

# ASSESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS IN SYLHET DISTRICT

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**ASSESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TEA  
GARDEN WORKERS IN SYLHET DISTRICT**

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**CERTIFICATE**

*This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Assessing Socio-economic Status of Tea Garden Workers in Sylhet District” submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Extension, embodies the result of a piece of bonafide research work carried out by Monjurul Arafin Sobuj, Registration No. 11 -04508 under my supervision and guidance. No part of the thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.*

*I further certify that any help or source of information, received during the course of this investigation has been duly acknowledged.*

**Dated:  
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***Dedicated  
To  
My Beloved Parents  
&  
Siblings***

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BTRI	Bangladesh Tea Research Institute
GO	Government Organization
HDR	Human Development Report
ILO	International Labor Organization
ITC	International Tea Committee
NBS	National Brokers Limited
NGO	Non- governmental Organization
SAU	Sher-E-Bangla Agricultural University
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
TWS	Tea Workers Survey
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

# **Assessing socio-economic status of tea garden workers in Sylhet district**

## **ABSTRACT**

Tea is a profitable labor intensive crop in Bangladesh but the socio-economic condition of its worker is very poor. The purpose of this study is to assess the socio-economic status of tea garden workers and explore the contribution of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers in their socio-economic status. The selected characteristics were age, level of education, family size, monthly income, dowry in marriage, access to credit, working experience, communication media exposure, risk faced by the workers. The study was conducted at three gardens of Tukurbajar union under Sylhet Sadar Upazila during 7 June to 27 June, 2017. Data were gathered from 109 tea garden workers using interview schedule. Stepwise multiple regression was used to examine the contribution of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers on their socio-economic status. The findings revealed that the majority of the workers had low socio-economic status (34.9 percent) whereas 33 percent workers had very low socio-economic status and 32.1 percent had medium socio-economic status. Stepwise multiple regression exposed that family size, working experience, communication media exposure, age and level of education had significant contribution on socio-economic status and which contribute 19.8 percent of the total variation. Tea garden workers faced higher risk in 'lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration' followed by 'lack of sufficient housing facilities', 'lack of educational facilities'. Economic capital of tea garden workers should be focused with proper importance to improve their socio-economic status.

Key points: social capital, economic capital, tea garden workers, Sylhet district

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Tea is the most popular beverage and one of the most important cash crops in Bangladesh. It is also an important food commodity of international trade. There are about 172 commercial tea gardens (Ahammed *et al.*, 2015) covering 60,424.83 hectares (BBS, 2015) in Bangladesh. Tea cultivation in Bangladesh is spread over the hilly zones on the eastern part mainly in four districts (Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habibgonj and Chittagong). About 96% annual production (of which 63% is of Moulvibazar district) is contributed by greater Sylhet obtained from 93% (of which 62% is of Moulvibazar district) of plantation area (Iqbalet *al.*, 2013). It can earn foreign exchange equivalent to about 1775 million Taka (about 0.81% of the GDP) annually by exporting about 18 million kg of tea which is of (1.37%) in export in the word tea trade (BTRI, 2015).

The country produces about 66.10 million kg of tea each year occupying the 9th position in respect of production in the world (BBS, 2015). About 0.15 million people are directly employed in tea industry along with 3,50,000 dependents which constitutes about 3.3 percent of the country's total employment (TWS, 2015). Bangladesh earns foreign exchange worth about taka 200 million every year from tea export. The country's average export of tea per year is about 26 million kg of value of \$36 million (NBS, 2013). Women tea workers mainly work in the garden and pluck leaves. While, male workers mostly work in the factory and in garden. They make drainage, provide irrigation, fertilization and pruning. The tea garden workers are considered to be among the poorest and most deprived section of organized labor (Sankrityayana,2006). They are one of the most exploited workers with working hours ranging from morning till late night, the wagers received being only 85 Taka a day (Garden authority, 2017). The literacy rate among them is very low as they are employed into garden works in their childhood which is more profitable to them (Kajol,2006). The tea worker communities are one of the most vulnerable people of Bangladesh (Majumder *et al.*, 2012). The reliance of families on the tea plantations

for food, water, shelter, education, health and sanitation makes them extremely vulnerable to closures (William, 2003).

Among the plantation crops, tea is a highly labor-intensive sector. Historically, the opening up of tea and other plantations worldwide has been built on migrant unskilled labor and women workers constitute the majority of workers of tea garden in India and Bangladesh. The minimum wage levels that are paid to the tea workers seem to be highly insufficient to cover basic needs, because wages in the tea plantation sector are relatively low, even by the plantation sector's standards. The reliance of families on the tea plantations for food, water, shelter, education, health and sanitation makes them extremely vulnerable to closures. The children cannot avail of any reservation facility opportunity in the employment sphere. After passing from the lower primary schools of the gardens, they are forced to join the tea labor workforce as unskilled workers with no educational and alternative employment opportunity. Generation after generation, they remain tied to the gardens. They born in the gardens and die in the gardens. They are the epitome of modern day bonded labor – the forced and unfree labor. Although tea sector significantly contributes to the national economy of Bangladesh, the socio-economic status and livelihood improvement aspects of the tea garden workers did not get much importance to policy makers. This research will highlight the perceived socio-economic status of tea workers of Sadar upazila in Sylhet district and to find out necessary status with some policy guidelines for betterment of the tea workers.

## **1.2 Justification of the Study**

The major focus of the study is to assess the socio-economic status of the tea garden workers. Tea cultivation is always popular in our country for its business purpose. The country can earn a considerable amount of foreign currency by exporting tea. Government and non-government organizations are trying to improve tea production. But tea garden workers are the major part of tea production. But now-a-days numbers of workers are decreasing day by day for very poor salary, vulnerable living and socio-economic conditions. Garden authority deprive them a lot without giving minimum facilities (Ahammed *et al.*, 2015). The tea garden workers are trying to involve with other work by leaving their present profession. That's why gardens are facing workers problem. If they leave the profession the tea production will fall down and our economy will face problem. But our hilly areas and northern part are very

suitable for tea cultivation. Therefore for improvement of the production, first need to improve the tea garden workers socio-economic conditions. It is high time that researcher and policy makers come together discuss the issue and trying to assess perceived socio-economic status of the workers by available information between them.

Considering the above fact, the researcher became interested to undertake a study on **“Assessing socio-economic status of tea garden workers in Sylhet district”**.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Based on above discussion, the researcher undertook a piece of study entitled **“Assessing socio-economic improvement of tea garden workers in Sylhet district”**.

The purpose of this study is to answers of the following questions:

- a. What are the characteristics of tea garden workers that influence their perceived socio-economic status?
- b. What is the extent of perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers?
- c. To what extent the selected characteristics of tea garden workers influence their perceived socio-economic status?
- d. What kinds of risks are faced by the tea workers in their perceived socio-economic status?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To assess the following selected characteristics of the tea garden workers
  - a. Age
  - b. Level of education
  - c. Family size
  - d. Monthly income
  - e. Dowry in marriage
  - f. Access to credit
  - g. Working experience
  - h. Communication media exposure
2. To determine the extent of perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers

3. To explore the contribution of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers in their perceived socio-economic status
4. To determine the risks faced by the tea workers in their socio-economic status

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

Perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers varies from garden to garden even within the same garden. Improvement of tea garden workers perceived socio-economic condition is a crying need now-a-days. It was a main focus of this study. Our country has specific laws for normal workers but we have not any fixed laws for tea garden workers. Government is not thinking about vulnerable socio-economic condition of tea garden workers. Tea garden workers are depriving of all types of worker living facilities. They have huge contribution to increase our GDP but no one is thinking about the improvement from their present condition. Findings of the study would be useful to planners, policy makers, administrators, garden authority and others associate with the development of tea garden workers.

### **1.6 Limitation of the Study**

Considering time, money and other resources and also to make the study manageable and meaningful, it was essential to state certain limitations as noted below:

1. The study was confined to a selected area: 3 tea gardens of Sadar Upazila under Sylhet district.
2. There were many characteristics but only 9 characteristics of them were selected for the study.
3. The researcher had to depend on the data furnished by the selected respondents while interviewing.
4. The study was confined on only few tea garden workers.

### **1.7 Assumption of the Study**

The following assumptions were made by the researcher while undertaking the present study:

1. The subject selected for the study was competent enough to reply the queries made by the researcher.
2. The responses furnished by the respondents were reliable and valid.

3. Information given by the selected respondents was representative of the whole respective workers of the study area.
4. The researcher who acted as interviewer was well adjusted to the social and cultural environment of the study area.
5. The investigator was free from bias and prejudice at the time of data collection.
6. The situation of the tea garden workers was more or less similar throughout study area.
7. The socio-economic status of tea garden workers gave a representative feature in the context of the other areas of Bangladesh.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

A researcher needs to know the meaning and contents of every term that he uses in his thesis paper. It should clarify the issue to the investigator and readers. However, to clarify the meaning, mostly used key terms throughout the study are given below:

#### **Perceived socio-economic status**

Perceived socio-economic status referred to the condition of the well being and in the standard of living of the people.

#### **Social capital**

Social capital is a collective value of all social networks and the inclinations that arises from these-network to do things for each other.

#### **Economic capital**

Economic capital is the amount of capital that a firm, usually in financial services, needs to ensure that the company stays solvent given its risk profile.

#### **Respondents**

Randomly selected people considered to be representable of the population are known as respondents. They are the representative people and from them a social science researcher usually gets his required data for his research purpose. In this study, the respondents were the tea garden workers.



### **Tea garden workers**

Tea garden workers referred to the workers who are related with the all stages of tea production such as tea plants planting, pruning, cutting, drain making, fertilizer applying, leaf plucking, leaf transporting, leaf processing, tea selling etc.

### **Age**

It is defined as the chronological duration of time from birth of the tea garden workers to the time of interview.

### **Level of Education**

Education is the process of changing knowledge, skill and attitude of an individual. It was measured in terms of years of schooling completed by an individual at the time of interview.

### **Family size**

It referred to the number including the respondent himself, his wife, children, parents, siblings and other permanent dependents, who lived together in a family unit.

### **Monthly Income**

The term monthly family income referred to the total income by the earning members of a family from tea garden, livestock, poultry, homestead gardening, job, business and other accessible sources during a month.

### **Dowry in Marriage**

Dowry in marriage was defined to whatever property or savings a woman herself brings into a marriage.

### **Access to credit**

It is defined the process by which money can be borrow from different sources such as NGOs, relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, local leaders.

### **Working experience**

It referred to the number of years a respondent has been engaged himself/herself in a work and it is expressed in number of years.

**Communication media exposure**

It referred to the contact with different media such as friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, local leader, mobile, radio, television and others for dissemination of new knowledge and technologies.

**Risk faced by the workers**

Risk means any difficult situation. The term risk faced by the workers referred to different problems faced by the tea garden workers in their livelihood.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The present study was concerned with the perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers. This chapter deals with the reviews of the past works that relates to this investigation directly or indirectly. The researcher searched internet and reviewed related literatures. But frantic search, the researcher found no studies which are directly related to perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers. The researcher intensively searched internet, available books, journals and printed materials from different sources of home and abroad and tried his best to collect related information.

On this consideration, the literatures had been organized into following four sections:

First Section: Concept of Perceived Socio-economic Status

Second Section: General Findings on Perceived Socio-economic Status of Tea Garden Workers or Any Workers

Third Section: The Relationship between Selected Characteristics of Tea Garden Workers and their Perceived Socio-economic Status

Fourth Section: Conceptual Framework of the Study

#### **2.1 Concept of Perceived Socio-economic Status**

Perceived socio-economic status was the relationship between economic activity and social life. Perceived socio-economic status was is the condition of the wellbeing and of the standard of living of the people. The perceived socio-economic thematic area aims to ensure that peoples meet their meet their basic needs that are essential to live a life of dignity. This includes access to the quality of education, better healthcare, decent housing, safe drinking water, good sanitation, as well as equitable distribution of people wealth. Perceived socio-economic status was measured with the indicator of GDP, life expectancy, literacy and level of employments. The impacts of perceived socio-economic status are seen in the changes in laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes. The need to accelerate perceived socio-economic status was vital, in order to address poverty. Poverty eradication may require actions to reduce the suffering of the poor and increase their access to social

service. It also requires action to increase the poor's ability to generate an income in order to meet their needs.

There was also need to strengthen policies, delivery mechanisms and outputs in the key social status areas. Areas of concern include education, health, HIV/AIDS, child welfare, gender equity and protection of vulnerable groups. Over the past two decades social sectors had suffered from economic reform. This had contributed to the worsening of social indicators, including declining school enrolment rates, increase in under five mortality rates, increase in HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, increasing child labour, declining immunisation coverage, increase of child malnutrition rates etc. The reversal of these trends must happen if sustainable development was to be achieved.

## **2.2 General Findings on Perceived Socio-economic Status of Tea Garden Workers**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found that livelihood status moderately improved for the tea garden workers (63.3%). Social & physical capital mostly improved and financial capital deprived off specially. Livelihood status of tea garden workers was mostly influenced by their condition of formal education, monthly income and communication media exposure.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed that most of the women tea workers (70%) had medium adoption of survival strategies. The mean adopted survival strategies were higher for food, health & hygiene and financial aspect than housing and immediate incidence aspect. They also found that formal education, access to credit and communication media exposure had significant positive relationships with the survival strategies adopted by women tea workers.

Sangeeta (2015) concluded that only 27% of the total population was employed in the tea garden as permanent and casual labours. The pay period of the plantation labours working in tea garden was on 12 days basis where daily wage was Rs.90.50 irrespective of gender. Permanent labours of the garden receive ration for the whole family but the casual labours receive for himself/herself only. They did not have proper sanitation facility and water supply facility.

Yasin *et al.* (2015) reported that 34% of the families had two and three members working in their family. And only 1.33% families had six members working. Their works were fixed. The survey reveals that tea garden workers family had child

worker. They also found that, a substantial part of the people under the study use open space as toilets which was very unhealthy and prone to various sanitation related diseases.

Enamol (2014) revealed that female workers were being oppressed and suppressed in each and every sphere of life as from family residence to job field. The study also exhibited very explicitly that 68% of female workers had no control over their own income. 94% had no hereditary property ownership though they were entitled to get it legally from their family.

Pallabi (2014) found that total 61% of the respondents were in the age group of 30-40 years and 72.25% of the respondents were illiterate, while 14% were undermatric, 6.75% were matriculate, 5.85% were undergraduate and rest 1.25% was graduate. About 92% of the women workers had their monthly wage Rs. 1000-5000 in the selected tea garden were as of Sonitpur District.

Biswajit (2013) observed that all of the tea workers in these selected tea gardens workers were living within half to one-mile distance from working place. Their weekly wage was only 330 Taka for 8 hours working in a day.

Das *et al.* (2013) concluded that more than 85% of the women workers faced medium to high risk. The mean risk was highest for food and housing aspect and lowest for financial aspect. They also observed that number of dependent members had significant positive relation and formal education and income had significant negative relation with the risk faced by women tea workers to maintain livelihood.

Barkat *et al.* (2010) reported that about 74% of households in the tea gardens fall below the absolute poverty line and about 50% fall below the hardcore poverty line. It was observed that 94% of the surveyed households cooked their food inside the living space, a practice that had an inverse relation with the educational level of the household head and household income, declining as these rises. Gender differentials show girls were more wasted than boys.

Tulsi *et al.* (2006) revealed that around 55% respondents wanted the physical structure of their respective house to be improved and almost 64% respondents want to be ensured of having scientific sanitation and pure drinking water, and 53% respondents requested for increasing the wage of tea garden labourers.

## **2.3 Literatures Related to Relationships between Selected Characteristics of the Tea Garden Workers and their Perceived Socio-economic Status**

### **2.3.1 Age and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that age of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that age of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that age of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

### **2.3.2 Level of education and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that formal education of the tea garden workers had significant relationship and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that formal education of the tea garden workers had significant relationship and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that formal education of the tea garden workers had significant relationship and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

### **2.3.3 Family size and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that household size of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that household size of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that household size of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

#### **2.3.4 Monthly income and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that monthly income of the tea garden workers had significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that monthly income of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that monthly income of the tea garden workers had significant and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

#### **2.3.5 Dowry in marriage and socio-economic status**

Yasin *et al.* (2015) found that dowry in marriage had significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

#### **2.3.6 Access to credit and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that access to credit of the tea garden workers had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that access to credit of the tea garden workers had significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that access to credit of the tea garden workers had no significant and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

#### **2.3.7 Working experience and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that working experience of the tea garden workers had no significant and negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that working experience of the tea garden workers had no significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that working experience of the tea garden workers had no significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood.

### **2.3.8 Communication media exposure and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

Rashid *et al.* (2015) observed in their study that communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had significant and positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic survival strategies adopted.

