

## **Migration, Urbanisation and Growth of Hill Town in Darjeeling: A Historical Study (1835-1950)**

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### **Introduction**

Darjeeling Town is situated on the lower part of the Darjeeling – Jalapahar ridge in Siwalik Himalayas. Darjeeling is the main town of the Sadar sub-division and also the headquarters of the district which has the same name as the town. Darjeeling district is the Northern most district of West Bengal. It is well known hill station of India which has undergone transformation since its occupation by the British in 1835. Darjeeling is a favourite rest and recreation spot for British, who came here to escape from the hot of the plain areas. It was during the British rule that it developed as a pleasant hill resort. There were also commercial and strategic reasons. The British wanted to get away from the heat, diseases and dirt of the plains and searched towns which would bring them relief with a climate closer to their homeland. These resting places would uplift the morality and energy of the British officials to work efficiently for further expansion of colonial power. Thus, during the nineteenth century there were formation of famous hill stations in India like Nainital, Simla, Moussaurie and Darjeeling. Besides this there are more reasons involved in the interests of the colonial masters for the formation of Darjeeling town which will be discussed in the paper.

### **Historical background**

Historically, Darjeeling situated in the Singalia range of the eastern Himalayas as belonged to Sikkim and Bhutan. By the deed of grant of 1835, the Raja of Sikkim hills which converted the areas south of the Great Rangit river, east of the Balasan, Kahel and Little Rangit rivers and west of the Rangnu and Mahananda rivers.<sup>1</sup> Further, the war with Sikkim led to the annexation of Sikkim 'Morang' or Terai at the foothills as well as portion of Sikkim hills which was bounded by the Ramman river on the north, by the Great Rangit and the Tista river on the east, and by the Nepal frontier on the west. The area mentioned above was always under Sikkim but Moreang or Terai in the foothills was under Nepal from 1788-1816. East India Company's victory over Nepal gave her this area through the Treaty of Segauli (1816), who in turn returned it to the Raja of Sikkim by the Treaty of Titliya (1817). But the British soon began war with Sikkim and ceded the territory annexed by them by the Treaty of Tunlong (1861). Again, by the Treaty of Sinchula (1865) with Bhutan the British annexed the hill tract to the east of Tista Rivers, west of the Ne-chu and De-chu rivers and the south of Sikkim.<sup>2</sup> After the annexation, the

British territory of Darjeeling was continuous with the British districts of Purnea and Rangpur in the plains. After the annexation of Kalimpong in 1865 the area was notified as a subdivision under the Deputy Commissioner of Western Duars district. But in 1866 it was transferred to Darjeeling.<sup>3</sup> The District was included in the Rajshahi Division until October 1905 when, as a result of the Partition of Bengal, it was transferred to the Bhagalpur Division. For administrative purposes it was divided into two subdivisions, the headquarter sub-division covering the northern portion of the district, which extends to the frontier of Sikkim and Bhutan and includes all the country east of the Tista, and the Kurseong subdivision, which comprises the lower hills, and the Terai.<sup>4</sup> With the rearrangement of the provinces it was re-transferred to the Rajshahi Division in March 1912. So, Darjeeling in its very historical time has shifted from one power to another. The Partition of Bengal in August 1947 left the boundaries of the district intact and in the share of West Bengal. The district was placed thereafter in the Presidency Division.<sup>5</sup>

East India Company's interest towards Darjeeling and adjacent region was motivated by several reasons. The major reason was the geopolitical importance of Darjeeling being a part of Sikkim with which the British commercial ties are closely related. Strategically, it would safeguard the northern Indian border from China, Bhutan and India. Sikkim also commanded the historic Kalimpong-Lhasa trade route which was the shortest route to Tibet. The acquisition of Darjeeling made the traders to increase the volume of Trade with Sikkim, Nepal and Darjeeling.<sup>6</sup>

The British also wanted friendly relationship with Nepal which became a driving force behind the acquisition of Darjeeling. Jang Bahadur had provided the English with military assistance in the Anglo-Sikh War of 1848-49 and also in the Sepoy Revolt of 1857. The British wanted to use Darjeeling as a base for recruiting Nepali or Gorkha soldiers in the Indian Army. The Gorkhas were considered as efficient, courageous and trustworthy body of men. Furthermore, the British rulers were attracted to Darjeeling which was an ideal place for tea plantation.<sup>7</sup> In 1834 Lord William Bentinck had appointed a Committee for searching the possibility of tea industry in India. In 1841 tea was planted as an experiment by Dr. Campbell in Darjeeling. The success of it led to the growth of tea industry on large scale. Another factor behind the attraction of Darjeeling for the English was the climate required for Sanatorium providing relief for the English officials converting into a hill station.<sup>8</sup>

### **Migration and demographic change since 1850**

The tea industry was the major economic activity in Darjeeling up to middle of the nineteenth century. Average yield and the income from the tea industry had been a predominating influence upon the growth and development of Urban centres in the Darjeeling Hills. The first such influence had been found in the improvement of transport system. It is difficult to envisage the development of tea plantation in Darjeeling without the influx of migration from rural Nepal. Two important reasons given by Lloyd for the

cession of Darjeeling were firstly, the advantage as a centre of trade and secondly, as a position of great strategic importance commanding the entrance into Nepal and Bhutan. In addition, Mr. Grant gave the numerous advantages for establishing a sanatorium at Darjeeling and strongly advocated its occupation for military purposes as the key of a pass into the Nepal territory.<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Campbell started the experimental growth of tea plants. The success of the experiment led in 1856 the establishment of large scale production industry in Kurseong and the Darjeeling Tea Company opened the Aluabari Tea Garden and another by Darjeeling Land Mortgage Bank. In 1859 Dr. Brougham started the Dhuturia Garden and between 1860 and 1864 Darjeeling Tea Company established four gardens at Ging, Ambutia, Takdah and Phubsering and Lebong Tea Company established tea gardens at Takuvar and Badamtam. There was a rapid increase of tea industry in Darjeeling from 1866-1885 as given in the table below-

**Table-I**  
**The Increase of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling Hills**

Year	Number of Gardens	Area under cultivation (acres)	Outturn of (in pounds)
1866	39	10,000	4,33,000
1870	56	11,000	1,700,000
1874	113	18,888	3,928,000
1885	175	38,499	9,090,298
1895	186	43,692	11,714,551
1905	148	50,618	12,447,471

*Sources: Sir Percival Griffiths: History of the Indian Tea Industry, 1967, p 88 and L.S.S.S*

*O'Malley: Darjeeling District Gazetteer, 1907, p 74.*

The above table (Table-I) shows that there was a rapid growth of tea industry by the second half of the nineteenth and twentieth Century. The area of cultivation had increased and so did the number of tea gardens which in turn led to increases production. The production and area under cultivation particularly increases and in fact was more than the double during 1874-1885. With the increase in tea gardens the demand for labours grew. Though the English planters initially employed labours from other parts of Bengal but it involved high price and difficulty for them to adjust to the hill environment and climate.<sup>10</sup>

By 1845, the British Superintendent of Darjeeling Dr. Campbell reported that tea plantation had attracted 10,000 settlers from Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan, who came to work as labourers; porters, woodcutters, builders, and servants for the expanding British hill station. Each plantation provided housing and medical services for resident labourers and set aside land for cultivation and herding. As the plantation economy flourished, education was provided to children of laborers.<sup>11</sup>

The population of Darjeeling hills also increased after the inflow of Nepalese as tea garden labour as well as trade and tourism. The first census was taken in the hill areas after the formation of the district in 1869 and it was found that the population was around 22,000. Mitra states that it was a leap forward in the population within the period of thirty-four years between 1835 and 1869. The labour force was about 10,000 in 1870 that increased to 44,279 in 1921 and to 61,450 in 1941. The actual population in the tea garden according to 1941 census was 146,508. The reason for the boom in population in this district evidently was due to the large labour migration from Nepal when the British opened the tea gardens.<sup>12</sup>

W. W. Hunter wrote that the Nepali who form 34 per cent population of the district, are all immigrants from the state of Nepal. By 1881, the Nepalese formed the absolute majority of Darjeeling town and also of the district<sup>13</sup>. The table below (Table II) shows the increase in population in the town and also reflecting the change in the demographic profile by migration from Nepal.

