

Chakraborty
Principal

Kalipada Ghosh Tarai Mahavidyalaya

PRINCIPAL:
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Mahavidyalaya
Bagdogra

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17. Causes of Growth of Urban Informal Study in Some Slums of Siliguri Municipal Corporation Area, Darjiling District, Westbengal

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Abstract

Siliguri, the gate way to the North East India is not only of vital importance to the State of West Bengal but India as a whole. Located at the foot of Himalayas on the verge of Terai, it presents the picturesque glimpse of the Himalayan ranges establishing its inmate charm to a visitor. Though the settlement started initially with the tea plantation and a junction station to change over to the Toy train for Darjeeling in 1880 it acquired the status of Sub Divisional town in 1907. Though by thirties it had gained weight age as a town, it was confirmed Municipal status only in 1950. Siliguri Municipal Corporation area, with a population of 4, 72,374, is one of the cities of West Bengal with a large presence of informal sector operators and workers. More than one lakh people from different states and adjoining places come over to Siliguri everyday for different purposes [SMC, 2006]. Their hustling activities can not escape any visitor's attention. Wide range of activities including street food or market vendors, small automotive or machine repair shops, RPs, CWs and scavengers are seen everywhere. Others are not readily visible, such as home workers in the garment industry, families producing shoes and leather items and small producers of handicrafts and furniture. All informal sector activities whether in or out of the homes, provide incomes for a large segment of the city's population. Without this Income the socio-economic pressure would be unthinkable. Many informal sector establishments hire a small number of helpers or engage immediate family members. The informal sector generally described as "sponge" that absorbs people who are unemployed or unable to find employment in the formal sector, particularly those who migrated from the other districts or different regions of the same districts.

Keywords : Informal sector, Dalas, Kitchen gardening

Reasons for Joining Informal Sector

- Mere survival
- Income opportunities
- Flexible labour
- Labour costs
- Easy entry
- Small scale
- Accessible facilities

Conclusion

Inflation can result in income levels in the formal as well as the informal economy no longer being adequate to maintain a decent standard of living or even threatening the survival of urban families. Confronted with this situation, people often turn to part-time participation in informal economic activities to augment their incomes. 'Moonlighting' is very common among government/ semi government personnel in SMCA, including functionaries and teachers, who resort to out-of-hours second jobs or to selling goods during office hours and so on.

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