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Socio -Economic Conditions and Problems of Tea Garden Labourers – A Case Study on Isabheel Tea Estate, Karimganj District, Assam.

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Abstract
Tea garden labourers performs a very crucial role in our society. Without their participation
and contribution, our society would be incomplete. As a result, it becomes pertinent to look into the socio-economic conditions of this section. The study has made an attempt to explore the Socio-economic conditions of tea garden labourers of Isabheel Tea Estate of karimganj District of Assam including their education, health, and income and employment status. In addition, this paper also outlines the problems confronted by garden workers. To realize this objective,100 tea garden workers were interviewed. It has been divulged from the study that socio economic condition of the labourers is not ideal as should be in the tea garden as laborers are devoid of basic amenities. The Isabheel Tea Estate has an area of 1019.30 hectare and the area under tea is 573.21 hectare. A total of 1019 laborers are working in the garden, out of them 514 are female and 505 are male workers. All of them are Permanent laborers though during peak season garden employs some casual labourers with same wage structure but less benefit. Main works of the labourers are plucking tea leaf, rising seeding, planting and constant care of young plants and earth work etc.

Keywords: Socio-Economic Conditions, Tea Garden Labourers, Isabheel Tea Estate, Karimganj District

I. Introduction:

Tea has been lauded in a variety of ways since the dawn of humanity. As quoted by Oscar Wilde "Tea is the only simple pleasure left on us." And it is because of this that tea has become such a popular beverage, whose appeal never seems to wane. It is also one among the most affordable beverages on the planet. People of many walks of life, from intellectuals to plain manual workers in various fields of endeavor, like sipping tea and feel relieved, calm, and revitalized. A day in many countries, such as India, can only begin with a sip of tea. According to a poll performed by the Indian Tea Board, 89 percent of individual's drink tea as a habit, with 8% drinking it to renew their thoughts and 3% drinking it to satisfy hunger. And a more interesting fact about tea is that it also has helping hands in the field of education in the form of Refresh button to mind to work sharply while studying and say goodbye to sleep. Assam tea, which has already become a popular sip around the world and is giving a strong thrust to the state economy and it is worth mentionable that and is really a matter of great pride for Assam that this year 2021, on republic day parade, Assam tea was the theme of Assam in the republic day Tableau which rolled down the Rajpath. The Tableau showcased a typical tea garden scene of women plucking leaves and dancing to Jhumar beats. It also showcased the importance of tea on Assam's economy and cultural glimpses.

But, unfortunately as far as life situation of the tea labourers are concerned, things are not as ideal as it should be in our country and especially in Assam. Here a tea labourers hardly gets a chance to lead a good life let alone a rosy one. According to Wikipedia, the tea tribes of Assam are among India's poorest and most exploited ethnic groups. Though their younger generation is more educated, they now have intellectuals and professionals in a variety of professions. Tea tribes, who are primarily labourers, reside in villages within tea estates. These estates are located in remote areas, contributing to their backwardness and exploitation by tea planters. Workers who do not have access to basic necessities of life live in poverty and die in anonymity.

Objective of the Study: The study is primarily concerned with an assessment of socio-economic

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conditions of the tea garden labourers in the Isabheel Tea Estate in the Karimganj district of Assam.

The main objectives of the study are:

i) To study the socio-economic conditions of the tea garden labourers of Isabheel Tea Estate.

ii) ii) To study the problems confronted by the tea garden labourers of Isabheel Tea Estate.

II. Review of Literature:

Nair (1989) examined the socio-economic conditions of labourers in the Ponmudi tea estate a unit which is closed since 1973. He made a case study of this unit to highlight the fate of workers in a sinking factory. The employees are continuing in the factory because of the single reason that they have no other option. They are virtually suffering from poverty as a result of unemployment.

Bhadra, R. (1999) says wider social-economic background of tea plantation workers in north-east has considerable importance for understanding their social change. A large number of labourers were brought from Bihar, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh during British period to work in tea gardens. These labourers belonged to the various ethnic groups like Oraon, Munda, Santhal, Baraik, Kharia Ghasi, Gond, Mahali, Sabar, Khond, etc. This study seeks to understand the process of migration and its consequent effects on socio-economic life of migrant workers.

Hazarika, K. (2012) studied the vulnerable living conditions of tea tribes and labourers under urbanized culture. It is found that women workers in India are facing one of the worst forms of exploitation in modern times. Wage cut policy of the employers affect productivity of the industry. Her analysis suggested that measures must be taken to prevent availability of alcoholic beverages and gambling in and around tea garden areas. Women empowerment is urgent need for the tea garden workers and special value-based education should be introduced.

