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Abstract

The number of ethnic related conflicts has increased sharply since the end of the cold war. It has become a common phenomenon in almost all regions of the globe. However, only recently it has got attention from the researcher. In the age of globalization and modernization the emerging field of ethnic conflict and internal displacement has become broad.

In the present political scenario, ethnicity and ethnic conflict in their persistent nature has become a serious threat to the stability and integrity of the most of the countries in the Third World. These ethnic conflicts generally lead to violence, which cause loss of human lives and large scale population displacement. The increasing number of ethnic conflict is resulted unmanageable situation of internal displacement and refugees in the world order. However, there is no national and international framework for the protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established to protect and promote refugee rights; but no such arrangement is made for the IDPs. In most of the Third World country IDPs become a serious humanitarian issue which need to be addressed properly. Likewise in India one can find all types of displacement, whether it's conflict-induced, development-induced or natural disaster induced. In the case of North East, particularly in Assam, the situation is pathetic. After the December 23, 2014 riot in Bongaigaon (Assam), Human Rights Watch (HRW) has claimed that Assam has become the home of the highest number of conflict induced displaced persons in the world and their living in an inhuman condition.

The main objective of this research is to explore the socio-economic conditions of the IDPs who have been living in camps in Bodoland for nearly two decades. The ethnic conflict of 1993, 1994, and 1996 between Bodo and Bengali Muslims has resulted into a larger magnitude of population displacement. Most of the victims are Bengali Muslims and they are still living a impoverished life in the camps. The thesis seeks to know the present socio economic condition of these IDPs, which are not available in any literature or there are no other sources. A qualitative and quantitative methodology has been applied to analyze the existing facts and variables in the present research. This study followed a particular research design, i.e., research

samples were used to quantify both dependent and independent variable. For the purpose of research, a particular number of people were chosen from a large portion of population with common characteristics.

If we look at the present situation of Bodoland, there is a growing need and scope for the further research on the issue of ethnic identity and internal displacement. A considerable attention is required to understand and address the issue, how ethnicity leads to ethnic conflict and how ethnic conflicts can generate such a huge number of displacements in Bodoland.

After an extensive field work and analysis of the data, it can be said that the conditions in which the IDPs are living are appalling. They are living in these camps since last two decades. Food shortage, poor hygiene, lack of access to sanitation and inadequacy of basic amenities are further added to their miseries. Absence of basic facilities like water, proper clothing, health care, education, livelihood, security has made their life worse. Complete absence of civil society has made these camp dwellers more vulnerable towards injustice and further discrimination.

There are some suggestions can be put forth for the amelioration of conditions of the IDPs after analyzing the data. The authorities must observe the principles enumerated in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Civil society must come forward to help these abandoned people, authorities must come out with a comprehensive framework for the relief and rehabilitation of these displaced. To prevent the frequent violence the state and central government must take all possible measures to bring all conflicting parties into the negotiating table to solve the problem in a more democratic and peaceful manner. Special care must be taken regarding the health of women and children, water-borne diseases are common in the camps. Lack of clean drinking water made these people vulnerable to the number of diseases which are common in these camps. In the case of education authorities must establish more and more primary schools to ensure the access of education for these inmates. The issue of illegal immigrants which is the most sensitive issue, need to be addressed in a very sensible manner. Authorities can improve the living conditions of the inmates by granting adequate number of “*Indira Awas Yojana*”(Indira Gandhi Housing Scheme). Government must take all possible steps for the safety and security of these inmates.