

## **An Ecological Journey to Pandam through Mulgaon Areas of Darjeeling Himalaya with Special Reference to Monitoring Of Vegetation in West Bengal, India**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The paper reflects the ecological dynamics of vegetation with special reference to burning problems that are increasing day by day in villages of Darjeeling Himalaya of West Bengal, India. It includes floras (Roadside, shrubberies, jungles, forests, agricultural land, ridges and furrows of barren hill slopes, near waste water falls, near fresh water falls, grass lands, gardens of private kind, pasture land, vest land etc.), some faunas, agriculture, forestry etc. of the villages. The article also reflects some ecological problems of Eastern Himalaya particularly in Darjeeling area where water problem is severe one including different occupational problems. Sexual problem is also another problem in hills which is related with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The drinking water of the hill is not good, because they use locally available water coming from source of top hills by normal leaching process. Therefore, in ecological journey author broadcasts transportation problems of water as well as for life-style of people have been discussed thoroughly. Education and research problems is also highlighted in this article, so as a whole the paper is a nominal one facing scenario of Ecological Problems and prospects of the same. Here, author highlights dynamics of vegetation through which people can mitigate the ecological problems and easily can restore ecosystem pristine in hill villages of Darjeeling Himalaya. This would be helpful for different researchers and students of PG and UG courses to take research problems during project dissertation and post PG students for research and extension programme in the said area. Not only that, I think in near future NGOs and Government should take care to develop different projects at the premises of the Hill villages so that they would take the opportunity for all round development of the society. As a whole, the eco-restoration of the habitat would be better through the research and extension programme in such areas via a model example in all rural areas of hills. Institutions and departments will generate opportunity to work there if become interested through this article with some examples thereby.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Mulgaon vegetation dynamics and trends of Succession, Agriculture-Water related problems, Food-Fodder, Economy to Ecology, Eco-restoration.*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Darjeeling Himalaya fall under Eastern Himalayan region in India which is situated between 87°59' - 88°53' E and 28°31' - 27°13' N in the northern part of West Bengal State of India. It has an area of 3,149 sq km. The annual mean maximum temperature is 14.9° C and annual mean minimum temperature is 8.9° C and average annual rainfall is 3092 mm. (Sharma, 2013). The altitudinal range of this hilly region varies from 150 to 3636 meter resulting in a huge contrast and diversity in climate and vegetation (Saha *et al*, 2011). The district is surrounded by Bhutan in the east, Nepal in the west and Sikkim of India in the north. Due to similar environmental and cultural conditions, the major inhabitants of Darjeeling hills and its surrounding areas are bonded together by Nepali language, the medium of communication among the different ethnic groups, viz. Lepchas, Bhutias, Rai, Sherpa, Tamang, Mangar, Gurung and Kagatay of the Nepali communities (Rai and Bhujel, 1999). Traditionally, chief occupation of the people of Darjeeling had been agriculture, agro forestry, horticulture and animal husbandry. A wide range of microclimatic sites under a wide array of climatic zones are available here, that allow growing more luxuriant biota in a proper naturally managed environment. The climates favour the luxuriant growth of diversified floral and faunal elements and make the vegetation as a climatic climax. Therefore, the gradient of this region is also diverse with gentle range of natural flora. So, the area boosts luxuriant growth of ground vegetation of angiosperms along with different mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, algae and cyano-bacteria. The shrubby vegetation of different members aggregate the small patches along the dominant tree species there in a two or three layered canopy system, which have high coverage of litter fall.

Not only the coverage of floral elements, there present many endemic, rare, threatened and endangered category. A good number of populates are present there in a remote village nearby and collecting plant material for their home garden. These also found in their homesteads, in crop fields and in communal lands. The exact situation about the position of plant and their uses are still not cleared due to landing a less number of biosocial research projects. So, practice and enumeration regarding the fate of plants of important groups are necessary to clarify the ecological problems in the said area and to draw a managerial line between the source and sink of the plants or the plant products in near future. Therefore, in this communication, an attempt has been made to document the vegetation first time as preliminary study for the floral elements present in the remote areas of hilly Darjeeling along with the fate of them. Ethnic knowledge as well as scientific knowledge of the people and the environmentalists of rural Darjeeling Himalaya has been raised to enforce the ecosystem sound and healthy in near future. So, as a whole this is a study of vegetation dynamics and monitoring of ecosystem through different ways to clarify the situation which is formally unknown to all. It includes the data base of the eco-research of some patches with the help of local resource persons to measure the ecosystem sound and eco-friendly. Vegetation is always playing a key role to sustain the environment normal even take part as a relation (kith and kin) to the biota of other kind virtually as god. Darjeeling Himalaya is a similar kind of nature friendly ecosystem which boosts so many types of floral elements in varied ecosystems. A large number of plant species found here which have significant role to sustain the life-style of Darjeeling peoples in a need based way by different mode.

The forests are dominated mostly by local tree species and other common plants *viz.* ***Alnus nepalensis*** (Utis), ***Schima waliichii*** (Chilauney), ***Mallotus alba*** (Jogi Malata), ***M. roxburghianus*** (Fushrey Malata), ***Bischofia javanica*** (Kaijal), ***Bassia butyraceae*** (Chewri), ***Betula alnoides*** (Saur), ***Firmiana colorata*** (Firfiray), ***Ficus cunia*** (Khanew), ***Styrax serrulatum*** (Khanew), ***Sterculea villosa*** (Odal), ***Cephalostachyum capitatum*** (Payong), ***Brassiopsis mitis*** (Chulatro), ***Duabanga sonneratioides*** (Lampatey), ***Viburnum colebrookianum*** (Asaray), ***Cineline arborea*** (Khamari), ***Ficus nemoralis*** (Dudalo), ***F. benjamina*** (Ber), ***Ficus religiosa*** (Pipal), ***Quercus lanceafolia*** (Katus), ***Morus indica*** (Kimbu), ***Fraxinus paxiana*** var. ***sikkimensis*** (Lakuri), ***Andromeda villosa*** (Angeri), ***Shorea robusta*** (Sal), ***Eupatorium cannabinum*** (Kalo banmara), ***Costus speciosus*** (Betlauri), ***Artemisia vulgaris*** (Titaypati), ***Laportea terminalis*** (Sisno), ***Heracleum walichii*** (Chimphing) etc. (Bhujel, 1996).

All the people of the remote area are very poor as they collect food, fodder, wood, medicine, sticks of bamboos and bet (***Calamus*** sp.) from local environment for different purposes. All the villagers have terrace crop cultivation. The principal crops cultivated are maize, rice, pulses, millets, etc. but most of the villagers earn their living by cultivating cash crops like Darjeeling Mandarin orange, ginger, and large cardamom (Rai, 2001). Medicinal Plants of the village as well as in town plays a significant role to health care system of the people. In, Darjeeling it is not yet been bad as habitat, because people of Darjeeling use these plants for healing purpose as well for research and extension through different departments, to popularize the plants as well as for the sake of extension activities and ornamental purpose. Herbaceous medicinal plants are common one that has the potential for use value round the year in every part of the area. In a study Rai *et al.* (2013) studied 57 plant species belonging to 55 genera with their therapeutic values against different diseases occurring in Darjeeling Hills. They showed that, out of these plants studied, 38 species they used as herbs, 9 shrubs and 10 are trees. They also showed that, herbs are more useful than the shrubs and trees and most of the plant species they used for more than one purpose.