Kurmi, P. (2013) made an attempt to study the educational status of children of Derby Tea Garden, Cachar district, Assam. He discovered that the educational attainment of children of tea garden workers are influenced by the mother's education, family size, household income, and the child's gender. Moreover, the researcher here ardently recommended that immediate step should be taken to enhance the girl's education as because today girls are future mothers.

Borah, AK. (2013) in his detailed investigation regarding the socio – economic condition and income and expenditure pattern of plantation workers in Lepetkota tea estate in Assam found that majority of the Indian tea producers are not getting fair prices in the market for their tea and this passes to the workers as wage cuts and it further affects the tea industry without a strong and skilled labour force and there are lack of educational facilities for the children of the tea estate workers in the study area. The study also suggested that every worker must have bank account and deposit a few per cent of his income in the respective account, infrastructure facilities should develop in the study area so that the worker's residential environment will improve and labour welfare department should regularly investigate the status of social security measures available in the tea gardens.

Sharma, G. (2013) in his detailed investigation regarding the socio-economic conditions of tea garden labourers of Lohpohia Tea Estate of Jorhat District, Assam attempted to examine the causes of poverty, ignorance and illiteracy among the labourers of said tea garden. His study reveals that living conditions of the labourers are very poor and unhygienic and also there is no proper sanitation facility available. It is also found that there is addiction of liquor and intoxicants among the labourers which tremendously hampers the upbringing of their child and also their family condition. In addition to this he has also tried to explore the awareness and involvement of labourers in politics and it is found that some of the labourers are well aware of the politics and they also exercise their voting right in every election.

Saikia, et.al (2014) in their detailed investigation on living conditions of tea garden labourers of Sarusarai tea garden of Jorhat district, Assam found that the labourers of the said tea garden are devoid of basic amenities and they are facing severe problems like the rate of school dropout can be considered as major problem as girls of that locality ate forced to quit their studies and are being entrusted with the responsibility of their sibling's care, and domestic work. They also made an attempt to study the wage structure of unskilled and skilled workers.

Devi, P. (2014) in her research entitled," Socio - Economic status of tea garden women workers" specially emphasized on Sonitpur district. Her study reveals that 72.25% of women workers are illiterate and therefore she recommended that women education should be given importance. It is also seen

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that 63% of workers have their pacca house and 92% of the women workers have their monthly wages between 1000 - 5000.Moreover, she has also recommended that the ration that they are getting from the tea garden have low nutrition values which need to be looked after and also most of children's and aged person dies due to various disease so health sector should be given due emphasis.

Dr. Purkayastha, N., and Kalita, P. (2016) conducted a study to assess how poverty affects the day-to-day life of labourers in Borsillah tea garden in Sivsagar district, Assam. It is crystal clear from their research that only 2.5 % of the labourers have saving A/c which is apparently exhibited that labourers do not have Saving habit as because their minimum wage is also not adequate. They have been facing enormous problems in respect of poverty so therefore they also recommended that tea garden authority should increase salary as well as basic amenities of life for workers. They also suggested that special attention must be given to improve educational attainment of tea community.

Rahman, A. (2016) in his study specially emphasized on Khan Tea Estate of Bangladesh to investigate the living conditions of tea garden workers and also to explore some other aspects like literacy among workers, wage structure and health and sanitation facility etc. His study reveals that 31% of the respondents have no toilet at all and also most of labourers have kaccha house made with mud wall. Moreover, his study also divulged that literacy rate of female workers is far less than their male counterparts which gives pellucid indication of prevalent of gender discrimination. He also recommended that incentive for plucking of extra leaf more than 20 kg should be increased.

Dinesh, B., and Dr. Amarjothi, P. (2017) in their research paper entitled," Socio-economic Conditions of tea plantation workers in ValparaiTaluk, Coimbatore" specially emphasized on finding the monthly income and savings of tea estate labourers among the ValparaiTaluk, Coimbatore. The study reveals that real economy condition of the labourers are in very deplorable condition. So therefore, it clearly portrays the wage system is not at all satisfactory because the amount is quite low to run their day-to-day life smoothly.

