

**Dedicated to my  
Elder Brother Late Sanjit Sarkar, Grand Father, and Grand Mother**

## DECLARATION

I declare that the entitled '*Western Medicine and Public Health Services in Jalpaiguri (1866 to 1947)*' has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of North Bengal. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

  
(MONORANJAN SARKAR)

Department of History

University of North Bengal

Darjeeling, West Bengal

India

Date:-18.03.2024

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

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সমানোমন্ত্র: সমিতি: সমানী

Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Email-dahliahistory@nbu.ac.in

Phone-9434167083

## CERTIFICATE OF SUPERVISOR

It is certified that the work contained in the thesis titled **“Western Medicine and Public Health Services in Jalpaiguri (1866 to 1947)”** by Sri. Monoranjan Sarkar has been carried out under my supervision and that this work has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree.

*Dahlia Bhattacharya*  
Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
University of North Bengal  
23/02/2024



Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
University of North Bengal



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Dahlia Bhattacharya  
23/02/2024  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
University of North Bengal

Monoranjan Sarkar

## PREFACE

In 2019 the district of Jalpaiguri completed her one hundred and fifty years of its existence and on this occasion this study presents the introduction of Western Medicine and public health services in the Bengal frontier land Jalpaiguri during the period of 1866 to 1947. The proposed dissertation titled '*Western Medicine and Public Health Services in Jalpaiguri (1866 to 1947)*' studies a critical understanding of the historiography of the introduction of Western Medicine and public health, viz., Water supply, sanitation, Inclusion, Vaccination, tabloid distribution, DDT spray, and their following impacts on the Native people of Jalpaiguri District during the periods from the second half of the nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century. The demography signifies both immigration and emigration into the district with push and pull factors contributing to the changes in the polity, society, economy, and environment. This study attempts to focus on indigenous medicine as well as the introduction and popularity of Western medicine in Jalpaiguri. It covers near about a hundred years of history and changes in the history of the health system in Jalpaiguri. Western medicine and public health signify both natives and Europeans' important roles in physical safety and security. The study takes the precolonial period of indigenous medicine for their folk belief and traditional practices. The public health system during the colonial period justified special attention from historians as health played a vital role in the change of the midwifery system in the tea gardens area. As a small attempt of the part of regional studies, the present thesis is unique in a recent specialty in the history of public health. By researching historical interpretations of public health and doing so, colonial policy formed a central consideration that the British government had to make such decisions. The changes in river course, reservoirs, and water logging along railway lines made the lives of the people very miserable which took the form of an epidemic in this region.

This is a comprehensive study of the district Jalpaiguri and opens a new dimension regarding the colonial changes in the region in economy, society, and politics. Much of the works earlier published had concentrated on the colonial period but the changes in the colonial times have not been given much importance. This study shows the abrupt variation in Hospital, Dispensary, and health centers infrastructure after the Jackson Medical School of India in 1930 and the independence of India in 1947.

*Monoranjan Sarkar*  
Monoranjan Sarkar

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*Monoranjan Sarkar.*  
Monoranjan Sarkar

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## GLOSSARY

*Arkati*- Recruiting agency of labourers in the tea gardens.

*AAdivasi* -Tribal people

*Coolie*-Labour.

*Choukidar*-Watchman or Guard.

*Jhakri*- The process of removing evil spirits by uttering charms and incantations.

*Jotedar*-Land lord.

*Kabiraj*-Ayurveda Practitioner

*Mantra*- An incantation.

*Ojha*- Exorcist.

*Puja*- Devotion, prayer.

*Thana*-Police Station.

*Taluk*-A landed estate.

*Zamindar*- Land lord

*Nurbai* -A destructive deity of the Rabhas

*Kaladukh*- Kala-azar

*Thir Thir Pani*- Pure water pond

*Gurudev*- Preceptor

*JagmajhiGoret*- Message sender

*Nayek*-Priest

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAR- Annual Administrative Reports

AS- Assistant Surgeon

BLC- Bengal Legislative Council

BPHR- Bengal Public Health Report

CA- Charitable Dispensary

CMC- Calcutta Medical College

CS- Civil Surgeon

DBITA- Dooars Branch Indian Tea Association

DMO- District Medical Officer

DPA- Dooars Planters Association

DPH- Director of Public Health

EIC- East India Company

HCAR- Health Commissioner's Annual Report

HD- Hansen's Disease or Leprosy

IMS- Indian Medical Service

JMC- Jackson Medical School

JMS- Jackson Medical School

LA- Labour Act

LMINA- Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association

LSG- Local Self-Government

MAS-Military Assistant Surgeon

MB- Medical Branch

MEP- Malaria Eradication Programme

NL- National Library, Kolkata

NSEP- National Smallpox Eradication Programme

PH-Public Health

Progs- Proceedings

PWD- Public Work Department

SAS- Sub-Assistant Surgeon

SCAR- Sanitary Commissioner's Annual Report

TB- Tuberculosis

TDLA -Tea District Labour Association

TNAI- Trained Nurses' Association of India

VD-Venereal Disease

VR- Vaccine Report

WBSA- West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata