

STUDIES OF TRIBES AND TRIBALS



© Kamla-Raj 2019

PRINT: ISSN 0972-639X ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6799

Stud Tribes Tribals, 17(1-2): 37-48 (2019)

DOI: 10.31901/24566799.2019/17.1-2.419

Working Conditions of Women Workers in the Unorganised Sector: A Case Study of Stone Crushers of Lower Balason in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal

Nanigopal Kapasia^{1*} and Avijit Roy²

^{1}Department of Geography, Malda College, Malda, West Bengal, India*

²Department of Geography, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India

KEYWORDS Women. Stone Crushers. Socio-economic Status. Occupational Health Hazard

ABSTRACT The present study depicts women stone crushers in River Balason especially in its lower course. It is one of the prime sources of occupation. An attempt has been made to find out the socio-economic background of women stone crushers of River Balason and also examine the nature of work, wage patterns and occupational health problems of women stone crushers. Majority of women stone crushers involved in the river bed material extraction activities who are from depressed or backward classes and mostly belong to nuclear family are compelled sell the materials to middlemen or agents. During work, they also suffer from different diseases. Educationally they are much poor and around twenty-eight percent of the stone crushers are illiterate and residing mostly in semi-pucca and pucca houses because such are the house building materials that are available. The empirical findings may be useful to researchers and policymakers as well as officials to frame suitable policies and programmes for the developments of unorganised women workers of the Darjeeling district in general and the Matigara block in particular.