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Status of development in different blocks of Jalpaiguri district

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Abstract

Jalpaiguri is one of the most backward districts of west Bengal where poverty is a barrier to development. Generally poverty is measured by Below Poverty Line (BPL) indices in rural areas. Below poverty line is an economic bench mark and poverty threshold used by the government of India to indicate economic disadvantage and to identify individuals and households in need of government assistance and aid. Poverty refers to the condition of not having the means to afford basic human need such as clean water, nutrition care, clothing and shelter. This paper is attempted to study the poverty status with some remedial measures.

Key-words: *1.Poverty, 2.Development, 4.Literacy4.Jalpaiguri, 5. Non uniform.*

Objectives

My paper will find out the following objective with some remedial measure-

- To find the existing condition of people in the district.
- To analyze the factors responsible for increasing rate of poverty in few blocks.
- To discuss about the problem's related to poverty.
- To analyze the correlation between poverty and development.
- To suggest remedial measures to solve the problem related to poverty.

Methodology

The entire information and data are taken mainly from district statistical hand book and district census hand book also from few secondary sources, such as Annual employment report, Public Work Department (PWD.) Roads, District Rural Development Authority (DRDA), Jalpaiguri, zilla parisad etc. A simple Co-relation between illiteracy and poor families has been made to show the relation between Education and poverty, few mathematical tools have been used to find out the real condition.

Study area

Jalpaiguri is a district of west Bengal in northern part of the state, lie 26°0′16″ and 27° 0′ 00″ N parallels of latitude and between 88°00′4″ and 89°0′53″ E longitudes, formed in 1869 A.D. It has 13 blocks with 688139 household. The district situated in the northern part of West Bengal has international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the north and south respectively and district borders with Assam and the Darjeeling hills in the east, west and northwest.
The long international border with the countries of Bhutan and Bangladesh has mode Jalpaiguri a strategic location so far as the defense, development and economy of region are concerned.

Introduction

No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which by far the greater part of the numbers are poor and miserable. Adam Smith, 1776 Countries that have been most successful in attacking poverty have encouraged a pattern of growth that makes efficient use of labour and have invested in the human capital of the poor. Both elements are essential. The first provides the poor with opportunities to use their most abundant asset-labour. The second improves their immediate well-being and increases their capacity to take advantage of the newly created possibilities. Together, they can improve the lives of most of the world's poor-World Bank, World Development Report, 1990.

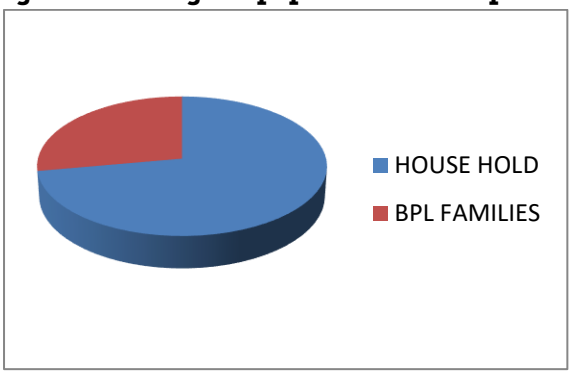
There is no one-size-fits-all definition of poverty. The poorest people in an industrialized nation may well be richer than the average citizen of a less-developed country. According to the United Nations' Human Development Report 1996, the average per capita income of the poorest one-fifth of Americans was $5,814 in 1993. That figure is ten times Tanzania's average per capita income of $580 per year. By Tanzanian standards, Americans in that bottom 20 percent may seem quite well-off. However, by U.S. standards, they are not. The poor live without the fundamental freedom and choices others take for granted. They often lack adequate food, shelter, education, and health, thus keeping them from leading a normal life. The poor also are extremely vulnerable to disease, economic dislocation, and natural disasters. In addition, they are often discriminated against by governmental and societal institutions. In other words, they are powerless to influence key decisions affecting their lives.

Nature of poverty in Jalpaiguri district:

It is determined using various parameters which vary from state to state and within states. In tenth five year plan (2002-2007) survey, Below Poverty Line for rural areas was based on the degree of deprivation in respect of 13 parameters, with scores from 0-4: landholding type of house, clothing, food security, sanitation, consumer durables, Literacy status, labour force, and means of livelihood status of children. The average poverty ration is 38.54. In some blocks more than half of total population is under poverty.