The Himalayan Jungles have been home to the most exotic species of flora and fauna. The short spring season sees the mountain bathed in all conceivable hues. The fiery Rhododendrons splash the mountainside in the most beautiful reds, whites and the pale magnolia forests providing a striking contrast. The valley too comes alive with a profusion of daises, daffodils, Chrysanthemum and tuberous Begonia. Orchids even the rarest grow in abundance in the wild. Amidst this dazzling flora is a fauna equally exotic. The Red Panda is found in the dense jungles between Gairibas and Molley on the way to Sandakpu. The Barking deer, wild boar and Himalayan bear are the other animals that are found here. The Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park is also a special attraction being the highest Zoo in the world. Darjeeling is also the abode of a variety of birds and butterflies (Anonymous, 2012). The present study area comprises vast tea gardens with some planted sites, under which people make their own arrangement to earn money and trying to develop economy for betterment of the society. As the tract is very stiff, so they use feet to come in to the town Darjeeling or nearby Lebong market or Three-mile (Tin mile) market with the help of motor cycle or by 4 wheelers. The distance from Darjeeling Chowrasta to Pandam is near about 3.5 km along the partially metallic road so called Lower Toong Soong. Lebong market is near about 3 km from Pandam Tea Estate, where as Tin-mile is nearly about 12-13 kms by newly constructed road made by stone. The road is sanctioned during the present Trinamool Government (West Bengal), and will be made as metallic one from Lebong to tin-mile through Pandam by the active participation of the local administration popularly called GTA. The site is very beautiful and naturally designed by trees of varied types, shrubs and gregariously grown a huge number of Himalayan grasses along with sedges. A beautiful temple and tea garden is there beside the left hand side of the road. Some sites having species of plantation type, namely

**Rhododendrons** along with the **Euphorbia's** and **Ficus** spp. The magnificent exotic species like **Prunus sylvestris**, **Michelia** sp. etc. are found here and there near the tea garden. A stable is there which hosts 4-5 horses used to collect plucked tea leaves from lower part of stiff garden and brought it to the factory. So, use of animal for present day activity in the said area is meaningful and using the majestic culture till date though technology based recent techniques have been evolved in other part of the state tea gardens. In hill areas, particularly at villages of Sub-Himalaya, the adolescent girls face health related problems which are Night blindness, Angular stomatitis, Dental caries, Hemoglobin deficiency, Iodine deficiency goiter (Saha *et al.*, 2006). In the same areas they face Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) which are very much problematic. The same authors showed in a paper that, sexual awareness and contraceptive knowledge in tea garden areas are poor in comparison to the adolescent girls of urban areas. Here, result of the same showed that 7.85 % girls of the tea garden area are sexually active, 4.2 % has history of sexual abuse, 6.4% has suffered from STDs, 4% had abortions, and 63.5% has contraceptive knowledge, which they obtained from older peers. 95 % of School Girls were sexually aware. 62.3 % of them knew about contraceptive from peers and other public media. Five percent of tea garden girls were married and 20 % of them had experienced pregnancy. So, problems including STDs of the said area are varied which need detailed survey and need elaborate discussion to prevent the same in an urgent basis. So, as a whole they face a large number of occupational diseases in the area of Eastern Himalaya. The present site needs survey and identity of such special problems as ecological one to signify the people and the culture in a tourist rich eco degradation area. The real story of such full path establishment of social degradation may help the study of eco-restoration in near future with the help of different workers in the same field. Such kind of eco-restoration, perhaps need significant role to the community in the specific kind of restoration in near future. Psychologists and doctors should take part of this study to fulfill the study a real one and culminate the goal in to a platform to study the whole along the eco-restoration of land and vegetation as a whole with the study of people and diseases.

## II. AREA UNDER STUDY

The study area includes the area of lower hills of Darjeeling facing eastern part of Mall of Darjeeling which comprises mostly the 16 square kilometer area in hill slopes. Journey started from Chowrasta (4 angular ways) *i.e.* from Mall to Udaygram, to Mulgaon, to Pandam to Golaigaon to Limu Basty to Jowary Basty to Chorasta. Areas covering for the study were local markets nearby and the villages including the shrubberies and gardens of public kind along with forests of natural types for vegetation and their similar products via market study. Truly the areas covering for monitoring of vegetation are villages like Basbote, Sourini, Kulungdara, Ardhure, Mulgaon, Cohukidar dara, Jowary basty, Limbu Basty, Mulgaon, Golaigaon etc. Some natural falls of sewage water including fresh water falls have been taken to study. To discuss with ecological problems personnel garden and Company gardens (Tea Garden of Pandam) have also been incorporated for this study. Plantation stand of agricultural type like Ginger and Cardamom, gardens have also been studied with the shade trees of the same area. Tea Garden and similar gardens were studied to discuss the eco-restoration activities of the said area. Herbaceous vegetation along with sedges and hedges were critically examined regarding their phenology and variations with the variations of seasons. For the study, introduced plants of roadside kind and in the vested land of both the sites were taken for study.

## III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Present study includes some ecological problems of Darjeeling Himalaya, West Bengal, India. For the eco-sustenance of vegetation and people; study, research and extension is necessary for each village everywhere. Therefore, this study is a preliminary study to highlights the problems and prospects of research including extension of the same for those villages which need immediate evaluation after monitoring. Because, environmental degradation is going on, so as a whole, ecosystem going to be vulnerable day by day and no one is involved to highlight the same before mitigate the problem through different models. So, it needs immediate work there on the environment as a urgent basis and in the same field even need monitoring of different parameters to save the ecosystem good and healthy which can change the scenario of the land and people of the Darjeeling Himalaya in a sustainable basis. To highlight the burning problems, and to start the work there, the author represents the points that are required to clarify after working there with viable projects. To monitor the projects in different fields and to save the ecosystem and eco-resource as a whole involvement of local people and Govt. including Institutes and NGOs are to be required. Following are the points that are required to become the environment eco-sustainable state *via* common monitoring at least ½ a year interval basis. This includes no remote sensing like sophisticated techniques, but need physical monitoring by students and teachers of nearby institutes along the local people to start intervention by locale people on the basis of low level application which

can mitigate the problem and can tolerate the eco-problem developed day by day in the said unhealthy ecosystem. So, always remember the points before going to physical monitoring:

- (1) Study of Vegetation which includes the study of flora of Roadside, Shrubberies, Jungles, Forests, Agricultural land, Ridges and Furrows of barren hill slopes, Near waste water falls, Near fresh water falls, Grass lands, Gardens of private kind, Pastureland, Vest land etc.
- (2) Study of some faunas, by indirect way along the help of local resource persons of the jungle. The study of fauna on secondary data is also predicted if primary data is not available.
- (3) Study of problems in Agriculture, Forestry, Farm forestry, etc. of the villages.
- (4) To study the severe water problem and fate of the water related problems.
- (5) To study of Health and occupational diseases including Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).
- (6) To broadcast transportation problems of water as well as for life-style of people.
- (7) Education and research problems in the area and area based extension on peoples' thought.
- (8) Role of Institutions, Non Government Organization (NGO) and Government.
- (9) Guideline for preparation of Healthy atmosphere through eco-monitoring, and to become the environment pristine as a whole the ecosystem under good health status.
- (10) Modeling the area to solve problems after implementation of good projects to mitigate the situation in a global way but sustainable basis (Phase-II).

#### IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

It includes different sections:

##### **Study of vegetation and monitoring of succession:**

Varieties of methods are available for monitoring the succession. Selection of monitoring methods depends mainly on the timeframe and budget of the restoration project. Monitoring succession requires initiating long-term ecological evaluation on restoration sites. For this purpose permanent plots are often used where measurements on vegetation dynamics can be repeated over several years. Data obtained from permanent plots include taxonomical survey of plants and measurements on vegetation cover. Permanent plots provide data for the interpretation of succession and also allows for testing of various management practices in restoration (Greipsson, 2011; Groom *et al.*, 2006). For preliminary study, 2 years project have been taken for consideration in Mulgaon forest area near Pandam and Golaigaon area and is also taken for the study which have no critical barrier to work there from Chowrasta area of Town Darjeeling, West Bengal, India. Three types of vegetation have been taken for study. These are Village vegetation including agricultural plants, shrubberies near village and forest vegetation. For the study of vegetation cover, only forest area has been taken for study since 20012 to 2013 and from 2013 to till date. Only 5 m<sup>2</sup> Plots were taken to study grasses, herbs and low shrubs. Permanent plots in tall shrubs communities and for trees have been taken 100 m<sup>2</sup> area.

