



Ethnic Conflict and its Impact on Human Security, Special Reference to BTAD Areas

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Abstract

North east India is a multicultural and multi ethnic dominated state. It is ethnically, linguistically and culturally very distinct from the other state of India. But during the process of reorganization of the state the central government should not given proper importance to this diversity, whereas the British government during the colonial period provided Inner Line permit to the Tribes regarding their diversities. As a result these peoples were not happy and started their movement for their identity, which lead vulcanization in North east states. In Assam ethnic conflict started during the colonial period but come in to forefront after independent. In my paper I would like to analyze ethnic conflict in BTAD areas and its impact on Human Security. As we all know that BTAD area is Bodo dominated area so my paper basically deals with that community. Meanwhile the migration of Muslim peasants from East Bengal and their settlement in tribal areas created discontent among the tribal leaders. Because they think that these migrated communities cover their land, resources and culture. A sense of identity crisis emerged among them but after Assam movement they felt it more, because Assam movement paved the way for movement to save once identity, again the Bodo leaders felt that the greater Assamese communities completely destroy their culture and language, which latter on lead the violent ethnic conflict in BTAD areas. Because of these conflict a number people lost their life, property and lives in the relief camps for long times, and all these posed threats human security of these peoples. In my paper for basic understanding I also mention about Human Security and Ethnic Conflict.

Key words: *Human security, Ethnic conflict, North east India, Assam, BTAD*

Introduction: The North east India is a multicultural and multi ethnic dominated state. The tribes of North east India are belongs to the Tibeto/Burman/Mongoloid stock and closer to South East Asia than to South Asia. It is ethnically, linguistically, culturally very distinct from the other state of India. Even during the colonial period the British government provided Inner Line permit through which the non tribes restrict to enter in those areas. Thus the origin tribal politics can be traced back right from the colonial period. Very significantly the separatist feelings of the Hill Tribes continued along with the freedom movement. But after independence during the period of reorganization of states the central government should not provide necessary importance regarding these diversity which latter on lead vulcanization of North East State. As a result North East separated from each other's. But till now the central government should not provide importance to the cultural diversity of that states and do not take any significant step to save these huge cultural heritage. As a result they always feel a sense of identity crisis. In reference to the ethnic conflicts among the plain tribes

of Assam, during the first stage of colonial period the plains tribes did not develop any such ethnic questions. Of course Phulaguri Dhewa was there by some tribal people against the colonial ruler. It was a protest but not an ethnic conflict. But in the 20th century the plain tribes produced a tiny section of middle class, which included the tribal leaders like Bhimbra Deuri, Rupnath Brahma, Rabichandra Kachari, Dheersing Deuri etc and they are became conscious about their culture and identity. But after Assam movement the issue of ethnic conflict reflects among them very seriously, basically among the BODO community. Because this movement paved the way to fight for once identity. And this movement also showed that for save resources and land as well as culture also it is necessary to have political power. So after Assam movement ethnic conflict became more visible among the Bodos. In the beginning they have problem with the greater Assamese society because they felt that they posed threats to their culture and identity. But after formation of BTAD their problem started with the migration of Muslim peasants from East Bengal, and Santhals from Jharkhand and Odissa. Because they are settled in the tribal areas. They felt that these migrated communities cover their land, resource and posed threats to their culture. Again the Bengali speaking Muslim Community form political party and organizations, which also creates a discontent among them. As a result time to time ethnic conflict emerged in BTAD areas. Because of these conflict a number of people lost their life, property and lives in the relief camps for long times which posed threats to Human security of people lives in that areas. In my paper I would like to analyze how ethnic conflict posed threats to human security of the people belonging to BTAD area.

Theoretical Concept: To make broad study that how ethnic conflict posed threats to human security of people we should know what is ethnicity, ethnic conflict and human security. For that I try to analyze a little bit about the concept of ethnicity, ethnic conflict and human security in my paper.

The concept of ethnicity and ethnic conflict: Ethnicities refer to cultural traits that are shared by a category of people such as language, religion or national origin. When people integrate ethnicity as part of their identity, national community, they self-consciously constitute an ethnic group. As I mention that these groups are very conscious about their culture and identity, when they posed threats to their identity and culture they started ethnic conflict.

The concept of Human Security: The term human security was first popularized by United Nation Development Programme in the early 1990,s. It emerged in the post-cold war era as a way to link various humanitarian, economic, and social issues in order to alleviate human suffering and assure security. The issues of human security include area such as:

- 1 Organized crimes and criminal violence.
- 2 Human rights and good governance.
- 3 Armed conflict and intervention.
- 4 Genocide and mass crimes.
- 5 Health and development.
- 6 Resource and environment.

But some critics say that the concept of human security so complex that it fails to achieved its goal. But at the present time security has become global. It is no longer simply related to the security of nation. Security of individual directly related to security of nation. Because of that the concept of human security became very popular in international scenario.

Objectives:

The basic objectives of the proposed study are mention below:

- To find out the socio economic and political basis of ethnic conflict in North east India.

- To find out the socio economic and political basis of ethnic conflict in BTAD area of Assam.
- To find out the relation between ethnic conflict and human security.
- Try to analyze how ethnic posed threats to human security in BTAD conflict.
- To find out certain ways to solve the problem of ethnic conflict so that human security can be enriched.