**Table- II**  
**The Population of Darjeeling Town (1872-1941)**

Year	Population
1872	3,157
1881	7,018
1891	14,145
1901	16,924
1911	19,005
1921	22,258
1931	21,185
1941	27,222

Source: Dash, A.J, 'Bengal District Gazetteer, Darjeeling,' Bengal Government Press, Calcutta, 1947, p. 53

The Royal Commission of Labour Inquiry (RCIL) provides data on the numbers of emigrants from Nepal to Darjeeling, Sikkim and Jalpaiguri from 1891 to 1921. The following table (Table III) shows that emigrants was largely from Nepal and it was highest in Darjeeling.<sup>14</sup>

**Table-III**  
**Number of Emigrants from Nepal**

Found in	Year			
	1891	1901	1911	1921
Darjeeling	88,021	76,301	70,021	58,026
Sikkim	.....	22,720	25,610	20,876

Jalpaiguri	20,578	18,649	34,015	23,681
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Source: Royal Commission of Labour Inquiry (RCIL), 1930, Page- 7.

The above table clearly explains that the increase in the population was due to the immigration from neighbouring Nepal.<sup>15</sup> There also developed a settlement in nineteenth century of small Bengali middle class families for administrative services and clerical jobs. There were Beharis and Marwaris for commercial and professional work but by 1941 it was not more than 5.1 per cent.<sup>16</sup> From the recorded accounts, it can be concluded that for the Darjeeling Hills plantations there was a steady supply of Nepalese labour for many decades which climbed from about 30,000 in 1871-72 to 75,000 in 1951. However, in 1961 the number went down to 55,000 and in the next decade 1961-71 it further decreased due mainly to the stagnation of tea industry in the region but also due to closure of trade with Tibet.<sup>17</sup>

The steady increase of population received a check in 1931 but was resumed in 1941. The town area lies partly in the Jorebungalow Thana and it includes the cantonments of Katapahar, Jalapahar and Lebong. The population of this urban area over 7 percent, of the District population and 18 percent of the population of the Sadar Subdivision.<sup>18</sup>

The district was formerly a Non-Regulation district, that is to say, Acts and Regulations did not come into force unless they were specially extended to it. Darjeeling had no representative in the Legislative council constituted under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, the district was made a Partially Excluded area.<sup>19</sup> The early settlers were mostly agriculturists. Campbell gave them every encouragement to reclaim forest lands and settle down there. Urbanization through the establishment of a sanatorium at the nucleus town also led to growth of employment opportunities and hence to population increase. By 1852, there were 70 European houses in Darjeeling town besides a bazaar and a jail.<sup>20</sup> The two most important factors in the development of the district have been the choice of Darjeeling for a health resort and the subsequent planting of tea in the hills. Formerly, beyond a few Lepchas and Limbus with their little clearings in the forests, an occasional raid from Nepal, or a stray visitors from the table-lands of Tibet, the Darjeeling Hills were practically uninhabited.<sup>21</sup> Along with tea plantation, the prospects of forest products and cinchona plantation had also attracted the Britishers.<sup>22</sup> The planters also got the advantage of cheap labour due to large scale immigration from Nepal. Tourism has immense scope in the entire region. Since the 1960's tourism has grown at the rate of 10% per year, but 50% of the tourist traffic consists of middle class Bengalese from the plains and the remaining are the people from outside West Bengal, mostly Hindi speaking. In order to encourage more people to invest in the tea industry, the British administration made land available at low prices; often selling some 'wasteland' through open auctions to the stagnation of tea industry in the region but also due to closure of trade with Tibet.<sup>23</sup>

## Urban growth of the town

The British were directly drawn into the Himalayas as the result of the Anglo-Nepalese War 1814-16. In 1816 the Treaty of Segauli settled their relations with Nepal. The Treaty gave the British direct control of the Himalayan district of Kumaun and Garwal. An equally important development in regard to the Himalayas which the 19th Century witnessed, remarks K.M. Pannikar "was the growth of great hill station from Dalhousie to Darjeeling. There emerged an extensive Himalayan frontier of India dotted with hill-Stations like Simla and Darjeeling and cushioned off from the secretive hinterland of Tibet."<sup>24</sup>