##### **Study of Vegetation Cover and study of restoration action:**

Vegetation cover can be measured by a variety of methods, such as the "Point intercept" method that is practical for small plots, the "line intercept" method, or by using aerial photos for large plots. Canopy cover of trees can also be estimated by using aerial photos. Methods to estimate diversity of tree species involve plot and plot-less sampling methods. In the plots, species composition, litter, and soil cover should be recorded over time. This requires taxonomical knowledge on the local flora. Photos on permanent plots taken repeatedly through time can provide valuable information on succession. Such images provide rapid estimation on the cover of each species. The use of digital images of permanent plots is a new technique that allows rapid documentation of vegetation dynamics. Such images can be calibrated in the field before being analyzed. It is then to estimate rapidly the total cover of each species using computers (Greipsson, 2011). In the present study line intercept method was taken to study the vegetation in forest. For small shrubs and herbs graph paper method was taken for consideration, though there are several methods for this study. Abeny's level was taken for the study of measuring height of trees and altimeter was taken to record the height. As the study is 1<sup>st</sup> phase and as preliminary one, so the author used Canon camera 12.1 megapixels (4 x Optical zoom) for vegetation photography during field visit. Another camera used was Nikon (Model-16.0 megapixels CMOS Glamour Retouch (Wi-Fi) with wide 6x zoom-coolpix. Taxonomic identity of species, authors consulted with local resource persons (See Table 1) from which local names of plants and some nonliving items were recorded. Authors also collected sample specimens for taxonomic identity, from the field using voucher number and date including habitat of microclimatic type. To match the local names with the actual scientific names of the species, dictionary of flowering plants of Darjeeling-Sikkim Himalaya, was consulted (Tamang and Yonzon, 2012). Other books consulted were Flowers of the Himalaya-A supplement (Adam Stainton, 2011) and Flowers of the Himalaya (Polunin and Stainton, 2012). Identification was done with the help of standard literature (Hooker 1892-1897; Prain, 1963; Anonymous, 1997; O'Malley, 1907; Das, 2007). The names of the plants were cross checked and finally incorporated following Bennet (1987). Herbarium specimens and museum specimens

were prepared as per the methodology of Jain and Rao (1997). For medicinal uses of plants, different books and related publications have been consulted but for general use the common book used was Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Some scattered literatures were used for different purposes to study the social aspects (Malhotra *et al.*, 1991; Roy *et al.*, 2000). Specimens of collected one temporarily pressed and preserved under personal custody and compared with some of the housed specimens of Lloyd Botanic Garden Herbarium, Darjeeling. As the author studied some revisionary works on Betulaceae and Juglandaceae from Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, and so conformity already have done due to critical analyses specimens and literature as a whole.

#### **Analysis of Data for the study of Vegetation Dynamics:**

To study and analyses the phytosociological characters, over all study of floristic composition, characteristics of vegetation, size, shape, fluctuation and dynamics have been studied critically round the last two years. The overall parameter signifies the sociability indices in the community of plants, in the forests of the study sites. Within the site Moua tree (**Engelhardia** sp.) and Laliguras tree (**Rhododendron** sp.) are the dominated members of the community in forests. Other species found there are **Erythrena** sp. and **Mallotus** sp. including some members of Meliaceae and Juglandaceae. All the species cover the area with more than 75 % canopy cover in terrain of highly stiff hill face. By and large, index of Dombois and Ellenberg (1974) have been adopted to analyze the density, frequency and abundance of the tree species. For the study of frequency, density and abundance of the species, following formulae were used. So, the-Density=Total number of individuals in all sampling units/total number of sampling units studied. Frequency = Number of sampling units in which species occur x 100/Total number of sampling units used. Basal Area is the area occupied by the base of a tree, is considered as a good indicator of the size, volume or weight of a tree. It provides information on the proportion or dominance of the larger and smaller trees in an ecosystem and is one of the most important parameters in estimating the standing biomass in an area. The DBH have been taken for study was 1.37meter. Following the DBH, basal area and cover of each individual have been made. So, Basal area =  $GBH^2/4\pi$  Where GBH = Girth of the tree at breast height. Usually after the quantitative estimation of relative values of density, frequency and dominance, the species are listed in order of decreasing importance so, as to present the criticalness in the stranded vegetation community for future study.

#### **Study of Cumulative Phytosociological Characters**

Importance Value Index (IVI) is the cumulative phytosociological characters. The total picture of the relative ecological important and the phytosociological structure of a given plant species in any community can't be obtained by relative parameters (Relative Frequency, Relative Density, Relative Dominance, etc.,) singly, which give individual clues, although the quantitative value of each such parameter has its own importance. Therefore, Frequency gives an idea as to how a species is dispersed in the area but we will not get an idea about its actual number or pattern in the said area covered. Density on the other hand gives rise to the numerical strength of the vegetation and signifies nothing about the spread or cover. Dominance gives the basal cover of the vegetation elements so is the only sole number to access the parameter by using only one value. In order to express the dominance and ecological success of any species with a single value, the concept of important value index have been developed. This index utilizes three characteristics, *viz.*, Relative Frequency, Relative Density and Relative Dominance of the composition in a given community. On the basis of these analytical quantitative character values, the idea of obtaining a statistical quantity was proposed. This is replaced by a value of other kind in order to have a really overall picture of the ecological importance of the species in a selected community to express them with respect to the community structure, and composition, for which the percentage value of Relative Frequency, Relative Density and Relative Dominance are added together. This value out of 300 is called Important Value Index (IVI). It thus incorporate three important parameters that measures of productivity and diversity of every species therefore. So,  $IVI = \text{Relative Density} + \text{Relative Frequency} + \text{Relative Dominance}$ . To access the structure and composition any two parameters except frequency or as a whole the IVI may be consider studying the vegetation. The present study is based on the IVI of tree species only except, herbs, shrubs in the said community. So, Relative density =  $\text{Density value of species} \times 100 / \text{Sum of density value of all species}$ . Similarly, Relative frequency =  $\text{Frequency value of species} \times 100 / \text{Sum of frequency value of all species}$ , and Relative dominance =  $\text{Total basal area of the species} \times 100 / \text{Total basal area of all species}$ .

#### **Other indices for the study of Phyto-diversity:**

Ecologist always tries to formulate and develop a special index to calculate the index to quantify the vegetation. So, all field ecologists have developed and proposed a number of indices of species diversity from time to time. So, by them the values of the vegetation which depend upon mathematically combined effects of species richness (d) and evenness (e). The numerical strength and biomass has a direct affect on the functioning

of ecosystem in the course of millions of years, numerous biotic communities have evolved and established themselves. It is therefore, important to know the diversity of these communities in space and time so as to understand their role in the development of the ecosystem, healthy and sound. To evaluate these healthy ecosystem, structure study along the study of function and in the maintenance of stability as a whole for the quantification of diversity. Not only that, it needs to clarify the composite structure along with the comparison of species diversities between nearby two different ecosystems under varied eco-climatic conditions. Therefore, the index formulated and applied for the same is called index of diversity and dominance.

### Study of Species Richness (Species Diversity)

Species diversity or richness diversity is an expression of community structure. It is described as the number of species present in a sample or habitat per unit area basis. These are certain indices that can bring them to a similar scale for a specified field and for specific group of plants, say for example herbs, shrubs and trees. The simplest species richness index is based on the total number of species and the total number of individuals in a given sample or habitat, higher the value greater the species richness (Rao *et al.*, 2013; Dey, 2013). The more different species present the more diverse the community and is generally considered healthier. Richness tends to increase over area larger areas will harbors more different species probably because of larger variety of micro habitats and resources. Additionally, sampling over a large area increases the chance of find in rare species. On the other hand, evenness is a measure of how similar the abundances of different species are categories are in a community. Evenness is ranged from zero. When the evenness is close to one, it indicates that each species categories consist of almost same number of individuals. However, when the abundances of species are very dissimilar (Some rare and some common) then the value increases. The commonly used biodiversity index is Shannon–Wiener index and that of dominance index is Simpson’s index. Simpson’s Index (1949): Species dominance is measured by using this index  $Cd = \frac{\sum(n_i/N)^2}{N}$ ,  $n_i$  = Total number of individuals of each species,  $N$  = Total number of individuals of all species. Shannon – wiener Index (1963): It is also called species diversity index. This index is based on information theory and improves upon the Simpson’s by giving more importance to the rare species.  $H = -\sum(n_i/N)\log(n_i/N)$ . where,  $n_i$  = Total number of individuals belonging to  $i^{th}$  species and  $N$  = Total number of individuals in the sample (Das, 2007).

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Present paper revealed 103 phyto-elements in and around Pandam areas and Mulgaon forests of Darjeeling Himalaya which have potential economic as well as ecological value. These are used broadly as medicinal one, used for food and fodder, for vegetables, for fibres, flosses, economically important fruits as well as for tubers of varied kinds during drought and heavy monsoon (Table 2). Some species are used as ornamentals in the premises of villagers with varied economic values. As for example, sunakhari and sunakhar in the rocky walls near the buildings and village huts. They make the environment very pleasant and charming type. Not, only the said purposes, they used the underground part of some plants, and above ground biomass also they used for medicinal purpose. Good example is **Bargenia ciliata** (Pakhan bet). Other elements used for the purpose like fuel wood, wood, implements, house fence, sticks in their own kitchen gardens. Near the hilly slopes, they used tuber crops of various kinds like **Sechium** sp., Yams and Tarul (Photo plate 7). To develop market economy they used a large number of bamboos and bet from the forest and village shrubberies. Green leaves are also used to different purposes.

