

## STUDY OF THE PATTERN OF SMALL SAVINGS OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS IN WEST TRIPURA DISTRICT

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### Abstract

*In the modern society savings may be a parameter of social status of humanbeings. Amount of savings expose the financial strength of an individual. It has seen that a lot of people among tea garden workers are not able to save even a negligible portion of their heard earn money because of nonpayment of fair wages and non availability of other government and non-government social security schemes available in India. The present study entitled "Small savings of Tea garden workers in West Tripura District" is analyzed on the basis of primary as well as secondary data. The study reveals that savings rate among the tea garden workers are very poor. However, Creation of awareness, increase of financial literacy as well as general literacy rate, extension of social security schemes may increase the rate of small savings among the tea garden workers.*

**Keywords:** *Small Savings, Tea Garden Workers, Income, West Tripura District.*

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### Introduction

Savings is an important part of human life. It is continuing in the world in different forms and changing its nature from time to time and place to place. The present study on "Small savings of tea garden workers in West Tripura District" highlights the present scenario of savings among the workers of tea garden. Tea garden workers of West Tripura District are poorest people. They have been migrated from east India specifically from Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North Bengal. They came here for the purpose of fulfillment of the requirements of tea garden owners and in turn bread winning by them self. As suffering from various social diseases like poverty, illiteracy, superstitions and child marriage etc. they are not so far aware regarding various small savings schemes available in India. In this paper the researcher has tried to find the

pattern of savings, obstacles in the way of better savings environment among tea garden workers and finding the avenue for overcome the obstacles.

### Review of Literature

A lot of studies on small savings have been carried out by the researcher. Some studies regarding small savings are quoted in subsequent lines:

Ritika Aggarwal (2012)<sup>1</sup> in his details work entitled "Identifying factors influence preference towards Post Office savings schemes" reveals that Post Office Savings Bank in India differentiates its offer by building a unique bundle of competitive advantage. She also found that the important challenges towards Indian Post offices is the revolution of IT.

National Accounts Division, Department of Statistic, Ministry of Planning, Government of India (NA)<sup>2</sup> in their report mentioned that as direct annual data on household savings are not available, the savings of the household sector is taken as sum of their investment in various instrument of financial savings and in the form of physical assets.

V.R. Palanivelu & K.Chandrakumar (2013)<sup>3</sup> in their work on A Study on Preferred Investment Avenues among Salaried Peoples with Reference to Namakkal Taluk, Tamil Nadu, India analyzed that respondents are medium aware about various investment choices but they are not aware about stock market, equity, bond and debenture etc.

Philippe Aghion & Peter Howitt (2005)<sup>4</sup> conducted a study on Domestic Savings and Economic Growth they examined that the foreign investment is needed in order to transfer frontier technological knowledge to local innovating section.

David Hulme, Karen Moore and Armando Barrientos (2009)<sup>5</sup> made an analysis on the Insurance role of micro savings. The study concluded that the pressing priority today is national and international campaigning for micro savings service delivery and micro savings friendly regulation.

K.Parimala Kanthi & Dr. M. Ashok Kumar (2013)<sup>6</sup> who attempted a study on Post Office Savings and its Relevance in Rural areas of Madukkarai Block of Coimbatore District. The study revealed that majority of the investors in Madukkarai Block is aware of all the Post Office Schemes and Post office savings account dominantes all other Post Office Saving schemes. The main objective of the investors are regular return.safety and security.

Prof. Ujwala Bairagi & prof. Charu Rastogi (NA)<sup>7</sup>made an analysis on an empirical study of saving pattern and investment preference of individual household with reference to Pune city. They found that there is an explosion in th growth of middle class families to double income and increase in number of working women. Hence effort should be made to attract women investor by providing right information and knowledge about various investment scheme.

Dr. Dhiraj Jain & Ruhika Kothari (2012)<sup>8</sup> examined investors attitude towards Post Office deposits schemes in Udaipur District, Rajasthan. They highlighted that demographic factors have no significant influence over sources of awareness, majority of the respondents invest in Post office deposit schemes for the purpose of safety and security, and the major problems of the Post office schemes are low rate of interest.