Debnath, S. (2017) laid special emphasis on Meghlipara Tea Estate of West Tripura to examine the socio-economic conditions of the labourers. His study exhibited that majority of the workers are illiterate and 56% of the labourers do not have access to electricity. It is quite surprising to see that almost all of the labourers don't have proper sanitation facility in their dwelling in the era of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Moreover, it has been traced that early marriage among the workers of tea garden is becoming a burning issue so therefore he suggested that Govt as well as NGO should organize awareness campaign for curbing such practices. In addition, he has also recommended that girl's education should be given priority.

Afzal, F. and Alam, A. (2019) conducted a study on an assessment of socio-economic conditions of tea garden workers in North Bengal and also to highlight the extent of welfare amenities available to the working community in the proposed tea garden. It is evident from their study that majority of the workers' were residing in kaccha house in the selected area and another one of the most burning issue that been noticed here that 45.76% family having child labour which is not at all acceptable. Moreover, it is also found that workers do not let their ward study further after secondary school because their income is very low and they also have the tendency to prepare their wards from the childhood to work in the tea garden.

Dr. Hemasrikumar., and Arthi, R. (2019) in their study entitled," Socio economic and working conditions of tea plantation workers" emphasized on Manjoor Block of Nilgiris to examine the socio economic and demographic profile and also to identify the determinants of earnings in the said region. The study reveals that there was a very high degree of discrimination of wage among the villages by male workers and female workers for the same job, here it is crystal clear that female workers are the most sufferer that is why the researcher here suggested that gender wise discrimination should be avoided.

Dey, B. (2019) conducted a study on Fatemabad Tea Estate of Baksa district of Assam to investigate the living conditions of the labourers and to explore the level and causes of poverty of tea garden labourers. It is found that living standard of the workers are very low and they are living in wretched poverty moreover it is apparently seen that as soon as they get their wages, they used to spend their money without thinking about future. It has been observed that due to lack of proper sanitation facility, air borne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery is found frequently in the study area. Moreover, it has also been noticed that they used to spend their earning in drinking alcohol and purchasing unnecessary things. He has also recommended that there is necessity to raise awareness among the

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community about nutrition, health and sanitation practices through motivational programs.

Research Gap

The review of literature shows number of works undertaken over the period to study the socio-economic conditions of the different tea gardens, still there is a lot of scope for research. Based on the literature review it has become evident that till now no research has been carried out on Isabheel Tea Estate.

III. Methodology:

Research Design: So far as the methodology is concerned, this paper is based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary data have been collected mostly by direct contact method. The interview schedules have been taken to carry out the whole investigation. All the information based on primary sources have been collected from Isabheel Tea Estate of Karimganj district, Assam with pre - structured questionnaire on a number of major aspects of income, education, health, employment, living conditions and the problems confronted by labourers of Isabheel tea garden. And secondary information have been obtained from magazines, newspaper, journals, books, thesis, and reports published by different organizations and various websites of Govt.of India and Govt.of Assam. A sample of 100 workers has been taken for this study. A random sampling method was used for selecting the samples. The sample is about 10% of the total workers. Both the male and female respondents were representation of the study. The research has utilized Microsoft Excel for graphical representation and data analysis. Mostly used tools and techniques in this study include pie-chart, bar graph etc.

Overview of Isabheel Tea Garden (Study Area)

Isabheel tea garden is located at the edge of the Karimganj district of Assam and it is also the district's last tea garden. This tea garden is 56 km away from Karimganj town. The tea estate was originally set up by the Britishers somewhere between late 19th century. At the beginning, the tea garden was managed and controlled by Octovious Steel Pvt Company Ltd. After independence, in the year 1972, the ownership of the tea garden was transferred from Britishers to Assam Tea Corporation. There are total 15 tea garden in Assam that is undertaken by Assam Tea Corporation (ATC) and particularly in Barak Valley, there are only 3 tea garden that is undertaken by Assam Tea Corporation VIZ - Bidyanagar tea garden, Longai tea garden, and Isabheel tea garden. Isabheel tea garden covers an area of 1019.30 hectare and the area under tea cultivation is 573.21 hectare. Earlier the Isabheel tea garden had its factory but in the year 2002, due to financial crisis the factory of the garden had closed and as of now it supplies its daily plucking of tea leaves to its sister garden i.e., Longai tea garden. A total of 1019 Permanent labourers are engaged in this garden among them 505 are male and 514 are female and also there are 15 Staffs and 12 Sub Staffs are also engaged in this garden. Though during peak time, it employs some casual labourers at the same wage structure but less benefit than that of the permanent labourers.