**Table 1** Resource Persons based field Study at Golaigaon, Mulgaon, Pandam at Darjeeling Himalaya, W.B., India.

Sl. No.	Name	Address	Phone No.
1	Bishnu Prasad Sharma	Mulgaon, Udaygram, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-07872941985/09609931334 (Main Resource person)
2.	Chandan Sharma	Mulgaon, Udaygram, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-09733022281 (Service)
3.	Sovit Chhetri	Mulgaon, Udaygram, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-09800003386 (Carpenter/Electrician)
4.	Dhirendra Pradhan	Pandam Tea Estate, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-09635292576 (Small Canteen)
5.	Kamal Kumar Roy	Non-Teaching Staff, Darjeeling Govt. College, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-9775946360 (Knowledge on Nepali)
6.	I.K.Gurung	Pandam, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-09434151123, (Retd. Staff of PNZP), Ex-Student, DGC, Zoology.
7.	Lakshmi Chhetri	Mulgaon, Udaygram, Darjeeling, 734101	Ph-Nil, House wife (Class XII –Sc.)
Total-7	Persons involed in field.		

A good example is vegetables and sacred plant like bar producing leaves, including totala (**Oroxylum indicum** Vent.). Winged Seeds are also important because, they used seeds in front of the door for sacred

purpose. Some house premises used leaves of Bar and similar type as religious plants. So, nearly 55% of the plants, they used are the plants of wild origin. In the garden they planted Farshi (**Cucurbita pepo**), Es-kush, sweet pea, bean, broad bean etc. Cattle and domestic bees are the resource of another kind they used for meat, milk, honey producing purposes respectively. Katus (**Castanopsis** sp.), Chanp (**Michelia** sp.), Moua (**Engelhardia** sp.) and Gogun (**Saurauia** sp.) are the important wood used for fuel wood purpose.

**Table 2**  
**List of Plants arranged as per local/common names including scientific names available in rural villages of Darjeeling Himalaya, West Bengal with proper usage.**

Local Name	Scientific Name	Short Note	Uses
Ailo	<b>Didymocarpus aromaticus</b> Wall. Ex D. Don.	Herb of Gesneriaceae	On shady wet rocks near jhora (falls).
Amliso /Kucho	<b>Thysanolaena maxima</b> (Roxb.) O Kuntze.	Shrub of Poaceae	Used as broom called Phuljharu (Beng.), in Nepali called “kucho”, also used as fodder for cattle in villages.
Angairi	<b>Lyonia ovalifolia</b> (Wall.) Drude	Small tree of Ericaceae	Fodder plant, wood used as fuel wood.
Angare/Aule	<b>Phoebe attenuate</b> Nees.	Lauraceae	Medicinal Plant.
Angeri	<b>Osbeckia stellata</b> Wall.	Shrub of Melastomaceae	Indicator sp. Indicates village near by.
Arucha	<b>Prunus communis</b> Hudson.	Small tree of Rosaceae	Fruits sweet and sour (Pinkish and white type of arucha), White flowers producing smooth walled fruits is edible and used for making jam/jelly etc.
Arupate	<b>Prunus nepalensis</b> (Ser) Stendel	Tree of Rosaceae	Yields edible fruits
Aselu	<b>Rubus diffusa</b> Focke	Scrambler of Rosaceae	Medicinal
Bandakopi	<b>Brassica oleracea</b> L. var. <b>capitata</b> f. Alba.	Brassicaceae	Vegetable used locally
Bandrey/Ramphal/Gante	<b>Gynocardia odorata</b> R. Br.	Tree of Flacourtiaceae	Medicinal plant
Banmara/Kalijhar	<b>Eupatorium adenophorum</b> L.	Small shrub of Asteraceae	Used to stop bleeding after wound.
Bans	<b>Bambusa polymorpha</b> Munro	Tree of Poaceae	Used to prepare Doko
Bans-Choya	<b>Dendrocalamus hamiltonii</b> var. <b>hamiltonii</b> .	Poaceae	Used to prepare Doko
Bans-Malingo	<b>Sinarundinaria maling</b> (Gamble) C.S.Chao &Renvoize	Poaceae	Sticks in Gardens
Bans-Parang	<b>Sinarundinaria hookariana</b> (Munro) C.S.Chao &Renvoize	Poaceae	Used to prepare “Doko”
Bans-Paryang/Gopi	<b>Cephalostachyum capitatum</b> Munro	Shrub of Poaceae	Used for various purpose particularly for fencing.
Bara Alainchi	<b>Amomum subulatum</b> Roxb.	Zingiberaceae	Economic and export one
Behera Kapasi	<b>Salix daltoniana</b> Anders.	Small tree of Salicaceae	Fuel wood purpose
Bhakate	<b>Citrus grandis</b> L.	Rutaceae	Ethno-botanically used as medicine.
Bhangra Junga	<b>Urtica parviflora</b> Roxb.	Urticaceae	Flowers are edible (Inflorescence), medicinal for the remedy for arthritis.
Bhangra Sishnu	<b>Girardiana palmata</b> Forsk.	Shrub of Urticaceae	Outside the house <i>i.e.</i> near then jungle.
Bhokote	<b>Hydrangea robusta</b> HK.f.	Saxifragaceae	Small tree near jungle.
Bhotay Pan	<b>Rubus moluccanus</b> L.	Rosaceae	Medicinal plant.
Bilaune	<b>Macropanax undulatum</b> Seem	Araliaceae	Tree of forest.
Bilon/Arupate	<b>Prunus nepaulensis</b> (Ser) Stendel	Tree of Rosaceae	3 or 7 “Munta” used for Jharphuck to release the pain from body with the help of a