B.M. Desai (1981)<sup>9</sup> conducted a study on rural savings in India. The study highlighted that the capacity of rural households to save is low; they are intended to save only when their incomes increase.

Martin B. Schmidt (2001)<sup>10</sup> who worked out on Savings and Investment: Some International Perspective. He examined one possible implication of the high degree of correlation between a nation's savings rate and its investment rate.

Rebecca M. Vonderlack and Mark Schreiner (2001)<sup>11</sup> made a study on Women, Microfinance, and Savings: Lessons and Proposals. They analyzed informal savings mechanisms throughout the world and shows that poor women save and that they value low transaction costs and external support for deposit discipline.

Meenakshi Chaturvedi and ShrutiKhare (2012)<sup>12</sup> made an analysis of savings pattern and investment preferences of individual house hold in India. They suggested there is an explosion in the growth of middle class families due to double income and increase in number of working women .Hence, effort should be made to attract women investors by providing right information and knowledge about the investment. And there is a dire need to initiate step to inculcate savings habit among the growing middle class family.

Unny. C. J. (2002)<sup>13</sup> conducted a study on determinants of savings behaviour of rural households in Kerala. The study had shown that the household savings contribute a lion's share of the total saving and hence, to step up saving in the economy, saving rate of the household sector should be stepped up.

Takatoshi Ito and Yukinobu Kitamura (1994)<sup>14</sup> in their work on Public Policies and Household Saving in Japan identified government tax incentives for household saving and the historical change in these incentives. Tax incentives for financial savings have been reduced since April, 1988. The reduction of tax incentives for financial savings did not seem to change household savings behaviour by a significant magnitude.

Evangeline Felix-Racelis (2004)<sup>15</sup> in his study on "The Philippine Postal Savings Bank, A Thrift Bank" analyzed the postal bank is operating profitably. However, the growth of bank also has been constrained by an inadequate electronic banking system and a limited number of international remittance service partners. The post bank's strong points include its role as an accredited government depository bank and it will be able to reach rural areas where no big commercial banks find it profitable to go.

Mani A. Nandhi (2012)<sup>16</sup> conducted a study on Effects of Mobile Banking on the Savings Practices of Low Income Users – The Indian Experiences. The study concluded that mobile banking service is appreciated for small savers who are depended on risky

informal savings practices. A noticeable numbers of house hold savers are using mobile bank for savings their earned money and it is escalating dramatically day by day.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The basic objective of the present research work is to present a detailed scenario on small savings among tea garden workers in West Tripura District. Apart from these overall objectives there are some specific objectives which are as follows:

1. To study the pattern and habit of savings among the tea garden workers.
2. To determine the factor that influencing savings behavior of the tea garden workers.
3. To offer suggestions for improvement of savings among the tea garden workers.

### **Methodology**

The following methods and tools have been used for the study to come at a feasible and meaningful conclusion:-

#### **1. Scope of Study**

The present study is covering West Tripura District of Tripura.

#### **2. Sources of Data**

Both the primary and secondary data has been used for the present study. The primary information required for the present study has been collected randomly from 150 numbers of households of tea garden workers within the study area with the help of structured questionnaire. Primary data for the present study has also been procured through interaction and consultation with the top management of tea garden authority and Government official personnel from the concerned department.

The secondary data has been collected from the Directorate of Small Savings; Government of Tripura, National Savings Institute (NSI), Department of Posts and Telegraphs etc. Other relevant secondary information has also been collected from various books, journals, annual reports, magazines, publications& thesis, etc.

#### **3. Framework of Analysis**

Primary and secondary data collected from various sources has been analyzed with the help of various financial tools and statistical devices such as percentage analysis. Pictorial presentation methods were also used wherever necessary to get the result of data analysis.

