A study on livelihood condition of workers in tea garden of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal

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Abstract: The study has been done in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal to measure the extent of livelihood of condition of tea garden workers in Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal. Based on the highest number of tea garden workers in the villages, a total of 120 respondents were purposely chosen from six villages having tea gardens within the Jalpaiguri block. The data has been collected through pre tested schedule and has been analyzed with proper statistical tools and techniques. According to the research, the majority of respondents (62.50%) were in the middle age range. According to all of the study's independent variables, the majority of respondents 60.84 per cent had a medium degree of livelihood condition. These respondents were followed by 35.83 per cent and 3.33 per cent of respondents with high and low levelsof livelihood, respectively. Sex, age, education, occupation, family size, land ownership, annual income, extension contacts, information sources and economic motivation were all positively and significantly correlated with tea garden workers overall livelihood condition.

Keywords: **Tea Garden Workers, Livelihood Condition, Jalpaiguri**

Introduction

Tea is popular as well as a famous non-alcoholic beverage in the world. The Tea industry in India starts its long journey since the 18th Century and a leading producer country of the world producing both _CTC' (Cut, Tear & Curl) and Orthodox types of tea. In India, tea plantations share 30.84 per cent of total area and produce 46.49 per cent of total national plantation output. Most of the tea plantation concentrated in North & South India occupying 77.68 per cent and 22.32 per cent of total area where Assam and West Bengal of North India share 67.87 per cent and 27.84 per cent area under tea plantation (Marlin Joseph, 2002). In West Bengal, there are two districts namely Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri are important for producing tea and officially known as 'Tea Districts' of West Bengal where in hills areas (Darjeeling hill) and Western Dooars (Jalpaiguri) tea plantation has developed.Men and adolescents workers also engaged in various works of tea plantations such as harvesting, ploughing, weeding, spraying to control harmful pests and weeds, maintenance of irrigation in the plantation. Yet the condition of tea garden workers is much worst in terms of their social, economical and other related aspects of livelihood. Due to merger wages, they are economically deplorable and extremely vulnerable in all forms of exploitation. Their existing social and economical aspects do not reflect a better standard of living. Because they are mostly illiterate and ignorant, their food habits and nutrient consumptions are very poor to health. Their awareness regarding socio-culture, economic, political & outer exposures is very narrow to live in present-day situations. On the other hand, the socio-economic condition of women in tea plantation is much worst compared to men. They are mostly backward, depressed and economically weaker of the society.

Research Methodology

Research methodology is a detailed action plan of investigation. Methodology furnishes the building block; back bone of the process of enquiry and reasoning,data generation as well as processing. This chapter shows the description of procedure followed by the investigator for carrying out the investigation. This chapter contains the tools and techniques applied for the collection of data. All the opinions and information were collected through personal interview keeping the purpose and the objectives of the study in mind. Data was collected with the help of pre-scheduled questionnaires by personally interviewing, analyzing and interpreting in the light of the objective's setup for this study. Descriptive research design was used for the study as it describes the characters that are beingstudied. The present study has been conducted in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. Out of 29 blocks in Jalpaiguri district, Jalpaiguri block has been chosen purposively based on the maximum number of tea garden workers among the all blocks of the district. From selected block, six villages were selected randomly and from there a total number of 120 respondents were selected who were more active in the tea gardens.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To find out the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
2. To investigate the livelihood condition of the respondents.

Results and Discussion

Table No. 1- Socio-economic profile of the respondents :

SI. No	Independent variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sex	Male	15	12.50
		Female	105	87.50
2.	Age	Young (18- 35 years)	37	30.83
		Middle(36 - 49 years)	75	62.50
		Old (above 55 years)	8	6.67
3.	Education	Illiterate	37	30.83
		Primary School	28	23.33
		High School	48	40.00
		Intermediate	7	5.84
	Gghh Caste	General	3	2.50
		OBC	13	10.83
		SC	38	31.67
4		ST	66	55.00
5	Types of Family	Nuclear	90	75.00
		Joint	30	25.00
6	Types of house	Hut (Kuchha)	6	5.00
		Semi-cemented	51	42.50
		Cemented	63	52.50
7	Occupation	Only Worker	13	10.83
		Worker & Agri	27	22.50
		Worker & Labour	62	51.67
		Worker & Business	18	15.00
8	Annual income	Low (Upto Rs 1 Lakh)	30	25.00
		Medium (Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh)	65	54.17
		High (Above Rs 2 Lakh)	25	20.83
9	Mass Media Exposure	Low (5-7)	20	16.67

		Medium (8-9)	95	79.17
		High (10-11)	5	4.16
10	Extension Contact	Low (5-6)	70	58.33
		Medium (7)	35	29.17
		High (8)	15	12.50
11	Economic motivation	Low (6-8)	77	64.17
		Medium (9-10)	35	29.16
		High (11-12)	8	6.67

From the table 1, it shows that 87.50% of respondents belong to female sex and 62.50% of the respondents belong to the middle age group. It is clearly visible that 30.83% of the respondents are illiterate. It can be significantly seen that majority of the respondents 55.00% are ST by caste and maximum number of the family type are nuclear which is 75.00%. It is obtained from the table that 52.50% of the respondents live in cemented houses (quarters) in the garden premises. It also shows that 51.67% of the respondents are working in tea garden as a main occupation and doing labour work as subsidiary occupation and 54.17% of the respondents have medium level of annual income (i.e 1Lakh - 2Lakh). It is also evident that 79.17% of the respondents have medium level of mass media exposure and 58.33% of the respondents have low level of extension contact. It is clearly visible in table that 64.17% of the respondents have low level of economic motivation .

		Food consumption	frequency	percentage
		Once	0	0.00
		Twice	106	88.33
		Thrice	14	11.67
		Total	120	100.00
	2.	Types of cloth	frequency	percentage
		Saree	83	69.17
		Salwar	25	20.83
		Pant shirt	12	10.00
		lungi	0	0.00
			120	100.00
	3.	Modes of entertainment	frequency	percentage
		Serial	67	55.83
		Sports	10	08.34
		Movies	43	35.83
			120	100.00
	4.	T.V. user	frequency	percentage
		Yes	119	99.17
		no	1	0.83
			120	100.00
	5.	Mobile user	frequency	percentage
		yes	110	91.67
		no	10	8.33
			120	100.00
	6.	Internet user	frequency	percentage
		Yes	53	44.17
		no	67	55.83
			120	100.00
	7.	Transport	frequency	percentage
		By foot	83	69.17
		By cycle	30	25.00
		By bus	7	5.83
			120	100.00

8.	Security	frequency	percentage
	Good	54	45.00
	Moderate	56	46.67
	Bad	10	8.33
		120	100.00
9.	Contact with office person	frequency	percentage
	Frequently	32	26.67
	More frequently	23	19.17
	Less frequently	65	54.16
		120	100.00
10.	Interactions with others	frequency	percentage
	Frequently	45	37.50
	More frequently	62	51.67
	Less frequently	13	10.83
		120	100.00
11.	Preference of marriage	frequency	percentage
	Social	54	45.00
	Love	10	8.33
	Both	56	46.67
		120	100.00
12.	Drainage facility	frequency	percentage
	Improper	30	25.00
	Proper	90	75.00
		120	100.00
13.	Receiving of wages	frequency	percentage
	Regularly	42	35.00
	Irregularly	78	65.00
		120	100.00
14.	Sanitation system	frequency	percentage
	Septic latrine	111	92.50
	Sanitary latrine	09	7.50
		120	100.00
15.	Nutritional status	frequency	percentage
	High	5	4.17
	Medium	84	70.00
	low	31	25.83
		120	100.00

Table 2.Livelihood condition of the respondents:

Sl. No.	Livelihood condition	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (24-28)	43	35.83
2	Medium (29-32)	73	60.84
3	High (33-36)	4	3.33
Total		120	100.00

According to the above table most of the respondents (60.84%) among all the respondents has medium level of livelihood condition followed by 35.83 per cent of the respondents who have lower level of livelihood condition and only 3.33 per cent of the respondents had higher level of livelihood condition. Similar finding was also reported by **Prajapati *et. al* (2014).**

Table No. 3- Correlation coefficient (r) between different Independent variables andlivelihood condition of tea garden worker :

Sl. No.	Independent Variable	Correlation coefficient
1.	Sex	0.893*
2.	Age	0.988*
3.	Educational Qualification	0.740*
4.	Caste	-0.619*
5.	Types of family	0.397**
4.	Types of houses	-0.272**
6.	Occupation	0.997*
7.	Annual Income	0.885*
8.	Mass Media Exposure	0.903*
9.	Extension Contact	0.390**
10.	Economic Motivation	0.456**

*= Correlation is significant at the 0.01% level of probability

**= Correlation is significant at the 0.05% level of probability

From this above Table-4.4.2 concluded that the independent variables i.e. sex, age, educational qualification, annual income, mass media exposure, were positively and significantly correlated with livelihood condition of tea garden workers measures at 0.01 percent of probability, As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected for the variable and the variable caste was negatively and significantly correlated with livelihood condition of tea garden workers measures at 0.01 and 0.05 percent of probability. However the variables types of family, extension contact and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated with level of tea garden workers measures between 0.01 and 0.05 percent of probability. Similar finding was also reported by null hypothesis was rejected for the variable and the variable type of houses was negatively and significantly correlated with livelihood condition of tea garden workers measures at 0.05 percent of probability. Supported by **Islam *et al.* (2013)**

CONCLUSION:

It is concluded that majority of the respondents were female from middle aged group belonging to ST caste were engaged as worker and labour, literate having medium annual income, belongs to nuclear families and lives in cemented houses with low extension contact, medium level of mass media exposure and low level of economic motivation. The maximum numbers of the respondents have a medium level of livelihood. The independent variables like Age, educational qualification, types of houses, annual income, extension contact, mass media exposure, scientific orientation, risk orientation have positive and significant effect on the knowledge and adoption towards improved jute production practices of the respondents. The major constraint faced by the respondents was lower wages and they suggested that the labour charges should be less

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