

Economic features of Tea community in Sivasagar Sub- Division of Assam.

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ABSTRACT: *The present research work examines economic characteristics such as consumption pattern ,standard of living ,education etc. of the Tea Community within the area under study and found that Tea Community maintains Low per capita consumption expenditure ,literacy and poor standard of living .It is recommended that provision of residential school, Vocational and technical educational facility, availability of micro finance organization could be the desired solution of these problems.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of economic development being determinant of socio cultural development is implicit in Marxian literature. Many economists and social anthropologists although rejecting the Marxian economic views; have also accepted the Marxian approach that economy proceed the society.¹ Further it has been observed the changes in the system of production leads to moderately of the social ,political and cultural set up of the society. But scholar like G Myrdal stress upon the role of social institution in economic development ,particularly in the Asian stage. Many other sociologist undermine the supremacy of the economic forces determining the changes in society . They have given priority to some social non economic features. Similarly various aspects of society and social psychology in regard to the problems of economic development of the under developed societies on countries have been highlighted by various study teams under UNO. The economic growth also depends upon economic activities increasing knowledge and increasing capital.² There is a general impression among the people of Sivasagar Sub Division that Tea community is economically poor, illiterate and Underprivileged . The present research work gives mixed result . For evaluating economic status of Tea Community we have taken most important variables such as Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) ,Literacy, Village Infrastructure, Life expectancy ,Health & Hygiene ,occupational pattern ,Demographic Profile etc . All these variables are quantitatively hypothesized and derived conclusive results. Objective of the study :

The present research work is also aimed at discovering the systematic and reliable knowledge about economic characteristics such as , consumption pattern, standard of living, education etc. of the Tea community within the area under study.

II. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY :

The present research work was guided by the following hypotheses-

- [1] Tea community maintains a low level of income and poor stander of living.
- [2] 2 . Literacy rate is low among Tea Community.

III. METHODOLOGY:

The present research work was conducted by applying field study method in the area under study . The sample for inquiry is based on two stage random sampling technique . Tea Community form the first unit and Tea community household the second and ultimate unit of sampling for the investigation .A list of tea community village under Sivasagar Sub-Division was prepared and Households were selected at random without replacement for this Research work. The relevant cross section data were collected with the help of a prepared schedule by applying direct personal interview method .After the completion of field study ,tabulation and analysis of data were undertaken by applying standard statistical and descriptive method .Secondary data were also be collected from different sources ,viz ,plantation offices ,research journals ,books and news papers .The mass of the data collected had been systematically arranged and presented in different chapters in the study .In addition relevant photograph ,necessary maps ,graphs and statistical tables were incorporated in the discourse .

A) Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) : During the field work it was observed that Tea community did not keep any account if income and expenditure. In expectation getting government benefit the

respondents generally try to hide their income level. Moreover the concepts of income has been causing a concern to economists due precisely to the problems of inclusion or exclusion of particular items from the social accounts. The concept of income

had also eluded many economists of the past. Therefore, to overcome this problems MPCE considered as the main indicator of standard of living of tea community. MPCE are the primary source of data on various indicators of living of different segments of population in area under study. It is used as a measure of welfare of a society and as basis of comparison of economic development or economic progress. The absolute and percentage break up of MPCE over categories of consumption items further given separately for households in different fertile class of MPCE for each villages. The same is done for quantity and value of per capita consumption of different cereals and pulses.

Objective of the field work: Average household monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE), aims at generating estimates of the distribution of households and persons over the MPCE range, and the break-up of average MPCE by commodity group among the community. These indicators are amongst the most important measures of the level of living of the relevant domains of the population. The distribution of MPCE highlights the differences in level of living of the different segments of the population and is an effective tool to study the prevalence of poverty and inequality. These estimates thus enable the apex planning and decision-making process to allocate the nation’s resources among sectors, regions, and socio-economic groups, and assess the “inclusiveness” of economic growth. The present research work is concerned with the level of consumer expenditure – as measured by MPCE – and consumption pattern – as revealed in the break-up of MPCE over different heads of expenditure.