### **Results and Discussions**

#### **Age Level of Respondents**

From the below Table No. 1 it is showing that a lion portion of the respondents belongs to 18 to 30 years age group (40%), 25.33% of the respondents belongs to 31 to 40 years age group, 32% of the respondents belongs to 41 to 50 years age group and remaining 2.67% of the respondents belongs to 51 to 60 years age group. It shows a

clear picture that respondents between the age group of 18 to 30 years are in large numbers in the study performed.

**Table 1 Age Level of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	18 to 30 Years	60	40
2.	31 to 40 Years	38	25.33
3.	41 to 50 Years	48	32
4.	51 to 60 Years	4	2.67
5.	<b>Total</b>	150	100

**Source:** Field Survey

### Gender group of Respondents

The below Table No.2 showing that 22.67% of the respondents are male and the remaining 77.33% of the respondents are female. Female respondents are higher than male respondents because most of the tea garden workers are female. Female workers are suitable for tea garden works.

**Table 2 Gender group of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Gender Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Male	34	22.67
2.	Female	116	77.33
3.	<b>Total</b>	150	100

**Source:** Field Survey

### Educational Qualification of Respondents

From the below Table No.3 it is revealed that only 2.67% of the respondents have secondary education, 22.67% of the respondents have primary education and remaining 74.67% of the respondents are illiterate. From this scenario it is interpreted that majority of the respondents are illiterate.

**Table 3 Educational Qualification of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Illiterate	112	74.67
2.	Up to Class-V	34	22.67
3.	Up to Class-X	4	2.67
4.	Graduate & Above	0	0
5.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Occupation of Respondents

From the below Table No.4 it is showing that 58.67% of the respondents are permanent workers and remaining 41.33 % of the respondents are temporary workers. It implies that a big portion of the workers are temporary workers. As per service conditions, permanent workers are getting more financial benefit than temporary workers. So the number of temporary workers should be negligible for better financial strengthening of the tea garden workers.

**Table 4 Educational Qualification of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Permanent Workers	88	58.67
2.	Temporary Workers	62	41.33
3.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Monthly Family Income of Respondents

8% of the respondents have monthly family income below ₹2000/- , 76% of the respondents have monthly family income ₹2001/- to ₹5000/- , 10.67% of the respondents have monthly family income ₹5001/- to ₹10000/- and remaining 5.33% of the respondents have monthly family income above ₹10000/-. It is revealed that monthly family income of the majority respondents are ₹2001- to ₹ 5000/- (76%) which shows a deplorable stage in the part of workers.

**Table 5 Monthly Family Income of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Amount (₹)	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Below ₹ 2000	12	8
2.	₹2001 to ₹5000	114	76
3.	₹ 5001 to ₹10000	16	10.67
4.	Above ₹10000	8	5.33
5.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Poverty Status

From the below Table No. 6 it is revealed that 50.67 % of the respondents are living in above poverty line and remaining 49.33% of the respondents are living in below poverty line.

**Table No.6 Poverty Status of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Below Poverty Line	74	49.33
2.	Above Poverty Line	76	50.67
3.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Monthly Savings of Respondents

From the below table No.7 it is revealed that 81.33% of the respondents have monthly savings below ₹2000/-, 15.33% of the respondents have monthly savings ₹2001/- to ₹4000/-, and remaining 3.34% of the respondents have monthly savings above ₹4000/-

**Table 7 Monthly Savings of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Amount (₹)	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Below ₹2000	122	81.33
2.	₹2001 to ₹4000	23	15.33
3.	Above ₹4000	5	3.34
4.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Awareness of Various Small Savings and Investment Scheme:

From the field survey it revealed that only 12% of the respondents are aware regarding various small savings and investment schemes. 88% of the respondents are not aware regarding various small savings and investment schemes.

**Table 8 Awareness of Various Small Savings and Investment Scheme**

Sl. No.	Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Yes	18	12
2.	No	132	88
3.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Monthly Investment of Respondents:

From the field survey it has shown that (Table No.9) 90% of the respondents have monthly investment below ₹2000/- , 7.33% of the respondents have monthly investment ₹2001/- to ₹4000/- and remaining 2.67% of the respondents have monthly investment above ₹4000/-. It represents that investment rate among tea garden workers is very poor.

