

# ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE TRIBALS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*Claiming freedom from the British rule, India had a 'tryst with destiny' on August 15th, 1947. Ever since that fateful day, the India has attempted, many a time with brute force, to shape the destinies of nations that came under its territory. Carrying forward the logic of the British colonial state, and adding theatrics of 'liberal' democratic phrase-mongering with a virulent strain of illiberal nationalism, the Indian state has butchered and subsumed many histories in its zeal for integration...In the colonial period, Assam was the first territory in the northeastern region to be occupied by the British East India Company after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826, using it as a base to extend rule to adjoining hill and plain areas including Naga, Manipur, Mizo and Matak territories. An extractive colonial economy saw the region being envisaged as a huge tea plantation. This was accompanied by forcible dispossession of the tribals and peasantry from their means of production, separation of the historical linkages of the plains and hills people with the Inner Line, infusion of opium along with a banning of local production, exorbitant taxes and a destruction of the collective ethos and local subsistence economy. Cheap indentured labour brought in from central India and being made to work in slave-like conditions ensured the super-profits of the colonialists. The excavation and coal and petroleum since the 20th century added to this scenario as another capital-intensive and extractive industry. To ensure continued economic exploitation and hegemony, colonial rule of law was established militarily with complex network of posts and commands, as well as administratively, with a class of middle-men carved out of the feudal rural gentry of the Ahom era and new traders from Marwar region.*

## INTRODUCTION

Today, mass organization is an important characteristic of all human society. In other words it is a universal feature of every human society. Mass organization is defined by different writers differently. In the words of Karl Marx, "It is the economic organization of the weaker section of the society to expose their grievances and thereby to gain the target".

In the words of Durkheim, "Mass organization is the organization of the masses for the purpose of their social upliftment."

From the above definition it is clear that mass organization is the organization of the mass people organized for the pursuit of their common goal. It often acts as a pleasure group

of the community concerned. Now-a-days it is considered as a political weapon of the society. It is applicable in the case of MBK, TMPK, MMK, TMMK and AASU etc.

In every society, mass organization plays an important role to develop their respective societies. It is not absent in Mising Community too.

It is a well-known fact that in Assam, there are a large number of ethnic communities having their own cultural heritage and traditions. The Mising are the second largest of Schedule Tribe (Plain) community of Assam and inhabiting mainly in the district of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Sonitpur, Darrang and Tinsukia. Ethnically Misings belong to the Tibeto Burmin groups. With the march of time, the Misings have settled mainly in both the banks of the river Brahmaputra. Since their migration to the plain, they have been living as a part of the native population of Assam. Although, they have merged into the main-stream of Assam yet, they still remain as backward in comparison with other ethnic communities of Assam.

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Thus, from the study of the above referred statement it is clear that those are not systematic and sufficient enough to examine the mass organization of Tribal Community and their role to understand their interests towards our National in general and rural village in particular.

So, this present work is an attempt to find out these facts in a systematic manner and to test hypothesis framed on the relevant data and analysis. Of late, a good number of studies have been made on tribal organizations in India and they are well reviewed by Shad G (2004).

## **MASS ORGANISATION**

SAPMO provides access to archives, created by parties and organisations controlling state and society of the GDR. Most of the documents were strictly secret before 1990 and are now open for consultation with the exception of personal information. Since 2005 the holdings guide and a constantly growing number of online finding aids are available for cross search in ARGUS. Since 2008 increasing amounts of digital reproductions are integrated. Together with the archives the holdings of 30 libraries have been taken over from former GDR parties and organisations. They are available for consultation on site in a special reading room or for lending and interlibrary loan.

The archives include records from the Politbüro of the former SED and of the offices of individual functionaries responsible for specific matters. They contain documents of the Central Committee with its departments and educational institutions from 1946 to 1990. Together with the party archives of the SED the archives of the KPD, dating back to its foundation in 1919 and including documents of its clandestine activities in the Federal Republic until 1971 were transferred to SAPMO. They contain furthermore the archives of the central and industrial unions, were documents concerning social insurance and the central vacation service can be found. Many more archives from mass organisations like the Kulturbund (Cultural Association), the FDJ (Free German Youth) with the Pionierorganisation "Ernst Thälmann" (children's organisation) and the GDSF (Society for German Soviet Friendship) are available here.

The archives created by the regional and local units of parties and mass organisations are part of the holdings of the state archives of the Länder. They can be searched together in the union finding aid of the central access point Netzwerk SED-/FDGB-Archivgut (Network SED and FDGB Archives). The research library is at the same time the service library for the departments of the Bundesarchiv in Berlin-Lichterfelde (German Reich, GDR state agencies, SAPMO) and acts as professional centre of the Federal Archives library. Its online catalogue is integrated into the union catalogue of the Kooperativer Bibliotheksverbund (Cooperative Library Association - KOBV) of Berlin.

### **The Problems of Mass Organisations**

The main role in building up the left democratic front (what is mentioned here is not the LDF in Kerala which is only an election front) and developing it step by step to the peoples' democratic front rests with the mass organisations. Through the activity of the mass organisations and the participation of the party in them a big majority of the people can be brought under its influence. What is the strategy of bringing cadres from mass organisations into the party? E.M.S. Namboodiripad in the book 'Communist Party in Kerala' (Vol. III, pp. 215-219), Chintha Publishers, Trivandrum) wrote thus – 'the first priority job of them (the communists) is to rally different sections of the masses though their respective mass organisations unitedly regardless of their caste, religious and even political affiliations. They make use of the mass organisations to rally workers or peasants or other sections of the people owing allegiance to any political party or people who have no political affiliation in their organisations against the class enemy. The duty of the mass organisations is to protect the common interests of the respective class or section of the masses barring all other considerations including their political affiliation.... That means, the Communist Party tries to strengthen the trade unions, peasant organisations and other mass organisations not as front organisations of any political party including the Communist Party but as organisations of the entire class or section of the masses.'

