
Nexalism Movement in Chhatishgarh and its genesis in Assam, causes and its impact: a Comparative Study

Debo Prasad Gogoi

Assistant Professor, Department of History, D.R. College, Golaghat, Assam

ABSTRACT:

Nexalism is the most significant political movement since independence. It is the only Movement which is having started in one police station of a single district in West Bengal in 1967 has now expanded its activities covering over 460 police stations in 160 districts across 14 states despite the police force and infrastructure having grown manifold during this period. The movement is viewed with greater anxiety in the government because it is most intense precisely in areas which are rich in natural resources, and therefore, targeted for fast-track industrial development. The movement is also unique in that it tends to mobilize the most subdued and socially marginalized sections and has a deep impact in the society, politics and economy. Unlike the political Mass movements with violent underpinnings featuring in the border areas, nexalites do not seek to secede from the union to establish a sovereign independent state of their own but only to capture political power through armed struggle to restructure the society. But in with a view to materialize their mission they are killing the security forces as well as innocent people. More so they are trying to capture the political power which may cause one day the most important cause for the question of National integration of the country. The aim of this research paper is to discuss the various factors responsible for the growth of Nexalism movement in Chhhatishgarh and Assam as well its impact in this two states.

Key Words: Nexalism, Movement, Chhatishgarh, Assam.

INTRODUCTION:

The Nexalite armed movement challenges the Indian states for more than 40 years. It is based on Maoist ideology and gains its strength through mobilizing the poor, underprivileged, discouraged, marginalized, especially in rural area.(1).The Nexalite Movement is serious threat for the Indian state:They are now active in 223 districts and 22 states and the strength of their arms cadres is in about 10,000 to 20,000.(2).Due to Nexalite's control over certain areas and their armed fight against the state security forces, they are challenging the inherent ideals of the state, namely sovereignty and monopoly on the use of force. In order to maintain law and order as well as the ideal of the state, government in return countering them violently.(3).

On April 21 ,2010 Indian Prime Minister Monmohan Singh repeated his message that left -wing extremism is the gravest internal threat for the country(Indian express 2010).This was said ,after the worst Maoist attack, where 76 security men were killed in ambush in Dantewara district of Chhatishgarh. This recent event is the culminating point of a long persistent escalation process.(4). However the movement's roots are located within India's social and economic inequalities as well as the environmental degradation. Without fostering the root causes of the problem state will not be able solve the problem at all. In this paper we are trying to discuss the

causes of Naxalism and its impact on two states namely Chhatisgarh and Assam. Chhatisgarh for having all the resources but deprived from important aspects of development and Assam for becoming the new periphery for the soil of Naxalite Movement. This paper divided into three parts. The first part is an attempt to discuss the various causes responsible for the growth of Naxalite movement in Chhatisgarh and its impact .part two deals with the causes responsible for the Naxalite Movement in Assam and its impact. And the final part deals with the state's responses and states limitations to solving the problem.

Objectives:

As we have mention it above that Naxalism is one of most important problem of India in regards of its internal problem is concerned hence this serious and most contagious issues should be deal with proper planning and sensitively.

We have designed the study with the following objectives:

- (1)Actual factors that are responsible for nexalite movement
- (2)Factors responsible for nexalite problem in Chhatisgarh
- 3) Factors responsible for its booming ground in Assam as a new issues.
- (4) Since it the main internal problem what are steps taking up the governments.
- (5) To find out is there any major gape?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Despite the fact that the issue exists more than 40 years, relatively little research work has been conducted. However, within recent years rapid work in the academic work can be observed that is dealing with the roots, cause and impact of Naxalism. For this paper mainly Indian literature was taken as the issue is largely neglected beyond the Indian context. The pioneer in this field was by Nadeem Ahmed;2003:Charu Majumdar: The father of Naxalism in Hindustan times: March 9, described the role of CharuMajumdar for the cause of common people. Another important author Ghanashyam shah (2002),in his book social Movement s and the state, sage, New Delhi also highlighted some of the factors responsible for the atmosphere of Naxalism in India. One of an important books authored by Lennart Bendfeldt, HBF, intern, july 2010 titled "Naxalism: The Maoist challenges to the Indian state has discussed in detail about the Historical background about the Naxalism in India, various root causes for the same and put forwarded some remedies to solve the problem. Another author shreyBerma in his book titled-'Far reaching consequences of Naxalite problem in India, understanding the Maoist Problem in India,july 2011 published by Rakshak Foundation discussed in detail about the consequences of the Maoist problem and provide some measures for the government to solve the problem. RajatKujur in his research paper "Nexal Movement in India: A profile ' published by Institute of peace and conflict studies , New Delhi India, september 2008, discussed about the characteristics of the Naxal Movement in India. PryankaVora and SiddantaBuxy, in their joint article titled-Marginalization and violence in India: The story of Naxalism in India: published by(SASCV;) ISSN:0973-5089 January-December vol.6(1and 2) 358-371 highlighted about the how the marginalized are getting more interested to in the group of Naxalism. Bernadette white in his Major paper titled" India's Naxalite Movement : The impacts of development and

Government Repression on Activism in the state of Chhatisgarh .in support of the Masters in Public and International affairs Virginia Polytechnic and State university, April 7, 2008 discussed about the various atrocities by the state government in the name of Controlling Naxal Movement. Another important author Joseph MerianusKujur in his article titled :Development-induced displacement in Chhatisgarh: A case study from tribal prospective discussed about the impact of development process in Chhatisgarh and how it affected the tribal people and they became homeless in own place, for which they are also taking the side of the Naxalites. Harsha KumarSingha and Ashwini Kumar pandey in a joint research paper titled- Naxalism :A threat to India's internal security' by Defense Research and Development; vol-1, No1, January 2009. pp.101-108 .also mentions some of factors responsible for the problem of Naxalism in India. Unlike Chhatisgarh very few writings are coming about the causes of the Growth of Naxal movement in Assam and its impact. Still some academic work is going is which is helpful for us to get some idea about the gravity of the situation in Assam is concerned. Washbir Hussai and H.K .deka edited a book titled "socio-economic political dynamics in extremist affected areas" executive summary submitted to the ministry of Home affairs discussed in detail about the various causes for Naxalism in Assam in general and North east in particular. Another Author Sk siani in his article' violence in North east and central india extremism and terrorism ,published by CLAWS journal, winer 2008 also highlighted some issues related to Naxalism.

METHODOLOGY:

Historical Methodology has been followed in the research work. We are taking help from secondary sources mainly and at the same time taking an amount of primary sources that is based on personal observation.

DISCUSSION:

A remote village in the state of West Bengal gave birth to a movement which challenged the rule of law and those who rule in the name of democracy. Naxal. Naxalites and Naxalism symbolism in a form which has not yet received any concrete definition. They are a group of extremists with no belief in parliamentary democracy. Naxalbari uprisings (1967, 25th May) :The rebel cadres led by Charu Majumdar launch a peasant's uprising at Naxalbari in Darjeeling district of West Bengal, after a tribal youth, who had judicial order to plough his land, was attacked by local "goons" of local landlords on March 2nd. Tribals retaliated and started forcefully capturing back their land. The CPI(M) -led united front government crack down on the uprising and in 72 days of the "rebellion" a police sub-inspector killed and nine tribal's were killed. The incident echoed throughout India and Naxalism was born. Very soon the Naxalbari rebellion took a giant shape and received support across the regions including West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Part of the Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh and gradually to the other parts of India.

