

Report on Field Survey conducted by the Department of Economics on 10th January, 2023:

The field survey was designed and conducted by the faculty members and the 6th semester students of Department of Economics, A. B. N. Seal College, at Kumargram and Sankosh Tea Garden, on 10th of January, 2023. The primary objective of this survey was to give a hands-on training to the outgoing students as to how they should link the economic theories with that of the practical analysis, and this would provide them with an empirical exposure to build up their confidence to carry statistical survey and analysis on their own.

The study area consists of two Tea Gardens, namely Kumargram Tea Estate and Sankosh Tea Garden, where the subjects were the tea garden workers (mainly, women) who reside in the adjacent areas.

A team of 3 faculty members with 19 students were divided in to 3 groups to conduct the survey and collect data on different parameters, ranging from basic demographics, social structure, gender roles, health and education scenarios and accessibility of various government schemes.

The data was collected from 27 households, then it was cleaned, coded, and analysed by the students under supervision of the faculty members of the department. The analysis has put forward some interesting results, which are briefed below –

1. The tea garden workers are mainly women, and the men of these areas take up other jobs, either in the tea garden or, elsewhere. We have found some families with the women do get married in the same locality to be near her maternal home, as most of the man are migratory workers, where they travel as far west to Pune, Mumbai or, to south to Kerala, Karnataka to work in either jewellery workshops or, construction sector.
2. Most of the migration takes place due to low payment rate of these tea gardens and job security issues. And there also exists a wage-gap among the male and female workers as well.
3. Most of the government schemes were distributed through the tea garden authority, which sometimes makes it difficult for many families to get the rations or other benefits on time. And according to them it was quite difficult to take up these issues with the authority in anticipation of loss of work days.
4. The school structure was okay, as there was a primary school nearby and a high school within 3 KM. But for higher studies the pupils have to travel to Alipurduar as there was no college or, university nearby.
5. There was a primary health centre of the tea garden, which cater to the basic health related need of the people of the area, but for major health related issues, the people have to travel more than 5 KM to reach the nearest hospital.

Overall, there are some issues in the area like proper employability, proper distribution of government schemes, health, and education that the local authority could look into in order to empower these marginalised people.

Some glimpses of the field survey:





