

Lok Manch: Development and Access to Entitlements of the Marginalized Darjeeling Unit, in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, West Bengal

Intervention Area:

Darjeeling unit works in 6 blocks in 2 districts of West Bengal. 2 blocks, namely, Phansidewa and Kharibari come under Darjeeling district and 4 blocks, namely, Nagrakata, Dhupguri, Rajganj and Jalpaiguri Sadar come under Jalpaiguri district. The total coverage of intervention area consists of Oraon, Mundas, Kharias, Santhal, Mahali, Ashur, Pahan, Chik Baraik, Kishan, Malpaharia, Nagasia and Ghasi among the Scheduled Tribes (ST); Roy, Barman, Adhikari, Sarkar, Majhi, Naik and Lohar are among the Scheduled Castes (dalits); Karmakar and Ali among the Most Backward Classes (MBC) and Muslims among the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Partner Organizations:

Human Life Development and Research Centre (HLDRC) is headed by Lalit Tirkey; Jalpaiguri Seva Sadan (JSS) is headed by Innocent Toppo; Seva Kendra Siluguri (SKS) is headed by Felix Pinto and Gramin Vikas Kendra (GVK) is headed by Basil Toppo.

Data Collection:

Data collection was carried out by the four partner organizations from May-June, 2016 with the help of Youth volunteers from the tea gardens, Community leaders and the organizational staff.

1. Table 1 - Profile of households – Sex

Organisation	Sex			Total
	Male	Female	Transgender	
HLDRC	1588	1661	0	3249
	48.9%	51.1%	0.0%	100.0%
JSS	1724	1265	0	2989
	57.7%	42.3%	0.0%	100.0%
SKS	1281	1857	3	3141
	40.8%	59.1%	.1%	100.0%
GVK	1585	1577	0	3162
	50.1%	49.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	6178	6360	3	12541
	49.3%	50.7%	.0%	100.0%

1a. Table 2 – Religion

Organisation	Religion						Total
	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Sarna	Buddhist	Other	
HLDRC	2060	1119	24	31	5	0	3239
	63.6%	34.5%	.7%	1.0%	.2%	0.0%	100.0%
JSS	2300	649	11	0	0	0	2960
	77.7%	21.9%	.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
SKS	1188	1931	0	0	2	0	3121
	38.1%	61.9%	0.0%	0.0%	.1%	0.0%	100.0%
GVK	2578	456	99	5	3	7	3148
	81.9%	14.5%	3.1%	.2%	.1%	.2%	100.0%
Total	8126	4155	134	36	10	7	12468
	65.2%	33.3%	1.1%	.3%	.1%	.1%	100.0%

Note: The difference in total number of households is due to non-availability of data.

1b. Table 3 - Social Category (Caste)

Organisation	Caste				Total
	SC	ST	MBC+OBC	General	
HLDRC	325	2579	161	176	3241
	10.0%	79.6%	5.0%	5.4%	100.0%
JSS	600	2298	16	43	2957
	20.3%	77.7%	.5%	1.5%	100.0%
SKS	28	3049	8	4	3089
	.9%	98.7%	.3%	.1%	100.0%
GVK	407	2292	190	262	3151
	12.9%	72.7%	6.0%	8.3%	100.0%
Total	1360	10218	375	485	12438
	10.9%	82.2%	3.0%	3.9%	100.0%

Note: MBCs and OBCs are taken together for analysis. Some HHs did not specify social category

1c. Table 4 – Possession of Caste / Tribal certificate

Organisation		SC	ST	OBC	General	Total	in %
HLDRC	Total HHs	325	2579	161	176	3241	
	No of HHs possessing certificate	30	321	6	0	357	11.0
JSS	Total HHs	600	2298	16	43	2957	
	No of HHs possessing certificate	70	120	1	0	191	6.5
SKS	Total HHs	28	3049	8	4	3089	
	No of HHs possessing certificate	4	943	0	0	947	30.7
GVK	Total HHs	407	2292	190	262	3151	
	No of HHs possessing certificate	75	247	7	0	329	10.4
Total	Total HHs	1360	10218	375	485	12438	
	No of HHs possessing certificate	179	1631	14	0	1824	14.7

2. Table 5 - Individual entitlements – Aadhaar Card

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Total no of family members	54543	13965	12443	14820	13315
No of persons having Aadhaar Card	38036	9792	9174	11483	7587
Not having Aadhaar Card	16507	4173	3269	3337	5728
Not having Aadhaar Card (in %)	30.3	29.9	26.3	22.5	43.0

2a. Table 6 - Voter ID

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
No of family members above 18 yrs	36222	9503	7974	9881	8864
No of persons having Voter ID	32706	8387	7402	8749	8168
Not having Voter ID	3516	1116	572	1132	696
Not having Voter ID (in %)	9.7	11.7	7.2	11.5	7.9

2b. Table 7 - Old Age pension

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Eligible for Old Age pension	2260	735	196	698	631
No of persons receiving	719	161	108	231	219
Not receiving pension	1541	574	88	467	412
Not receiving pension (in %)	68.2	78.1	44.9	66.9	65.3

2c. Table 8 - Widow pension

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Eligible for Widow pension	1854	522	271	574	487
No of persons receiving	362	49	95	78	140
Not receiving pension	1492	473	176	496	347
Not receiving pension (in %)	80.5	90.6	64.9	86.4	71.3

3. Table 9 - NFSA related entitlements – Free meal to pregnant and lactating women

	Total	HLD	JS	SKS	GVK
Eligible pregnant / lactating women	1858	411	387	516	544
Receiving free meal	1631	376	343	462	450
Not receiving free meal	227	35	44	54	94
Not receiving free meal (in %)	12.2	8.5	11.4	10.5	17.3

3a. Table 10 - Maternity financial assistance

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Eligible pregnant / lactating women	1858	411	387	516	544
Received Rs. 6,000 as maternity benefit	54	14	1	27	12
Maternity support through other schemes	618	163	23	263	169
Not received any maternity benefit (in %)	63.8	56.9	93.8	43.8	66.7

3b. Table 11 - Free meal to children aged 6 months - 5 years in Anganwadi

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
No of eligible children	4667	1103	1229	1148	1187
No of children receiving free meal	3614	911	821	805	1077
Not receiving free meal (in %)	22.6	17.4	33.2	29.9	9.3

3c. Table – 12 Midday Meal (MDM) in schools for children from 6 - 14 years

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Students eligible to get free meal	8731	2162	1857	2401	2311
No of students receiving free meal	5777	1550	1019	1296	1912
Not receiving free meal (in %)	33.8	28.3	45.1	46.0	17.3

3d. Table 13 – Possession of Ration Card

Organisation	Ration card under NFSA				Total
	AAY	PHH(s)	PHH	No Card	
HLDRC	2695	67	6	417	3185
JSS	1866	432	129	238	2665
SKS	2041	15	0	225	2281
GVK	1730	16	26	598	2370
Total	8332	530	161	1478	10501
Total (In %)	79.3	5.0	1.5	14.1	100

Note: In this unit, the state has recently introduced new ration cards as per NFSA. AAY means Antyodaya Anna Yojana; PHH (S) Priority Household with sugar and PHH Priority Household. However, JSS area is still under old system. It is to be read as AAY, BPL, APL and No card.