Features of the Field work : Schedules of Enquiry : The household consumer expenditure schedule was used for the field work collected information on quantity and value of household consumption. To minimize recall errors, a very detailed item classification was, as usual, adopted to collect information. In the schedule of enquiry different reference periods was used for collection of consumption data Schedule .For certain categories of relatively infrequently purchased items, including clothing and consumer durables, it was collected information on consumption during the last 365 days. For other categories, including all food and fuel and consumer services, it was used a 30-days reference period.

Table -1: Reference periods used for collection of consumption data

Category	Item Groups	Reference Period
I	Clothing, bedding, footwear, education, medical (institutional), durable goods	'Last 365 days'
II	Edible oil; egg, fish & meat; vegetables, fruits, spices, beverages and processed foods; pan, tobacco & intoxicants	Last 30 days
III	All other food, fuel and light, miscellaneous goods and services including non-institutional medical; rents and taxes	Last 30 days

Table 2
Break-up of monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) over broad categories of consumption items.

Item	Value(Rs) of Per capita consumption(30 days)	Percentage(%)
1 Cereal	124	18.74 %
2 Gram	0.33	0.04 %
3 Cereal substitute	0.00	0.00 %
4 Pulse & pulse product	21.62	3.26 %
5 Milk& Milk product	10.05	1.51 %
6 Sugar	11.50	1.73 %
7 Salt	2.94	0.44 %
8 Edible Oil	33.27	5.02 %
9 Egg, fish, meat	82.02	12.39 %
10 Vegetables	54.03	8.16 %
11 Friuts(Fresh)	8.10	1.22 %
12 Fruit(Dry)	0.48	0.07 %
13 Spice	13.79	2.08 %
14	19.28	2.91 %

Beverage/Refreshment/processed food		
15 Food total (1-14)	381.41	57.65 %
16 Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants	67.03	10.13 %
17 Fuel and Light	43.60	6.59 %
18 Clothing & Bedding	34.02	5.14 %
19 Footwear	7.36	1.11 %
20 Education	13.24	2.00 %
21 Medical(institutional)	2.32	0.35 %
22 Medical(Non institutional)	20.64	3.11 %
23 Entertainment	3.24	0.48 %
24 Minor durable types Goods	3.92	0.59 %
25 Toilet articles	6.29	0.95 %
26 Other households consumables	6.59	0.99 %
27 Consumer services Excl conveyances	33.00	4.98 %
28 Conveyance	15.84	2.39 %
29 Rent	0.00	0.00 %
30 Taxes & Cess	0.00	0.00 %
31 Durables goods	23.05	3.48 %
32 Non food total(16-31)	280.14	42.35 %
Total expenditure(15+32)	661.55	100 %

Source : Field Work in the area under study.

Like their income is uncertain ,their expenditure is equally unplanned. They never stored anything ,yearly monthly or even weekly except firewood in some households. Whenever foodstuff or any such item was exhausted ,some quantity of it ,depending on the cash at hand was purchased. Daily items of expenditure like cereals sugar tea vegetables were purchased daily or one on two or three days . Daily expenses include the money spent on biscuits ,betels leaves and nuts, bidis and so on.

The above table shows expenditures of tea community households. Among the food items ,rice was the staple food among the tea community. Atta (Wheat floor) ,Suji(wheat product) ,were also purchased. The second highest among the food product were the Eggs, Fish & Meat etc. Vegetables like pumpkin, cucumber, cabbage, Cauli flower, tomato, Brinjal, different kind of gourd, potato ,onion were mainly consumed. In case of non food total as Table no 2 shows, the major share was spent on tobacco, betel nut, and country liquor. Clothing also required heavy expenditure . Articles of clothing were bought during festival and whenever needed. As regard expenditure on entertainment some of them possessed televisions sets , while most of them own a radio. Luxury goods included soaps ,hair oil, face powder, etc. which were included in other households consumables. Books papers slats, pencils eraser, and school fees were the major expenditure involved in education.

The above table shows that MPCE among tea community is below not only the national average (which is Rs 1430/-) ,but also to the state average (which is Rs 1219/-). Moreover out of their MPCE the major expenditure incurred on food product which was 57.65 % of the total expenditure. Total expenditure on non food items was only 42.35% only. In this regard the Angel law of consumption says that as income increases the total share of expenditure on food products decreases and expenditures on non food items or luxury items increases. The above table of consumer expenditure shows that Tea community is still living under poverty and their standard of living is poor as their major share of MPCE confine to food product only. Hence the hypothesis that the standard of living of Tea Community is poor is accepted.

