

## **Chapter-7**

### **Problems of Tea Gardens Women**

**7.0 Introduction:** Tea is a famous and extremely popular beverage in the world but the workers who produce tea, living in a miserable condition. In many tea gardens of tea belt of North Bengal, the workers' livelihood condition is much deplorable even living condition did not change over a long time, where hunger death and malnutrition are common. There were many provisions of welfare benefits but they are deprived in all forms of beneficiaries. In the tea gardens of North Bengal, 1400 people died in the year 2000-15 because of starvation and malnutrition. They are facing vulnerable condition due to meagre wages and long hours of working in a scorching situation, even faced problems of healthcare facilities (Choudhury, 2015). The tea gardens workers not only deprived of their basic right but also facing problems related to the healthcare facility, maternal mortality, epidemics diseases, pure drinking water, early marriage, child labour, alcoholism, illiteracy and superstition belief (Sarkar et al., 2016, Baishya, 2016, Borah, 2013). A survey was done in Raipur TG (shut down from 2012) of Jalpaiguri district of the study areas reveals Body Mass Index (BMI) of the people is much lower than country average (BMI-23-24) where more than 42 per cent people are below 18.50 even BMI is much lower (below 14) of a sizeable people indicates a high death risk. (Telegraph-8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015). Although, illiteracy, over-crowded and unhygienic living lead the vulnerabilities in diseases and malnutrition of tea garden people (Medhi et al., 2006). Due to poverty and unawareness, they are unable to meet their basic needs i.e. food, clothes and sanitary dwells (Hussain, 2013). Since tea gardens people are disadvantaged, deprived, exploited and alienated group so their standard of living fully depends on some welfare benefits (gratuity, P.F) and kind materials yet they are suffering from low wages, unemployment, underemployment and poverty (Barkat et al., 2010, Chettri, 2013; Sarkar, 2013). They also face problems of trafficking and they faced due to false employment promises, payments for their debts, abduction, payment of dowry to poverty-stricken parents (Joffres et al., 2008). Even they faced hazards related to mechanical, chemical, biological, psychological and environmental problems. The awareness among tea garden workers is very poor due to illiteracy, poverty, no- availability of medical and hygienic facilities (Borgohain, 2013). The tea garden workers not only faced problems alone but tea garden itself regarding tea production, qualities, infrastructure and managements (Roy, 2017). Although, the infrastructural found acute in closed and reopened tea gardens of the study area is related to the area of plantation, employment, vehicle, mechanical, production, auction, markets (Mandal et al., 2012; Kerkatta, 2015). Therefore, the tea gardens people facing

all forms of exploitation and deprived of provisional facilities of PLA, 1951 (Amendment, 1956). Therefore the problems of tea gardens workers are highlighted. In this respect, the chapter incorporates the infrastructural problems related to road, transportation, street light, vehicles and ambulances, drainage facilities, drinking water points, proper medical, creche and problems related to households of the employee, social and economic and finally environmental problems of the tea gardens workers.

## **7.1 Problems related to Tea Gardens and Tea Gardens workers:**

### **7.1.1 Tea Garden Infra-structural Problems:**

❖ **Poor Road Connectivity:** There is no well communicating road in the surveyed tea gardens. Roads are partial-metalled connected with tea gardens factory to the main road. But the condition of road within the tea gardens (like one labour line to another labour line) is much worst. Generally, it is un-metalled and mainly used for carrying the plucked tea leaves which are brought to the factory.

On the other hand, in the residential areas, where tea gardens workers are residing (labour lines), the road condition is worst and unplanned, as a few numbers of narrow roads are used for walking in the locality. The roads within the labour lines (*golly*) area are too narrow to work which are not suitable to enter for four wheeler car inside the campus of households if anybody falls ill.

❖ **Poor Drainage facility:** Another great problem of tea gardens is poor drainage facility. Although in some Tea gardens drainage is better in front of factory and office campus, in most of the Tea gardens the drainage facilities within labour lines are totally absent. In the tea gardens where drainage facilities are presents within labour lines, the condition is not so well and hygienic (full of garbage).

The condition is very pathetic during the rainy season. The majority of people replied that water stagnant like ponds in housing compound in the rainy season. Even no drain is found around drinking water point (tap, dug well, tube well) for an outlet. Since water cannot pass outside after cleaning of utensil and bathing, so become mosquitoes hub that affects negatively to tea gardens people.

❖ **Water Logging:** The water-logging within tea gardens found in the labour line area due to lack of proper drainage facilities. During the rainy season sometimes it looks like a pond.

❖ **Sanitary Problems:** There was a provision of sufficient proper sanitation (latrine as well as a urinal) in the tea gardens for the workers and employers and accessible to workers. But during the investigation, it is found that there is no sanitation for workers and found community sanitation in some Tea gardens (Kamalpur TG, Sayedabad TG) as debris.

❖ **Insufficient Street lights:** Although electricity is available in labour lines of all the tea gardens. But there is not sufficient street light in main street and labour lines which lead to vital problems for communication at night; the distances are much from one labour line to other labour lines in some tea gardens. While labour lines always remain in dark during the night.