Limitations of the study:

Inspite of the detailed analysis in the present study, this study is not free from certain limitations. The following are the limitations: -

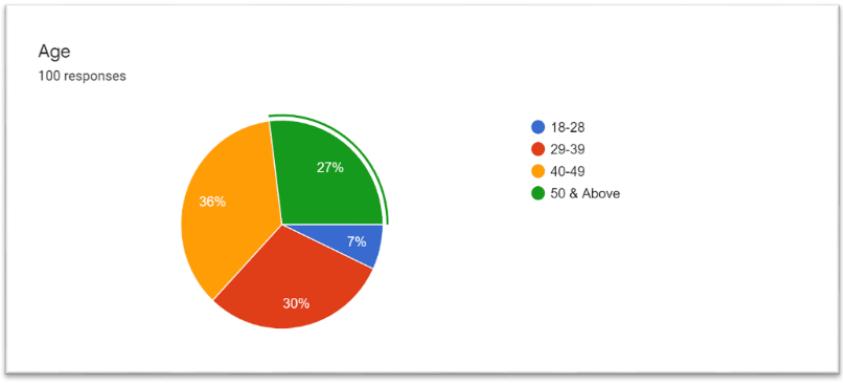
i) The geographical area of this study is only confined with only to Isabheel Tea Estate.

ii) ii) The study is purely based on the views of 100 labourers and hence the result may not be universally applicable.

IV. Results and Discussions:

Chart No.1

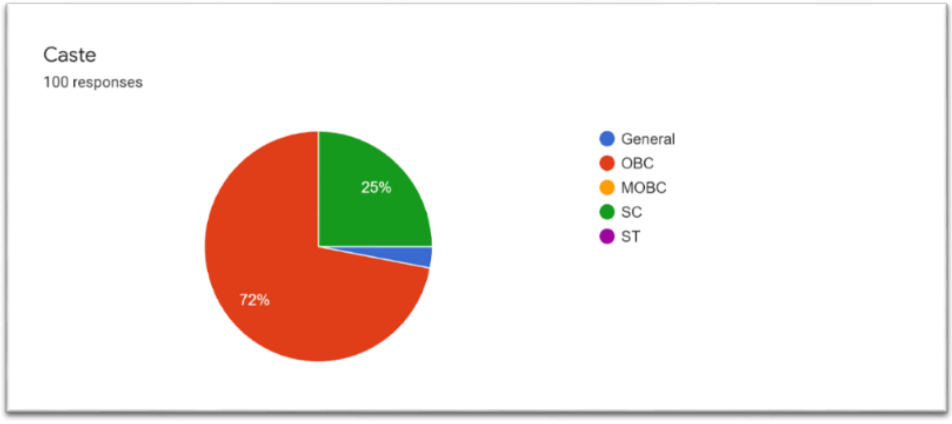
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Source: Field Survey

Age: The above table and diagram depict that out of the total respondents, the age group of 18-28 and 29-39 are 7% and 30% respectively, while 36% are the age group of 40-49. Therefore, it is clear from the collected data that the majority of the tea garden labourers are in the age group of 40-49 and only 7% of the labourers from the age group of 18-28 which gives clear indication that, especially the young generation are not engaging themselves in the tea garden as labourers rather it has also been observed that a chunk of youths from the tea garden are migrating to other metropolitan cities for employment purposes.

Chart No. 2

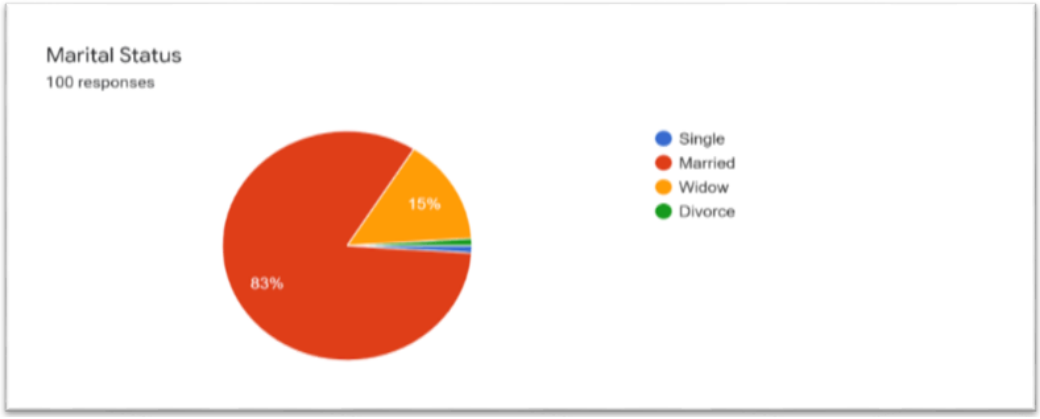


Source: Field Survey

Caste: It is crystal clear from the collected data that 72% of the laborers are belonging from OBC category, while 25% of the respondents belongs from SC category. In addition, only 3% of laborers are from General Category are from General Category