The urban growth in Darjeeling town was not similar to that of the towns in other parts of the country. The urbanization was not a uniform process. In the early years the settlements consisted of few indigenous population and the British occupied it for commercial strategic and climate reasons. The growth of town thus began with the establishment of Sanatorium and rest houses in the shape of cottages which were replica of Swiss cottages. The British tried to build resting houses Swiss cottage style for the English. They also imported flowers from England to grow in the garden. The Darjeeling guide mentions of some well known buildings as Rockvilla, Oak Lodge, Woodlands, the Dell and others where important persons like Captain Bishop, who troops Dr, Griffiths, the then Civil Surgeon had resided.<sup>25</sup>

British administrators first noticed the possibilities for a sanatorium town at the site of a Lepcha village (Dorje-ling) in the eastern Himalayas. In 1828, Captain G.A. Lloyd, an army official, and J.W. Grant, the commercial resident at Malda in northern Bengal, arrived at Chongtung near Darjeeling, and found it ideal for a sanatorium town.<sup>26</sup> Major D. J. P. Newall in his book strongly advocated the Military Colonization of the Hills. In Defence of his contention he profusely referred to the views of Clive, Warren Hastings, Wellington, Dalhousie, Malcom, Canning, Lawrence, all of whom had favoured the policy of hill colonization.<sup>27</sup>

Darjeeling started gaining prominence politically and by 1879 it became the summer headquarters of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. The conservators of forests of Bengal, superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer and the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division were posted in Darjeeling.<sup>28</sup> with the political importance and arrival of more European officials of high ranking there developed the necessity of educating the European children.

Darjeeling was established around the nucleus of a church, cutcherry (administrative office), bazaar and a few houses.<sup>29</sup> Darjeeling in 1836 was a small market of a few mat roofed houses popularly known as Goondri Bazar.<sup>29</sup> From the mid-nineteenth century, towns like Darjeeling, Shimla etc. were established as a requisite of colonial administration. As its expansion and the glut of seasonal visitors testified, Darjeeling retained its reputation as a sanatorium town where leisure, governance and a

healthy lifestyle all appealed to the British and, eventually, to the Indians as well. The 'Eden Sanatorium and Hospital' was founded in 1882 to cater exclusively to Europeans and the Lowis Jubilee Sanatorium for Indians was set up within five years, in 1887.<sup>30</sup> According to 'The Handbook of Darjeeling,' published in 1863, there were about 70 houses in the Station.<sup>31</sup>

The Darjeeling Municipality was constituted in July 1850 in accordance with the Act. Of 1850, the second Hill Station to have its own town administration, the first being Simla.<sup>32</sup> The Municipality collected taxes from markets, slaughter houses, rent of old buildings, hydro-electricity and others. One of the most important activities of it electricity energy and the municipality was the generation of its electricity and its supply to the town and to neighbouring tea gardens. The municipality soon developed the amenities required for a town.<sup>33</sup> Soon it developed drainage system in a well systematic way. The records of the town says that, "the drainage of Darjeeling is very good and is being further improved year by year...the arrangement in connection with latrines, of which at are of good number, burial grounds, markets, roads, registration of birth and deaths, vaccination and dispensaries are most satisfactory, 'testify to the good job the Municipal was doing.'<sup>34</sup> The town established other institutions related to the flora and fauna of the Himalayan hills. The first Botanic Garden was established during Sir Ashley Eden's tenure as Lieut. Governor of Bengal, was laid in 1876 at Rangiroon (5,700) six away and to the east of Darjeeling.<sup>35</sup> The first Hospital to be started was the Darjeeling Charitable Hospital and Dispensary which came into being in 1864.<sup>36</sup> Another Hospital, the Lock Hospital was initially located in the Darjeeling Dispensary compound but finally shifted to Jalpahar in 1876.<sup>37</sup> There is one Head Post Office in the Town and five sub-offices at Ghum, Jalpahar, Lebong, North Point and Darjeeling Bazar.<sup>38</sup>