Das *et al.* (2013) revealed in their study that communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had no significant and positive relationship with perceived their socio-economic livelihood.

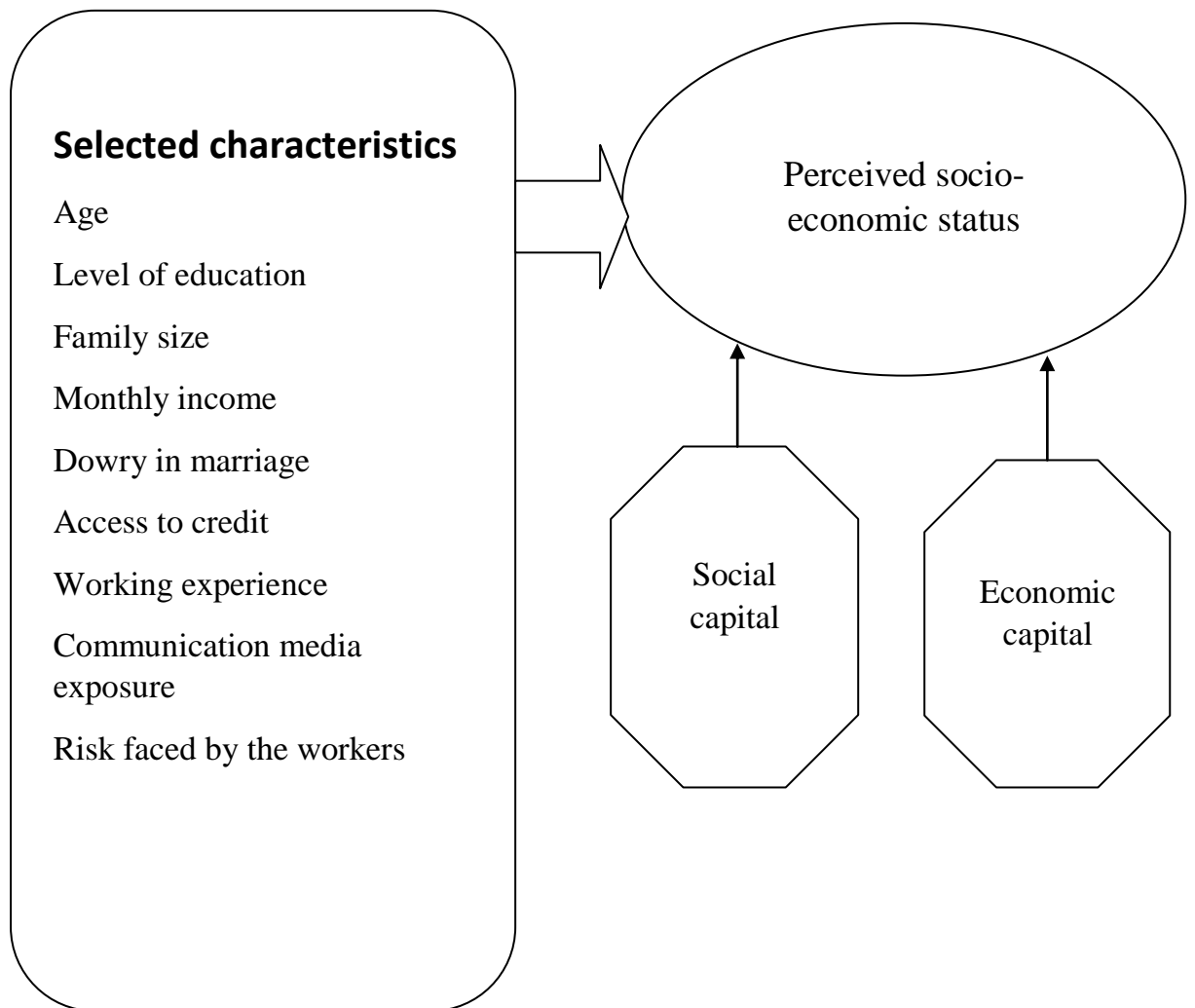
### **2.3.9 Risk faced by the workers and socio-economic status**

Kamruzzaman *et al.* (2015) found in their study that risk faced by the tea garden workers had significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic livelihood status.

## **2.4 Conceptual Model of the Study**

In case of scientific study, it is most important task to select and measurement of the variables. It was expected that 'Perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers' as the dependent variable would be influenced by selected characteristics of the tea garden workers as independent variables, viz. age, level of education, family size, monthly income, dowry in marriage, access to credit, working experience, communication media exposure and risk faced by the workers. A simple conceptual framework of the study is presented below in figure 2.1.





**Fig. 2.1 The Conceptual Model of the Study**

## CHAPTER III

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methodology refers to the methods and procedures in the research work. For any scientific investigation methods and procedures are very important. It is very important to select the proper methods for the study. The methods and operational procedures followed in considering this study have been described in this chapter.

#### 3.1 Locale of the Study

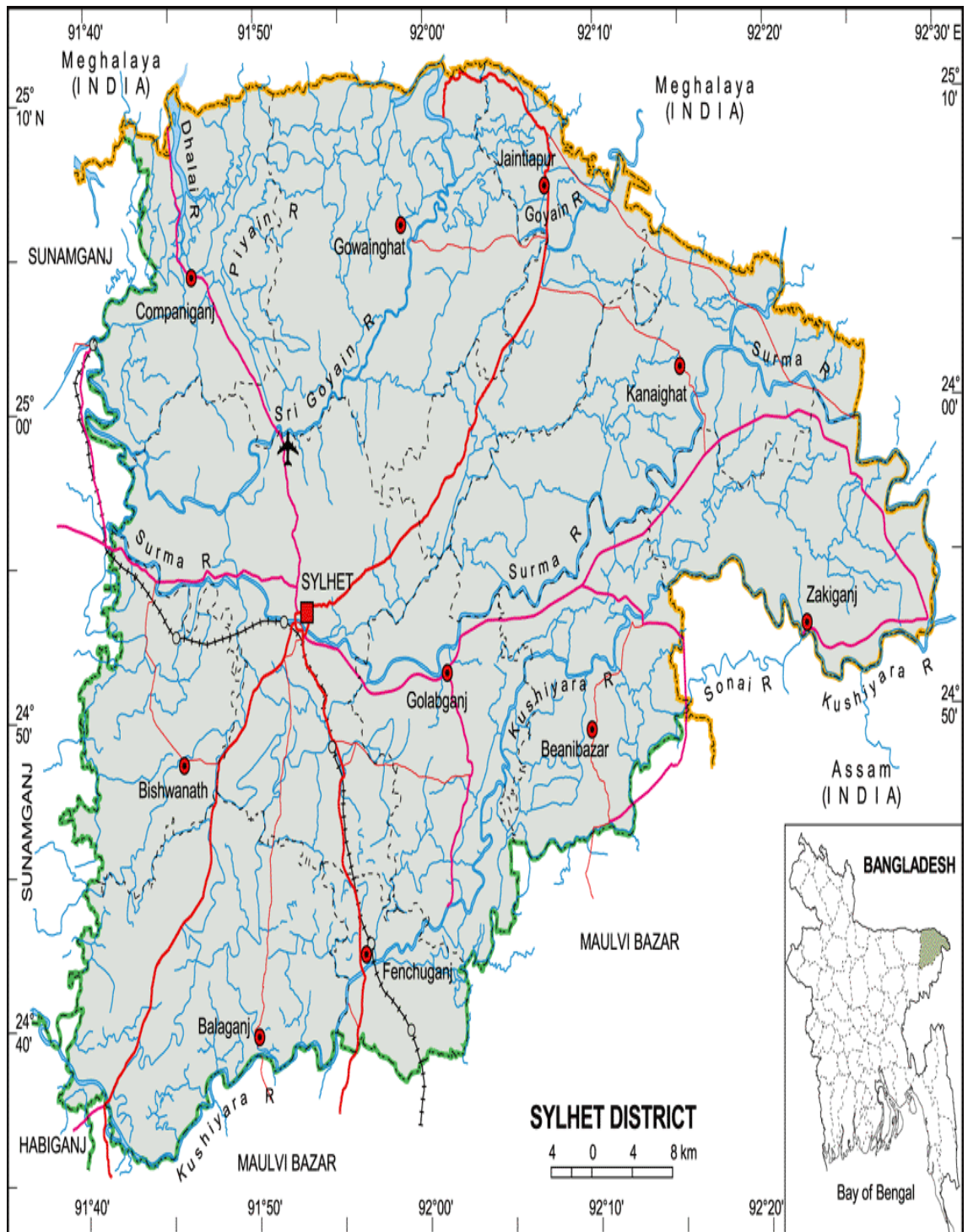
The study area was located at Sylhet Sadar Upazila under Sylhet district. There are 8 tea gardens in Sylhet Sadar Upazila. Out of 8 tea gardens, 3 were selected purposively for the study and they were Ali Bahar, Kewacherra and Tarapur tea garden. So, these selected gardens were the locale of the study. The location of the study area has been shown in figure 3.1.

#### 3.2 Population and Sample Size of the Study

The number of the tea garden workers of these selected gardens (Ali Bahar, Kewacherra, Tarapur) were 171, 226, 148 respectively. Thus, a total of 545 tea garden workers constituted the population of the study. Thus, out of 545 workers 109 were (20% of the population) selected randomly which have been shown in figure 3.2.

The sampling procedure was followed:

1. The researcher first collected the list of the workers from each garden with the help of worker leaders called 'Babu' of the respective gardens,
2. A number of 109 samples (tea garden workers) were selected from the three selected garden i.e. 34 samples (20%) from Ali Bahar, 45 samples (20%) from Kewacherra and 30 samples (20%) from Tarapur. Samples were selected by using random number, and
3. A reserve list of 11 workers were prepared for use in case of unavailability of the respondent for any reason. Distribution of the population sample and reserve list are shown in Table 3.1.



**Fig. 3.1** A map of the Sylhet district showing locale of the study area

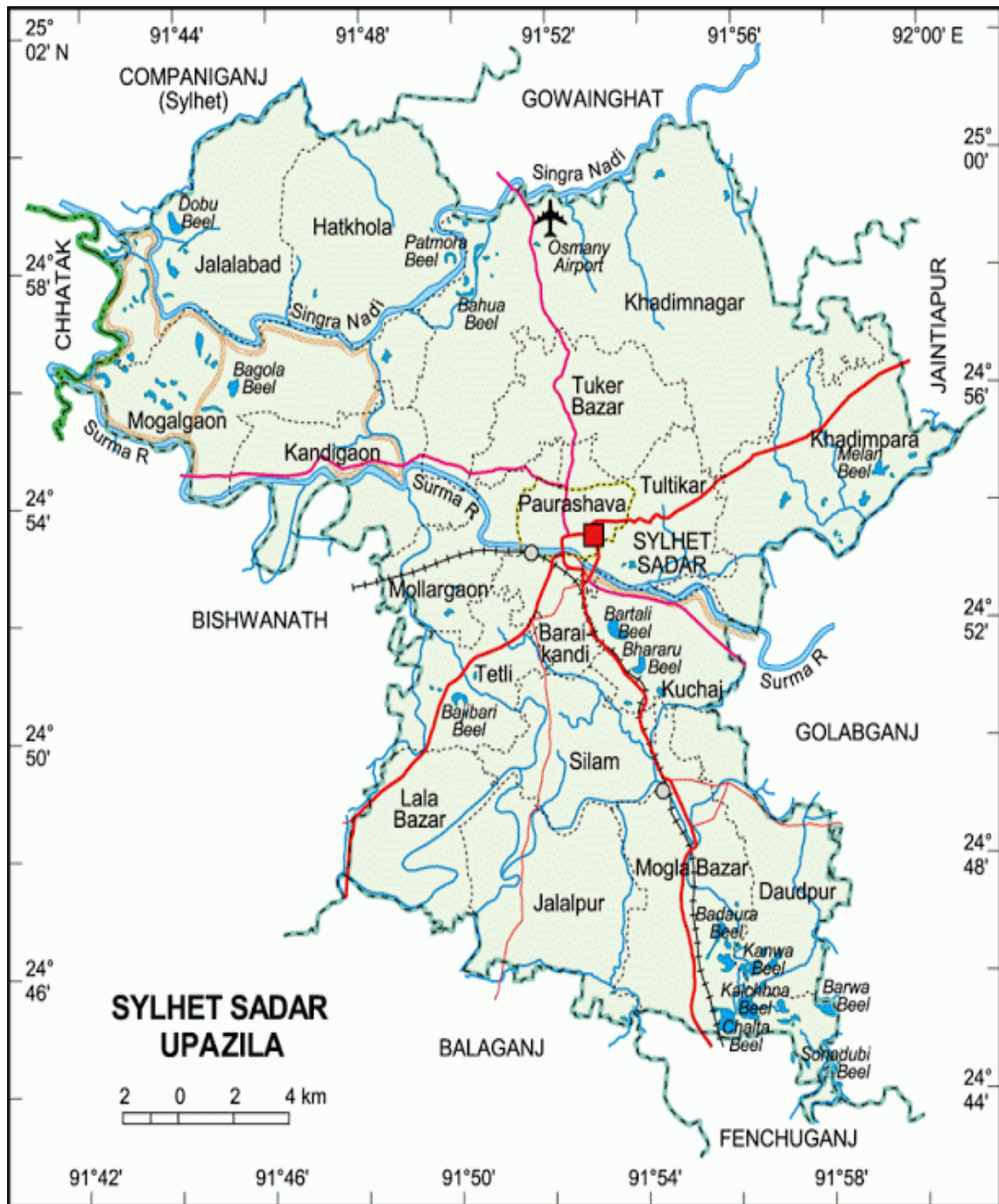


Fig. 3.2 A map of the Sylhet Sadar Upazila showing the study area

**Table 3.1 Distribution of the population size and a reserve list of the tea garden workers of selected the tea gardens of Sylhet district**

<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Tea Garden</b>	<b>No. of workers</b>	<b>No. of workers included in sample</b>	<b>No. of workers included in reserve list</b>
Sylhet Sadar	Ali Bahar	171	34	3
	Kewacherra	226	45	5
	Tarapur	148	30	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>545</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>11</b>

### **3.3 Data collecting instrument**

To collect data a structured interview schedule was prepared. Open and closed both form of questions was included in the interview schedule. Simple and direct questions were also included in case of any opinion from the workers. The rough interview schedule was prepared. It was pre-tested among 12 workers in the study area. According to pre-test result the interview schedule was corrected and modified. Then the corrected and modified schedule was printed and multiply. This interview schedule is presented in Appendix-A.

### **3.4 Collection of data**

Data were collected through personal interviewing by the researcher himself through face to face interview with the help of corrected and modified interview schedule. Before collection of data, the researcher met with the Garden Authority of the respective gardens in order to explain the objectives of the study and requested them to provide necessary help and co-operation at the time of data collection. The local leaders (Babu) were also approached to get essential help. As a result, the researcher did not face any problem in collecting data. The researcher was able to establish proper rapport with the workers so that he could collect the proper information. He was explained the workers for the main purpose for his study and collected the information sincerely. Collection of data took 20 days from 07 June to 27 June 2017.

### **3.5 Variables of the study**

Various perceived socio-economic characteristics of tea workers like age, level of education, family size, monthly income, dowry in marriage, access to credit, working experience, communication media exposure etc. were considered as the independent variables of the study. The dependent variable was perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers.

### **3.6 Measurement of the variables**

The procedure of measurement of the independent and dependent variables of the study are described below:

#### **3.6.1 Measurement of independent variables**

The procedures of measuring the independent variables of the study are presented below:

##### **3.6.1.1 Age**

Age of the workers was measured the chronological duration of time from birth of the tea garden workers to the time of interview. A score of one (1) was given for every year of the worker age.

##### **3.6.1.2 Level of education**

The education of a tea garden worker was measured by the number of years of schooling completed in an institution. A score of one (1) was given for each year of schooling completed. For example, if a tea garden worker can't read and write his score was zero (0), a score 0.5 was given if the tea garden worker who could sign only and a score 6 was given if the tea garden worker passed the final examination of class six.

##### **3.6.1.3 Family size**

The family size was measured by the total number of members in the family of a tea garden worker. It included active/earning members and dependent members. A score of one (1) was given for each member. If one worker family consisted to five members, his score was given five (5).

#### **3.6.1.4 Monthly income**

Monthly family income was measured by the total income of the earning members of a family from tea garden, livestock, poultry, homestead gardening, job, business and other accessible sources during a month. Monthly income was measured by the following formula:

$$MI= A+B+C+D+E+F+G$$

Where,

MI = Monthly Income

A= Income from tea garden

B= Income from livestock

C= Income from poultry

D= Income from homestead gardening

E= Income from job

F= Income from business

G= Income from others

A score of one (1) was given for one thousand taka. For example, if a worker's monthly income was ten thousand taka he was scored by ten (10).

#### **3.6.1.5 Dowry in marriage**

Marital status was measured by yes/no questions. In case of taken dowry in marriage of the tea garden worker was also measure by the answering yes/no questions. A score was given zero (0) if answer was no and in case of answer yes, a score was given one (1) when the dowry product/money value was equal to one thousand taka.

#### **3.6.1.6 Access to credit**

Access to credit was defined the process by which the tea garden worker borrowed money/loan from different sources such as NGOs, relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, local leaders. It was measured by four points rating score. A score 0, 1, 2, 3 was given for no access, low access, medium access and high access respectively.

Thus, the score rang of tea garden workers access to credit could be '0' to '18' where '0' indicates no access and '18' indicates highest access.

### **3.6.1.7 Working experience**

Working experience was defined the number of years of a tea garden worker has been engaged himself in the tea garden. A score was given one (1) for each year of experience. For example, if one tea garden worker experience was twelve years he/she was given twelve (12) score.

### **3.6.1.8 Communication media exposure**

Communication media exposure was defined the contact with different media such as friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, local leader, mobile radio, television and others for dissemination of new knowledge and technologies. It was measure by computing communication media exposure score on the basis of tea garden workers used to contact with the media. A score was given zero (0) for not used of the media, score one (1) was given for rarely media used of the media, score two (2) was given for occasionally used of the media and score three (3) was given for frequently used of the media. The communication media exposure was determined by summing up his/her scores for contact with all the selected media. Thus, the tea garden worker communication media exposure could range from '0' to '27' where '0' indicates no communication media exposure and '27' indicates highest communication media exposure.

### **3.6.1.9 Risk faced by the workers**

The term risk faced referred to different problem faced by the tea garden worker in their livelihood. They face lots of risk in their regular life, but only fifteen major risk were selected for the research after consultation with supervisor and relevant experts. It was measured by four extent responses of the risk such as no risk, low risk, medium risk and high risk. A score was given 0, 1, 2, 3 respectively for no risk, low risk, medium risk and high risk faced by the tea garden worker. Score of risk in livelihood of a tea garden worker was computed by adding all the scores gained by those responses from all the fourteen items.

Risk face by the tea garden worker for each indicator was calculated by the following formula:



$$RFI= 3\times R_H + 2\times R_M + 1\times R_L + 0\times R_N$$

Where,

RFI= Risk Faced Index

R<sub>H</sub>= High risk

R<sub>M</sub>= Medium risk

R<sub>L</sub>= Low risk and

R<sub>N</sub>= No risk

Thus, the risk faced in the tea garden workers livelihood could range from '0' to '45' where '0' means no risk face in their livelihood and '45' means highest risk face in their livelihood.

### **3.6.2 Measurement of the dependent variable**

The dependent variable was perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers. It was measured by four points rating scale on two assets as social and economic capital. There are many aspects by which tea garden workers livelihood can measure. Here, the researcher focused on mainly social and economic aspects for measuring the status. Social capital was measured by observing eight items responses by the tea garden workers and economic capital was also measured by observing eight items responses by the tea garden workers. There were lots of socio-economic items but only sixteen for aspect were selected for the research after consultation with supervisor and relevant experts. It was measured by four extent responses of status such as high status, medium status, low status and no status at all. A score was given three (3) for high status, score two (2) was given for medium status, score one (1) was given for low status and score zero (0) was given for no status in the different stages of livelihood of the tea garden workers. Perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers was obtained by summing up his/her scores for all sixteen (16) statements in item no. 10 of the interview schedule.

Thus, the tea garden workers perceived socio-economic status could range from '0' to '48' where '0' indicates no status and '48' indicates highest status.

### **3.7 Statement of Hypothesis**

A hypothesis is a specific statement of prediction. A single study may have one or many hypotheses. There may have two types of hypothesis. i.e. research hypothesis and null hypothesis.

### **3.7.1 Research hypothesis**

The research hypothesis in this study was designed to know the relationship between nine characteristics of the tea garden workers and their perceived socio-economic status. It was stated in positive form and the hypothesis was:

“Each of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers had contribution to their perceived socio-economic status.”

### **3.7.2 Null hypothesis**

The following null hypothesis was commenced of the study:

“Each of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers had no contribution to their perceived socio-economic status”.

## **3.8 Data processing**

### **3.8.1 Editing**

After collection of data, the raw data were analyzed thoroughly to detect uneven states or errors. The researcher was followed the appropriate scoring technique while converting the data into quantitative form. Interview schedule was observed carefully. By doing this, very minor errors could be detected and were corrected promptly.

### **3.8.2 Coding and tabulation**

Consultation with the research supervisor and co-supervisor, the researcher was prepared a coding plan. By suitable scoring technique, the qualitative data were transformed into quantitative form. Then the data were tabulated in accordance with the objective of the study.

### **3.8.3 Categorization of data**

After coding, the raw data as well as the workers perceived socio-economic characteristics were classified into various categories. According to nature of distribution of data, those categories were developed for each variable. The categorization procedures have been explained while describing the variables under consideration in the result and discussion section.

### **3.9 Statistical analysis**

The statistical measures such as range, mean, standard deviation, percentage, rank order were used for describing the variables. For clear understanding, tables were also presented. Step-wise multiple regression was used to find out the contribution of the selected characteristics in their perceived socio-economic status. Co-efficient values in 5 percent level percent level is indicated by one asterisk (\*), and by two asterisks (\*\*) at 1 percent level of significant. For rejected of null hypothesis five percent level of significant was used. For determining the extent of risk, rank order was made based on descending order of the Risk Faced Index (RFI). To perform all these processes the SPSS computer software was used.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Sequential and detailed result and discussion has been presented in this chapter. The chapter divided into four sections:

First section : Characteristics of the tea garden workers

Second section : Perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers

Third section : Contribution of the selected characteristics and their extent of perceived socio-economic status

Fourth section : Risk faced index of the tea garden workers

#### **4.1 Characteristics of the tea garden workers**

Nine (9) characteristics of the tea garden workers were selected to find out their contribution on their perceived socio-economic status. These selected characteristics were age, level of education, family size, monthly income, dowry in marriage, access to credit, working experience, communication media exposure, risk faced by the workers. Measuring unit, mean, range, mean, standard deviation of those characteristics of tea garden workers were described in this section. A summary profile of tea garden tea garden workers characteristics is presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Characteristics profile of the tea garden workers(n=109)**

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Unit of measurement	Possible range	Observed range	Mean	S. D.
01.	Age	Year	Unknown	18-75	39.42	10.80
02.	Level of Education	Level of schooling	Unknown	0-6	0.26	0.96
03.	Family size	Number of members	Unknown	1-10	4.72	1.58
04.	Monthly income	'000' Taka	Unknown	2.20-30.3	7.51	5.42
05.	Dowry in marriage	'000' Taka	Unknown	0-41	13	9.11
06.	Access to credit	Score	Unknown	2-10	4.84	1.81
07.	Working experience	Number of years	Unknown	4-62	24.45	10.97
08.	Communication media exposure	Score	Unknown	11-23	13.75	1.97
09.	Risk faced by the tea garden workers	Score	Unknown	18-36	29.52	4.93

**4.1.1 Age**

Age of the tea garden workers varied from 18 to 75 years, the average being 39.42 years and the standard deviation was 10.90. According to their age, the workers were classified into three categories such as 'young aged' (up to 30 years), 'middle aged' (31-45) and 'old aged' (above 45). The distribution of the workers according to their age has been presented in Table 4.2.

Data presented in Table 4.2 indicated that the highest portion 46.8% of the workers were middle aged whereas old were lowest 25.7% and young were 27.5%. The findings were logical because of middle and young workers are able to do physical hard work more than old workers. Tea garden work is laborer work so it means that in

the study area almost all of the laborious works are being managed by middle aged workers.

**Table 4.2 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their age**

Categories	Basis of categorization (year)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Young	Up to 30	30	27.5	39.24	10.9
Middle	31-45	51	46.8		
Old	Above 45	28	25.7		
Total		109	100		

#### 4.1.2 Level of education

Level of education of the tea garden workers varied from 0 to 6, the average being 0.26 and the standard deviation was 0.96. Here, standard deviation is greater than mean cause only 0.92 percent were secondary level where 80.7 percent were illiterate.