**Table 9 Monthly Investment of Respondents**

Sl. No.	Amount (₹)	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Below ₹2000	135	90
2.	₹2001 to ₹4000	11	7.33
3.	Above ₹4000	4	2.67
4.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Reason behind Selection of Small Savings Scheme

From the Table No.10 it revealed that 53.33% of the respondents have started savings by their own idea, 32% have started by influence from others and remaining 14.67% only have started by pressured from agents and others. It implies that a lion portion of the respondents are not well aware regarding various small savings scheme. A lot of awareness programs, financial literacy as well as general literacy may establish a good environment of small savings and investment among the tea garden workers.

**Table 10 Reason behind Selection of Small Savings Scheme**

Sl. No.	Reason	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Own Idea	80	53.33
2.	Influence from Others	48	32
3.	Pressured by Agent and Others	22	14.67
4.	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

### Findings of the Present Study

1. Monthly family income of the respondents are ₹2001- ₹5000 (76%) and 8 % of the respondents having monthly income is less than ₹2000.
2. Most of the respondents were illiterate (75%) and 23 % of the respondents were primary educated.
3. 22.67% of the respondents are male and the remaining 77.33% of the respondents are female.
4. Most of the respondents were in the age group of 18-30 years (40%) and 41-50 years (32%)
5. 50.67 % of the respondents are living in above poverty line and remaining 49.33% of the respondents are living in below poverty line.
6. 12% of the respondents are aware regarding various small savings and investment scheme. 88% of the respondents are not aware regarding various small savings and investment scheme.
7. 81.33% of the respondents have monthly savings below ₹2000/-, 15.33% of the respondents have monthly savings ₹2001/- to ₹4000/-, and remaining 3.34% of the respondents have monthly savings above ₹4000/-
8. 90% of the respondents have monthly investment below ₹2000/- , 7.33% of the respondents have monthly investment ₹2001/- to ₹4000/- and remaining 2.67% of the respondents have monthly investment above ₹4000/-.

## Suggestions

1. Various financial inclusion schemes of the Government may implement in the tea estate for financial strengthening of the workers, especially female workers so that female workers may be financially independent.
2. Various employment generation and vocational programme of the Govt. may implement in the tea estate so that unemployed person of the tea estate get job to meet their financial needs.
3. As most of the respondents are not educated so they are not financially literate. Literacy rate should be increased for better environment of small savings in the tea estate.
4. Government may arrange massive awareness programme for improvement of small savings in the tea estate.
5. Tea estate authority may offer a suitable wages for the workers for which the workers can save their earned money after maintaining their daily expenditures.
6. Government may give more emphasis on digital social media for campaigning of various small savings schemes.
7. Savings habit should be started from school levels. A small syllabus regarding small savings may be incorporated to school syllabus.
8. Subsidiary or alternative occupation may be adopted for increasing the family income. Thus, savings rate of the tea garden workers may increase.

## Conclusion

Small Savings May not be small for the marginal workers of tea garden. It is quite impossible for a worker to save money after maintaining all the minimum requirements of human life. The present study reveals the miserable conditions of the tea garden workers. Although , as continuing process of the decent society the tea garden workers are trying to save a small amount of money for their better future. Traditionally, the tea garden workers are interested to invest in live stock than cash investment. The major live stocks are pig, cow, goat and cock. Modern investment avenues are not yet familiar to the tea garden workers. Socio economic condition, illiteracy and poverty are the main constraints for better savings environment among tea garden workers. Massive awareness program, increase of literacy rate, development of understanding, implementation of social security schemes may establish a good environment of savings and investment among tea garden workers. As such, the present patterns as well as habit of savings within the workers are urgently required to be mobilized so that they can emancipate from the cure of destitution and would live a healthy life.

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