❖ **Lack of Pure Drinking water:** The safe and pure drinking water is a problem in tea gardens even they drink contemned water fetched from unhygienic *Katcha* dug well. There are not sufficient numbers of a water point in the labour line of the surveyed tea gardens. It is said that one water point covers approximately 40 households. The scarcity of drinking water among people of tea gardens is noteworthy during summer as the water level is much lower in summer compared to the rainy season. The people drink water from open dug well which is not hygienic. Although there are dug well in several places of locality dugged by company management but these are not sufficiently hygienic for drinking. In most of the tea gardens the govt. water schemes (like *Sajal Dhara*) totally absent. Although implemented latter fall like a rotten condition. In some tea gardens, there is a tube well by govt. but they are useless due to lack of maintenance or repair. In some tea gardens (Kamla TG, Shikarpur TG) the workers personally dug well for water which is not hygienic due to washing clothes or utensil also because of light depth.

❖ **Vehicles Problems:** Since most of the tea gardens are located in remote areas so tea garden people faced problems of transport. People walk a long distance to reach hat and periodic markets in many tea gardens such as Meryview TG, Jayantika TG, Putinabari TG, Nishchintapur TG, Shikarpur TG, Joypur TG, Fulbari TG, Naxalbari TG. In those places, very few vehicles run on the day of the periodic market or hat for passengers. Even they have to walk a lot regularly for crossing the boundary of tea gardens.

❖ **Deprivation of Public Distribution System and Food Supply (*Khadya Sathi*):** Tea gardens workers are deprived of proper public distribution system (i.e. supply of rice, sugar and oil). But now state govt. initiated schemes of *Khadya Sathi* (35 kg monthly of a family at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg food) which is also violated in majorities of surveyed tea gardens and not properly distributed regularly.

In many tea gardens, the joint families are broken into nuclear families. After broken, members reside separately from their parents and built their house themselves and engaged as casual labour. So they are deprive of social security or Public Distribution System (PDS).

❖ **Lack of Educational Institutions:** In most of the surveyed tea garden, an educational Institution (like primary school) is not present. Although in every tea gardens, there are 2-4 ICDS centres for pre-primary education but a tendency is found among tea garden workers to admit their child in public school or Christian school. There are many tea gardens in which the government primary school is totally absent, found SSK and ICDS School. For primary education, child has to cover a long distance. There is not sufficient govt. primary and secondary Hindi medium school and English medium school within adjoining tea gardens.

❖ **Poor Medical Facilities:** There is a provision in PLA, (1951 and 1956) that the tea garden authority will provide medical facilities to workers and facilities to women during maternities benefit. Although there are no medical facilities and qualified doctors in most of the tea gardens of the study area.

❖ **Lack of Creche:** No creche is found in the majority of tea gardens. The children of workers kept under *tripaul*.

❖ **Irregular Fuel Supply:** There was also a provision for the supply of fuel to every permanent worker's family. During the observation, it is not provided regularly to meet the need. Therefore workers are compelled to collect fuel from tree cutting or cutting shelter tree of TGs.

#### 7.1.2 The Households Infrastructural Problems of the TGs workers:

❖ **Shortage of land for house-built:** In most of the tea gardens there is a vital problem related to the shortage of land for housing.

❖ **Company Quarter:** In the majority of tea gardens, the permanent workers are not provided with pucca company quarter. At earlier quarter was *pucca* but now authority is providing quarter which is made of Tin and *Chatai*.

❖ **Housing Repairing Problems:** There was a provision of housing repairing regularly which is also violated in the surveyed tea gardens. In some tea gardens, respondents reported that authority provides a meagre amount for house repairing on an irregular basis. The repairs of houses are not in proper or in due times. There is many thatched or shed of the *tripaul* in tea gardens labour lines for living or shelter.

In some tea gardens, the workers responded that only permanent labour gets Rs. 3000 (actually Rs. 3800) for the purpose of house repairs in 3 three years. But now it is not sufficient for house repair every year. In many tea gardens, workers reported that they did not get any money for their repairing purposes in time. In many tea gardens authority not giving money under IAY houses for the people and finally, the allotted money for houses are returned.

### 7.1.3 Economic Problems:

❖ **Low Wage:** The workers of tea gardens are paid in the form of cash and kinds where the wage structure in the tea gardens of Terai is low, workers getting Rs. 132.50 per day for and workers who work within factory getting Rs. 140.50 per day.

❖ **Social Security Problems: (for Seasonal labour or Casual-Bigha labour):** The number of the permanent workforce in tea gardens are declining in compare to casual workers and the number of male workers declining compared to female workers in both the permanent and causal categories in the district of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling of North Bengal (Ghosh, 2013). In the study area, most of the workers are *bigha* workers than permanent workers. They only get works in peak season. But at the lean season, they remain at home without work and go outside for work. They are deprived of the benefit of PF, gratuity etc.

❖ **Out Migration:** Since, the wage is very low in tea gardens workers and not getting work throughout the year, so they are compelled to work outsides like Delhi, Bangalore etc.

❖ **Unemployment:** In the tea gardens many people are unemployed and underemployed. Even casual workers get works only in lean season and also deprived of material (kind) benefits. Consequently, many workers migrated in outside (Delhi, Panjab, Kerala and Mumbai) for works especially for constructional works, which is mostly reported in Saraswatipur TG, Raipur TG, Kalampur TG, Sayedbad TG, Joypur TG, Jayantika TG, Azmabad TG of the study areas.