According to level of education, the workers were classified into four categories such as ‘illiterate’ (0), ‘can sign only’ (0.5), ‘primary education’ (1-5), ‘secondary education’ (6-10). The distribution of the workers according to their level of education has been presented in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their level of education**

Categories	Basis of categorization (level of schooling)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Illiterate	0	88	80.7	0.26	0.96
Can sign only	0.5	17	15.7		
Primary	1-5	3	2.8		
Secondary	6-10	1	0.92		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.3 indicated that, the highest portion 80.7% of the workers were illiterate whereas secondary level educated were the lowest 0.92%, 15.7% workers were can sign only and 2.8% workers were passed primary classes. The

findings revealed that, the current literacy rate in the garden is the poorest than that of national average of 62.3 percent (BBS, 2016).

#### 4.1.3 Family size

The number of family members of the tea garden workers varied from 1 to 10, the average being 4.72 and the standard deviation was 1.58. According to the number of family members, the workers were classified into three categories such as ‘small’ (up to 4 members), ‘medium’ (5-7 members) and ‘large’ (above 7 members). The distribution of the workers according to their family size has been presented in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their family size**

Categories	Basis of categorization (no. of members)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Small	Up to 4	51	46.8	4.72	1.58
Medium	5-7	53	48.6		
Large	Above 7	5	4.6		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.4 indicated that, the majority workers had medium family (48.6%) whereas 46.8% workers had small family and 4.6% workers had large family. The findings revealed that the average family size was 4.72% in the tea garden is almost equal to the national average of 4.5.

#### 4.1.4 Monthly income

The monthly income of the tea garden workers varied from Taka 2200 to 30300, the average being Taka7500 and the standard deviation was 5.4. According to the monthly income, the workers were classified into three categories such as ‘very low income’ (up to 5 thousand), ‘low income’ (6-12 thousand) and ‘medium’ (13-32 thousand). The distribution of the workers according to their monthly income has been presented in Table 4.5.

Data presented in Table 4.5 indicated that, the majority workers had very low income (43.1%) whereas 35.8% workers had low and only 21.1% workers had medium income. Most of the tea garden workers income were very low because they were illiterate, they had no cultivable land, they had not scope to earn money from livestock and poultry rearing, they need to engaged with tea garden work but their

**Table 4.5 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their monthly income**

Categories	Basis of categorization ('000' taka)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Very low	Up to 5	47	43.1	7.51	5.42
Low	6-12	39	35.8		
Medium	13-32	23	21.1		
Total		109	100		

salary was very less, they had very little chance to work in outside of the garden and they wasted money to buy alcohol. The findings reveal that their per day income is only TK. 85 but others workers per day income is more than TK. 165 (wageindicator.org, 2016). Thus, it can be said that tea garden workers wage pattern is very poor than other workers.

#### **4.1.5 Dowry in marriage**

Data indicated that the majority workers were married (97.2%) whereas only 2.8% workers were unmarried. The findings revealed that most of the workers were married and mostly they married in very young age.

The dowry system in marriage of the tea garden workers were very common phenomenon. It varied from TK. 0 to 41 thousand, the average being 13 and the standard deviation was 9.1. According to the dowry system in marriage, the workers were classified into three categories such as 'lower rate dowry in marriage' (up to TK. 6 thousand), 'medium rate dowry in marriage' (TK. 7-15 thousand) and 'higher rate dowry in marriage' (above TK. 15 thousand). The distribution of the workers according to dowry system in marriage has been presented in Table 4.6.



Data presented in Table 4.6 indicated that, the majority workers were taken medium rate dowry (41.3%) whereas 35.8% workers were taken higher rate dowry and 22.9% workers taken dowry in lower rate at the time of wedding. They were taken dowry because of their vulnerable poor condition. They thought by taking money of other product from bridal father they would able to increase their economic condition.

**Table 4.6 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their dowry in marriage**

Categories	Basis of categorization ('000' tk)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Lower rate	Up to 6	25	22.9	13.0	9.1
Medium rate	7-15	45	41.3		
Higher rate	Above 15	39	35.8		
Total		109	100		

The findings revealed that, the dowry rates mostly depended on their economic condition. The economic condition of the tea garden workers was very low so their dowry rate was also very low.

#### **4.1.6 Access to credit**

Computed score of access to credit of tea garden workers varied from TK 2 thousand to TK 10 thousand, the average being 4.84 and the standard deviation was 1.8. According to access to credit the workers were classified into two categories such as 'low access' (score up to 6) and 'medium access' (score above 6). The distribution of the workers according to access to credit has been presented in Table 4.7.

**Table 4.7 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their access to credit**

Categories	Basis of categorization (score)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Low access	Up to 6	89	81.7	4.84	1.8
Medium access	Above 6	20	18.3		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.7 indicated that, the majority workers had low access to credit (81.7%) whereas 18.3% workers had medium access to credit. The findings revealed that, their financial condition was very low and they needed to credit from others like NGOs, friends, relatives, colleagues, local leaders but their access to credit is mostly low. Most of the time they were avoided to access credit because they were unable to repay the credit. Their credit source was not also available because their friends, colleagues, relatives' financial conditions were nearly same as like as them.

#### **4.1.7 Working experience**

Computed score of working experience of tea garden workers varied from 4 to 62years, the average being 24.5 years and the standard deviation was 10.97. According to the working experience the workers were classified into three categories such as 'short working experience' (up to 10 years), 'medium working experience' (11-25 years) and 'long working experience' (above 25 years). The distribution of the workers according to working experience has been presented in Table 4.8.

**Table 4.8 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their working experience**

Categories	Basis of categorization (numbers of year)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Short working experienced	Up to 10	6	5.5		
Medium	11-25	55	50.5		

working experienced				24.45	10.97
Long working experienced	Above 25	48	44		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.8 indicated that, the majority workers had medium working experience (50.5%) whereas 44% workers had long working experience and only 5.5% had short working experience. Working experience is helpful to increase knowledge, skill and change attitude of the workers. It helps the worker to build confidence. The findings revealed that, the tea workers were very experienced and expert in leaf plucking, cutting and pruning, drain making, cleaning the garden, pesticide and fertilizer application etc. They learnt all the works from their childhood and they joined mostly as a child labor. So, most of them were highly experienced in the tea garden works.

#### **4.1.8 Communication media exposure**

Computed score of communication media exposure of tea garden workers varied from 11 to 23, the average being 13.8 and the standard deviation was 1.97. According to the communication media exposure the workers were classified into three categories such as 'very low exposure' (up to 10), 'low exposure' (11-16) and 'medium exposure' (above 16). The distribution of the workers according communication media exposure has been presented in Table 4.9.

**Table 4.9 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their communication media exposure**

Categories	Basis of categorization (score)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Very low	Up to 10	25	23	13.75	1.97
Low	11-16	77	70.6		
Medium	Above 16	7	6.4		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.9 indicated that, the majority workers had low communication media exposure (70.6%) whereas 23% workers had very low

communication media exposure, and only 6.4% had medium communication media exposure. Communication media exposure is very effective and powerful source of receiving information about various new things and technologies. It can help to improve tea garden workers vulnerable condition. The findings revealed that, communication media exposure of tea garden workers was not satisfactory.

#### 4.1.9 Risk faced by the workers

Risk means any difficult situation. The term risk faced by the workers referred to different problem faced by the tea garden workers in their livelihood. Computed score of risk faced by the tea garden workers varied from 18 to 36, the average being 29.52 and the standard deviation was 4.9. According to the risk faced by the workers were classified into two categories such as ‘medium’ (up to 25), and ‘high’ (above 25). The distribution of the risk faced by the workers has been presented in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to risk faced in working**

Categories	Basis of categorization (score)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Medium	Up to 25	28	25.7	29.52	4.9
High	Above 25	81	74.3		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.10 indicated that, the majority workers had faced high risk (74.3%) whereas 25.7% workers had faced medium risk. The findings revealed that, all the workers faced medium to high risk. That’s why their life style became problematic and full of struggles.

#### 4.2 Perceived socio-economic status

Computed score of perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers varied from 7 to 20, the average being 13.1 and the standard deviation was 3.3. According to the perceived socio-economic status the workers were classified into three categories such as ‘very low status’ (up to 11.45), ‘low status’ (11.45-14.75) and ‘medium

status' (above 14.75). The distribution of the workers according perceived socio-economic status has been presented in Table 4.11.