The Darjeeling urban area contains the most important medical and health institutions in the District. First, there are two Sanitaria built to accommodate on moderate changes those who desire to recruit their health by rest and change as well as those whose health has been definitely impaired. Besides the Eden Sanatorium, the Lowis Jubilee Sanatorium was started in 187 with a generous gift of the Bryngwyn property by the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and donations of Rs. 90,000 made by the Maharaja of Tajhatnd others. The Victoria Hospital is managed by a Committee under the Darjeeling Municipality. Since July 1944 it has been taken over temporarily by Government. A Tuberculosis Hospital was built in 1936 with 11 beds and later enlarged so that it now accommodates 26 beds. The Infectious Diseases Hospital originated in 1920 in a segregation camp for smallpox cases. Two Maternity and Child Welfare Centers have been established in the Darjeeling Urban area, one in Darjeeling itself and the other at Ghum.<sup>39</sup>

The first step to introduce modern communication in the Darjeeling district was taken in January 1838 when the trace of the Calcutta Road to the east of the Hill on which Jalpahar Cantonment stands now was completed by Lt. Gen. Llyod. In 1839, Lt. Napier

(subsequently Lord Napier of Magdala) of the royal Engineers was deputed to prepare a lay-out of Darjeeling town and to construct a road from Siliguri to Darjeeling. Now, this road is known as Old Military Road, can still be seen winding its way from Pankhabari to Kurseong and then on the Dow Hill, Senchal and Ghum, having no less than 300 bridges and culverts to cross. Since the Old Military Road was found incapable of meeting the expanding requirements of the district, the Siliguri-Darjeeling Cart Road, averaging 25 feet in width and costing about rupees 6,000 per mile, had to be constructed. It was blessing in more senses than one; it is along this highway mainly that the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway route was subsequently laid out.<sup>40</sup> In 1869 another road built up which regarded one of the best mountain roads in India, the Hill Cart Road. The Tista bridge served as an important junction where the roads to Darjeeling and Kalimpong met with the Tista Valley Road.<sup>41</sup> Another road, some 11 miles long, on which Hooker travelled and called it 'excellent' was that from Darjeeling to the cane bridge over the Great Rangit river, about 6,000 feet below Darjeeling town.<sup>42</sup> It was only after the First World War that the management of the Grand Hotel, Calcutta, introduced a passenger-automobile service between Siliguri to Darjeeling.<sup>43</sup>

Besides the roadways there developed the railways which made Communication more easier. In 1860 the East Indian Railway was extended up to Sahibganj, 219 miles from Howrah. The Cart Road from Siliguri to Darjeeling was completed in 1869. By 1881, a narrow gauge rail had reached Darjeeling making it the first hill on to become directly linked by rail to the plains. As a result, the residents of Calcutta could reach Darjeeling in 21 hours by the end of the nineteenth century and less than 14 hours 1940's with the opening of Darjeeling Himalayan Rail, the numbers of European house doubled within three years.<sup>44</sup> Before the railways were built in hill stations were restricted almost entirely to residents of nearby districts or to those who were able to leave their permanent posts for six months or more. But, Darjeeling became accessible with the railway construction. The opening of the railway from Calcutta to Raniganj in 1855 reduced the laborious cart journey to Darjeeling by 120 miles and the East Bengal State Railway pushed steadily northward in the northward in the following decades. Even so, an 1873 trip to Darjeeling was an eight-day ordeal for the artist Edward Lear, whose cart broke down and whose coolies fled.<sup>45</sup>

The recruiting Office for sepoy in the army attracted the Nepalese population and led to further urbanization of the Darjeeling town. The first Gurkha Recruiting Office appears to have been opened in Darjeeling in 1890 although no definite records of such an Office exist previous of 1893. The Office was situated in the Darjeeling Bazar. In peace time the majority of recruits are obtained from Eastern Nepal and not more than 15 percent of the total intake is obtained from the Darjeeling District and the Sikkim State.<sup>46</sup>

From the very inception Darjeeling had been a Centre for European education for the education of European and Anglo-Indian boys and girls. A large number of Europeans (mainly British settled in Darjeeling town since its inception and arrangements had to be

made for the education of their children. The development of Tea industry, roads and railways brought more European Officials as well as their women and children who required education. St. Paul's School, Darjeeling is one of the oldest school of its type in India and the second oldest in Bengal. Although, the well known school took its name St. Paul's in 1846, its origin and early history dates back as the year 1823. John William Ricketts, a prominent Anglo-Indian leader thought of establishing a public school to meet the needs of the growing Anglo-Indian population in Calcutta.<sup>47</sup> The year 1888 is yet another landmark in the history of Anglo-Indian education in Bengal. For in that year was established St. Joseph School at Darjeeling.<sup>48</sup>

These schools were largely for the Europeans and their children. In fact the advent of Christianity played a significant role in. Thus we find that only after six years of providing education to the natives and as early as 1841 Rev. William Start visited the station and started working among the Lepchas.<sup>49</sup> The missionaries also played a major role in providing education to the indigenous people of Darjeeling owing largely to the work of the church of Scotland Mission. In 1901, 7 per cent of population could read and write the total number of pupil increased in 1903-04, 3,731 boys and 515 girls were at school which was 18.7 per cent.<sup>50</sup>

The earliest of the European schools in the district was the Loreto Convent for girl's founded in 1846. In 1886 Bishop Milman of Calcutta founded the Darjeeling Girl's School. In 1888 Father Henry Depelchin founded a small school named St. Joseph's at the sunny Bank in Darjeeling. Mount Hermon School at North Point, Darjeeling was established in 1895. Darjeeling Government College, catering mainly to the needs of the Hill-people was opened in 1948.<sup>51</sup> In addition to those institutions, there developed houses for young boys and girls like Miss Twentymans Darjeeling Home School.<sup>52</sup>

The town contains a number of places of worship for the various communities living in it. The most noteworthy Hindu temple in the town is the Dhirdham temple built in the year 1938 by His Highness the Maharaja Sir Joodha Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister of Nepal, and opened by his son His Excellency Commanding General Bahadur Shumsher Jang Bahadur Rana in May 1939.<sup>53</sup> Almost all the religious institutions of Darjeeling the Hindu Mandir, in the market place seemed to be the oldest one. It existed before 1830, where first Marwari firm, Samboo Ram and Chunulall, was established in the market place.<sup>54</sup>

### **Place of Tourism**

Darjeeling has to thank His Excellency Lord Carmichael, who is a keen collector himself, for removing this disgrace and allotting sufficient funds for the creation of a suitable building, which was designed by Mr. Crouch, the Architect to the Government of Bengal.<sup>55</sup> There was a spurt of construction of building on the ridges of Darjeeling hill which included churches, schools, bungalows, hospitals and theatre halls for the use of

the British and other Europeans of Calcutta. This process of development also gradually encouraged the growth of tourism in Darjeeling.<sup>56</sup>

With the growth of urbanization a large number of Indians from the neighbouring places started buying property in Darjeeling. The Indian princes displayed their wealth for social status and copied/ by following their political masters started to build some villas in Darjeeling. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar is said to have owned half of the villas in Darjeeling by 1880. The Maharaja of Burdwan too had constructed a mansion at Darjeeling, and similarly a good number of Indians from Calcutta, not so rich but disposed towards a western life-style, bought somewhat unknowingly, the Indianisation of Darjeeling.<sup>57</sup>

Furthermore, the town soon grew as one of the centres of European culture and clubs or associations for companies and European officers. The Planters' Club that was founded in 1868 was converted in 1908 into a Limited Liability Co. and styled 'The Darjeeling Club, Ltd.'. Officers attached to the several services and planters were ipso facto entitled to membership. There were four billiard tables, a large and well-appointed reading room and library, stables for members' horses and also a three-storied concrete structure for the accommodation of servants. It is interesting to note that the Club was not only exclusively meant for the Europeans but it was also hierarchically arranged that could be ascertained by the list of fees paid by its members. The fees were- Rs.70/- as entrance fee, Rs. 12/- as annual subscription, Rs. 16/- per month for temporary members, Rs. 10/- per month for Army and Navy officers of and above the rank of 1st Lieutenant and Rs. 5/- per month for members below that rank.<sup>58</sup> Reference of European games like cricket, hockey area available which were held at Government House ground and drew large crowds. Polo, another British game, drew fairly large crowds to the Race Course at Lebong. The idea of Golf Links originated in 1905 and Golf took its devotees each Sunday right away to the links at Senchal. Apart from European playground Darjeeling gained fame for amusing the Englishman to the fullest possible extent. The novel and uncanny idea of a 'ghost dance' at Gymkhana Club hosted at least 60 guests including a party from Government house. The Knights – Errant each year gave an entertainment under the direction of Grand Master, at which over 200 guests, including Their Excellencies attended.<sup>59</sup> The Darjeeling Times of 1912 has also reported the unique event of a dog show in Darjeeling hills. These activities further provided attraction to the town for the Europeans and the Anglicized western educated Bengalis who could reach the town easily.