Figure 01

Pie diagram showing the population below poverty line



The nature of poverty in rural areas of Jalpaiguri district can be viewed from the following table

Table: 1

Block wise poverty ratio of Jalpaiguri district

Block Name	**House Hold**	**BPL Families**	**Poverty**
	Number	**Number**	**Ration (%)**
1. Rajganj	97146	19087	19.64
2. Jalpaiguri	79650	28377	35.62
3.Maynaguri	58804	28336	48.18
4. Dhupguri	83120	39918	48.02
5. Mal	57451	27030	47.04
6. Matiali	21987	8536	38.82
7. Nagrakata	22791	8578	37.63
8. Madarihat-Birpara	36467	10207	27.98
9. Falakata	51010	20780	40.73
10. Alipurduar-I	53561	11167	20.84
11. Alipurduar-II	40245	19615	48.73
12. Kalchini	50231	26205	52.16
13. Kumargram	35676	17393	48.75
	688139	**265229**	**38.54**

Source: Annual employment report, Jalpaiguri

From the table it is clear that highest Poverty is in Kalchini block followed by Kumargram, Alipurduar – II, Maynaguri, Dhupguri and Mal but urban scenario is not so bad.

Figure 02

House hold and BPL families in different blocks of Jalpaiguri district

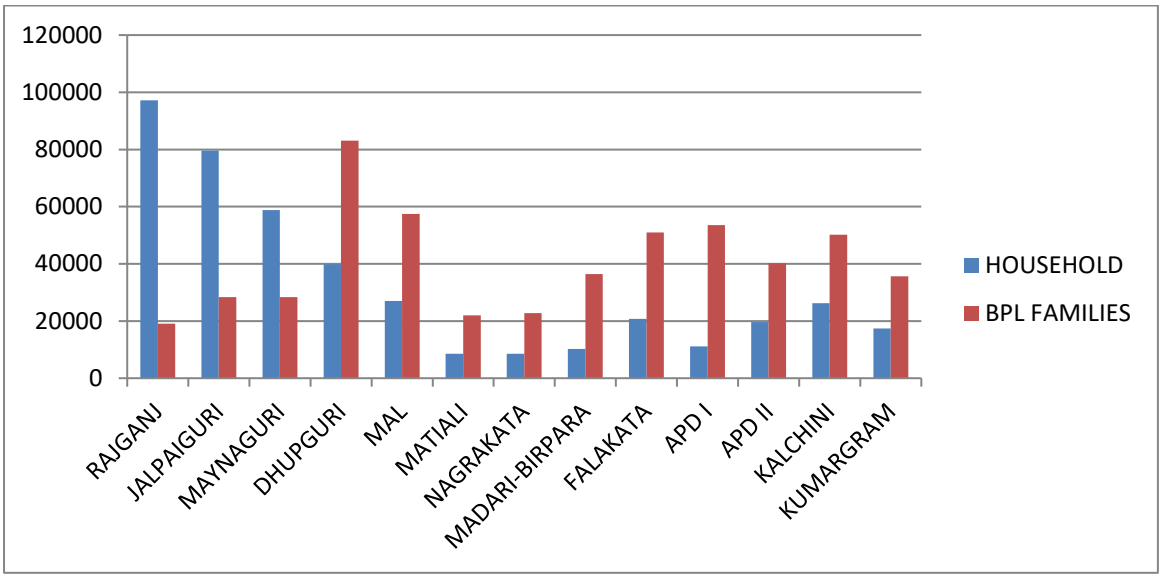


Table: 2

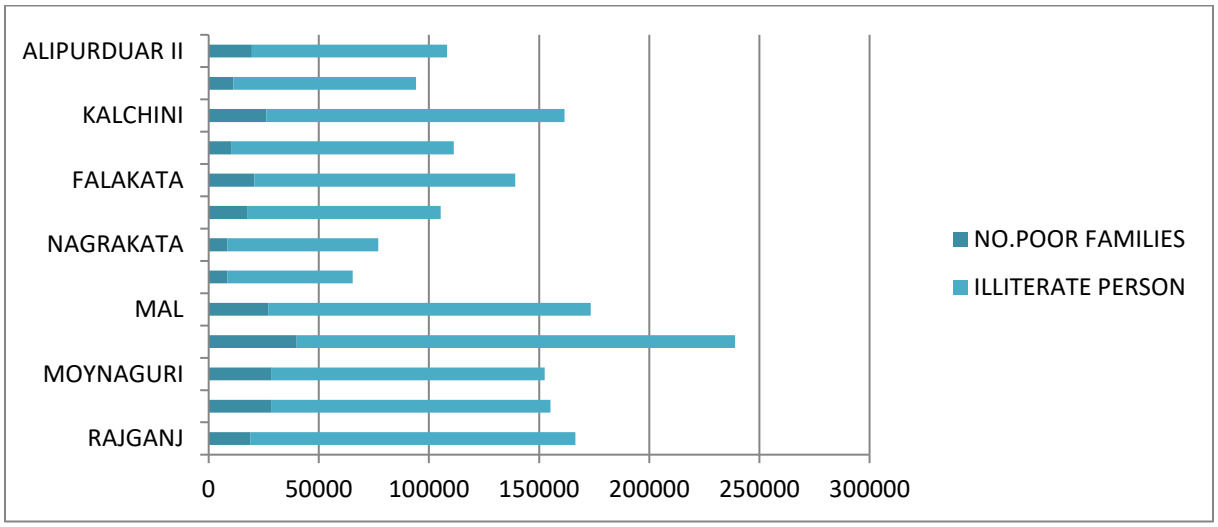
Block wise poor families (BPL) and literate persons of Jalpaiguri