			local stone.
Burbee	<b>Solanum verbascifolium</b> L.	Tree of Solanaceae	Old tree near roadside.
Chilaune/Aule	<b>Schima wallichii</b> Chois	Theaceae	Tree of Hill forest.
Chulasi	<b>Osbeckia crinita</b> Benth.	Melastomaceae	Shrubs of Jungle.
Chutro/Kesari	<b>Mahonia acanthifolia</b> G. Don.	Tree of Berberidaceae	Small tree in hill slopes.
Dalne Katus/Aulay	<b>Castanopsis indica</b> A. DC.	Tree of Fagaceae	Wood for fuel.
Dangre Bet	<b>Calamus leptospadix</b> Griff.	Climber of Arecaceae	Used to prepare Dokri
Dhungri Phul	<b>Erigeron bellidioides</b> Benth.ex C B Clarke	Asteraceae	Not known
Dhupi	<b>Cryptomeria japonica</b> (L.f.) D.Don.	Taxodiaceae	Planted
Dudila	<b>Ficus nemoralis</b> Wall.	Small tree of Moraceae	Medicinal
Faledo	<b>Erythrena fusca</b> Lour.	Fabaceae	Young leaves are used as vegetable.
Fapar	<b>Fagopyron esculentum</b> Moench	Polygonaceae	Young leaves used as veg.
Gharia Sisnu	<b>Urtica dioica</b> L.	Urticaceae	Weed but use as Veg.
Ghoge Chanp	<b>Magnolia campbellii</b> HK. f.	Magnoliaceae	Flowers may be White or Pink
Ghurpis	<b>Leucoseptrum canum</b> Sm.	Lamiaceae	Shade tree in Cardamom garden.
Gobrey Salla	<b>Abies densa</b> Griff.	Abietaceae	Silver fir planted as ornamental plant.
Gogun	<b>Saurauia napaulensis</b> DC.	Actinidiaceae.	Abundant Leafless fodder tree also used as shade tree of cardamom /elainchi garden
Gokul dhup	<b>Canarium sikkimense</b> King.	Tree of Burseraceae	Not known, study required
Gorundal	<b>Passiflora edulis</b> Sims	Climber of Passifloraceae	In Kalimpong people making juices, to prepare chutney and jelly.
Halhale	<b>Rumex nepalensis</b> Spreng	Polygonaceae	Medicinal
Ikshu/Iskush/Ukhu	<b>Saccharum officinarum</b> L.	Poaceae	Economic plant, Cultivated inn a small scale in home garden.
Kaijal	<b>Bischofia javanica</b> Blume	Tree of Phyllanthaceae	Invasive species, used in Assam to identify Tiger by Scratch-mark territory zone.
Kalo Siris	<b>Albizia marginata</b> Merr.	Mimosaceae	Wood
Kan chirle ney/Silver fern	<b>Cyathea dealbata</b> (G. Forster) Swartz	Cyathaceae	Ornamental
Kaneshi Lahara	<b>Thunbergia coccinea</b> Wall.	Climber of Acanthaceae	Weed.
Kapasi	<b>Acer campbellii</b> HK.f. & T.	Aceraceae	Maple tree used for wood of commerce.
Katus	<b>Castanopsis hystrix</b> A. DC.	Tree of Fagaceae	Edible fruits (Hajel Nut)
Kaulo	<b>Machilus villosa</b> Hk.f.	Lauraceae	Use not Known
Khanakpa	<b>Evodia fraxinifolia</b> Hook.f.	Tree of Rutaceae	Economic
Labar	<b>Ficus elastic</b> Roxb.	Moraceae	Tree Planted
Lali Guras	<b>Rhododendron arboretum</b> Sm.	Ericaceae	Used by all local men and women. If fish fin attached to the inner throat, Flowers of laliguras are to release the fins.
Lapche Kawla	<b>Machilus edulis</b> King.	Tree of Lauraceae	Edible fruits.
Lati Mauwa	<b>Glochidion assamica</b> Hk.f.	Small tree of Euphorbiaceae	Shrub of Jungle
Maina Kath	<b>Tetrameles nudiflora</b> R. Br.	Datisceae	Tree
Malata	<b>Mallotus nepalensis</b> Mell.-Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Wood used as fuel
Malta Tree	<b>Macaranga gmelinifolia</b> King.	Tree of Euphorbiaceae	Wood of Commerce
Matane Phul	<b>Brugmansia suaveolens</b> Berchst. & J. Presl	Solanaceae	Small tree with pendent flowers and fruits as ornamental.
Multa	<b>Macaranga indica</b> Wight.	Tree of Euphorbiaceae	Fuel wood plant.
Narkat	<b>Saccharum narenga</b> (Nees ex Steud.) Wall. Ex. Hack.	Poaceae	Fodder plant for cattle, used to prepare Topri (Cap)
Naspati	<b>Pyrus communis</b> L.	Tree of Rosaceae	Found in Golai gaon and Pandam Tea estate, as medicinal fruits.



Nebara Phal	<b>Ficus cunia</b> Ham.	Tree of Moraceae	Used as high Pressure medicine.
Nebara-Topri	<b>Ficus racemosa</b> L. (=F. glomerata Roxb.)	Tree of Moraceae	Medicinal plant
Nebharo	<b>Ficus roxburghii</b> Wall.	Tree of Moraceae	Inflorescence is edible.
Neebara	<b>Ficus macrophylla</b> Desf. Ex. Pers.	Ficus racemosa	Topri (Kancha) banay
Nimi	<b>Stephania glabra</b> (Roxb.) Miers.	Climber of Menispermaceae	Medicinal
Oesalo	<b>Rubus ellipticus</b> Sm.	Rosaceae	Tasty fruits.
Oiri	<b>Oxyspora paniculata</b> DC	Melastomataceae	Shrub in Shrubberies
Okhar	<b>Juglens regia</b> L.	Juglandaceae	Edible fruit producing oil.
Pakhan Bet (Red/White)/Halka nd	<b>Bargenia ciciata</b> (Haw.) Stemb.	Saxifragaceae	Powder of leaves used to treat the gonorrhoea, Used to treat the uterine bleeding of women.
Panchpati	<b>Vitex heterophylla</b> Roxb.	Tree of Verbenaceae	Medicinal
Paniamla	<b>Nephrolepis exaltat</b> (L.) Schoott	Lomariopsidaceae	Medicinal value, Used to treat Urinary Trouble
Pani-Saj	<b>Terminalia myriocarpa</b> Heurck & M. Arg.	Combretaceae	Fruit medicinal
Patle Kutus	<b>Castanopsis tribuloides</b> A. DC.	Tree of Fagaceae	Fuel and fodder
Payun	<b>Prunus serasoides</b> D. Don.	Rosaceae, Biyete laga	Used by Nepali, Tamang, Chhetri, Kamidami tribes. After marriage they used the twigs with them and take something as Viksha.
Peepal	<b>Ficus religiosa</b> L.	Moraceae	Religious plant
Phaledo	<b>Erythrena stricta</b> Roxb.	Fabaceae	Fodder
Phulkopi	<b>Brassica oleracea</b> L. var. <b>botrytis</b> L.	Brassicaceae	Vegetable
Porka Siris	<b>Albizia lucida</b> Benth.	Mimosaceae	Shade
Pusse	<b>Solanum trilobatum</b> L.	Solanaceae	Halud paka phal
Rahap	<b>Raphidophora decursiva</b> (Roxb.) Schott	Evergreen climber of Araceae	Ornamental
Rangbhang	<b>Caryota urens</b> L.	Tree of Areaceae	Edible fruits
Rayo ko Sag	<b>Brassica caularpa</b> L.	Brassicaceae	Vegetable and making edible oil
Rukhtomatao	<b>Cyphomandra betacea</b> Cav.	Solanaceae	Fuits used a vegetable.
Saur	<b>Betula cylindrostachys</b> Wall.	Betulaceae	Used against Skin disease.
Serialo	<b>Brugmansia arborea</b> (L.) Sweet	Solanaceae	Shrubs/tree of Ornamental kind
Seto Champ	<b>Michelia doltsopa</b> Buch.-Ham. Ex DC.	Magnoliaceae	Tree of jungle.
Siris tree Tea Garden e	<b>Albizia procera</b> Benth.	Mimosaceae	Shade tree
Soura	<b>Betula alnoides</b> Ham.	Tree of Betulaceae	Wood of commerc.
Sukhdarsan	<b>Zantedeschia aethiopica</b> (L.) Spreng.	Araceae	Ornamental everywhere
Sunakhar	<b>Cymbidium</b> Swrtz		Ornamental
Sunakhari	<b>Vanda undulata</b> Lindl.	Orchidaceae	Ornamental near the house of some villagers.
Teatey Champ	<b>Michelia cathcartii</b> Hk. F. & T.	Magnoliaceae	Ornamental
Thotne	<b>Polygonum molle</b> D. Don.	Scandant shrub of Polygonaceae	Ripe fruits used in Chutney. Plant used as nice fodder for cattle. Stem also used in chutney.
Titapati	<b>Artemesia nilagirica</b> (C. B. Clarke) Pamp	Shrub of Asteraceae	Used to relief the ghostly appearance (Tribal belief), mostly used to reduce blood pressure.
Tooni	<b>Toona ciliata</b> M. Roem.	Meliaceae	Leaves are medicinal
Trifole	<b>Trifolium repens</b> L.	Fabaceae	White trifolium, if 4-leaftls found, then person seems to be lucky.
Tulsi	<b>Ocimum sanctum</b> L.	Lamiaceae	Leaves used
Utis	<b>Alnus nepalensis</b> D. Don.	Betulaceae	Good timber for making House in Hills

Notes: National flower of Nepal is “Lali guras” i.e. **Rhododendron arboreum** Smith, Munta i.e. Small twig, Jharphuck i.e. local belief about traditional practice by Janguru, Ojha, medicinemen, dabaimen, medical practitioner at local area.

As, per the study in northern and southern face of the Mulgaon forests, the important tree species found there are Moua (**Engelhardia** sp.) along with Laliguras (**Rhododendron** sp.). The importance value index of Moua in northern face of the same hill slope is 110 whereas in the southern face it has its value 115. The second dominant tree species, Laliguras with IVI value at northern face is 65 followed by 60 in southern face of the same hill with potential importance (Table 3 and 4). So, similarity Index (IS) of the tree species in between southern and northern is 88.8% (Table 5).