B) Life Expectancy : Life expectancy is closely elated with the standard of living .It is the most important indicator of standard of living of a society. Higher life expectancy indicates better standard of living and vice versa. The following table shows the survival rate of the population in the area under study.

Table 3 Age Distribution

Age group	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Below-6Yrs	82	26.28	77	24.68	159	25.60
6-15	119	38.14	90	28.85	209	33.66
16-25	45	14.42	57	18.27	102	16.43
26-35	32	10.26	39	12.62	71	11.43
36-45	17	5.45	18	5.82	35	5.64
46-55	11	3.53	16	5.12	27	4.35
56-65	06	1.92	12	3.88	18	2.90
65 & above	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	312	100	309	100	621	100

Source : Field Work in the area under study.

The survival rate of the population as evident from number of persons in high age group was low. The survival from 56 yrs and above 2.90 percent for both males and female taken together. Male longevity was comparatively lower than female for age group over 25yrs.

C) Size of the households : Size of the households indicate the standard of living of the people as higher size of family reduce rate of saving as well as increase dependency ratio and resultant decrease in nutrition intake and other services thereby reducing standard of living in the long run. The following table shows household size of the sample households

Table 4 Size of the households:

Size group	No of Households	Total Population	Average Size
0-4	9	31	3.44
5-8	89	572	6.42
8 & above	2	18	9.00
Total	100	621	6.21

Source : Field Work in the area under study

The distribution shows 6.42 percent were concentrated in 5-8 size group. The average size group was 6.21 person per household. It was more than not only state average, which is 4.8, but also National Average, which is 4.6 only.

Table no 5 :Average households size-

Average households size	
Assam	4.8
India	4.6
Sample Household	6.21

Source : Census of India 2011.

D) Occupational Pattern: The analysis occupational pattern of the households is an important aspect of the study because it helps in explaining, by and large, the way in which the household earned their living.

Table 6 : Occupational Pattern-

Occupation	Cultivator	Agricultural Labor	Households Industries	Other Worker	Non worker
Male	12	16	08	48	27
Female	08	35	00	24	75

Source : Field Work in the area under study

E) Sanitation : During the field work it was seen that Tea Community villages also suffer from lack of proper sanitation. Only 26 households had sanitary toilets. Others had makeshift toilets in their backwoods. As regard water supply only two villages possess public water distribution system. Majority of people used Tube well as source of drinking water. Those who did not have Tube well collected water from their neighbor possessing Tube wells.

B Literacy : Education as a means to improve the quality of population and promote intellectual sophistication has an important place in development planning. Educational facilities and expenditure incurred thereon, tend to indicate the cultural and social development reached by the community and indirectly the capacity and urge off the people to carry forward the process of economic development. Education is one of the main infrastructural facilities of a particular region. Education, general or technical is the most important factors that determines the economic quality of people³. It is the most valuable of all capital. There are no way to develop human resource except resorting education. Education covers all kinds of training, formal and informal. In short, it leads human beings to unlock the doors to modernization. The knowledge using effectively to inputs or land bring direct benefit to the cultivators and to the nation as a whole. Adoption of new technology of cultivation is another important benefit of education among the farmers.⁴Hence literacy is the acid test of socioeconomic and cultural advancement of a community. Education, being the major components of human resource development is one of the most important indicator of socio economic and political development of the society. The depth of socio cultural heritage of the group/caste is judge from the percentage of literacy and educational development. Higher percentage of literacy is one of the indicators of their intelligence and status consciousness in the society. It also reflects the socio economic background from which a particular community passes through. Keeping these view in mind, field work conducted in the sampled households the following results have come out.

