Darjiling and Gangtok, the two famous hill stations of Eastern India are situated in the backdrop of mighty Himalayas, which is seismically still very active and fragile in nature. In spite of all physical hindrances, it is endowed enough by natural resources like beauties of Kanchenjunga, innumerable exotic species of flora and fauna, etc. This wealth of natural resource, along with the rich flora and fauna, the unique culture, legends, myths, ritual and festivals, tranquil sombre monastic life and the splendour of the festivals make both the region favourable for tourism development which varied in temporal and spatial dimension. Darjiling had a long history of tourism development while Gangtok is only in the early stage of development.

But the important characteristics that striking the researcher most, is the fact that ill-planned and ill-managed and unsystematic development of tourism which has taken place in Darjiling has inflicted into several negative impacts which are discernible everywhere but unfortunately even adapting eco-tourism principles from the very inception, Gangtok has not able to avoid the same fate. Similar negative impacts are started to generate everywhere within the town. While travelling in this area for some project work, the researcher came closer to this problem and became interested to work and the purpose was to real execution of the cause of such environmental degradation along with the role of tourism in this changing process and also to find out ways through which this industry can be sustained in long run in order to improve the economic condition of the whole region.

In this research the new spelling of Darjiling (Census of India, 1981) has been used and not Darjeeling except in the references.