Mass organisations and their functioning 'should be in such a way as to provide facility for activity to people of different political parties and non-party people and they should be able to give shape to all the thoughts and aspirations of different sections of the people. Therefore the party sought to ensure that conferences, general body meetings and committees elected by them should be held in such a way as to freely discuss, decide and implement the decisions concerning them.'

Only if the party succeeds in building up the unity of different sections of the people through their united activities, can the party carry forward them to the people's democratic revolution and then to socialism and afterwards to Communism (p. 216). In the same book E.M.S. Namboodiripad analyses in a critical manner how the CPI(M) should conduct itself in this regard and how the bourgeois parties are doing things. In Kerala it has become the usual practice that every political party forms its own trade unions, peasant organisations, student-youth-women organisations as their front organisations and the party directly controls them. This is quite natural for a party representing the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois classes. It was after the Quit India struggle that the mass organisations began to work as adjuncts of the political parties. The Congress Party made the beginning. Other parties including the Communist Party followed suit. The political work of other parties is centered on elections. Their politics is to prepare different sections of people to vote for them when the election comes. They work among the workers, peasants and other sections of the people with the aim of creating vote banks. In that sense the mass organisations under bourgeois parties are their adjuncts.

## **MASS ORGANIZATION AND ILLEGAL INFILTRATION**

The unabated influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh into Assam and the consequent perceptible change in the demographic pattern of the State, has been a matter of grave concern. It threatens to reduce the Assamese people to a minority in their own State, as happened in Tripura and Sikkim.

Illegal migration into Assam was the core issue behind the Assam student movement. It was also the prime contributory factor behind the outbreak of insurgency in the State. Yet we have not made much tangible progress in dealing with this all important issue.

There is a tendency to view illegal migration into Assam as a regional matter, affecting only the people of Assam. Its more dangerous dimension of greatly undermining our national security, is ignored. The long cherished design of Greater East Pakistan/Bangladesh, making inroads into the strategic land link of Assam with the rest of the country, can lead to severing the entire land mass of the North East, with all its rich resources, from the rest of the country. This will have disastrous strategic and economic consequences.

## **MASS ORGANIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON ASSAM**

Mass organization has played a vital role in Assam. In the present day a youth icon named Akhil Gogoi who is a peasant leader and an RTI activist from Assam. Over the years he has been leading many anti-graft movements in the state. Akhil came to national attention after he was awarded the Shanmugam Manjunath Integrity Award in 2008 for his relentless fight against corruption and attempts to bring transparency in government functioning. In 2010, he was awarded the national Right to Information (RTI) Award by Public Cause Research Foundation (PCRF) for his role in exposing the 1.25 crore scam in Sampoorna Gram Rozgar Yojna (SGRY) and Rs 60 lakh scam in the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in Golaghat district of Assam by using the RTI Act. He donated the entire sum of Rs. 2lakhs of the Award to his organisation KMSS.

Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD), popularly known as Bodoland come into being as a result of an agreement signed among the Bodo Liberation Tigers, Government of India and the Government of Assam on 10th February, 2003. The Agreement is the culmination of the protracted Movement of the Bodo Ethnic group for a separate state. Under the agreement an Autonomous Council representing the different sections of the Population was formed and a package of substantial amount of Money was granted by the central government for development of the Bodo inhabited districts. The Agreement under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India confers upon the Bodo Council a series of special rights which will be the guidelines of development of the area.

The Study is the first of its kind regarding Bodoland and Bodo movement. It captures the socio-economic status of the Bodo people through extensive field study of all four districts of Bodoland. The field survey was done under the sponsorship of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies. The study brings out the strong points of Bodo socio-economic status and makes a projection of Bodoland development based on these Positive factors. The study examines how an ethnic aspiration can be productively channelized under the Constitutional guarantee of sub-state format. Amallesh Banerjee is a distinguished scholar with his Teaching experience spanning over more than five decades. He served as Professor and Head of the Department of Economics of Rabindra Bharati University and as a Guest Professor of Jadavpur University. As a specialist of Northeast India economy, he made important contributions. He has published a dozen of Books and 160 Research papers at national and international level. The main thrust of his research is macroeconomics and development economics. He was a Fellow of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies. He was President of Bengal Economic Association and also the Vice-President of India Economic Association. Professor Banerjee is the Chairman of the Institute of Business Management and Research, Kolkata and President of Global Centre for Development Studies.

## CONCLUSION

For better development of the socio-economic condition of the area, there is a great need to provide the Mising and Bodo people with a free atmosphere and encouraging facilities. Government should take special scheme to provide loans to the poor Misings and Bodos to establish private enterprises.

Though among the Mising and Bodo household living in a traditional type of village of which the entire economy is based on agriculture, unmarried adults can clear their individual's plots and appropriate the income to satisfy their needs, the household still acts as the corporate body to earn a livelihood for the household as a whole.

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