Table no 7 Distributions of literates and percentage by age and sex of sample households

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Total population = 621 Pop below 6 yrs = 159 Pop above 6 yrs = 462 Male pop = 230 Female pop = 232 Where, Pop = Population
Below 6 yrs	----	-----	-----	
6-15	102	72	174	
16-25	28	26	54	
26-35	11	16	27	
36-45	08	05	13	
46-55	03	01	04	
56-65	01	00	01	
65&above	00	00	00	
Total Literates	153	120	273	
Percentage	(66.52%)	(51.72%)	(59.09%)	

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Table 8 Distribution of literacy rate in sample households, state (Assam) and whole country(India)

Category	Literacy rate (%)		
	Male	Female	TOTAL
Assam	78.81	67.27	73.18
India	82.14	65.46	74.04
Sample households	66.52	51.72	59.09

Source: Census of India 2011.

Field work in sample households.

Data based on the field work reflect that out of 462 (which were above 6 yrs of age) sample population 273 persons were literate. Therefore the literacy rate was 59.09%. Out of these total 153 person were male which was of 66.52% and 120 were female which was of 51.72%. In table no 8 shows comparative analysis of literacy rate among sample households, state and the whole country. Literacy rate in the sample households was only 59.09% whereas it is in 73.74% in the state and 74.04% in the whole country. Educational advancement of among the children of Tea Community also shows a gloomy picture-

Table :9 Total number of dropout children (absolute term)

Category	Boys	Girls	Total
Going to school	84	48	132
Not going to School	35	42	77
Total	119	90	209

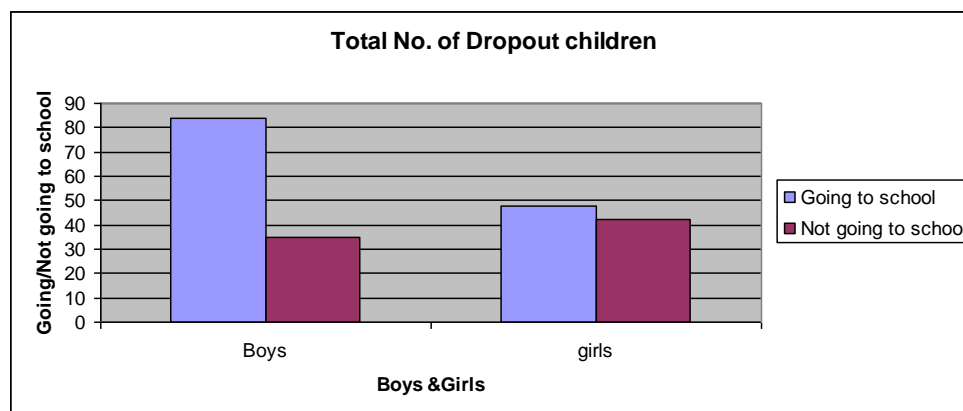
Source : Field Work in the area under study

Table 10 : Percentage break up of total dropout-

Category	Boys	Girls	Total
Going to school	70.59 %	53.33%	63.15%
Not going to school	29.41%	46.67%	36.85%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Chart No 01



Source : Field Work in the area under study

Above table and chart shows that out of total 209 children (age group between 6to 14 yrs) 132 were found going to school and 77 Nos. of children found not going to school. In percentage wise 63.15% of children were found going to school and 36.85% were found not going to school. In gender based analysis ,out of 209 children 119 were boys and 90 were girls . Among the boys ,out of 119 boys 84 were found going to school which was 70.59% and 35 were found not going to school which is 29.41%.Similarly among girls children out of 90 girls 42 were found going to school which was 53.33% and 48 girl children were found not going to school which was 46.67% of total girl population.

Grade Wise Dropout Rate : If we go through the grade wise distribution then we have found that the ratio of dropout to school was high in upper primary and high school than the primary level. Gender biased was also found in Primary ,Upper primary and High school level.

Table 11 Grade Wise Dropout Rate

Category	Primary (I-IV)		U Primary(V-VII)		High School(VII-IX)		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Going to School	53	33	26	13	5	2	132
Not going to School	6	13	16	23	13	6	77
Total	59	46	42	36	18	8	209