**Table 4.11 Distribution of the tea garden workers according to their perceived socio-economic status**

Categories	Basis of categorization (score)	Respondents		Mean	SD
		Numbers	Percentage		
Very low	Up to 11.45 (mean – 0.5sd)	36	33.0	13.1	3.3
Low	11.42- 14.75 (mean ±0.5sd)	38	34.9		
Medium	Above 14.75 (mean + 0.5sd)	35	32.1		
Total		109	100		

Data presented in Table 4.11 indicated that, the majority workers had low status (34.9%) whereas 33% workers had very low status and 32.1% had medium status. Their livelihood condition was not changed due to illiteracy, careless outlook of government, sucking tea garden policy etc. Sheheli (2011) found that fifty percent of the rural women had medium livelihood status through income generating activities in Bangladesh. Comparatively it is very lower incase of tea garden workers.

### **4.3 Contribution of the Selected Characteristics of the Tea Garden Workers and Their Extent of Perceived Socio-economic Status**

#### **4.3.1 Contribution of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers and their extent of perceived socio-economic status**

Then complete model of regression analysis was run with selected 10 variables. Due to the existence of inter-relationships among the independent variable, it was observed that the complete model regression results were misleading. To ascertain the best explanatory variables and to avoid the misleading result the method of step-wise multiple regression was administrated 9 independent variables were fitted together in

stepwise multiple regression analysis. The summarized results of step-wise multiple analysis with 9 independent variables on the tea garden workers perceived socio-economic status. It was observed that out of 9 variables 5 independent variables namely age ( $x_1$ ), level of education ( $x_2$ ), family size ( $x_3$ ), working experience ( $x_8$ ) and communication media exposure ( $x_9$ ) were inputted into regression equation. Other 4 variables were not inputted into regression equation. The regression equation so obtained has presented below:

$$Y = 12.28 - 0.267X_3 - 0.220X_1 - 0.202X_8 + 0.410X_2 + 0.454X_9$$

**Table 4.12 Summary of stepwise multiple regression analysis showing the contribution of selected characteristics of the tea garden workers and their perceived socio-economic status**

Variables inputted	Standardized Partial 'b' co-efficient	Value of 't' (with probability level)	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Increase in R <sup>2</sup>	Variation explained in percentage
Family size (X <sub>3</sub> )	-0.267	-2.86(0.050)	0.061	0.061	6.1
Age (X <sub>1</sub> )	-0.220	-2.3(0.073)	0.097	0.036	3.6
Working experience (X <sub>8</sub> )	-0.202	-2.1(0.051)	0.135	0.038	3.8
Level of education (X <sub>2</sub> )	0.410	4.6 (0.014)	0.160	0.025	2.5
Communication media exposure (X <sub>9</sub> )	0.454	5.3 (0.010)	0.198	0.038	3.8
Total				0.198	19.8

Multiple R = 0.547

R-square = 0.299

Adjusted R-square = 0.198

F ratio = 8.79

Standard error of estimate = 2.79

Constant = 12.28

The multiple R and R<sup>2</sup> values were found to be 0.547 and 0.299 respectively and the corresponding F-ratio was 8.79 which were significant at 0.001 levels. For determining unique contribution in perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers of each of five variables the increase in R<sup>2</sup> value was determined. The five variables jointly explained 19.8 percent of the total contribution on perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers. Family size had the highest contribution (6.1%), followed by working experience and communication media exposure had 3.8%, age had 3.6% and level of education had 2.5% contribution on perceived socio-economic status. Table 4.13 showed that family size, working experience, communication media exposure, age and level of education had significant contribution in perceived socio-economic status i.e. the workers who had small family size, working experience, communication media exposure, age and more education were found to have more perceived socio-economic status and in this connection some predictive importance has been briefly discussed below:

#### **Family size on perceived socio-economic status**

Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, family size of the tea garden workers had highest contribution (6.1%) to their perceived socio-economic status.

Therefore, it was concluded that family size of the tea garden workers affected their perceived socio-economic status. The workers having less members could be involved in more income generating activities. It could be postulated that family size of the tea garden workers played significant role on their extent of perceived socio-economic status.

#### **Working experience on perceived socio-economic status**

Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, working experience of the tea garden workers had second highest contribution (3.8%) to their perceived socio-economic status.

A worker having more experience will have more knowledge. It helps to the workers to take appropriate decision in time when need. So, it is not possible to improve perceived socio-economic condition due to lack of experience.

### **Communication media exposure on perceived socio-economic status**

Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had also second highest contribution (3.8%) to their perceived socio-economic status.

Communication media exposure had influence to improve perceived socio-economic condition. It is obvious contact with friend, relatives, colleague, local leader, radio, television, mobile etc. change the attitude of the workers and make concern about their rights.

### **Age on perceived socio-economic status**

Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, age of the tea garden workers had third highest contribution (3.6%) to their perceived socio-economic status.

Generally young and middle-aged worker can take much load and middle-aged people are serious on their work and try to involve with earning activities. For this reason, middle aged worker can improve perceived socio-economic condition much.

### **Level of education on perceived socio-economic status**

Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, the level of education of the tea garden workers had last highest contribution (2.5%) to their perceived socio-economic status.

Education helps to the workers to broaden the outlook and expand mental health to decrease knowledge gap about their perceived socio-economic status. An educate man is more careful about his rights. The workers who had no schooling s/he is supposed to face great difficulty in his livelihood. It is need to improve literacy rate of the workers for status of their livelihood.

## **4.4 Risk Faced Index of Tea Garden Workers in Perceived Socio-economic Status**

The formula for determining RFI has been shown in chapter III. The selected nine risks faced by the tea garden workers which were arranged in rank order according to their descending order of risk faced index (RFI) as shown in Table 4.14.

The possible range of Risk Faced Index was 0 to 327 and observed range from 321 to 62. On the basis of RFI it was observed that ranked first 'lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration' followed by 'lack of sufficient housing facilities', 'lack of



educational facilities’, ‘lack of government support’, ‘risk of unhygienic living conditions’, ‘lack of health benefits’, ‘lack of available pure drinking water sources’, ‘lack of proper wage laws’, ‘lack of permanent employment opportunities’, ‘risk of child marriage’, ‘risk of sexual harassment’, ‘risk of mother mortality’, ‘risk of child mortality’, ‘lack of proper leave facilities’.

**Table 4.13 Rank order of 15 selected risk faced by the workers in their perceived socio-economic status**

Items	Extent of risk faced				RFI	Rank order
	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	No (0)		
Lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration	103	6	0	0	321	1
Lack of sufficient housing facilities	102	7	0	0	320	2
Lack of educational facilities	100	9	0	0	318	3
Lack of government support	100	3	6	0	312	4
Risk of unhygienic living conditions	81	28	0	0	299	5
Lack of health benefits	70	33	5	1	281	6
Lack of available pure drinking water sources	18	91	0	0	236	7
Lack of proper wage laws	77	2	0	30	235	8
Lack of permanent employment opportunities	4	90	9	6	201	9
Probabilities of involvement with drugs	13	62	15	19	178	10
Risk of child marriage	47	5	12	45	163	11
Risk of sexual harassment	34	8	5	62	123	12
Risk of mother mortality	1	2	81	25	88	13
Risk of child mortality	0	2	77	30	81	14
Lack of proper leave facilities	0	0	62	47	62	15

RFI = Risk Faced Index, N = 109

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations are presented in this chapter.

#### **5.1 Summary of the findings**

The major findings of the study are summarized below:

##### **5.1.1 Individual characteristics of the tea garden workers**

###### **Age**

The highest portion (46.8 percent) of the workers were middle aged whereas 27.5 percent were young aged and 25.7 percent were old aged.

###### **Level of education**

The highest portion (80.7 percent) of the workers were illiterate whereas 15.7 percent workers were can sign only and 2.8 percent workers were passed primary classes and only 0.92 percent workers were passed secondary level.

###### **Family size**

The majority workers had medium family (48.6 percent) whereas 46.8 percent workers had small family and 4.6 percent workers had large family.

###### **Monthly income**

The majority workers had very low income (43.1 percent) whereas 35.8% percent workers had low and only 21.1 percent workers had medium income.

###### **Dowry in marriage**

The majority workers were married (97.2 percent) whereas only 2.8 percent workers were unmarried.

The majority tea garden workers were taken medium rate dowry (41.3 percent) whereas 35.8 percent workers were taken higher rate dowry and 22.9 percent workers taken dowry in lower rate at the time of wedding.

###### **Access to credit**

The majority workers had low access to credit (81.7 percent) whereas 18.3 percent workers had medium access to credit.

### **Working experience**

The majority workers had medium working experience (50.5 percent) whereas 44 percent workers had long working experience and only 5.5 percent workers had short working experience.

### **Communication media exposure**

The majority workers had low communication media exposure (70.6 percent) whereas 22.9 percent workers had very low communication media exposure and only 6.4 percent had medium communication media exposure.