NAXALISM IN CHHATISHGARH:

Various factors were responsible for growth of Naxalism in Chhatisgarh. Chhatisgarh was bifurcated from Madhyapradesh in the year 2000. Out of population of 20,759,956 in 2001: the

SC are 12 percent and the ST are 32 percent. The rural population was 79.9 percent. Besides many resources, forest is one of most important portion of Chhatishgarh and it the part and parcel of the socio-economic life of the tribal people. In spite of having all these resources why Chhatishgarh becoming a main part of the naxalism can be discussed as follows

1. Structural Violence:

The social conditions of the dalits and the tribes are deeply conditioned by the agrarian and social structures. The tribals ,which at one time were prevelidged to own some land, have recorded the fastest pace of landlessness among different social groups in recent times . This right of the Tribals as wellas the Dalits are almost taken by the Government for its various purpose. And this way they are becoming homeless with total discouragement for which they use to select the path of Naxalism

2. Poverty:

The structural violence contributes to and is also reinforced by human development deficits in respect of all accepted indicators which are lower in the case of these communities when compared to other social groups. These pronounced disparities have a debilitating effect on the psyche of the effected population and a cause of their seething resentment.

3. Literacy:

But poverty is not an economic phenomenon alone. it has social dimension as well which are reflected in other human indicators. The level of literacy is the most important of them. The dalits had been deprived of education for centuries under the then existing social order and the tribals remained cut off from the mainstream educational facilities until the intervention of the Missionaries during the Colonial period. The lower enrolment and higher dropout rate of the tribal children is indicative of the higher incidence of child labour. Nearly 7% of the tribal children are engaged as child laboures which are substantially higher than those other groups including dalits.

4. Health:

The situation in respect of health status is even worse. The infant mortality rates, indicative of the reach of primary health care is as high as 84.2 percent per thousand in the case of tribals and 83 per thousand in the case of dalits compared to 61.8 in the case of others.

5. Food Insecurity:

Both the Dalits and the tribals suffer from acute food deficiency but the tribals face it far more than the dalits. As per official data, nearly 1% of the tribal household s do not have sufficient food in any month of the year which is an underestimate. The incidence of starvation deaths, characterstic of extreme impoverishment, is the highest in the tribal areas where families are forced to sell their children for survival.

6. Low Per-Capita Income:

These depressing indicators in respect of productive assets, employment and food insecurity lead to low per-capita consumption expenditure. Because of this reason they can't ask for good food and good medical facility.

7. Social Exclusion:

These disparities in human development attainments are caused by bias in politics are not caused by bias in policies or paucity of resources but are rooted in the social structure which excludes these groups from the benefits of development and access to social services.

8. Drinking water, Sanitation, Housing:

The situation in respect of access to drinking water also reveals wide disparities only 17% of the tribal households and 23.7% of the Dalit households have latrine facilities against 42.3% of the general category households. This percentage is lowest in Chhatishgarh 8.2%.

9. Disparities in infrastructure:

The wide disparities in human development are also accompanied by a huge gap in the availability of development infrastructure (roads, bridges, transport networks, telecommunication facilities) as well as social structure infrastructure (schools, health centres, piped water supply schemes, power distribution lines) and production infrastructure (irrigation, storage godowns for Pds, cold storage for marketable production are not for the poor people.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GROWTH OF NEXALISM IN ASSAM:

Assam is one of the most important state of North east India. It is surrounded either by international boundaries or by some state level of borders. For a long time Assam is facing a serious problem like ULFA for which neither the state government nor the common people feeling comfortable. In this type of situation due the same factors like Chhatishgarh Maxalism is getting importance in Assam also .The factors for the growth Nexalism in Assam are as follows:

1. Action of the Government:

In Assam also we can observe some factors which are quite similar to that of Chatishgarh. But here we face the problem of Bagaleshi immigration problem and do not find the case of Dalits.

The social conditions of the tribes are deeply conditioned by the agrarian and social structures. The tribals, which at one time were previledged to own some land, have recorded the fastest pace of landlessness among different social groups in recent times . This right of the Tribals almost taken by the Government for its various purposes. And this way they are becoming homeless with total discouragement for which they use to select the path of Naxalism

2. Poverty:

As compared to the other section of the society the tribals are living below the poverty line in Assam.

The structural violence contributes to and is also reinforced by human development deficits in respect of all accepted indicators which are lower in the case of these communities when compared to other social groups. This way they do not find better solution to find out a good way of life and hence easily motivated by some any kind of ideology.