Methodology: The study will be an empirical one. It is based on secondary sources. It is based on the facts and information collected through the direct and indirect sources like books, journals. Newspapers and internet.

Ethnic Conflict And Its Impact On Human Security In Btad Area Of Assam: Ethnic conflict has its roots in the BTAD area since colonial period. During the colonial era the British government had settled the Santhals in that areas from Chhotnagpur plateau area, mainly Jharkhand and Odissa to work for the tea gardens. They are followed by the people from Bengal who is broadly classified into Hindu Bengali and Muslim Bengali. The Hindu Bengali mainly from elite class, who use to work as officials. The Muslim Bengali were migrated by the British to work in cultivation field to grow more foods. They are settled in the Char areas which are basically tribal dominated areas. Over the years they are migrated regularly and population growth of that areas very high. For e.g.: there was 55.6% migration between 1911 and 1921, (Sources British census). And the recent census of 2011 shows that the population growth very high in Muslim dominated areas which include tribal area also such as rate of growth in the Dhubri district increased 24.4%, Morigaon 23.3% Nagaon 22%, Karimgang 21.9%, goalpara 22.3%, Darrang 22.2% Bongaigaon 20.6% compared to Sonitpur 15.6%, and Dibrugarh 11.9%, Sivsagar 9.4%. (Sources the ASSAM TRIBUNE 17th May 2013) these districts have almost similar geographical characteristics. Dhubri borders Kokrajhar whose population growth is just 5.2%. This gradient is a reason enough for ethnic diffusion. And ethnic diffusion is the reason for ethnic conflict in these areas. The indigenous Bodo population now conscious about growing population of Muslim Migrant. Because now they cover their land, resources and livelihood.

The history of violence in the name of ethnic conflict which is happen in the BTAD can be traced back to the Bodoland movement of 1987. Some groups of the movement took up arms and underground. Initially the group indulged in localized violence against those who spoke Assamese, who were consider outsiders. It was only in octobar 1993 that the first big massacre happened in the district of Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon where 50 people were killed and 4000 families affected accused of being Muslims from Bangladesh. Soon after in 1994 another 113 migrants Muslims were killed, in Barpeta. Bodo – Adivasi clashes in 1996 and 1998 saw almost 400 people killed and over 3 lakhs displaced, again in 2008 Bodo – Muslim clashes left in Udalguri district 65 killed and over 2 lakh displaced. The most recent incident happen in July 2012 where about 100 people died according to government report and 4 lakh were displaced, till now more than 4000 people are lived in relief camps, (source Asian center for human rights).

Thus from these analyze we find that this ethnic conflict in BTAD Posed Threats to Human Security of the People. Because of these clashes thousands of people lost their lives, home and property, lives in relief camps for long times. The condition of relief camps has been such that their wide spread food poisoning, viral fever and dysentery resulting into death of people even infants also. The people should not get the basic necessities of life such as shelter, food water, medicine, education and employment. Apart from total absence of a sense of human security the poor hygienic conditions the camps only tell the apathy of the both local and the state government. Again in the

relief camp there is no single security man to protect the ID P. People also feel fear to go back their home because they lost their property documents at the burnt. In the name of rechecking these people may be threatened by the police or army. Government failed to provide security to those people. As a result we find that in BTAD area the government failed to provide basic security to the people. And it is a very important issue of discussion because if a country or government failed to secure individual security than how can become secure the nation. Because as I mention earlier at the present time individual security lead the nation security.

Concluding Observation: In my observation I found that due to ethnic violence the human security of people threatened in BTAD. A government most fundamental responsibility is to ensure the safety of its citizen and when it is violated , it should not only compensate the losses and rehabilitate the affected but also should apprehended and punish the guilty. In the time of recent violence the issues of illegal arms come into focus. Again a shocking report found by C.B.I. that last violence happened in B.T.A.D is preplanned. This planning made by student union like ABMSU, AAMSU involved directly, even illegal immigrants are also involved in these violent activities.(sources dainik Agradoot May 31, 2013). So it is seen that for certain personal benefits or political purpose few people try to create violent activities in these area. And it posed threats to the nation security also. So now we see that it is necessary to curb these problems and for that we can take certain steps such as:

- ❖ Immediate steps should be taken for the people who are still live in the relief camps. The central government and the state government should seat together with the BTAD administration and try to clear the political and legal hurdles against it. Again those who lost their documents during conflict the provided them duplicate copy with the help of SDO's of such division by proper checking.
- ❖ The displaced people should be relieved from their fear psychoses. The deployment of army should be increased.
- ❖ A special investigation team should be appointed to found those people who spread the illegal arms in those areas.
- ❖ Those who spread violence in those areas should be given remarkable punishment.
- ❖ The international borders between Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal should be sealed and illegal influx stopped completely.
- ❖ The rehabilitation package should be increased for the IDP s. The other losses of each household should be fully compensate as early as possible.
- ❖ The state government should not leave everything upon BTAD administration. Because rehabilitation is a state problem and its effects the whole nation.
- ❖ The various organizations such as student union. Literature union, NGOs tried to create a situation of brotherhood rather than confusion and suspicion among them.

In my point of view if we take these steps than to some extend we are able to solve the problem.

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