bagdogra	2.56	1.10	8.94	93.03	95.45	82.44
Maniram	2.21	2.49	1.56	64.59	61.12	72.35
Phansidewa C. D. Block	2.05	1.71	2.80	69.66	66.10	77.48
Hetmuri	2.02	2.34	1.55	87.14	85.51	89.52
Bidhan Nagar I	2.49	2.37	2.83	76.72	74.82	81.87
Bidhan Nagar II	1.25	1.30	1.16	79.76	76.87	84.39
Chathat Bansaon	1.46	0.69	4.68	34.77	32.78	43.07
Ghoshpukur	1.30	1.11	1.60	85.95	83.58	89.62
Jalash Nijamtara	4.39	2.67	10.26	59.88	62.15	52.14
Phanshidewa	1.20	1.05	1.72	37.89	36.07	44.54
Kharibari C. D. Block	3.72	3.45	4.37	54.43	55.40	52.09
Binnabari	1.96	2.25	1.35	36.72	35.87	38.51
Buraganj	2.95	2.00	4.58	60.32	59.31	62.06
Kharibari Panishali	4.26	2.84	8.03	50.02	52.57	43.28
Raniganj Panishali	5.13	5.52	3.68	60.63	62.84	52.41
Siliguri MC (Part)	2.73	2.13	5.24	96.25	97.11	92.67

Source: Census of India 2011

2.5 Conclusion

Out of the three important aspects i.e. physical, social and economic; Physical aspect shows a similar type of physiographic condition in the whole Sub-division. The social characteristics are diverse in respect of religion, caste and literacy. Economic aspects are also diverse in respect of occupational structure. Gender gap is present in all the social and economic aspects. In

conclusion it can be said that more studies require for the development of the people of this Sub-division.

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