3. Literacy:

But poverty is not an economic phenomenon alone. it has social dimension as well which are reflected in other human indicators. The level of literacy is the most important of them. The tribal's remained cut off from the mainstream educational facilities until the intervention of the Missionaries during the Colonial period. The lower enrolment and higher dropout rate of the tribal children is indicative of the higher incidence of child labour. This picture can be very much observe in regards of Karbialong district of Assam. Nearly 7% of the tribal children are engaged as child laboures in various factories and hotels. This is much more as compred to Chatishgarh.

4. Health:

The situation in respect of health status is even worse. The infant mortality rates, indicative of the reach of primary health care is as high as 84.2 percent per thousand in the case of tribals .And this infant mortality case is very high in case of the immigrats Bangladeshi .

5. Food Insecurity:

Both Bangaladeshi immigrants and the tribals suffer from acute food deficiency but the Bangaladeshi immigrants which are very much prone to accept nexalism face it far more than the tribals in the case of Assam. The incidence of starvation deaths, characterstic of extreme impoverishment, is the highest in the tribal areas as well as the among the Bangaladeshi immigrants where families are forced to sell their children for survival

6. Social Exclusion:

The social structure which excludes these groups from the benefits of development and thereby make a big gape to consider these group as part the greater society of Assam which slowly create social tension.

7. Attitude of the Peasants:

The most important factor that is creating a good ground for naxalite movement in Assam its geographical location. A huge amount of peasants are totally deprived from their own land because of the government policy and because of this reason they are now looking for a new ideology.

IMPACT FOR BOTH THE STATES:

From the above discussions it shows that in Chhatishgarh as long as the problem of Naxalism will be continue then we cannot expect peace as well development. Similarly in Assam also if the problem is suppose to continue and government cannot realize the situation than there will be total anarchy will be arise which in long turn definitely create problem for the integration of Assam in particular and India in general.

CONCLUSIONS:

Thus from the above discussions it becomes clear that The role of government to reduce the problem of Naxalism is not up to the Mark .They should take every possible steps to minimize the problem by taking proper and effective Measures. Strong action against them should be

minimize as these people are basically innocent to a large extent They are part of a country and this should be very much in their every action plan, then and then only the problem Naxalism would be reduced and this way India can be the biggest democracy in the whole world.

FINDINGS

1. It comes to our observation that the central government as well as the state government should be more careful and sensitive enough to handle this burning issue.
2. On their part they should be also ready to accept various proposals adopted by the state government.
3. Role of the some NGOs is quite important to reduce the gap between the government and the Naxalite.
4. Assam government should realize it well that Assam has become a sufficient ground the Naxalism. Therefore proper planning and humanitarian approach is nessary.

REFERENCES:

- i. Ahmed, Nadeem; 2003: CharuMajumdar – The Father of Naxalism; in: Hindustan Times; March 9.
- ii. Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) 2006: Naxal Conflict in 2006; 7/24/2010; <http://www.achrweb.org/reports/india/naxal0107.pdf>
- iii. Asian Centre for Human Right (ACHR) 2006 (B): The Adivasis of Chhattisgarh: Victims of the Naxalite Movement and SalwaJudum Campaign; 7/24/2010; <http://www.achrweb.org/reports/india/Chattis0106.pdf>.
- iv. Banerjee, Sumanta; 2010: The Pathology of India's Security Forces; in: Economic and Political Weekly; June 19.
- v. BBC 2010: Scores of Indian soldiers killed in Maoist ambushes; 7/24/2010
- vi. Bloch, Ernst; 1991 (reprint): Heritage of our Times; Cambridge.
- vii. Chadha, Vivek; 2005: Low Intensity Conflicts in India – An Analysis; New Delhi.
- viii. Chakravarti, Sudeep; 2010 (A): The Rebels mirror India's failings as a Nation; 12/15/2010; <http://www.boell-india.org/web/52-641.html>
- ix. Chakravarti, Sudeep; 2010 (B): It's again time to question Maoist myths; 7/24/2010; <http://www.livemint.com/Articles/2010/04/09210843/It8217s-again-time-toquest.html>
- x. Chakravarti, Sudeep; 2009 (reprint): Red Sun – Travels in Naxalite Country; New Delhi