**Table 3**  
Tree species of Mulgaon Forest with dominant tree species like Moua and Laliguras in 10x10m<sup>2</sup> Quadrat (Northern Face)

Sl. No.	Name	RF	Rden	RDom	IVI	Monitoring Comment
1.	<b>Alnus nepalensis</b>	10	10	5	25	-
2.	<b>Engelhardia</b> sp.	20	40	50	110	Dominant sp.
3.	<b>Erythrena stricta</b>	5	5	5	15	-
4.	<b>Macaranga gmelinifolia</b>	5	5	5	15	-
5.	<b>Mallotus nepalensis</b>	15	10	10	35	Moderately
6.	<b>Michelia cathcartii</b>	5	5	5	15	-
7.	<b>Rhododendron</b> sp.	30	20	15	65	Dominant sp.
8.	<b>Schima wallichii</b>	10	5	5	20	-
	<b>Eight species :</b>				300	

**Table 4**  
Tree species of Mulgaon Forest with dominant tree species like Moua and Laliguras in 10x10m<sup>2</sup> Quadrat (Southern Face)

Sl. No.	Name	RF	Rden	RDom	IVI	Monitoring Comment
1.	<b>Alnus nepalensis</b>	5	5	10	20	-
2.	<b>Engelhardtia</b> sp.	25	30	60	115	Dominant sp.
3.	<b>Erythrena stricta</b>	5	5	5	15	-
4.	<b>Macaranga gmelinifolia</b>	5	5	5	15	-
5.	<b>Mallotus nepalensis</b>	10	10	10	30	Moderately
6.	<b>Michelia cathcartii</b>	5	10	5	20	-
7.	<b>Rhododendron</b> sp.	20	5	15	60	Dominant sp.
8.	<b>Schima wallichii</b>	5	5	5	15	-
9.	<b>Betula cylindrostachys</b>	5	5	5	5	-
10.	<b>Castanopsis tribuloides</b>	5	5	5	5	-
	<b>Ten tree species :</b>				300	

Diversity index of the tree species at the northern face in the same forest is 0.62 in comparison to the southern face with value 0.68. So, southern face is richer in tree species diversity (Table 5). Dominance Index of southern face (0.88) is poorer than northern face (0.99). Evenness Index (e) of both the sites are similar, because both with 2 dominant tree species (Moua and Guras). Species richness index (d) of northern face is 2.83 whereas the value of southern face is 3.64, which is much higher than the northern. This indicates rigorous study of east and west face of hills along with different gradient through north and south face seasonally for herbs and shrubby vegetation also to draw a sharp line of decision about eco-degradation.

**Table 5**  
Phytodiversity indices of Tree species at Northern and Southern Hill face in Mulgaon Forests, Darjeeling.

Indices	Mulgaon (North)	Mulgaon (South)
---------	-----------------	-----------------

Diversity Index (H)	0.62	0.68
Dominance Index (cd)	0.99	0.88
Evenness Index (e)	0.68	0.68
Species Richness Index (d)	2.83	3.64
Similarity Index (IS)	88.8%	

Social and cultural diversity of Darjeeling Himalaya is varied. It includes the ethno socio-culture of remote villages far away from the main township areas. Therefore, ethnicity and cultural believes also vary from site to site of the said area. All are grouped under the category as ethnic group. An ethnic group includes those people who possess some common cultural attributes such as language, norms and values, beliefs and folk practices, dress and food habitats, symbols and gestures, manners, rituals and customs etc. (Kurane, A., 1999). They may profess the same religion. Along with these cultural attributes they may have common descent or possess the same physiological characteristics. An ethnic group may live in a specific geographical area and have a common name. All these attributes bring homogeneity in the group which ultimately brings unity and integrity among the group members. These distinguishing physical and cultural features of an ethnic group make it unique, and distinguish it from other ethnic groups (Bhui, U., 2008-09). These ethnic groups usually have a sense of people hood, and to a certain degree many of the members of these groups believe themselves to be a nation. Thus these groups arise due to the feeling of loyalty to an ethnic group *i.e.* ethnic nationalism.

#### **Ethnic composition of Darjeeling Himalaya:**

The Nepali ethnic groups or the Gorkhas are found in a good number in Darjeeling district and the adjacent duars region of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal (Bhui, 2008-09). But it is also a fact that their representation is not uniform throughout the districts. Darjeeling district is composed of four sub-divisions- Darjeeling Sadar, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Siliguri Sub-division. Among these sub-divisions, first three are largely populated by the Nepali ethnic groups, whereas the population composed of Siliguri sub-division is mixed type, made up of the Bengalis, Nepalis, Adivasis, Biharis and many other ethnic groups. The study area includes the groups which include the caste like- Mangar, Rai, Tamang, Bhutia, Sunar, Chettri, Cami, Damai, Gurung, Dami, Cami and Gurung etc.

#### **Agriculture and People:**

They planted crops of agricultural importance are different vegetables like Rai (member of Brassicaceae), Alu (Potato), Muli (Member of Brassicaceae), Motor (**Pisum** sp.), Sevi-Sim (Legume as bean), etc., Fruits of commercial kinds found there are Naspati, Arucha, Ukhu (**Saccharum officinarum**). Some families use Cattle, Suar, Kukhra (Murgi), Bakhri etc. as domestic one. A kind of soil called Safed mati (White soil) available there as decorative agent for their common use. These are called Chullah mati or Pabitra mati (Sacred soil). Other places having less deposition of red soil called Lalmiti/Lalmati, used for the same purpose. Water available from source called Soch (leaching point from which small amount of water come out). Good examples are the places called "Basbote, Sourini, Kulungdara, Ardhure, Mulgaon, Cohukidar dara, Jowary basty and Limbu basty. All the points releasing water and collected in a big tank called Thumbi (Water supplying point) from which filtrated water goes to the village for domestic pupose.

#### **Bamboos and local Economy versus Ecology of Darjeeling Hill**

Bamboos are used for various purposes and its great versatility qualifies it to be a multiple use alternative to timber, food to the rural poor and tribal in particular (Tamang *et al.*, 2013). According to the opinion of the authors, in Sikkim Himalaya people use a large number of species in various daily works associated with direct economy. In Darjeeling Himalaya the Bamboos have the same demand and have a large scope to develop market economy if put in a proper managerial way through research and development by Govt. and NGOs. The purposes they solve are given below:

1. Fodder purpose-Cattle use the leaves of bamboos.
2. Mat making purpose *i.e.* Chitra used to protect gardens along with poles of bamboos (fencing purposes), sometimes cover the roof of a house or hut;
3. Big basket used to carry materials like tea leaves, meat, fishes, poultry materials, vegetables, fruits, straw, soil, garbage etc. The common name is "Doko" in Nepali;
4. Wrapping sapling in plantation sites or in plantation stand during afforestation programe;
5. Shelter for Chicks, ducks and hens even to small kids or puppy;
6. Constructing house in village or in slums;
7. Supporting prayer flags in sacred places;
8. In garden as pillar to support weak vegetable plants;
9. Bamboo scaffolding;
10. As vegetable;
11. House gate, garden gate, fencing garden periphery etc.,
12. Sticks for fishing purposes;
13. Sticks for various purpose in domestic way *i.e.* in house

broom, shoot broom etc.; 14. For temporary use *i.e.* for the preparation of bridge or road on canals and creeks in remote village etc. So, there is a large scope to study and research on economy and ecology of Bamboos of Darjeeling Himalaya, because it can be used largely to prepare soft toys by Handicraft artists in Tourist area like Town Darjeeling. Therefore, employment of people of remote area may be made through the new horizon in Darjeeling in near future.

#### **Ethno-medicine and Ethno-culture:**

Saha *et al.* (2011) reported 78 species of plants which have immense effect on environment that have their antimicrobial as well as antioxidant activities. All the plant species belonging to 70 genera under 47 families of angiosperms and growing in the said habitat thoroughly but not restricted in a village or in a pocket. The present study is therefore a study which having a lot of 103 species in a small area having diverse potentiality of those plants with immense ecological role. Sharma (2013) studied on Ethnobotanical plants of Darjeeling Himalaya and documented 91 species under 53 families in Darjeeling Himalayas which have been extensively used by the local people for their skin diseases. All the plants are available in the premises of the said area with good potential as they are natural one. The potential use varies from site to site as because the cultural diversity is different.

#### **Tourism and Social development through eco-tourism in Darjeeling:**

Darjeeling Himalaya performing the function of eco-tourism which presents the issues related to the mass communication within the hills and some aspects pointing out the betterment of the situation, through sustainable tourism (Rohin, 2009). The present study has potentially fit to develop the eco-tourism in near future.