Chart No. 3

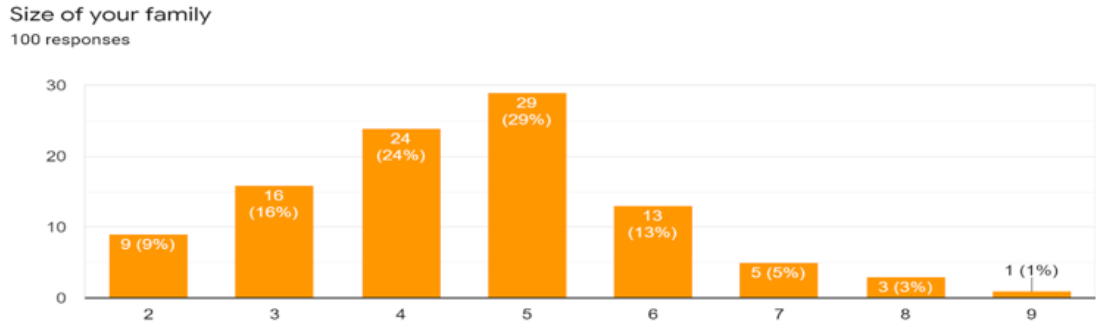
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Source: Field Survey

Marital Status: It is transparent from the study that out of total respondents, 83% of the labourers are married, while 15% of them are widow and it is found that only 1% workers are single and divorce each. So, therefore, it can be concluded that majority of the labourers are married.

Chart No. 4

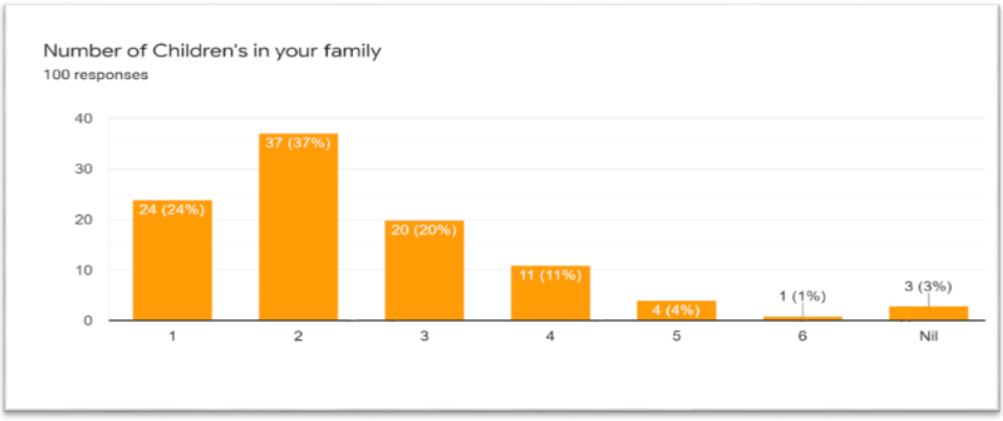


Source: Field Survey

Family Size: It is observed that out of the total respondents, the labourers having only 2 members are 9%, 3 members are 16%, 4 members are 24% ,5 members are 24%, 6 members are 13%, 7 members are 5%, 8 members are 3% and 9 members are only 1%. So, therefore, it can be concluded that majority of the labourers having 5 members in their family.

Chart No. 5

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Source: Field Survey

Number of Children: Among the respondents, 37% of the labourers have 2 children, 24% having 1 child, 20% and 11% of them having 3 children and 4 children respectively. While the family having 5 children and 6 children are 4% and 1% respectively. Whereas, 3% of the labourers have no child.

Chart No: 6

Education Level	Percentage
No formal Education	44%
Primary	32%
Secondary	22%
Higher Secondary	2%
Graduate and above	----

Source: Field Survey

Education Level: Literacy can be considered as acid test of socio-economic and cultural improvement of a society. Education is considered as the major component of human resource development and socio-economic and political development of the society. In our limited sample out of 100 persons it has been found that 44% of the respondents have no formal education at all. While 32% of them attained primary level of education, 22% of them attained secondary level of education, and only 2% of the respondents stated that they completed their studies till higher secondary.