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Chart 02

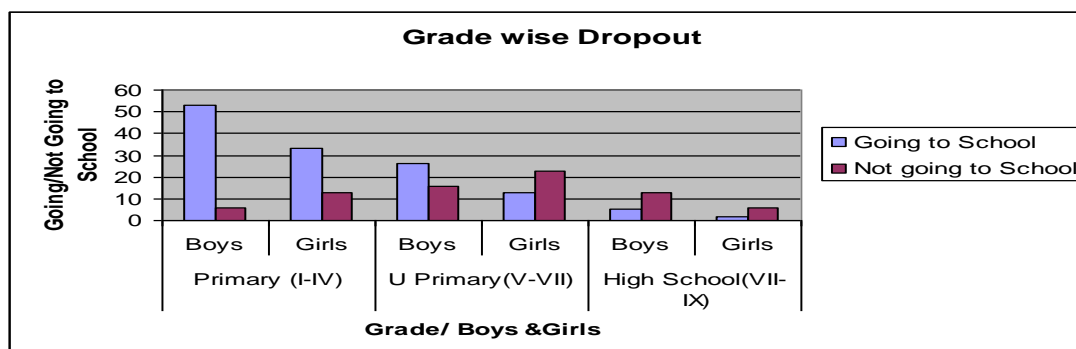


Table 12 : Percentage wise dropout.

Category	Primary (I-IV)		U Primary(V-VII)		High School(VII-IX)		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Going to School	89.83	71.74	61.9	36.11	27.78	25	63.15
Not going to School	10.17	28.26	38.1	63.89	72.22	75	36.85
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Chart No 3

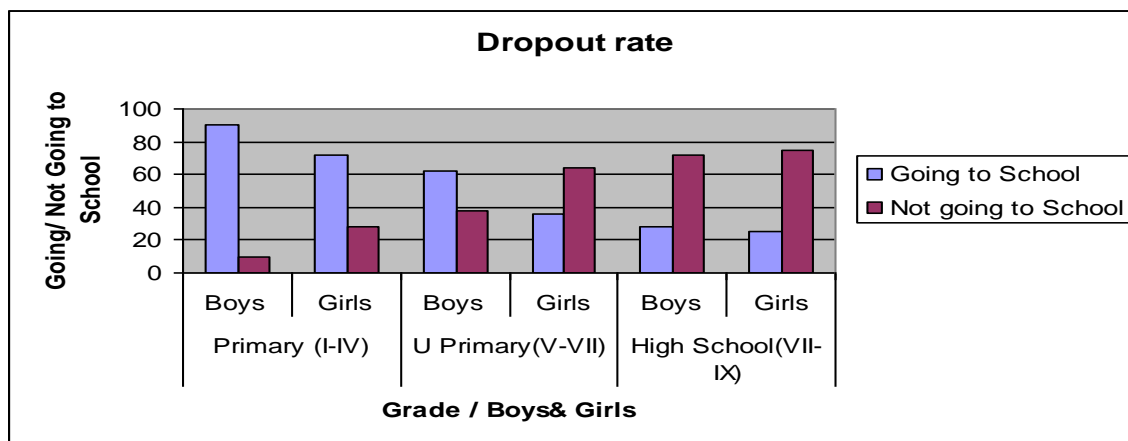
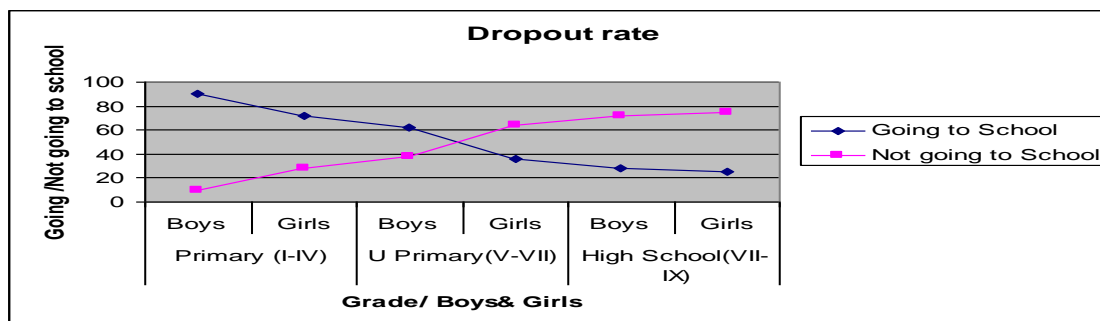


Chart 4



. That is higher percentage of girl child is out of school than boys. Table & chart shows that in primary level dropout percentage was 10.17% of boys and 28.26% of girls. In the upper primary level 38.10% was boys and 63.89% was girls. Similarly in high school level 72.22% was boys and 75.00% was girls. The main attributive cause of differential rate of attendance is found as economic classification. A child is classified by a tag derived from the per capita monthly household expenditure of the household the child belong. The table shows that there is a positive relationship between higher per capita expenditure and rate of attendance to school.

Table No 13 Dropout with MPCE Level.

Category	Going to School			Not going to School		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
0-500	26	06	32	23	24	47
500-1000	52	38	90	12	15	27
1000-1500	4	3	7	00	03	03
1500&above	2	1	3	00	00	00
Total	84	48	132	35	42	77

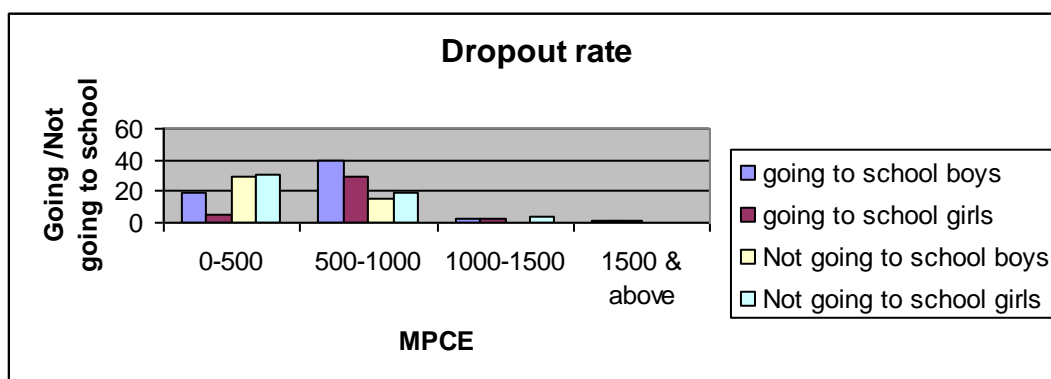
Source : Field Work in the area under study

Table no14 : Percentage wise Dropout with MPCE Level

Category	Going to School			Not going to school		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
MPCE (Rs)						
0-500	19.69	4.54	24.24	29.87	31.17	61.04
500-1000	39.39	28.78	68.18	15.58	19.49	35.06
1000-1500	3.03	2.27	5.30	0.00	3.89	3.89
1500&above	1.57	0.75	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	63.64	36.36	100	45.45	54.55	100

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Chart No 5



Alternatively the low per capita expenditure is the cause of higher dropout rate .Total 61.04% dropout fell under the category of per capita expenditure Rs 0 to Rs 500/-,and 35.06% fall under the category of per capita expenditure Rs 500 to rs 1000. and only 3.89 % of dropout were falling within the per capita expenditure of Rs 1000/- to Rs 1500/-.

Secondly, It was found that a household with less number of adult members is less likely to attend school. It is implied that children are relied upon for domestic help.

Table 15 : Number of Adult Member in the households

Heads		Adult members				
		1	2	3	4+	Total
Household Nos.		10	65	11	16	100
Children not going to school	Boys	13	16	2	4	35
	Girls	8	26	6	2	42
	Total	21	42	8	6	77

Source : Field Work in the area under study.

Table 16 : Percentage wise number of Adult Member in the households

Heads		Adult members				
		1	2	3	4+	Total
Children not going to school	Boys	16.88	20.77	2.60	5.19	45.45
	Girls	10.39	33.78	7.79	2.60	54.55
	Total	27.27	54.55	10.39	7.79	100

Source : Field Work in the area under study.

table shows that 27.27% and 54.55% dropout recorded in adult member of one and two persons respectively. and only 10.39% and 7.79% of dropout were found in adult members of 3 and 4 persons respectively.

Thirdly, The most important form of requirement of domestic help found was fetching drinking water. The following table shows distance from the source of drinking water to the household.

Table 18 Distance to Source of drinking water

Source of drinking water			
	Within campus	Outside campus	Total
Going to school	128	04	132
Not going to school	7	70	77
Total	135	74	209

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Children had to arrange drinking water from either tubewell and government water supply especially in the winter seasons when ponds become dry where they used them for washing purpose as both of their parents were outside their home for earning daily wages. Out of 77 dropout from the sampled households 70 children were found dropout not having source of drinking water in their own campus. Fourthly it is found that having an infant in the household requires a child for domestic help especially a girl child. The table shows that out of 77 dropout from sample households 38 children were found dropout having more than two infants.

Table 19 :Number of infant

Category/ Nos	Number of infant			
	0	1	2+	Total
Going to school	64	44	24	132
Not going to school	15	24	38	77
Total	69	68	72	209

Source : Field Work in the area under study.

Finally it is found that long travel discourages school attendance. Since Primary schools are very near to their households, total enrolment was very high in lower primary level. But for high and higher secondary school children had to incur long travel

Table 20 Distance to school

	Distance to school				Total
	Within 1 KM	1-2KM	2-5KM	More than 5KM	
Going to school	46	38	29	19	132
Not going to school	10	19	21	27	77
Table	56	57	50	46	209

Source : Field Work in the area under study

Therefore it impacts negatively to attendance of the students. Table shows that out of 77 dropout students 27 students were found having more than 5 KM of distance to travel for attending their school. Hence the hypothesis that literacy rate among the tea community is low is accepted.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Therefore economic status of tea community is very poor thereby results in Low standard of living. It is mainly due to low per capita consumption expenditure. Reasons for Low Per Capita Expenditure are –Poor educational status, Lack of technical Skill, Lazy and not enterprising, Dominated by traditional belief, Not solvent in money matters, Lack of banking & finance facilities ,Finance by money lenders, Lack of micro finance organization ,Excessive expenditure on intoxicants, Excessive expenditure on social occasion ,Lack of saving habits. etc.Provision of residential schooling facility, vocational and technical educational facilities, availability of micro finance organization, destruction of traditional belief, increment of saving habits, Change of parents attitude towards their child, could be the desired solution of these problems.

III. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

- [1] **1 Reference period:** The time period for which consumption is recorded is called the reference period. It may vary from item to item. Because the respondents are asked to recall and report the volume of consumption, the reference period is also called the recall period.
- [2] **2 Household consumer expenditure:** The expenditure incurred by a household on
- [3] domestic consumption during the reference period is the household's consumer expenditure.
- [4] **3 Value of consumption:** For items of food, pan, tobacco, intoxicants, fuel, clothing and
- [5] footwear, this term is not synonymous with expenditure incurred by the household on the item, and the following rules of valuation are specified. Consumption out of purchase is evaluated at the purchase price. Consumption out of home produce is evaluated at ex farm or ex factory rate. Value of consumption out of gifts, loans, free collections, and goods received in exchange of goods and services is imputed at the rate of average local retail prices prevailing during the reference period.
- [6] **4 Monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE)**
- [7] Normally, the concept of per capita income – or per capita (overall) expenditure, if

income data are not available – is used for comparison of average living standards between countries, between regions, and between social or occupational groups. For studies of poverty and inequality within populations, however, average income or average expenditure is not enough. One needs to assign a value that indicates level of living to each individual, or at least to each household, in a population in order to know the level of inequality in living standards of the population, or the proportion living in poverty.

5 Household: A group of person normally living together and taking food from a common kitchen constitutes a household.

6 Household size: The size of a household is the total number of persons in the household.

7 Categories of consumption items (in alphabetical order)

Beverages, etc.: This stands for “beverages, refreshments and processed food”. It includes tea, coffee, mineral water, soft drinks, fruit juice (not prepared at home), soda water, other beverages such as cocoa, biscuits, cakes, pastries, pickles, sauce, jam, jelly, and other salted refreshments and sweets not prepared at home. Refreshments prepared at home are not included here. Instead, the ingredients of the refreshments (such as flour, sugar, milk, etc.) are accounted under “cereals”, “sugar”, etc. Food purchased in the form of cooked meals is also included in “processed food”.

Cereals: Note that household consumption of cereals does not include consumption of cereals by livestock belonging to the household. Such expenditure, being part of farm expenditure, is excluded from household consumer expenditure altogether.