#### **Effectiveness Monitoring and Sustenance of Life:**

Effective monitoring address the question of how successful a project ultimately is at restoring the ecosystem or component parts. It involves assessing restoration progress in relation to initial objectives, and refining treatment prescriptions, where required, to increase their effectiveness (Anonymous, 2002). Vegetation and soil may be used in the selected site to monitor the forest and people for eco-monitoring purpose round the year.

#### **Need setup of Nursery and Sancturay for potentially well developed Laliguras:**

Rhododendrons are the national flower of Nepal. Government of Sikkim has established two Rhododendron Sanctuaries (Singba and Barsey) for the conservation Rhododendrons and popularizes the species among people (Singh *et al.*, 2003; Tiwari *et al.*, 2006 and Singh, 2009). To date no conservation measures have been initiated by authority of Darjeeling Himalaya including Botanical Survey of India, for habitat concerned conservation in the same area which are going threat under manmade as well as natural causes. So, the present site may be the habitat for conservation of Rhododendron in near future. Even eco-modeling may be made there. Some authors suggested “Ecological niche modeling” which can thus save an important role in various *in-situ* as well as *ex-situ* measures for establishment of arboreta, sanctuaries, park and avenue, forests protected areas through community management, botanical gardens and also for *in-vitro* research activities for species conservation (Menon *et al.*, 2012). Mulgaon and Golagaon may be the sites for the same in near future.

### **FIGURES IN PHOTO PLATES (1-13)**

#### **Plate-1**



**PHOTO PLATE -1**

Figures 1-2: At the left pink **Magnolia campbellii** Hook. f. & Thoms. and at the right white **Magnolia campbellii** (Planted form) are in blooming stage along the road and way to Pandam, Udaygram, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India, with magnificent beauty of nature during late February to March (Photo by Dr. D. Das). Note that white coloured flowers having pleasant smell (Source: Divya Pradhan, a student of UG Deptt. Of Botany, Darjeeling Govt. College: Cell-091-09635741164).



Figures 3-4: Eskusgh–ka-Jara (Tuberous root of *Sechium edule* (Jacq.) Swartz.-a unique vegetable for local people at Darjeeling, West Bengal at the upper and *Primula melacoides* in roadside of Pandam Village, Darjeeling at the lower.

**PHOTO PLATE -2**



Figures 5-6: Fruit bearing Solanaceous Trumpet tree (**Brugmansia suaveolens** Berchst. & J. Presl) at left and Gagun tree (**Saurauia napaulensis** DC. ) as a fodder tree at the right.



Figures 7-8: **Cyphomandra betacea** Cav. (Rukh Tamato of Solanaceae) fruits in a local Home garden at Udaygram, Darjeeling in the left and **Calamus** sp. (Areceaceae) at the right.

**PHOTO PLATE -3**



Figure 9: **Rhododendron arboreum** Smith (Lali Guras) blooming in stage at Pandam, Darjeeling.



Figure 10: Left hand side of photograph showing Lali Guras (**Rhododendron arboreum**) and Right hand side showing White Champ (**Michelia cathcartii**) along the slopes of hill towards Pandam, Darjeeling during late monsoon (Photo taken by Author on 06.03.2014)

**PHOTO PLATE -4**



Figures 11-13: Drying flowering scapes of *Thysalolaena maxima* (Roxb.) O. Kuntz.(Left), Arucha: *Prunus* sp. (Middle) and *Asystacia macrocarpa* Nees of Acanthaceae (Right) showing flowering during monsoon at Jungle path of Pandam, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.



Figures 14-16: *Goldfusia pentastemonoides* Nees of Acanthaceae indicating village nearby as indicator species (Left); Author measuring GBH (Girth at breast Height) of Moua tree (*Engelhardia spicata*) at forest of Mulgaon (Photo by B.P. Sharma of Mulgaon) at the middle; The fodder part of Bamboos is deposited in front of Stable near Chowrasta (Centre of four ways) is collected from Bamboo thicket.





**PHOTO PLATE -5**

Figure 17 Mixed heterogeneous vegetation reaching Climax formation at jungle of Pandam from Udaygram, Darjeeling; red colored leaves indicating the plant like **Oxyspora paniculata** DC. with dried fruits, white flowers for **Michelia** sp. (Champ) and red for **Rhododendron** sp.(Lali Guras) flowers. (Photo by Dr. Debabrata Das, Asst. Professor of Botany, Post of Graduate Department of Botany, Darjeeling Govt. College, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India)

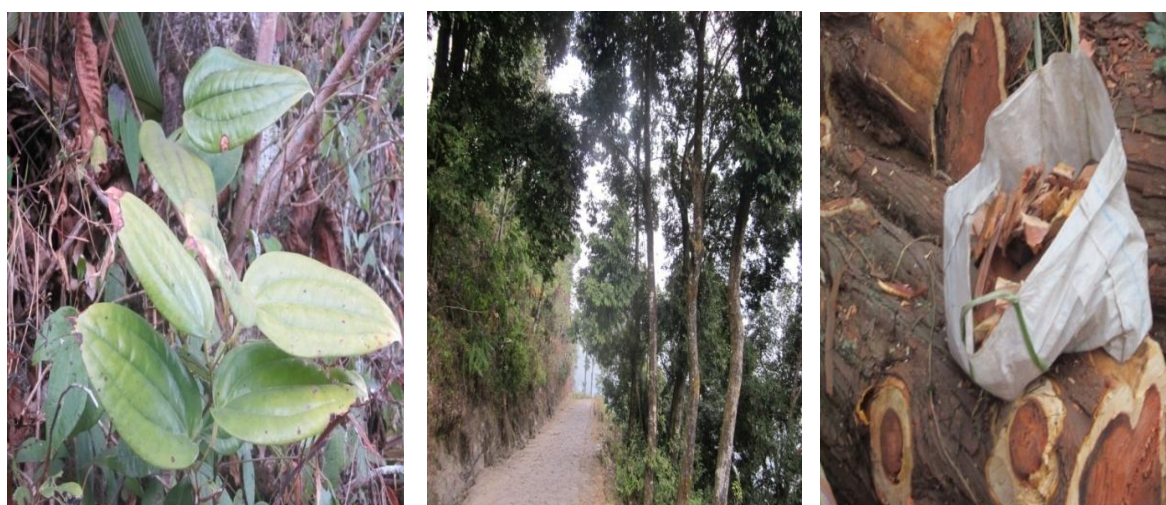


Figures 18-20: Gharia Sishnu (Gharia means near House) at the left, Mali Bamboo (middle) and **Amomum subulatum** (Baro Alaichi) at the right.

**PHOTO PLATE -6**



Figures 21-23: Bokey Timbur plant-*Zanthozyllum* sp. (Seeds used as condiments like Hing *i.e.* *Ferula* sp.), *Ficus semicordata* (Khanew) and Author collecting Seeds of some medicinal herbs during field visit (Photo by Kamal Kanta Roy, Non-teaching Staff of Zoology Department, Darjeeling Govt. College), Note that in Nepali word “Bokey” means Male Goat.



Figures: 24-26: *Smilax ferox* Wallich ex Kunth (Smilacaceae) at left, Trees of *Engelhardia spicata* Leschen. Ex Blume (Juglandaceae) at middle and Felled tree *Cryptomeria japonica* ( Salla Dhupi) at right.

PHOTO PLATE -7



Figures 27-29 : Chitra *i.e.* covering made by Bhalu Bans, Pakhan bet and Vegetables collected from local garden at Golao gaon by Doko (Container/Basket made up of Bamboos), Darjeeling. Note that basket without holes are called Thumpsey/Tokri also used for the collection of tea leaves in garden and with holes is called Doco (Collection of fodder plants, wood, building materials etc.) at upper left. Pakahn bet locally used to relief the throat pain (Dried roots as whole and greens leaves without fabricated lamina) at the upper right. Vegetables collected by Golaigaon villagers at the bottom. Person at middle is resource person.





**Figures 30-32** : 30. Orange-red coloured flowers–scape of *Aloe* sp. (*A. striata* x *maculata* hybrid), White-Sukhdarsan; 31. Bhokatay fruit-*Citrus grandis* L. (Juice of fruits used for drinking purpose, very rich in Vitamin-C) and 32. Simal (*Manihot utilissima* Pohl. of Euphorbiaceae). Note that, modified stems of different creepers are called “taru”.