Chart No. 7

No. of school going children's	Percentage
1	**36%**
2	**38%**
3	**4%**
4	**1%**
5	**1%**
0	**20%**

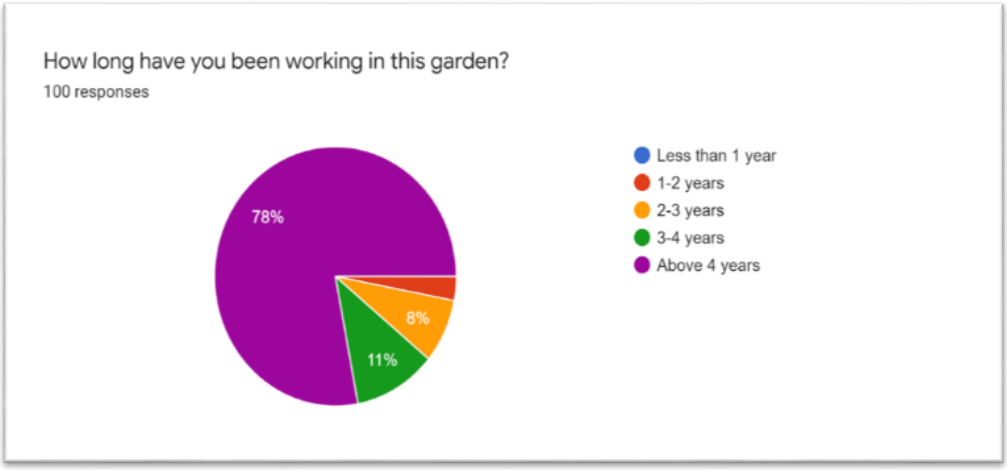
Source: Field Survey

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Children Enrollment: It is pellucid from the study that, 38% of the respondents having 2 school going children, while 36% of them stated that they have 1 school going children, whereas 4% of the labourers have 3 school going children. Respondents having 4 and 5 school going children are only 1%. Moreover, 20% of the respondents claimed that they have no school going children. Almost all of them mentioned that their children's are going to school in a regular way, though 28% of the respondents stated that, they have drop out students in their family, most of them left their studies due to financial problem and some girls also quit their study for domestic work.

Health Facilities: It has been revealed from the survey that the tea garden has 2 health care centers, one is run by the garden itself whereas another one is regulated by Govt. As stated by the respondents, doctors are available in hospital during duty hours and they are also being provided the facility of accidental first aid treatment. It is also found that there is one pharmacy which is run by the tea garden where workers can get their necessary medicines free of cost. Though, in course of study it has also been found that there is also one private nursing home named Makunda Christian Leprosy and General Hospital which is just 3 Km away from the garden and this hospital is run by Christian Missionary which is also very much beneficial for the tea garden labourers where they can get good treatment at a very concessional rate.

Chart No. 8



Source: Field Survey

Duration of work in the garden: Among the respondents, 78% of them stated that they have been working in the garden for more than 4 years, while 11% of the labourers mentioned that they are working in the garden since 3-4 years. Whereas, workers under 1-2 years and 2-3 years are 3% and 8% respectively. It has also been observed that there is no worker under the category of less than 1 year. So therefore, it can be concluded that almost majority of the labourers have been working in the garden for more than 4 years.

Chart No. 9

Income	Percentage
Less than 3000	0%
More than 3000 but less than 4000	9%
More than 4000 but less than 5000	51%

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5000 and above	40%

Source: Field Survey

Average monthly income: It is evident from the study that 51% of the respondents have average monthly income of more than 4000 but less than 5000, while 40% of them have average monthly income of Rs.5000 and above. While 9% of the respondents stated that their monthly average income is more than 3000 but less than 4000 but no respondents fall under the category of average monthly income of less than Rs.3000. Therefore, it can be concluded that majority of workers have average monthly income of more than 4000 but less than 5000.