❖ **High Level of Dependency:** The study reveals high dependency (50.15 per cent) which is mostly found in the tea gardens named Taipoo TG (56.59 per cent), Gayaganga TG (64.46 per cent), Bijlimoni TG (57.58 per cent), Paharghomia TG (53.13 per cent), Naxalbari TG (53.08 per cent), Satish Chanda TG (54.69 per cent), Raipur TG (59.65 per cent). So the high dependency is an acute problem in the study area due to illiteracy and resulted into unemployment, lack of job opportunities in tea gardens, poverty.

❖ **Marginal Workers:** The casual workers are mostly marginal workers in the study areas because they get work in only lean season (May to September) shares is far more (42.50 per cent) than permanent workers (37.90 per cent).

❖ **Less Engaged in Tertiary Sectors of Economy:** Although tea gardens people are engaged in tea gardens for plantation and tea production. But people engaged in tertiary sectors of the economy are very least. Although people's participation in other occupations except tea gardens workers is very low.

#### **7.1.4 Social Problems:**

❖ **Family Management:** From the survey, it is observed that in the majority of the family, remain without family planning. They get their salary weekly or fortnightly and can not plan for saving. The guardian's members spend money without proper thinking.

❖ **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy is a curse in tea gardens of Terai. They give their left thump for withdrawal ling wage from factory offices. Among literate male, drop out is much acute than female in tea gardens. Because of poverty and some of them reported that after getting compartment in examination, they leave education regularly and engaged in daily wage labour or in any weekly payment sources.

❖ **Toxic Addiction:** The rice beer (*Haria*) is consumed on occasions of festivals, marriages and other ceremonies and very few people produce rice beer for sale in Terai and Duars. (Ghosh & Das, 2004). Although indigenous liquor locally called '*Haria*' is a popular practice among tribes. The tea garden men are the habitual drinker and consumed almost daily of a week where women consume it occasionally in festivals and ceremonial days (Sarkar, 2016). Since the tea gardens workers, work from morning to evening monotonously. To cater monotonicity, they drink '*Haria*' almost daily which creates an unbalance ship situation of their family. Because they expensed a lot of money beyond their purchasing limit due to darken mode.

❖ **Lack of Awareness:** There are many problems among the tea gardens people that the proper literate and who know more or less about schemes or who have knowledge about different benefits, they never discussed it with their neighbour even when they get the job they settled in outside from tea gardens. The people deprived knowledge of benefits.

❖ **Lack of Interest in Official Communication (literate women):** In many tea gardens, it is observed that majority of people don't awaken in their actual right and benefit or facilities for living in the democratic country. Even many students of tea garden who have passed graduation and higher secondary, they are engaged in tea leaves plucking. So they expressed reluctance to go BDO and Panchayat office for knowing different government schemes.

❖ **No Government Ration Card:** Although permanent workers/family are enjoying ration materials like rice, sugar, kerosene oil from the tea gardens ration card. But the majority of the tea gardens people did not have the government ration card. Some respondent reported that their children are deprived of getting some government facilities due to absence of government ration card.

❖ **Certificates of Ethnicity:** Another problem is that the absence of the certificates of ethnicity (Certificates of Schedule Tribes/Caste and Backward classes) among the tea gardens people. The literate people are depriving of the reservation facilities.

❖ **Child Labours:** Child labour is not so acute in study area. But it is found during the peak season, tea gardens children earn money beyond the school wall.

❖ **Trafficking:** The geographical location and demographics, as well as social constraints, make vulnerabilities of trafficking where tea gardens of North Bengal are prime source area for trafficking by media and NGO reports. Although now workers are aware of it. In the tea gardens, vulnerabilities of hunger, poverty and unemployment, problems like illiteracy, drop-out, malnutrition, and diseases lead to trafficking of children, women and girl (Ghosh, 2013). A male respondent of 36 year age (not interest in the name) of Azmabad Tea Gardens reported that he married twice, his first wife left him due to some extramarital affair to another person and migrated Delhi due to lure of earning much money and sold in Rs. 12000.

❖ **Health Problems or Malnutrition:** Since their food habit is not nutritional. So they are suffering from malnutrition. Physically most of the workers are weak, thin and underweighted. They suffer from various type of disease like fever, malaria, TB.

❖ **Drop Out:** Drop out is common in the tea gardens of the study areas. Although most of the people are illiterate (52.80 per cent) which is found more in the tea gardens of Darjeeling (52.91 per cent) than Jalpaiguri (52.00 per cent). Although among literates educational level is very poor. Drop out are mostly found at the elementary level. During the investigation, it is observed that there are many causes (such as lack of interest in the study, not satisfied in institutional premises, poverty and parent's ignorance) for drop out among learners of the study area.

❖ **Early Marriage:** The marriage before legal age is a matter concern in the study where 28.24 per cent women got married before legal ages found in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling 30.77 per cent than 27.89 per cent respectively. They are unaware of child marriage and child maternity and their newborn babies. These are mainly due to their illiteracy, ignorance and poverty.