**PHOTO PLATE- 8**



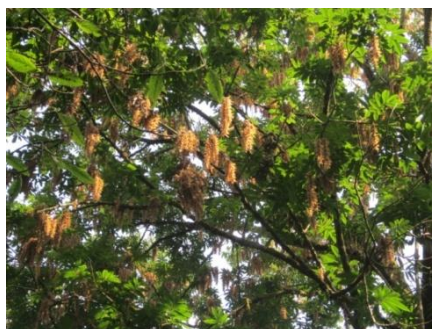
**Figures: 33 (a, b, c)** : Local technique to carry water from Source so called “kua or muhan” by which water is being collected to a big container called Thumbhi (Large reservoir) and from there water supplied to Village via a pipeline for a kilometer or more to carry water by the help of pillars of Trees in the hill slopes. First figure indicates Thumbhi, second and third figure for kua. Note that bamboos (half pipe) are used to carry water from Hills.



Figures 34-35: 34. Himalayan Goats used for meat production (Left), 35. Dhan Kumar Chhetri (Left), Author-Dr. Debabrata Das ( Middle) and Bishnu Prasad Sharma (Right) as resource person and field man at Botany Department of Darjeeling Govt. College after discussion about common Problems of Himalayan People in a day, note that flowers are **Primula** sp. (Primulaceae) of Eastern Himalaya, Darjeeling as wild.

**PHOTO PLATE -9**





Figures 36-41: Author and villager (Left) at Mulgaon (Photo by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Sharma of Mulgaon Village), **Colegyne cristata** Lindley (= **C. nitida** Lindey) locally called Sunakhara—a white wild Orchid; **Cymbidium** sp. (Orchid) along with small Pakhan bet (Herb) , Sukadarsan (Plant of Araceae) , Pendent fruits of **Engelhardia spicata** (Moua/Simkukra) tree at fruiting stage, Farsi *i.e.* **Cucurbita pepo** L. (A kind of Pumpkin called summer squash) in the same village . Note that the “Farsi” fruit is used as edible vegetables making sweets and Halua (Like Suji with sugar). Big yellow flowers are used to prepare Pakoda/Pakora with (Bason fried form). Tendrils are used as vegetables.

**PHOTO PLATE -10**



Figures 42-44: People collecting fodder for Cattle, mainly Thotne plant *i.e* **Polygonum molle** D. Don. Fodder plant giving shade to moss plants, note that erect plants are male plants of **Polytrchum** sp., and the next figure

showing growth of mixed species of mosses on acidic substratum, where luxuriant growth of **Funaria hygrometrica** along with **Pogonatum**, and **Polytrichum** takes place. These micro communities may change due to overburden of heavily growing tree species like **Alnus** (Utis) in the said area through progressive change of age of the forest community, at Hill slopes (Photographs taken by Dr. Debabrata Das, on 09.03.2014 in field).



Figure 45-47: Dense Vegetation with Three layered canopy (>70 percent canopy cover) of trees on the ridges of Hills at Mulgaon forest, Bamboo thicket (Parang), **Saccharum officinarum** L. (Sugarcane locally called Ukhu) in the same village of Darjeeling, West Bengal, India (Photo by Dr. D. Das)

**PHOTO PLATE -11**



Figures 48-50: **Didymocarpus aromaticus** Wall. Ex D. Don of Gesneriaceae; **Raphidophora decursiva** (Roxb.) Schott of Araceae; and **Elatostemma sessile** Forester & Forester f. of Urticaceae





Figures 51-53 : Devimandir (Sacred Grove) at Golaigaon, Mailamama Sacred Grove at Mulgaon, Pink /majenda Fruits are fruits of **Dicentra scandens** (D. Don.) Walpers hanging over fern leaflets near jhora.(Waste water falls).



Figures 54-56: **Agapetes serpens** (Wight) Sleumer on rocky substratum (Bandre) at left, A large climber **Mucuna macrocarpa** Wall. (Baldhengra) at middle, and **Alnus nepalensis** D. Don (Utis) at right, Note that, the vegetation of *utis* at slopes may be 8-10 years.

**PHOTO PLATE -12**



Figures 57-59: *Polytrichum commune*—community, note that the community having male as well as female plants, male having antheridial clusters and female having sporogonium on rocky substratum, underneath of shrubby vegetation nearby; *Polytrichum commune*—an endohydric moss community growing underneath tree shade on mildly acidic soil, the hairy cap coming out from capsule so the name hairy cap moss.



Figures 60-62: Kabra- **Ficus benjamina** L. var. *comosa*; , Pindalu-(wild yam *i.e.* **Alocasia** sp.) -along with Papaya and Rai-ko-Sag, in a local market, Eskush-**Sechium edule** (Cucurbitaceae) hanging in a Bamboo thicket during winter near forest. (Note that four varieties of Eskush are available from Kalimpong and Darjeeling areas due to presence of colour and outer spines, one with pale yellow, one with light green, another is dark green, last one is spineless, the light green is very common. This species having light green ecotypes are cultivated throughout the area).

**PHOTO PLATE -13**





Figures 63-65: People carrying dry litter for fuel purpose; Doko used to carry Fodder plants; Yellow Jasmine: **Jasminum humile** L. (East Italian Yellow Jasmine) planted for ornamental purpose.



Figures 66-68: Wild Ginger (**Zingiber** sp.) and fronds of fern ( **Nephrolepis** sp. –The bulb of underground one called Pani Amla used in Urinary troubles in Men/women ; **Kalanchoe** garden variety, Colorful **Primula** (Garden variety) planted in front of the small village house for the medicinal and aesthetic purpose.



Figure 69: A Landscape diversity of Tea Garden in Eastern Himalaya, Darjeeling where people using Doko for plucking tea leaves, note that this picture is not a picture of Pandam Tea Estate, it is a Tea garden near Happy Valley Tea Estate, Darjeeling, a view from main road, Darjeeling towards Lebung.



Figures 70-71: Doko of Chaya Bans (Left) and Himalayan Daisy (Pink and White) in village garden used for aesthetic purpose.

#### 4. Concluding Remarks

Population of plants, animals and microbes including man has occupied the pace by inter-acting them in each moment and going to re-build their position for temporarily but moderately varied form to adapt them. The concept of landscape ecology has therefore abundant scope for changing human living conditions and shaping ecological character of a region (Dash and Dash, 2010). The Scope of ecology is increasing day by day as it has immense practical values on society. Therefore, demand of this science has expanded considerably as man has become increasingly aware of the serious problems of the environment, and has become so vast that it is now an interdisciplinary science broadcasts activities too a little bit narrow. It is a science which linking biology in one hand and the physical and social sciences in the other hand. Therefore, it includes mode and variations of alternative the pattern, geo-biochemical cycles, energy flow, energy budget, forestry, agriculture and horticulture, Osteo-culture, Dairy, Gotary, Poultry, Duckery, Apiculture, Pisciculture, Pomology and so on. So, this varied science is an interdisciplinary discipline and being amalgamated with technology that dealt with at different levels, namely-(1) the theoretical, perfecting the knowledge of fundamental laws of nature and the functions of biosphere as a whole to cope a little diffraction in environment, (2) the practical, which helps to study the theoretical and provide insights into the understanding of logical problems –besides, these are historical processes of man's transformation of nature and natural processes, (3) the socio-cultural, as ecological processes in recent times have involved the participation of people and changing global scenario which is demandable (e.g. Chipko movement in Uttar Pradesh now Uttarakhand, Silent Valley movement in Kerala, Gandhamadan movement in Odisha (Orissa), and (4) Economical, which means to earn money using different tools and techniques to restore local ecosystem with the help of restoration ecology. In the first two levels scientists play a key role to mitigate the problems, whereas in case of the last two, the people of common type particularly villagers or people of the community, Government, NGOs, trying to mitigate the big problems that predominate in the ecosystem. Therefore, this study is a study of different levels in both villages and in urban areas of Darjeeling Himalaya, as primary type to monitor ecological problems and prospects through vegetation monitoring in the said area. This reflects further scope of research and extension activities either required or not in future do develop society better. Not only that type, has it also broadcast taxonomy, ecology and agriculture of the area which would be helpful for needful eco-restoration in future. It covers structure and functions of tree species for phyto-community study so, after that lower group as well as herb and shrubs composition study is required to know the actual carrying capacity of the ecosystem, for better monitoring of the site. Hope that, researchers will come soon and start the need based work in near future to fulfill the eco-monitoring of the said vegetation as a whole.

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