The beginning of tourism led to the growth of the hotels and rest houses within Darjeeling. The evolution of hotels in Darjeeling began in 1839, when 'the Darjeeling Family Hotel,' which contained but 12 rooms, was followed by 'Wilson's Hotel' which was established (by the proprietor of the hotel of the same name in Calcutta, now known as 'The Great Eastern Hotel') in a two-storied house containing 18 rooms. A large one – storied building of the same name now stands on the same spot on Hooker road. Then

Woodland's came into being, to be followed shortly after by Durum Druid. Rockville, Bellevue, and the Central Hotel, which can accommodate 40 boarders and is situated at the junction of the Post Office and Mount Pleasant Roads; the transition eventually evolving 'Hotel Mount Everest'.<sup>60</sup> One another hotel was 'Castleton' owned by Mr. Wilson, the proprietor of Wilson's Hotel, Calcutta, now 'The Great Eastern,' but still known as 'Wilson's' by the Indian Jehu of that city.<sup>61</sup> The foundation of the new Town Hall was laid by His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1917, on the site once occupied by the Rhododendron Villas on the Mackenzie Road, the main artery of the town.<sup>62</sup>

Yet, another distinctive feature of Darjeeling economy was the development of tourism trade. Many European and Indian aristocratic visitor thronged the place in the Summer months to escape the heat of the plains and enjoy the cool weather and serene, enchanting beauty of Darjeeling Tourism inevitably led to a flourishing hospitality sector, though it would be difficult to classify it as an 'industry' as the term 'industry' did not assume that magnitude in the nineteenth century. There was a bazaar for supplies, chiefly of native products. When Mr. Wilson opened his hotel, no doubt there were plenty of European articles but them they depended upon Calcutta for them.<sup>63</sup>

## Conclusion

By the turn of the nineteenth and the beginning of twentieth century Darjeeling had definitely attained maturity as an urban centre by any definition, be it population or political or administrative role or availability of civic amenities or economic or institutional role. This phenomenal increase was made possible by migration, a characteristics of urbanization. The immigration definitely played a very important role in the urban growth of the town. The tea industry and the army recruiting offices soon changed the area of 138 square miles of land earlier named '*Dorje-ling*' (the place of *dorje* or the mystic thunderbolt of the Lamaist religion) to Darjeeling an important colonial hold under the guidance of Dr. Campbell, the Superintendent of Darjeeling.

Darjeeling also became an educational hub for English education while missionaries also provided the natives education. Moreover, the importance of the town grew due to the climate of the Himalayas. The British officials resided as their summer office to avoid the heat of the plains. The political and strategic importance started to grow giving further urbanization of the town.

The urbanization was heterogeneous in character of steep slopes because difficult for the buildings. It did not follow the pattern of the urbanization in the plains. The ridge is very narrow at top, in the gentler western slope most of the public building, and has the Terrain restrained vehicular traffic, this main street was known as the 'Mall'. There were lanes intersecting at various plots which were typical to the hills stations of the British Raj. Darjeeling not only attracted the European officers but the Indian princes displayed

their wealth for social status and followed their political masters started to built some villas in Darjeeling and visited the place for entertainment and leisure. Partha Chatterjee in his book, *A Princely Imposter? The Kumar of Bhawal & the Secret History of Indian Nationalism* while narrating the health condition of the Kumar of Bhawal was advised by the medical doctor to avoid the heat of the plains and he was taken to Darjeeling. This was a common destination of the wealthy princes. It is very often seen in the Bengali literature of the twentieth century that the Darjeeling was a favourite place of visit for the urban middle class Bengalis for improvement of health and for appreciating the nature's beauty. Therefore, the town grew its importance as a meeting place of different ethnic, linguistic and religious group. The Westernised Indian or Bengali Middle class chose Darjeeling as a holiday resort following the influence of the Raj. Darjeeling also took important in politics as Sarat Bose and Subhas Chandra Bose were frequent visitors to Darjeeling in their youth. Sarart Bose bought a house in Kurseong in 1923.<sup>64</sup> The urbanization as a socio-cultural process leading to the transformation of Darjeeling, as one of the best-known hill stations in the world.