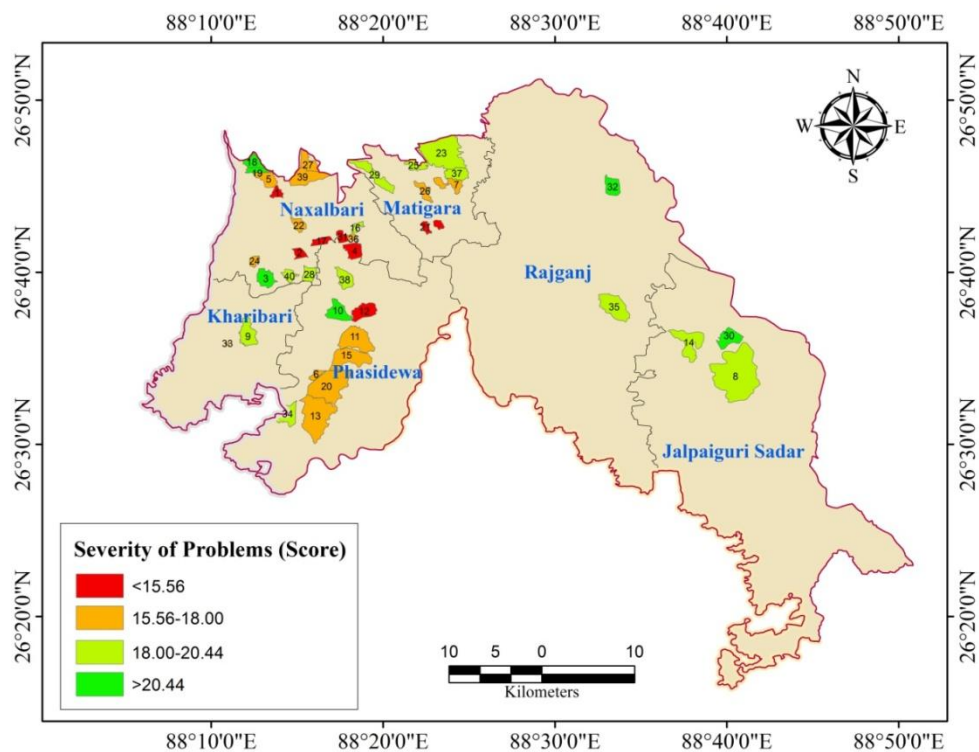
❖ **Maternal Mortality:** Maternal mortality also found in the tea gardens which is found in the tea garden named Vijoynagar TG, Shikarpur TG, Motidhar TG, Raipur TG. Although maternal mortality is much low in the tea gardens due to regular visit of ASHA. Where ASHA of the gardens reported that the maternal mortality is absent due to improvement of health care facilities from health centres.

### 7.1.5 Environmental Problems:

❖ **Security Problem due to Elephant and Leopard Attacks:** Since there is an elephant corridor in the Terai region of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri District. So, an elephant appeared frequently in the tea gardens and damage life and property like house, cropland and other materials.

❖ **Climatic Problem:** Although the climate is so good for living in the study area. During the survey, it is reported that during the winter season, it is problems to go to tea gardens in the morning for work. In the rainy season, the roads are so worse and in undulating plain which create many problems in working and carrying the plucked leaves to factories or measurement places. Although in summer, the temperature is tolerable for working.

**7.2 Severity of Problems of the Tea Gardens:** There are so many problems found in the Tea Gardens during the investigation such as Infra-structural Problems, the Households Infra-structural Problems, Economic Problems, Social problems and Environmental problems. During the investigation, the prominent problems are identified. Then they are weighted on the basis of their acuteness in each Tea garden.



Map 7.1: Severity of problems in Tea Gardens

After that, the average weight is calculated. On the basis of the calculated value, they are classified into four group- less severe problems (<15.56), Moderate severe problems (15.56-18.00), High severe problems (18.00-20.44) and Very high severe problems (>20.44). There are 17.50 per cent tea gardens such as Matigara TG, Atal TG, Ashapur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Sannyasithan TG, Bagdogra TG, Hansqua TG where less severe problems are reported. In most of the tea gardens (37.50 per cent and 15 in numbers) High severe problems are reported. There are 6 tea gardens named Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Azmabad TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Gangaram TG Very high severe problems are reported (Map-7.1).

**7.3 Occupational Health Hazards:** In general, the occupational health hazards refer to the potential risks to health and safety and security of workers in workplaces. Although the tea gardens workers are more vulnerable to occupational health hazards in the work-fields. Since the health facilities are not adequate so workers are suffering from a lot of health problems. To find out the Severity of Problems of Tea gardens, the weighted score method has been followed. The problems in tea gardens have been identified such as Infra-structural Problems, the House-holds Infra-structural Problems, Economic Problems, Social problems and Environmental problems. The weightage given to each problems based on their acuteness. After that the average weight is calculated and finally classified into groups. In the tea gardens, the tea leaves plucking is difficult and hazardous one where workers are on their feet for hours after hours with carrying tea leaves bags on their backs causes a common back problems while there are risk of accidents due to uneven terrain and steep slopes with a harsh weather conditions (hot, cold, wet) and vulnerable to pesticides, mosquitoes, poisonous snakes and other insects (Majumder & Roy, 2012).

❖ **Physical Hazards:** The workers who worked in the tea plantation suffering from physical hazards such as heat, cold and rain. On the basis of respondents' responses, it is reported that there are 20.00 per cent tea gardens such as Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Sukna TG, Marapur TG, Ord Terai TG, Trihana TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG where tea gardens women suffered from less physical hazard. There are 27.50 per cent tea gardens (11 in number) such as Azmabad TG, Pahaghomia TG, Gangaram TG, Matigara TG, Bagdogra TG, Singhiahjhora TG, Denguajhar TG,

