Conclusion
CONCLUSION

Since the industrial revolution has seen a paradigm shift from thinking humans are part of the Earth and its natural systems, to one that is willing to exploit every nook and cranny for the smallest amount of precious stones or fossil fuels. While this shift was occurring, some things have seemed to be lost in translation. Somewhere along the way, humans stopped caring about their “environment” and started to invest all their time, money, and attention toward the social science called the economy.

Now sociologists, scientists and other researchers spent their lifetime in the search of sustainable development and to restore the globe earth into its original state. For an economy to “grow green”, investments must be made in natural capital. Natural capital provides both “direct” ecosystem services such as the provision of food and raw materials, and “indirect” ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, watershed protection, aquifer recharge and biodiversity habitat provision.

The presence study shows that dominant age group is 30-40 constituting over one-third of the respondents. The male respondents outnumber their female counterparts. About 17% of the respondents are illiterates, whereas rest of them are literates and educated. The family size of over one-third of them is less than 5. Close to three-fourths of the respondents (72.9%) belong to nuclear family. Over two-thirds of them live in katcha and mixed houses almost equally. A significant proportion (37.3) of the respondents are living for less than 10 years in their settlements. Close to two-thirds of the respondents have individual latrine facilities in their house premises. Agriculture is the major economic activity practiced by over three-fourth of the respondents; followed by beedi rolling, the second major economic activity.
A majority of the respondents belong to the income category of Rs. 50,000-1,00,000. Over three-fourth of the respondents mainly depend on public supply for water both for drinking and domestic use.

All sample localities (S1-S14) have sewer system for the collection of domestic liquid wastes, whereas domestic waste collection system is absent in some of the villages like S1, S3, S5, S7, S8 and S12 due to insufficient public workers in that particular areas. About 18% of the respondents dispose their solid wastes through municipal services, 56% of them dispose openly and 26% of them dispose along the river banks. The liquid wastes from the respondents houses are disposed through gardening (6.4%), sewer system (28.1%), river (7.4%) and canal (58.1%), which finally enters into the river.

Health problems are more severe in urban areas as compared to rural areas owing to poor solid waste management methods. Malaria is the leading cause of outpatient medical attendances in both areas. The incidences of water-borne and enteric diseases such as gastrointestinal disease, cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A and typhoid are found among people who use the river water resources for drinking.

Lack of environmental awareness, especially river water conservation among the respondents increase the frequency of pollution threat to the river system. Huge gathering during various religious ceremonies increases the incidences of pollution threat to the river system by throwing excess of waste materials like food items, wrappers and plastic bags, remaining of ceremonies at the river banks, bathing, washing, open defecation. These activities increase the water borne pathogenic organisms, which in turn causes health hazards, especially among the habitants of the river bank.
Health education programme to improve public awareness of the diseases and to encourage mass participation in basic sanitary measures and source reduction to prevent breeding of mosquitoes may improve the quality of life. Maintaining good environmental sanitation can prevent transmission of vector borne diseases. Collective efforts by the local body, water managers, health officials and the public will help to keep the river and its surrounding clean. The industries should have corporate responsibility to keep the water bodies pollution free. More efforts are to be taken to educate the public regarding environmental health and hygiene.