By the turn of the nineteenth and the beginning of twentieth century Darjeeling had definitely attained maturity as an urban centre by any definition, be it population or political or administrative role or availability of civic amenities or economic or institutional role. This phenomenal increase was made possible by migration, a characteristics of urbanization. The immigration definitely played a very important role in the urban growth of the town. The Nepalese came to Darjeeling not only as labour but the prospect of Indian army service also lured them. These recruiting offices led to the development of the town and the area of 138 square miles of land earlier named 'Dorje-ling' (the place of *dorje* or the mystic thunderbolt of the Lamaist religion) began to expand under the guidance of Dr. Campbell, the Superintendent of Darjeeling. The British introduced tea as a plantation crop similar to the Irish and English agriculture and peasantry in the hilly region. The tea industry led to the growth of the population of the town. The immigration from neighbouring Nepal was primarily for tea industry and attraction of military service through Army centres in Darjeeling of Nepali Sepoys too contributed for the inflow of Nepalis from Nepal. The migration from Nepal continued as before and, in 1931, out of a total population of 3,19,635 in the whole district, 59016 had went from Nepal. From 1951 onwards, following the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950), there was visible disinclination among the Nepalese to reveal the place of birth. As per Articles 6 and 7, the two governments have the same opinion to grant, on a mutual basis, to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other, the same privileges in the matter of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other rights of a similar nature.<sup>64</sup>

The British rulers besides tea garden labours and British Indian army, sepoy also encouraged the Nepali migrants for recruitment in the police services as well as in various construction works which were connected with the growth process of Darjeeling as a sanatorium and a tourist centre. Darjeeling benefited from the introduction of tea in

the 1850's which provided a boost to the development of the town. By 1895, 186 Tea Estates covered 48,692 acres across the district, injecting large amounts of Capital into Darjeeling as well as into its neighbours Kalimpong and Kurseong. Planters became important parts of the European Community in Darjeeling. Forests also possessed great economic importance in the hill areas of Darjeeling district.

The development of tea industry, roads and railways brought more European Officials as well as their women and children who required education. Darjeeling became an educational hub for English education while missionaries also provided the natives education. Moreover, the importance of the town grew due to the climate of the Himalayas. The British officials resided as their summer office to avoid the heat of the plains. The political and strategic importance started to grow giving further urbanization of the town.

The urbanization was heterogeneous in character of steep slopes because difficult for the buildings. It did not follow the pattern of the urbanization in the plains. The ridge is very narrow at top, in the gentler western slope most of the public building, and has the Terrain restrained vehicular traffic, this main street was known as the 'Mall'. There were lanes intersecting at various plots which were typical to the hill stations of the British Raj. Darjeeling not only attracted the European officers but the Indian princes displayed their wealth for social status and followed their political masters started to built some villas in Darjeeling and visited the place for entertainment and leisure. Partha Chatterjee in his book, *A Princely Imposter? The Kumar of Bhawal & the Secret History of Indian Nationalism* while narrating the health condition of the Kumar of Bhawal was advised by the medical doctor to avoid the heat of the plains and he was taken to Darjeeling. This was a common destination of the wealthy princes. It is very often seen in the Bengali literature of the twentieth century that the Darjeeling was a favourite place of visit for the urban middle class Bengalis for improvement of health and for appreciating the nature's beauty. Therefore, the town grew its importance as a meeting place of different ethnic, linguistic and religious group. The Westernised Indian or Bengali Middle class chose Darjeeling as a holiday resort following the influence of the Raj. Darjeeling also took important in politics as Sarat Bose and Subhas Chandra Bose were frequent visitors to Darjeeling in their youth. Sarat Bose bought a house in Kurseong in 1923.<sup>65</sup>

The urbanization as a socio-cultural process led to the transformation of the society. The introduction of the tea garden with the immigration of the Nepalese in large number soon changed the lingua franca of the town to Nepalese. Darjeeling, therefore, became one of the best-known hill stations in the world, which attracts tourists from all over the country throughout the year.

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