Cereal substitutes: Cereals are usually a person's staple food in India. But sometimes, by choice or due to scarcity, a person may consume little or no cereal. The food requirement is partially or wholly met in such cases by consumption of food items which could be treated as substitutes for cereals. Jackfruit seed, for example, is consumed as substitute for cereals. Potato or sweet potato consumed as substitutes for cereals are not, however, shown here. These are included in “vegetables”.

Clothing and bedding: This category includes bedding (pillows, quilts, mattresses, mosquito nets, etc.), as well as rugs, blankets, curtains, towels, mats, cloth for upholstery, etc. It excludes footwear and raincoats. Expenditure on tailor-made clothing excludes tailoring charges, which are accounted in “consumer services”. Consumption of an article of clothing is considered to take place when it is brought into first use. However, clothing purchased second-hand is considered as consumed as soon as it is purchased. Livery supplied by the employer is taken into account in household consumption of clothing even if used during duty hours only.

Conveyance: This includes expenditure incurred on account of journeys undertaken and/or transportation of goods made by any means of conveyance.

Durable goods: Items included here all have a lifetime of one year or more.

Edible oil: Edible oils used for toilet purpose by the household are not included here. Education: This includes expenditure on goods purchased for the purpose of education, viz., books and journals (first-hand or second-hand), newspapers, stationery, educational CD, etc, and also magazines, novels and other fiction. It also includes fees paid to educational institutions (e.g., schools, colleges, universities, etc.) on account of tuition and other fees like game fees, library fees, etc., and payment to private tutors. Entertainment: This includes expenditure on cinemas, theatres, melas, fairs and picnics, expenditure incurred on processing, developing, etc., of photographic film, charges paid for hiring of VCD/DVD players and CDs, and charges for viewing a video show. Expenses incurred on subscription to dish antenna, cable TV facilities, etc. are also included. Club fees are included here.

Footwear: This includes charges paid to a cobbler for getting a pair of shoes or other footwear made. It excludes the cost of straps purchased separately.

Gram: This includes gram products such as sattu obtained by frying and powdering of gram (whole grain). Besan made out of gram is, however, not included here, but in “other pulse products”.

Medical expenses: This includes expenditure on medicine of different types and on medical goods; also, payments made to doctor, nurse, etc., as professional fees and those made to hospital, nursing home, etc. for medical treatment, and expenditure incurred for clinical tests, including X-rays, ECG, pathological tests, etc. Medical expenditure reimbursed by employer or by insurance companies is included. Expenditure on all family

planning devices is included, and also expenditure on medical termination of pregnancy. Medical insurance payments are excluded.

Medical: institutional and non-institutional expenditure: The distinction between institutional and non-institutional medical expenses lies in whether the expenses were incurred on medical treatment as an in-patient of a medical institution (institutional), or otherwise (non-institutional). Medical institution here covers private as well as Government institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Milk and milk products: Milk products include ghee, butter, curd, etc. Milk used in home preparation of sweetmeats, etc., is also accounted here. This category also includes those baby foods of which the principal constituent is milk. Further, milk (liquid) includes icecream of which the major component is milk. Ice with syrup but without milk sold under the name of ice-cream is not included in this category.

Minor durable-type goods: These include spectacles, torches, locks, umbrellas, raincoats, gas lighters, etc. These are not included in “durable goods” but in “miscellaneous goods and services”.

Miscellaneous goods and services: This is a residual category covering all items other than food, pan, tobacco, intoxicants, fuel and light, clothing, footwear, and durable goods.

Other consumer services: This includes expenditure on domestic servants, cooks, attendants, sweepers, barbers and beauticians, laundry, ironing, tailors, priests, legal services, telephone charges, postal charges, grinding charges, and repair charges for non-durable goods. Apart from conveyance, it excludes the consumer services coming under “entertainment”. In this round, internet expenses are included in “other consumer services” instead of in “education”.

Other household consumables: These include electric bulbs, tubelights, batteries, earthenware, glassware, plastic goods such as buckets, water bottles and feeding bottles, coir and rope, washing soap, washing soda, other washing requisites, incense, room fresheners, flowers, acid and insecticides.

Pan: This includes, pan (betel leaves), supari, lime, katha, other ingredients of “finished” pan, and pan purchased in finished form.

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