Name of the blocks	No. of poor families(BPL)	Illiterate person (no)
1.Rajgang	19087	147405
2.Jalpaiguri	28377	126815
3.Moynaguri	28336	124239
4.Dhupguri	39918	199087
5.Mal	27030	146462
6.Metiali	8536	56877
7.Nagrakata	8578	68486
8.Kumargram	17393	87944
9.Falakata	20780	118432
10Madarihat-Birpara	10207	101101
11.Kalchini	26205	135339
12.AlipurduarI	11167	83021
13.AlipurduarII	19615	88580

Source: Annual employment report and census of India 2011

Figure 03

Bar diagram showing the poor families and illiterate person in different blocks of Jalpaiguri district.



A simple correlation has been made to show the relation between poor families and illiterate persons. It is found that there is **high positive (+8.8)** relation between two variables. It proved us that education is the main reason behind the poverty in the districts.

Reason behind the poverty:

Here are some important causes which are responsible for Poverty in Jalpaiguri District:

- **Rapid growth of population**

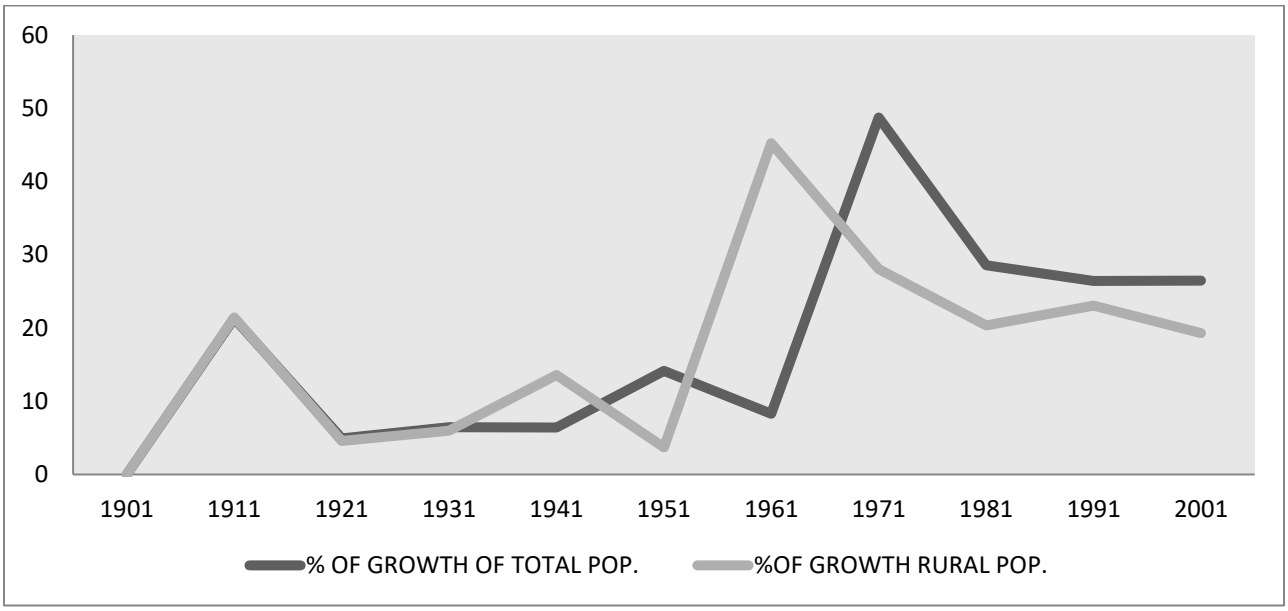
After independence rapid growth of population has been observed. From 1951 to 2001 within this 50 years population has increased by 4 times in the district. Unfortunately, job opportunities are not increased, agricultural land is likely fixed.