Chart No. 10

Housing facility	Respondents
Own house	**81%**
Rented House	-
Tea garden Quarter	19%

Chart No. 11

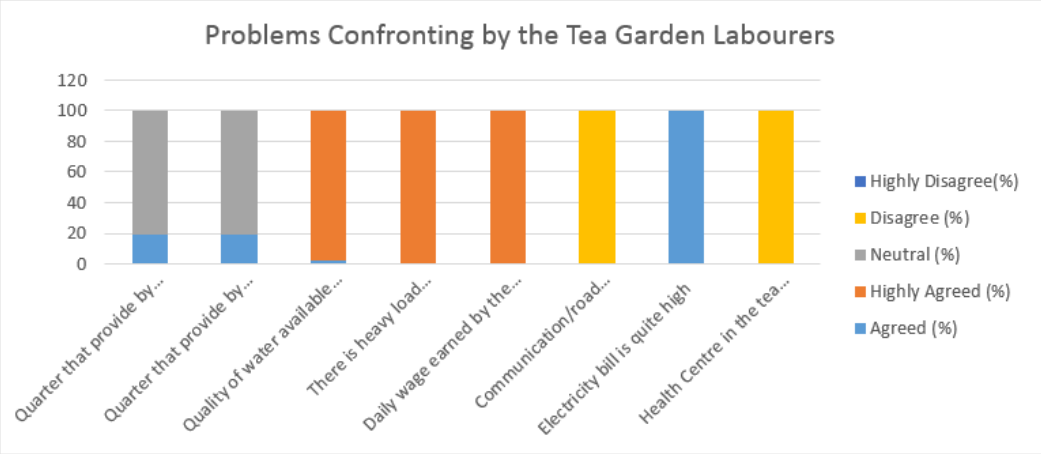
Type of house	Respondents
Kaacha	**41%**
Pacca	52%
Semi Pacca	7%
Others	-

Source: Field Survey

Housing facilities: It is found from the study that 81% of the labourers have their own house while 19% of them are residing at quarter provided by tea garden authority. It is seen that 52% of the labourers have pacca house whereas 41% of them have Kaacha house which gives poor indication for assessing socio economic status while 7% of the labourers have semi pacca house.

Chart No.12

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Interpretation:

❖ Quarter that provided by the tea garden is not in good condition though here in our survey 81% of them are neutral because majority of them are living in their own house that why they have no say about quarter but those who are staying at tea garden quarter are agreed that quarter provided by tea garden is not at all in good condition so tea garden authority should take initiative to renovate the dilapidated structure of the tea garden quarter.

❖ It has been revealed from the survey that in our Study area there is very heavy load shedding problem and has become an everyday affair in our study area that the people have to live in complete darkness for long hours in absence of electricity.

❖ Based on the interaction with the labourers it has been found that they are facing chronic problem in regard to quality water as they have no such appropriate mechanism for purifying the water as a result a most of them have to suffer from various kinds of water borne diseases.

❖ It has been divulged from the survey that health condition in the garden is in good condition and also the garden is having two health care centers, one is run by tea garden authority and another one is run by Govt and also per the interaction with the labourers it has been found that doctors are available during duty hours and also they are getting free medicine from the pharmacy run by tea garden.

❖ It is revealed from the study that majority of the labourers do not have good toilet in their dwelling as most of them have kaccha or ordinary kind of toilet as household toilet under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is not covered all the household and also a local NGO named,' World Vision' is also providing its helping hand for setup of sanitary toilet in the said tea garden so it is expected very soon all the households in our proposed area will be having sanitary toilet.

Findings of the Study:

There are total 1019 permanent workers in the garden among them 505 are male and 514 are female, though during peak season, the garden employs some of the casual labourers with same wage structure but less facilities and also benefits.

It has been found from the survey that the majority of the workers are from 40-49 age category.

It is also found that, 72% of the respondents are from OBC category, though exclusively **Rabidas** who are from SC category represents the largest group in the garden.

It is seen that majority of the labourers have no formal education at all.

It is noticed that majority of the families having 2 school going children and it is also found that almost all of them going regularly, though 28% of the respondents have dropout students in their family.

It has been found that there are 5 primary schools and 1 higher secondary school adjacent to the garden.

It is noticed that there is no such facility provided by the tea garden authority for pursing higher education to the children of the labourers. Though in course of study, it is noticed that of course, free accommodation facility for the tea

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garden students who want to pursue higher education is provided at two districts of Barak Valley i.e., Karimganj and Cachar, but it has been found that the condition of tea garden boys hostel of Karimganj is not in a living condition, it need to be renovated as soon as possible.

It is also seen that there are 2 health care centers available in the garden, one which is run by government and another one is run by tea garden authority itself.

It is also known from the study that; accidental first aid treatment facility is given by the tea garden.

There is a pharmacy inside the tea garden, labourers can avail free medicine from the pharmacy run by the tea garden.