3e. Table 14 – Possession of Ration Card in relation to Caste

Caste	Organisation	AAY	PHH(s)	PHH	No Card	Total
SC	HLDRC	265	4	0	50	319
	JSS	129	322	92	30	573
	SKS	23	0	0	2	25
	GVK	121	1	0	63	185
	Total	538	327	92	145 (13.2%)	1102
ST	HLDRC	2135	54	6	334	2529
	JSS	1683	102	36	198	2019
	SKS	1969	15	0	219	2203
	GVK	1478	4	4	483	1969
	Total	7265	175	46	1234 (14.2%)	8720
OBC	HLDRC	142	2	0	12	156
	JSS	12	0	0	2	14
	SKS	6	0	0	0	6
	GVK	56	2	4	11	73
	Total	216	4	4	25 (10%)	249

3f. Table 15 - AAY households receiving 35 kg food-grains

Organisation	AAY	No of HHs receiving	%
HLDRC	2695	2043	75.8
JSS	1866	1476	79.1
SKS	2041	1917	93.9
GVK	1730	1618	93.5
Total	8332	7054	84.7

4. Table 16 - Accessing Pre-matric and Post-matric educational scholarships under SCSP / TSP

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Boys eligible for Pre-matric scholarship	3423	1085	255	1000	1083
Girls eligible for Pre-matric scholarship	3588	1154	354	1011	1069
Boys accessing Pre-matric scholarship	886	194	145	341	206
Girls accessing Pre-matric scholarship	1127	254	236	366	271
Accessing Pre-matric scholarship (in %)	28.7	20.0	62.6	35.2	22.2
Boys eligible for Post-matric scholarship	484	127	69	186	102
Girls eligible for Post-matric scholarship	624	165	59	259	141
Boys accessing Post-matric scholarship	242	56	48	104	34
Girls accessing Post-matric scholarship	348	97	30	178	43
Accessing Post-matric scholarship (in %)	53.2	52.4	60.9	63.4	31.7

5. Table 17 - Nature of housing

Organisation	Nature of house			Total
	Thatched	Tiled	Concrete	
HLDRC	867	2370	4	3241
JSS	1262	1674	5	2941
SKS	267	2837	17	3121
GVK	925	2030	97	3052
Total	3321 (26.9%)	8911 (72.1%)	123 (1%)	12355

Note: Of the total 12,355 houses, 209 (1.7%) houses were built by the government

5a. Table 18 - Drinking water and toilet facilities at home

	Total	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK
Drinking water facility at home	4513 (36%)	364	1664	1460	1025
Toilet facility at home	3131 (25%)	990	671	1091	379

Note: % calculated out of 12,541 total households surveyed.

6. Table 19 - Village / Pocket – Community entitlements

Details of availability accessibility	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK	Total	%
No of villages surveyed	20	20	20	20	80	
Public drinking water	11	10	14	14	49	61.3
If yes, is water available throughout the year	3	10	8	7	28	35.0
Drainage	1	10	5	9	25	31.3
Public toilet	20	20	20	20	80	100.0
Community hall	1	4	6	1	12	15.0
Approach road to main road	15	16	11	20	62	77.5
Primary Health Centre	10	13	18	18	59	73.8
If yes, located within a KM?	10	8	9	14	41	51.3
PDS shops	13	10	17	17	57	71.3
If yes, located within a KM?	10	7	9	13	39	48.8
Anganwadi	19	19	20	18	76	95.0
If yes, located within a KM?	18	19	20	17	74	92.5
Houses built under the Government schemes	17	1	11	17	46	57.5

7. Table 20 - Caste and religious scenario:

Caste and Religious harmony	HLDRC	JSS	SKS	GVK	Total	%
Practice of untouchability prevails	4	7	4	6	21	26.3
Caste conflict exists	0	2	3	2	7	8.8
Religious conflict exists	1	2	1	3	7	8.8

Observations and Comments

1. **Profile status: (Tables 1 – 4)** The total number of households of Darjeeling Unit is 11,541. Of the 12,468 responses to religion, 65.2 per cent are Hindu, 33.2 per cent are Christian, 1.1 per cent are Muslim and 0.3 per cent are *Sarna* (tribal religion). There are also a few households following other religions. Of the 12,438 responses to caste, 10.9 per cent are Dalits (SCs), 82.2 per cent are STs, 3 per cent are OBCs and MBCs and only 3.9 per cent are from the General Castes. All the four organisations work primarily with tribals and HLDRC, JSS and GVK also work with good many dalit households. The tribals largely identify themselves as Hindus.

It is observed that out of 12,438 responses, only 14.7 per cent of the households are in possession of a caste or tribal certificate which is a matter of concern. Only 6.5 per cent households of JSS working villages possess certificates. In the absence of a caste / tribal certificate, there is a high likelihood of households being deprived of basic entitlements.

2. **Individual entitlements: (Tables 5 – 8)** Of the total population of 54,543 about 30.3 per cent do not have *Aadhaar* card; of the 36,222 total eligible persons to vote, about 9.7 per cent do not have Voter ID. Of the 2,260 eligible persons for Old Age pension, 68.55 per cent do not receive pension; in the same way, of the eligible 1,854 widows, about 80.5 per cent do not receive pension. More efforts have to be made by all partners to improve access to Old age pension and Widow's pension.
3. **NFSA related: (Tables 9 – 15)** Among the eligible 1,858 pregnant / lactating women 12.2 per cent do not receive free meal and 63.8 per cent have not received any maternity financial assistance. With regard to maternity financial assistance it is alarmingly high in JSS (93.8%) working villages. About 22.6 per cent children between 6 months to 5 years and 33.8 per cent of school going children do not receive free meals. In all the working areas of four organisations, the gap is much high with regard to Midday Meal scheme.

Of the 10,501 households, 14.1 per cent do not have ration cards. Among the Scheduled Castes about 13.2 per cent households do not possess ration cards. Among the STs it is about 14.2 per cent and 10 per cent among the OBCs. It is also noticed that 84.7 per cent of the eligible AAY households receive 35 kgs of food grain in the interventional villages. More number of households are deprived of in HLDRC and JSS working villages.

4. **SCSP/TSP related: (Table 16)** It is observed that the enumerators had difficulty in getting details about Pre-matric and Post-matric educational support related schemes since many respondents were not aware of these schemes. From the limited responses received, about 28.7 per cent and 53.2 per cent of students seem to be accessing Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarships respectively. It is also observed that there is drastic reduction in the number of children becoming eligible for Post-matric scholarship. In other words, there seems to be a huge dropout rate from Pre-matric to Post-matric transition.
5. **Housing, drinking water and toilet: (Tables 17 – 18)** About 3,321 (26.9%) houses are thatched. Of the total 12,541 households, only 36 per cent households have drinking water facility at home and only 25 per cent households have toilet at home. About 209 (1.7%) houses are either built by the government or with the assistance of the government and these houses are spread out in 57.5 per cent of villages.
6. **Village / Pocket level Community entitlements: (Table 19)** While public drinking water facility is available in 61.3 per cent of villages only in 35 per cent villages water is available throughout the year. Drainage system exists in 31.3 per cent of villages. Public toilet facility is available in 100 per cent

villages. Community hall facility is very low at 15 per cent. Nearly in 50 per cent of villagers have to travel more than a kilometer to access Primary Health care as well as to collect rations.

7. **Caste and religious scenario: (Table 20)** Practices of untouchability, caste and religious conflicts are observed in all the operational villages.

Survey Effect – A few highlights

- *Panchayat members, ICDS workers and SHGs leaders were of great help during the survey.*
- *People from Gungaram Tea garden, Sonachandi Tea gardens asked about how to access old age pension and Red Bank closed tea gardens and Surendra Nagar Tea gardens inquired about accessing housing scheme under Indira Awaas Yojna.*
- *Gram Panchayat Pradhan from Hetmuri GP became friendly with HLDRC staff and invited us to share the outcome of the survey for program implementation as collective project intervention.*
- *People cooperated during survey after knowing that it was undertaken by NGOs.*

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