Table 7.1: Physical Hazards

Physical Hazard (Score)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Less Hazard (<31.75)	Raipur TG, Shikarpur TG, Sukna TG, Marapur TG, Ord Terai TG, Trihana TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG	8	20.00
Moderate Hazard (31.75-36.00)	Saraswatipur TG, Dagapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalabari TG, New Chamta TG, Ashapur TG, Atal TG, Manjha TG, Vijoy Nagar TG, Kamala TG	10	25.00
High Hazard (36.00-40.00)	Azmabad TG, Pahaghomia TG, Gangaram TG, Matigara TG, Bagdogara TG, Singhiajhora TG, Denguajhar TG, Fulbari TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Nishchintapur TG, Jayantika TG	11	27.50
Very High Hazard (>40.00)	Satish Chandra TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Sannysithan TG, Bijlimoni TG, Motidhar TG, Joypur TG, Putinbari TG, Sukna TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalpur TG, Sayebad TG, Taipoo TG	11	27.50
Total	Q <sub>1</sub> : 31.75, Q <sub>2</sub> : 36.00, Q <sub>3</sub> : 40.00, Q <sub>4</sub> : 48.00	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

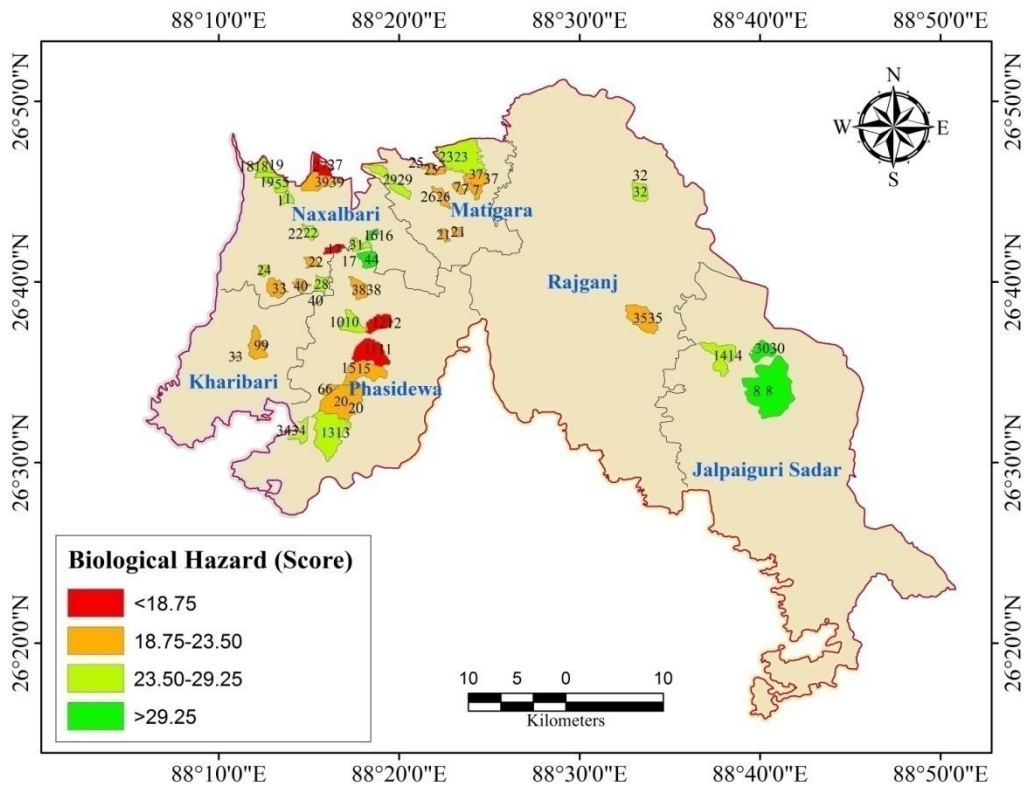
Fulbari TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Nishchintapur TG, Jayantika TG where Tea gardens women suffered from high physical hazard. Tea gardens women also suffering very high physical hazards reported in 11 tea gardens named Satish Chandra TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Sannysithan TG, Bijlimoni TG, Motidhar TG, Joypur TG, Putinbari TG, Sukna TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Sayebad TG, Taipoo TG (Table 7.1). In most of the tea gardens, the respondents' replied regarding physical hazard as "*Cha Bagan mya Dhup, Khasi am bat hya*".

❖ **Mechanical Health Hazards:** The tea gardens people also suffered from mechanical hazards such as cut, injury and sprain. The women are mostly suffered from sprain during plucking tea leaves. While cut and injures are mostly reported at the works of weeding and pruning. So based on the responses, it is reported that there are 15.00 per cent tea gardens where women suffered from less mechanical hazards. On the other hand, women are suffered from high mechanical hazard reported in 20.00 per cent tea gardens (8 in number) of the study area. Remaining in 32.50 per cent tea gardens (13 in number) such as Joypur TG, Kamalapur TG,

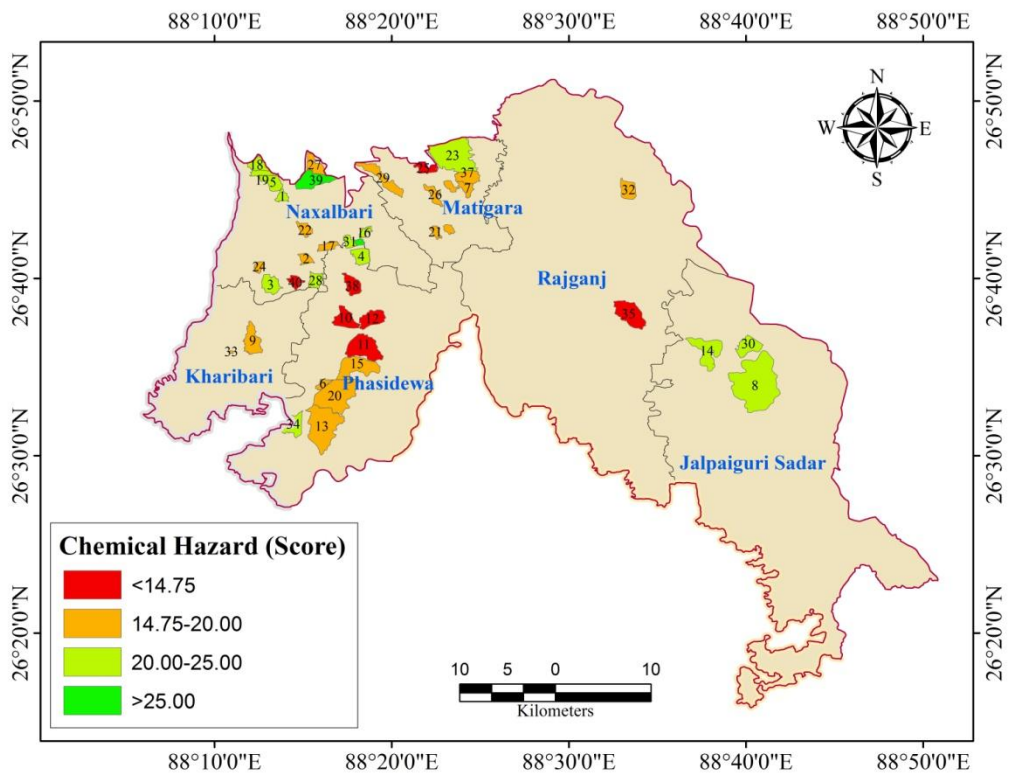
Sannysithan TG, Motidhar TG, Singhiajhora TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Belgachi TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Naxalabari TG, Pahaghomia TG, Bagdogara TG, Ashapur TG where tea gardens women are suffered from very high mechanical hazards (APPENDIX-XXIV).

❖ **Biological Health Hazards:** The tea gardens women also suffered from the biological health hazard such as insect bite, perils snake bite, fungal infection and leech. Among them, the insect bite is a common hazard for the tea garden workers. There are 25.00 per cent tea gardens named Shikarpur TG, New Chamta TG, Atal TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Ord Terai TG, Vijoynagar TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG, Kamala TG, Taipoo TG where women are suffering from less biological hazards. The tea garden women also suffering from high biological hazards reported in 10 tea gardens such as Saraswatipur TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalabari TG, Pahaghomia TG. There are another, 25.00per cent tea gardens where tea garden women suffering from very high biological hazards (Map 7.2).

❖ **Chemical Health Hazards:** The tea garden workers also facing some chemical hazard such as dermatitis, eczema, ulcer and chemically effect on feet and nail. There are 10 tea gardens such as Shikarpur TG, New Chamta TG, Vijoynagar TG, Gayaganga TG, Hansqua TG, Kamala TG, Taipoo TG, Gangaram TG, Matigara TG, Fulbari TG where women suffered from less chemical hazards. The tea garden women also suffered from high chemical hazards reported in 27.50 per cent tea gardens. There are also another 11 tea gardens named Singhiajhora TG, Trihana TG, Raipur TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Pahaghomia TG, Sannysithan TG, Bagdogra TG where women are suffered from very high chemical hazards (Map-7.3).

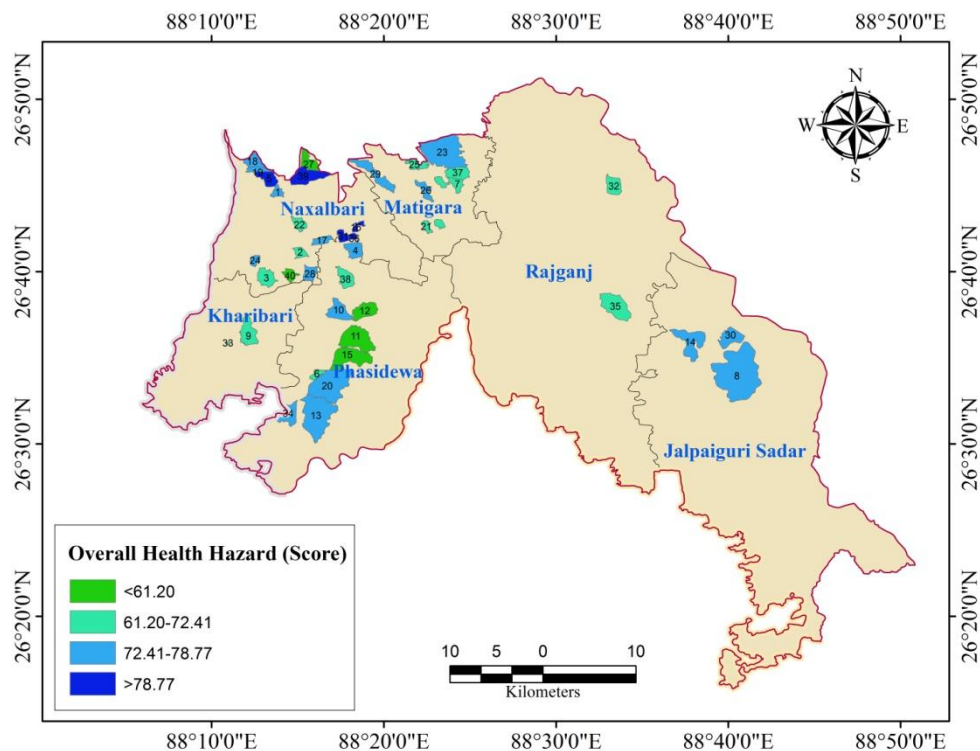


Map 7.2: Biological Hazards in Tea Gardens



Map 7.3: Chemical Hazards in Tea Gardens

❖ **Overall Occupational Health Hazards:** On the basis of multiple responses regarding occupational health hazards (such as physical, mechanical, chemical and biological) of the study area, overall occupational health hazard has been developed. It is reported that the tea gardens women are working with a lot of problems associated with their occupations. Generally, they are disappointed due to their work frustration and low wages besides they also suffered from heat, cold, injuries, sprain, insect bite, the peril of leech, dermatitis, eczema etc in the field of their occupations.



Map 7.4: Overall Health Hazards in Tea Gardens

Finally all over occupational health hazards expressed by Map-7.4. There are 25.00 per cent tea gardens (10 in number) named Shikarpur TG, Fulbari TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, Sukna TG, Gayaganga TG, Ord Terai TG, Vijoyanagar TG, Hansqua TG, Kamala TG where tea garden women are suffered from less occupational health hazards. The tea garden women are suffered from high occupational health hazards reported in 8 tea gardens such as Denguajhar TG, Raipur TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Motidhar TG, Sayebad TG, Jayantika TG. There are 30.00 per cent tea garden (12 in number) named Joypur TG, Putinbari TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalpur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Pahaghomia TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogra TG, Singhiajhora TG, Gangaram TG where

tea garden women are suffered from very high occupational health hazards (Map 7.4). During the survey, it is observed that the Tea Gardens workers suffering from many health problems such as body pain, anaemia, high blood pressure, headache,

Table 7.2: Occupational Health Problems

Health problems (Score)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Less health problems (65.50)	Denguajhar TG, Raipur TG, Saraswatipur TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Azmabad TG, Meryview TG, Pahaghomia TG, Jayantika TG, Kamala TG,	10	25.00
Moderate health problems (65.50-70.93)	Nishchintapur TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Bagdogra TG, Gayaganga TG, Taipoo TG Shikarpur TG, Naxalabari TG,	8	20.00
Moderate-high health problem (70.93-81.78)	Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Ch TG, Sannysithan TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bijlimoni TG, Gangaram TG, Hansqua TG, Singhiajhora TG, Sayedabad TG	12	30.00
Very high health problems (>81.78)	Joypur TG, Fulbari TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, New Chamta TG, Putinbari TG, Atal TG, Ord Terai TG, Trihana TG, Motidhar TG,	12	25.00
Total	Q <sub>1</sub> : 65.50, Q <sub>2</sub> : 70.93, Q <sub>3</sub> : 81.78, Q <sub>4</sub> : 100.00	40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

chest pain, respiratory diseases, cough, malaria, abdominal disorder, fever, tuberculosis, weakness, diarrhoea etc. On the basis of Respondent's responses, there are 20.00 per cent tea gardens (8 in numbers) where the respondents are mainly engaged in tea plantations suffering from Moderate health problems. while 30.00 per cent tea gardens (12 in numbers) such as Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Chandra TG, Sannysithan TG, Vijoynagar TG, Bijlimoni TG, Gangaram TG, Hansqua TG, Singhiajhora TG, Sayedabad TG where women suffering from Moderate-high health problems. On the other hand, women are facing very high health problems reported in remaining 25.00 per cent Tea Gardens such as Joypur TG, Fulbari TG, Satish Chandra TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, New

Chamta TG, Putinbari TG, Atal TG, Ord Terai TG, Trihana TG, Motidhar TG, (Table 7.2).

**7.4 Animal Hazards:** In the study area, animal hazards mean the appearance of elephants and leopard. They are frequently found due to open corridors in the study area.

❖ **Animal Hazards faced by Women:** In the study area, the prevalence of animal hazard is most important. During the survey, it is asked to the respondents if they have seen the animal i.e. elephant or leopard in the locality in the last two year. Where it is reported that nobody of respondents has seen the animal hazard in last two year reported in the 17.50 per cent tea gardens (7 in numbers) such as Denguajhar TG, Raipur TG, Bijlimoni TG, Jayantika TG, Motidhar TG, Sayebad TG, Taipoo TG. On the other hand, below 40 per cent, Respondents of each tea gardens faced the elephant in last two year reported 25.00 per cent tea gardens while more than 70

Table 7.3: Animal Hazards faced by Women

Respondents (%)	Name of TGs	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Nil	Denguajhar TG, Raipur TG, Bijlimoni TG, Jayantika TG, Motidhar TG, Sayebad TG, Taipoo TG.	7	17.50
<40	Joypur TG, Sikarpur TG, Fulbari TG, Dagapur TG, Matigara TG, New Chamta TG, Nishchintapur TG, Bagdogara TG, Hansqua TG, Kamala TG	10	25.00
40-70	Satish Ch TG, Putinbari TG, Gayaganga TG, Azmabad TG, Pahaghomia TG	5	12.50
>70	Saraswatipur TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Sukna TG, Atal TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Ch TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalabari TG, Ord Terai TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Vijoyanagar TG, Gangaram TG, Singhiajhora TG	18	45.00
Total		40	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

per cent respondents of each tea gardens faced animal hazards reported 45.00 per cent tea gardens (18 in numbers) of the study area such as Saraswatipur TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Sukna TG, Atal TG, Ashapur TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Kiran Ch TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Naxalabari TG, Ord Terai TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Vijoynagar TG, Gangaram TG, Singhiajhora TG (Table 7.3).

❖ **Damages by Elephants:** There is an elephant corridor in the Terai of Darjeeling district where elephant movements are frequently found. When they enter into locality or tea gardens they damage many properties like houses, crop-lands etc. There are 45.00 per cent tea gardens (18 in number) where damaged by the animals not reported. On the other hand, less than 15 per cent respondents in each tea garden replied that the damages have been made by the animal (17.50 per cent) in tea gardens such as Satish Ch TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Ord Terai TG, Pahaghomia TG, Bagdogra TG, Kamala TG. While more than 30 per cent respondents in each tea garden reported 10.00 per cent tea gardens such as Saraswatipur TG, Sukna TG, Kamalapur TG, Singhiajhora TG replied that there are many damages of properties caused by elephants (APPENDIX-XXV).

❖ **Natures of Damages by Animals:** There are many damages such as residing houses, kitchen houses, damages of wall and fringe and cereal crops reported which is caused by animal hazards. Form the survey, it is reported that there is 42.50 per cent tea gardens (17 in numbers) such as Saraswatipur TG, Satish Ch TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Pahaghomia TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogra TG, Kamala TG, Singhiajhora TG where damages of residing houses are reported. While the kitchen houses are damaged by elephant reported in 37.50 per cent tea gardens (15 in numbers). On the other hand, there are only 10.00 per cent tea gardens where wall and fringes are damaged by elephants (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4: Nature of Damages

Nature of Damages	Name of Tea gardens	Number of TGs	Percentage of TGs
Residing house	Saraswatipur TG, Satish Ch TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Atal TG, Belgachi TG, Kamalapur TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Pahaghomia TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Bagdogara TG, Kamala TG, Singhiahjhora TG	17	42.50
Kitchen House	Satish Ch TG, Mohorgaon and Gulma TG, Putinbari TG, Sukna TG, Ashapur TG, Kiran Ch TG, Manjha TG, Marapur TG, Meryview TG, Ord Terai TG, Sannysithan TG, Trihana TG, Vijoynagar TG, Gangaram TG, Kamala TG	15	37.50
Wall and Fringe of campus area	Satish Ch TG, Vijoynagar TG, Gangaram TG, Kamala TG	4	10.00
Cereal crops	Saraswatipur TG, Marapur TG, Azmabad TG	3	7.50

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Survey, 2017

❖ **Help from Authority:** During the survey, it is reported that there are damages caused by the elephants reported in 55.00 per cent tea garden (22 in numbers). But in the light of help, only 17.50 per cent tea gardens (7 in numbers) are benefitted from the damages. Only 15.00 per cent tea gardens (6 in numbers) are benefitted with repairing their damaged houses and 2.50 per cent tea gardens benefitted from the *tripaul* (APPENDIX-XXV).

**7.5 Conclusion:** The study reveals many problems in the tea gardens which are not related only to workers tea gardens also. Since, most of the tea gardens (Shikarpur TG, Putinbari TG, New Chamta TG, Sukna TG, Paharghomia TG, Meiview TG, Vijoynagar TG, Azmabad TG, Jayantika TG, Gangaram TG, Kamala TG, Fulbari TG) are remotely located the problems of transport vehicle are common. Where distance of labour lines is far and workers walk long distances and used cycle and motor-bike for transport and in the rainy season, it becomes worst. Drainages of tea gardens are very unhygienic and not cleaned for a long. The street lights are not found even in labour line areas and sufficient water points not present in residential plots. They drink water from dug wells

which are most abundant and unhygienic. The lack of higher educational institutions for education not located adjacent to tea gardens. Even learners go far for schooling in the car or gardens tractors (Saraswatipur TG). Existence of poor infrastructure in healthcare facilities, fuel supply and creches, households environment (like homestead and repairing). Since tea gardens, people are economically weaker and paid low wages Rs.132.50 per days where casual labours get work only in peak season. So people are unemployed and migrate outside for work. The dependency ratio is also found more in the study areas where occupational diversification is least. Some social problems like illiteracy, addiction to drink, unawareness in child labour, trafficking, malnutrition, dropout, early marriage, maternal mortality and also facing geographical environment problems like animal hazard and climatic hazards are also found. Tea gardens workers also facing occupational health hazard and health problems. To overcome the problems of the tea gardens at first garden authority should be aware of the tea gardens infrastructure. There is need to repair of road networks and drainages regularly for a hygienic environment. Installation of street lights in the road, tea gardens compass and labour lines need priority. Finally, authority should look upon the welfare and decent livelihood of the tea garden workers. If workers are aware of their work right, duties and welfares benefit then the livelihood will be improved.

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Plate 7.1: Poor road network, Shikarpur TG



Plate 7.2: Dry Tube well, Gangaram TG



Plate7.3: Poor medical facility, Saraswatipur TG



Plate7.4: Suffering from TB, Saraswatipu TG



Plate 7.5: Biological health hazard, Singhiahjhora TG



Plate: 7.6 Physical hazard, Denguajhar TG