Earlier labourers had to stand in queue to collect their weekly wages, but with the initiative taken by our Honorable Prime Minister, tea garden labourers also have their bank account and all of the labourers collect their weekly wages from bank. Most of them have saving habits, for save their money they basically use bank.

Majority of the labourers are dependent on community water supply. As stated by respondents, they are not getting quality water.

Earlier the tea garden labourers were deprived from having electricity connection, but now days, through Govt scheme of Rural Electrification, each and every household of the tea garden have access to electricity. Though it is also found that they had to face severe problem of load shedding especially in monsoon season. Moreover, it is also found that they also face difficulty in paying their electricity bills in their limited income.

It is evident from the study that quarter provided by the garden is not in good condition.

It is discovered from the study that majority of the labourers do not have good toilet in their dwelling as most of them kaccha or ordinary kind of toilet.

Recommendations:

❖ Minimum wages are not adequate enough to meet the basic needs. The wage raises are not keeping pace with the cost of living. Therefore, increase of daily and monthly wages and other compensation is most essential. So that they can get rid of vicious circle of poverty.

❖ The garden authority should restart its PDS, so that labourers will be highly benefited.

❖ To revive the closed factory of this tea garden with necessary support in the greater interest of industrialization, employment and production of Assam, in addition the young generation of tea garden will be highly benefited as it will enhance the job opportunity.

❖ It is revealed that a total 59% of the labourers have kaccha toilet which has an adverse effect on their health, so unsanitary toilet should be discontinued and tea estate authority should provide 100% sanitary toilet in the house of the workers.

❖ Govt and tea estate authority should supply electricity to the house of the workers at a concessional rate as huge number of workers are not able to pay full electricity bills.

❖ Though the garden is blessed with higher secondary school, but there is huge need of a college so that the children of the labourers can pursue higher education. As it is observed that due to non-availability of college in the garden, so many children of the workers quit their studies after higher secondary as college is far away from the garden and also they are not financially stable to bear all of the expenses so there is tendency among the students to quit after attaining education till higher secondary.

❖ The issuing of tea garden and Ex- tea garden community certificate to the students and working mass be made very simple and easily accessible, as the humble mass get harassed and lose earning for certificate and couldn't get benefits of scheme also.

❖ While conducting the research, another major issue that has been observed regarding deplorable condition of the tea garden boys' hostel at Karimganj which gives shelter free of cost to the tea garden students who wish to pursue higher education and it also worth mentionable that this hostel is nearest one from our study area. Furthermore, investigation revealed that condition of tea garden boys' hostel in Silchar is quite good which is 120 Km away from our study area. So the hostel in Karimganj should be renovated at the earliest for the greater interest of the people of Karimganj in general and Isabheel tea estate in particular.

V. Conclusion:

The analysis and interpretation of this present study revealed various aspects of socio-economic conditions of Isabheel Tea Estate.

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As far as our sample garden is concerned, it can be concluded that socio economic conditions of the labourers is not ideal as it should be in tea garden, as tea being agro based industry, labourers are the heart and soul of every tea garden but they are just treated like human robots. Labourers are devoid of basic amenities and living a very pathetic life. This study exposes a number of key facts, like the most serious issue in the tea garden has been discovered to be the low pay, which have hampered the development of tea garden workers and forced them to live a miserable existence. Despite the fact that the majority of the employees are illiterate and knowing the importance of the real education, they are now urging their children to study. Moreover, it has also been traced out that the garden is blessed with 5 primary schools and 1 higher secondary school having Arts and Commerce stream. It has been observed that some of the families have drop out students because of the poor financial condition they had to quit the study and work for the family. Though in our study area, some of the positive aspects that have been observed like all the labourers having their bank account, and also almost all of the labourers have access to electricity. It has also been noticed that almost all of them have toilet in their dwelling but it is quite disappointing to see that majority of the respondents have kaccha or ordinary toilet, only 41% of the workers have sanitary toilet. It has been found that the PDS i.e., Public Distribution System of the garden had closed in the year 2002 when the garden was suffering from acute shortage of finance. Moreover, it is also transparent from the study that most of the labourers are using Chulhas for cooking though some of them having LPG connection but still they are using Chulhas because as stated by them they are well accustomed with Chulhas and have no tendency to move towards LPG cylinder for cooking. The problems mentioned in the findings are needed to be removed so that the socio-economic condition of tea garden workers of Isabheel Tea Estate, of Karimganj District in Assam will be developed gradually.

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