Table: 3 Growth of population in different census year

Year	Population	% of growth	Rural pop.	%of growth
1901	546764	NIL	536475	Nil
1911	663222	21.30	651457	21.43
1921	694946	4.93	681333	4.59
1931	740993	6.47	722031	5.97
1941	847841	6.42	820065	13.57
1951	916747	14.13	850602	3.72
1961	1359292	8.27	1235478	45.24
1971	1750159	48.75	1582079	28.05
1981	2214971	28.55	1903650	20.33
1991	2800543	26.44	2342296	23.04
2001	3401173	26.47	2794297	19.29

Source: census of India 2001.

Figure 04
Growth of total population and rural population in different census years in Jalpaiguri district



Note: Percentages of growth are computed on the basis of the given data

- **Immigration:**

Infiltration and illegal migration in rural areas in the district happened in Pre and Post independent period. From Assam, Nepal, Bhutan people are immigrated to Alipurduar, Mal, Nagrakata and Kalchini also. These immigrated people settled without proper job facilities. It increased rural poverty.

- **Rapid closing of gardens:**

In Jalpaiguri district nearly 19% of total geographical area is covered by tea gardens. The local people are only labour of these tea gardens and factories owned by the people from outside of north Bengal. Due to closing of tea garden 50,000 workers are passing their days in distress having been denied food, electricity, medicines and other amenities for months together. Above incident proves that closing tea gardens is the prominent cause of poverty in doors.

- **Poor condition of infrastructure:**

There is no such possibility to introduce any industry in the district though the area is very poor in industry. Irrigation facilities covers only 27.52 % of the district's net cropped lower than the state average. The hilly tracts of Buxa, Jainty, Matiali and Kalchini areas are not well connected with main roads throughout the year. Hence people cannot take part in activities outside their locality. Density of surface road in the district is 0.53 Km/Sq. Km (2005-2006) only.

Table: 4

Length of roads maintained by different agencies in the blocks of Jalpaiguri (2009-2010) Roads in k.m.

Name of blocks	P.W.D	Zilla Parishad	Grampanchayat& panchayat samity	Prime ministeris gram sarak yojana
1.Rajganj	60.90	137.63	505.94	32.92
2.Jalpaiguri	142.70	176.30	295.94	33.70
3.Moynaguri	107.23	224.34	278.41	36.79
4.Dhupguri	97.18	218.71	501.15	40.20
5.Mal	45.40	244.01	406.22	37.19
6.Metiali	8.00	93.52	272.95	30.05
7.Nagrakata	62.63	120.52	91.77	17.48
8.Kumargram	95.14	133.04	384.60	32.05
9.Falakata	32.16	177.118	287.69	44.82
10.Madarihat-Birpara	49.60	150.00	289.7	19.25
11.Kalchini	48.00	178.09	248.22	21.58
12.Alipurduar I	133.07	142.26	442.28	23.82
13.Alipurduar II	40.10	145.86	385.3	26.75

Source: 1. Ex.engg (p.w.d) roads 2. Ex.engg zilla parisad 3. D.R.D.A Jalpaiguri
4. B.d.o Jalpaiguri

5. High amount of backward class population:

Proportion of backward classes are highly concentrated (55.54) in the district was 36.68% for the Scheduled Castes and 18.86% for the Scheduled Tribes. Many unique tribal groups of the country live in the District. Maximum proportions of backward classes engage in traditional unproductive activities from which economic gain or profit is little. This is one of the reasons for poverty mainly in rural areas of Jalpaiguri districts.

Table: 5

Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes population in the district of Jalpaiguri (2001)

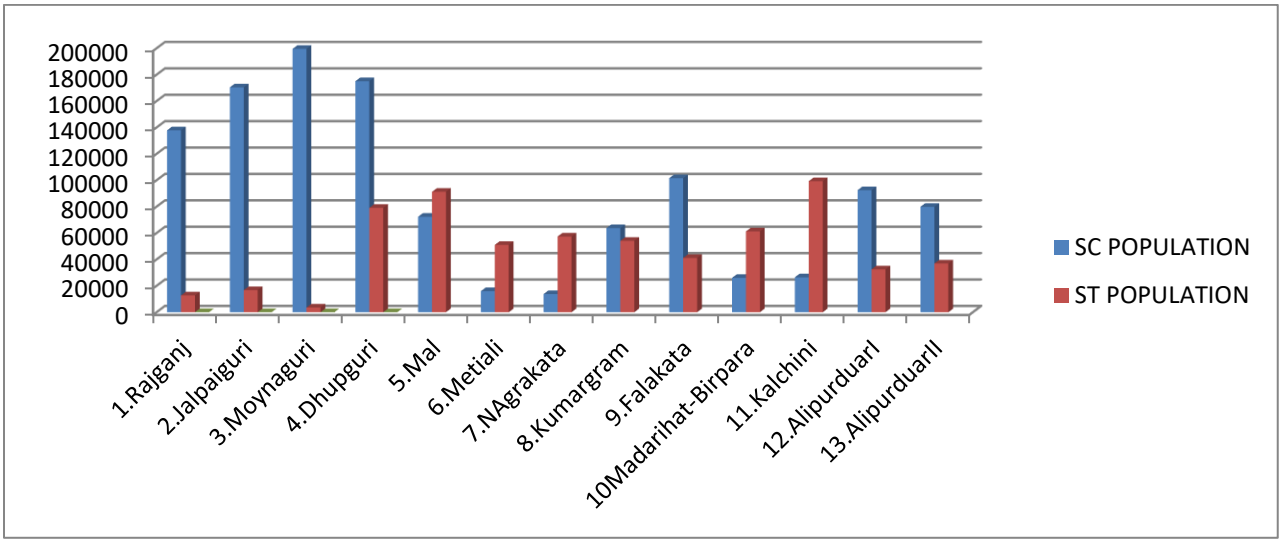
Block	S.C.Population	S.T.Population
1.Rajganj	137839	12723
2.Jalpaiguri	170394	16774
3.Moynaguri	199529	3545
4.Dhupguri	175043	79068
5.Mal	72323	91262
6.Metiali	15965	51011
7.Nagrakata	13777	57325
8.Kumargram	63740	54079
9.Falakata	101564	41121
10Madarihat-Birpara	25996	61252
11.Kalchini	26429	99303

12.AlipurduarI	92463	32435
13.AlipurduarII	79839	36892

Source-census of India, 2001

Figure 05

Block wise SC and ST population in Jalpaiguri district.



5. **Traditional agriculture practices**

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the district but modernization is yet to implement. The average size of holding is 1.24 hectare only. Traditional bullock and oxen farming prevails in the district. Cash crops cultivations are not introduced in much scale although local efforts are observed. Government is not fully co-operative to promote local resources. The lands are fertile but additional manure is required to promote it. In 2001 the consumption of chemical fertilizer was 160 kg/hectare.

Problems related to poverty

There are serious problems related to poverty and consequences are:

- **Starvation and death**

Starvation and Deaths are recorded in these areas mainly in the most tea belts. Each tea plantation has a hospital and a health assistant who records the deaths that take place in the plantation. From plantations such as Mugnai, Raimatong, Dheklapara, Ramjhora data were collected to get records of the deaths, it was 191 in the years (2004-2009) averagely. The year 2002 is taken as the year of the crisis as it was during the middle or end of this year plantations closed down with wages and rations being irregular for most plantations even before closure.

Table: 6
Death's according to plantation hospitals record

Tea garden	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1.Mugnai	29	26	1107	07	51	54
2.Raimatang	53	41	30	43	63	73
3.Dheklapara	24	25	32	19	24	31
4.Ramjhora	24	16	22	23	41	54
Total	130	108	95	92	169	212

Source-West Bengal advisor to the commissioners of the Supreme Court 2010

6. **Disturbance of environment**

Increasing growth of population and requirements of foods force to change the land use pattern, deforestation increases which lead to man -made hazards. Deforestation of huge area causes ecological imbalances in this region and changing weather condition is the result of this. Floods, Storm, Malaria, landslides are common problems.

7. **Imbalance of economic condition**

Unemployment and poverty creates economic disbalance between rural and urban people as well as between have and have not in the society. As a result there creates conflict. A rural person, whose wages is much below then a government service holder, thinks that they are derived. Disbalances also noted in live style.

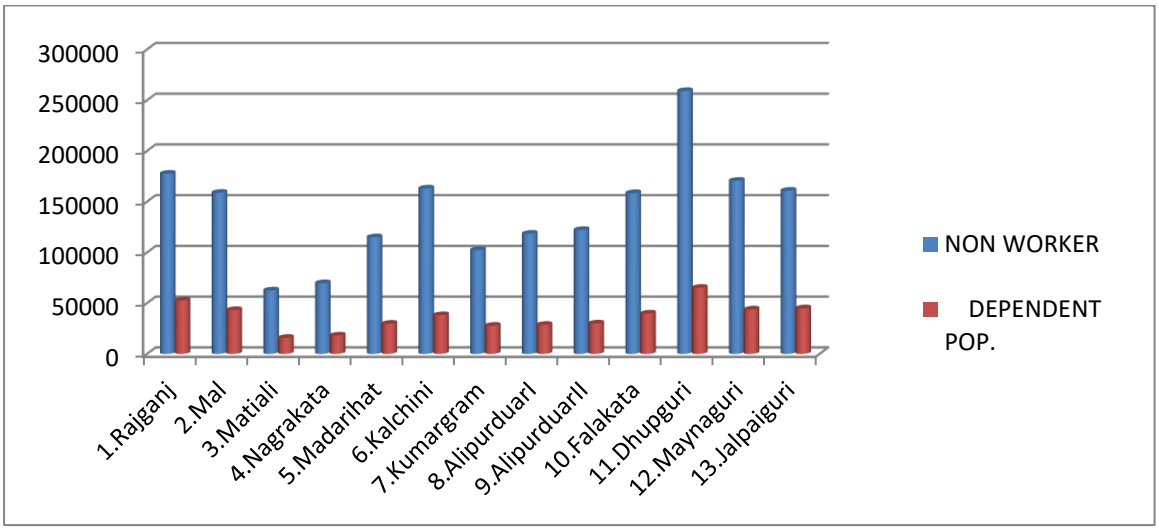
Table: 7, Population of non-workers and 0-6 age group in the district of jalpaiguri, 2001

Block's	Non-workers	Dependent(0-6)
1.Rajganj	177576	52724
2.Mal	158750	43205
3.Matiali	62550	15812
4.Nagrakata	69680	18112
5.Madarihat	114964	29744
6.Kalchini	163008	38165
7.Kumargram	102337	27764
8.AlipurduarI	118447	28662
9.AlipurduarII	122130	30034
10.Falakata	158472	39773
11.Dhupguri	259067	65107
12.Maynaguri	170595	43810
13.Jalpaiguri	160816	44940

Source - Census of 2001 India

Figure 06

Block wise non worker and dependent population of Jalpaiguri district.



8. **Rise of terrorist movements**

Landless poor people create different movements in rural areas. With the advent the sons of soil of the rural areas are losing their jobs. Distress and unemployment force them to enlist in terrorist activities. Different terrorist activities are occurred in adjacent Bhutan hills. Tea garden labour gets minimum wage in relation to labour of other spheres. Recent demand for kamtapur and tribal movements of landless persons are for unemployment and poverty. These movements demand strategic insecurity for such location.

Conclusion

There are lots of problems with solving method. The following measures can be taken to eradicate the problems. That's – 1. Implementation of special scheme. 2. Tea gardens should be monitored by the Government. 3. Infrastructure should be improved. 4. Small household industries can generate employment in this area. 5. Natural resource base employment can be generated. 6. Consciousness and awareness should be grown in backward classes. 7. Deforestation should be stopped in this area. 8. Central Government scheme 100 days employment opportunity can improves employment.

In conclusion it can be said that lower level of literacy, poor condition of health, unemployment indirectly caused of the poverty in the Jalpaiguri district. Integrated thematic maps with spatial and non-spatial data help the planner and decision maker to eradicate different problems associated with poverty.

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