### **Risk faced by the workers**

The majority workers had faced high risk (74.3percent) whereas 25.69 percent workers had faced medium risk.

### **Perceived socio-economic status**

The majority workers had low status (34.9 percent) whereas 33 percent workers had very low status and 32.1 percent had medium status.

#### **5.1.2 Contribution of the selected characteristics of the tea garden workers and their extent of perceived socio-economic status**

Out of ten independent variables, the five variables jointly explained 19.8 percent of the total contribution on socio-economic status of the tea garden workers. Family size had the highest contribution (6.1 percent), followed by working experience and communication media exposure had 3.8 percent, age and level of education had 2.5 percent contribution in socio-economic status.

#### **5.1.3 Comparative risk faced of the selected items of tea garden workers**

In order to compare risk faced index by the tea garden workers in fifteen selected items on socio-economic status, a Risk Faced Index (RFI) was computed for each item. It was observed that tea garden workers faced highest risk in 'lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration' followed by 'lack of sufficient housing facilities', 'lack of educational facilities', 'lack of government support', 'risk of unhygienic living conditions', 'lack of health benefits', 'lack of available pure drinking water sources', 'lack of proper wage laws', 'lack of permanent employment opportunities',

‘risk of child marriage’, ‘risk of sexual harassment’, ‘risk of mother mortality’, ‘risk of child mortality’, ‘lack of proper leave facilities’.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Conclusions have been drawn on the basis of findings and its logical interpretation has presented below:

1. The findings revealed that the majority workers had low status (34.9%) whereas 33% workers had very low status and 32.1% had medium status. It means that majority of the tea garden workers socio-economic livelihood status is not satisfactory. Therefore, it may be conclude that there is urgent necessity to improve tea garden worker socio-economic condition.
2. Majority of the tea garden workers were illiterate. Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, the level of education of the tea garden workers had lowest contribution (2.5%) to their perceived socio-economic status. Correlation matrix also showed that level of education of the tea garden workers had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be concluded that having illiterate state their socio-economic condition is not improving.
3. Overwhelming majority of the tea garden workers was possessed medium family size. Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, family size of the tea garden workers has highest contribution (6.1%) to their perceived socio-economic status. Correlation matrix also showed that family size of the tea garden workers had significant negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be concluded that having small family they can improve their socio-economic condition.
4. Majority of the tea garden workers had medium and higher working experience. Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, working experience of the tea garden workers had third highest contribution (3.8%) to their perceived socio-economic status. Correlation matrix also showed that working experience of the tea garden workers had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be concluded that by using the experiences they can improve their socio-economic condition.
5. Overwhelming majority of the tea garden workers low communication media exposure. Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, communication media

exposure of the tea garden workers had also third highest contribution (3.8%) to their perceived socio-economic status. Correlation matrix also showed that communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be concluded that by increasing communication media exposure tea garden workers can improve their socio-economic condition.

## **5.3 Recommendation**

### **5.3.1 Recommendations for policy implications**

The following recommendations are made on the basis of experience, observation and conclusions:

1. Majority of the tea garden workers had very low socio-economic status. Therefore, it may be recommended extensive socio-economic development programs should run to increase tea workers salary and income.
2. Majority of the tea garden workers were illiterate and level of education of the tea garden workers had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it may be recommended that the NGOs and Government might compel the garden authority to take steps to educate the tea workers in a proper way.
3. Overwhelming majority of the tea garden workers possessed medium family size and family size of the tea garden workers had significant negative relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be recommended that motivational campaigning to be arranged by GOs, NGOs and garden authorities for the tea garden workers, so that they can adopt family planning program.
4. Majority of the tea garden workers had medium and higher working experience and working experience of the tea garden workers had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it can be recommended that the authorities should use of their long time working knowledge to increase productivity.
5. Overwhelming majority of the tea garden workers low communication media exposure. Step-wise multiple regression revealed that, communication media exposure of the tea garden workers had also third highest contribution (3.8%)

to their socio-economic status and it had significant positive relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it may be recommended that frequent communication between the people of tea gardens and mainstream society should be arranged, so that the mainstream people do not undermine the status of tea gardeners.

6. Tea garden workers faced highest risk in ‘lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration’ followed by ‘lack of sufficient housing facilities’, ‘lack of educational facilities’, ‘lack of government support’ etc. Therefore, it can be concluded that steps should be taken to minimize these problems.

### **5.3.2 Recommendation for further study**

A limited and small research work cannot ensure universal and unique information related to actual impact on perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers. Further study should be undertaken on related matters. The researcher is made the following recommendations for further study on the basis of scope and limitation of the present study:

1. The study was conducted on perceived socio-economic status of tea garden workers in Sadar upazila under Sylhet district. Similar studies should be conducted in other areas tea garden to get a clear picture of the whole country.
2. The present study was undertaken to explore relationship of nine characteristics of the tea garden workers with their perceived socio-economic status. Therefore, it might be recommended that further studies should be designed considering other livelihood characteristics that might affect on tea garden workers socio-economic condition.
3. In the present study, monthly income, dowry in marriage, access to credit had no significant relationship with their perceived socio-economic status. So, further verification is necessary.
4. All risks affect the perceived socio-economic status of the tea garden workers. There is need for undertaking research on the various risk faced by the tea garden workers which affect their perceived socio-economic status.

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## Appendix-A

### Department of Agricultural Extension and Information System

### Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

### Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka- 1207

Interview schedule for collection of data to determine

#### Assessing socio-economic status of tea garden workers in Sylhet district

Respondent No.: .....

Tea garden name: .....

Name of the respondent:.....

Village:

Union:

Upazila:

District:

Please provide following information. Your information will be kept confidential and will be used research purpose only

**1. Age:** What is your present age?.....years.

**2. Level of education:**

a. Can't read and write.

b. Can sign only.

c. I read up to class.....

**3. Family size:**

Please mention the number of your family members including yourself

Active/Earning members	Dependent members	Total

**4. Monthly income:**

Please state daily/weekly/monthly income of your family

Income sources	Amount in TK
Tea garden	
Livestock	
Poultry	
Homestead gardening	
Job	
Business	

Others	
Total	

**5. Dowry in marriage:**

Please mention your marital status

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you are married, have you take dowry at the time of marriage?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, then state the amount.....Tk and how are you spend the money?

Sl. No.	Ways	Amount in TK
1.	Formal saving	
2.	Saving as Jewellery	
3.	Saving as Livestock	
4.	Saving as durable goods	

**6. Access to credit:**

Please indicate your type of access to credit

Items	High	Medium	Low	No
NGO				
Relatives				
Friends				
Neighbors				
Colleagues				
Local leader				

**7. Working experience:**

How long are you working at tea garden? .....years.

**8. Communication media exposure:**

What type of communication media do you use?

Media	Extent of use			
	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Not at all
Friends				
Relatives				
Neighbors				

Colleagues				
Local leader				
Mobile				
Radio				
Television				
Others				

**9. Risk faced by the workers:**

Please mention the extent of risks

Sl. No.	Items	Extent of Risk			
		High	Medium	Low	No
1.	Lack of available pure drinking water sources				
2.	Lack of sufficient food due to insufficient ration				
3.	Lack of sufficient housing facilities				
4.	Risk of unhygienic living conditions				
5.	Lack of health benefits				
6.	Risk of child marriage				
7.	Risk of mother mortality				
8.	Risk of sexual harassment				
9.	Lack of proper wage laws				
10.	Lack of permanent employment opportunities				
11.	Lack of government support				
12.	Lack of educational facilities				
13.	Risk of child mortality				
14.	Probabilities of involvement with drugs				
15.	Lack of proper leave facilities				

**10. Perceived socio-economic status:**

Please response to the following levels of socio-economic indicators

Aspects	Item	Extent of Status			
		High	Medium	Low	No
Social Capital	Involvement with different organization (GOs, NGOs, local etc.)				
	Participation in voting (local and national elections etc.)				
	Participation in different social function (marriage, religious, cultural program etc.)				
	Participation in decision making of different social function				
	Educating the children				
	Satisfaction with family planning				
	Involvement with local politics				
	Association with NGOs				

Economic Capital	Access to different jobs for other family members				
	Ownership of the area of the land				
	Salary structure to meet family demand				
	Amount and quality of ration provided				
	Planting fruit trees and vegetables around homestead to fetch additional income				
	Rearing poultry and livestock to fetch additional income				
	Scope of savings				
	Job security				

Thank you for your cordial cooperation.

**Signature of the interviewer**

Date:.....