

CHAPTER – VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

6.0 INTRODUCTION

The present study shows the nature and complexity of the problems of the internally displaced persons in Bodoland Territorial Council. The North East India has witnessed the growth of the number of insurgency groups since independence fighting for autonomy with the mighty India State, and Assam is no exception in this regard. The insurgency groups often targeted the civilian population as a pressure tactics to pressurize the government to meet their demand. This insurgency related killing to civilians often resulted communal violence, people targeting each other thus displacing large population. The displaced population for fear of killing and counter killing has no any other alternative but to remain in the shelter or relief camp established by the administration without much livelihood benefits. The relief camps are often overcrowded with lack of privacy for women and host of other concern issues. The displaced populations in the area have been facing severe humanitarian crisis and human rights violation due to repeated conflict and displacement again and again.

In this concluding chapter of the present study the major findings have been summarized in order to see whether the sets of objectives have been achieved and to test the hypotheses and to underline the concluding remarks and suggestions to improve the rights of the displaced persons.

6.1 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study have been highlighted in this section.

- a) The series of conflicts in BTC area have resulted displacement of numerous peoples causing immense hardships in their day to day livelihood activities. The region has witnessed population displacement in large number during 1996, 1998, 2012 and 2014 conflicts. The conflict and population displacement in BTC region is thus a protracted one.
- b) Forced displacement is no longer stranger to the people of BTC. People were displaced mainly because of the damaged of household properties and the fear of being retaliation. 57 % of the populations were displaced because of the fear of retaliation during the conflict period and 32 % were displaced because of the direct impact of the conflict as their property were damaged or burned down while 11 % were displaced due to other conflict related reasons.
- c) Due to the protracted conflicts in the region people have been displaced again and again causing more and more hardships. At least 56.67 % of the target populations were facing double displacement till the time of the study and 25 % have faced triple displacement causing repeated mental and physical trauma, while 19.33 % have faced single displacement.
- d) Most of the displaced persons were willing to go back to their original place however some are not because of various reasons. At least 54.33 % displaced persons were willing to return to their original place but 45.67 % of the displaced persons wanted to remain in the camps. It was found that those who are willing to stay back at the camps includes 40.88 % who thought situation was not conducive to return, 14.60 % whose land has been occupied by others, 28.47 % who are forest dwellers, 16.05 % who do not wanted to return for various other reasons.

- e) The conflicts in the area have affected not only the IDPs but also the authority dealing with humanitarian assistances. The displaced people have to live in a congested and overcrowded schools and government offices without any basic livelihood facilities. Since their movements were restricted due to security reasons so their income for livelihood also got affected. Therefore, they have to be dependent on whatever little help they get from the government and other sources to meet their daily needs.
- f) Essential commodities like rice, dal, kerosene, etc. were provided only to the newly displaced persons, however there are people displaced during 1996 & 1998 conflicts who are still living in the camp life situation since decades. They constitute the forgotten lot, no longer regarded as IDPs thus no help from the government side, neither they were rehabilitated nor any other alternative provided to them. On the other hand those who received essential commodities like food, dal, etc. were also not sufficient enough to feed their families.
- g) The satisfaction level among the IDPs is very low in terms of the quantity of essential commodities they received during displacement. Only 7.54 % were satisfied the amount of rice, dal and other items they received but 92.46 % IDPs shows resentment regarding the quantity of essential commodities they received. The displaced people find it difficult to sustain their day to day activities as other source of income become completely standstill.
- h) The health and sanitation is one of the most important aspects of human life. However access to health and sanitation becomes difficult for the IDPs in the camp. The findings of the study shows that the displaced people has to live without adequate potable water, latrine facility is also not adequate, water borne diseases among IDPs is reported. The camps itself is not sufficient to accommodate the displaced persons. As it is always overcrowded communicable diseases spread easily among the displaced people.

- i) The present study also indicates that most of the displaced people are from economically poor background. It is found that only 6.33 % family have income level above one lakh, 8.33 % family have income level between fifty thousand to one lakh, 24.67 % family have income between thirty thousand to fifty thousand, while 33.67 % family income lies between ten thousand to thirty thousand and lastly 27 % families whose income is less than ten thousand. It is disheartening to see that most of the displaced people even cannot afford to maintain their daily expenses with this family annual income.
- j) The study also throws us light about the source of income of the displaced persons. The study reveals that only 7.67 % are service holders having regular income, 20.33 % are involved in small business; around 26 % were involved in agricultural activities. Lastly around 38 % of the displaced people have to rely on daily wage earning sources to maintain their livelihood.
- k) The land holding status of the IDPs has also been greatly impacted as a result displacement. The study shows that the land holding pattern compared to pre-displacement and post-displacement has shown some discrepancy. Landless persons which constitute around 23 % prior to displacement have increased to 33 % post-displacement. Likewise land holding status between 1 to 10 bighas was around 32 % during pre-displacement period which increased to 37 % post-displacement period. Further the land holding pattern between 11 to 20 bighas was around 25 % during pre-displacement but shows decline to 21 % after displacement and land holding position between 21 to 30 bighas was around 8 % earlier and come down to 5 % after displacement. Lastly, land holding position of the displaced persons who have 31 bighas of land and above constitute around 11 % before displacement comes down to only around 2 % after the displacement. Thus the result shows the discouraging pattern of land holding position when compared to the position between pre and post displacement period. Most of the displaced persons have to lose their land as a result of displacement and this outcome is reflected in the increase of more number of

landless persons and the decrease of land possession after displacement as the study shows.

- l) The study also reveals that most of the displaced persons whose property has been left at the original place were not receiving any shares from their property. Around 36 % of the displaced persons informed that they were not receiving any shares from their property however around 64 % reveal of receiving some kind of shares from their left out properties. This result in more livelihood distress among the displaced persons as the income and other resources remains stagnant in the camp life.
- m) The study further reveals that the amount of compensation given by the authority was not sufficient enough to rehabilitate the families. The families who were displaced during 1996, 1998 conflict was given only 10000.00 rupees per family in the name of resettlement and rehabilitation packages. The recent displacees were given 50000.00 rupees as part of the compensation packages for rehabilitating their families. However, with this money it is near impossible to rehabilitate the displaced families. The result is that many of the displaced families decided to stay back in the camp for decades as the amount of compensation they received was inadequate to restore them.
- n) The study finds out diverse opinion within the displacees on the issue of relief and resettlement programme. At least around 32 % of IDPs want sufficient monetary compensation as part of R&R programme, around 23 % of them want alternative land to be provided by the government, around a little more than 5 % want back their original property whose land has been occupied by others and thus cannot return back, lastly most of the displacees wants government job to be provided as part of R&R packages which constitute 40 % of them. However these are the expressive views of the IDPs from the field in reality neither the state of Assam nor the GOI have any policy on resettlement and rehabilitation on conflict induced internally displaced persons.

- o) During the crisis period especially when it comes to the conflict displacement the displacees sometimes have to remain without food and other essential commodities for days due to the lackadaisical attitude of the authority concerned. In that circumstances the aids from different agencies come to the rescue for the IDPs. The IDPs needs training & advocacy and other helps for their livelihood and sustenance. Therefore the help from NGOs and Civil Society Organizations becomes utmost important. The study exemplify how IDPs were benefitted from NGOs and CSOs in terms of receiving aids, relief materials, training & advocacy and others.

- p) Lastly the study throws us light about the conditions of the displaced people in the area. Most of the displaced persons, around 77 % think that not enough has been done to ease the sufferings and misery of the IDPs. This is evident in the fact that many of the IDPs are still living in the camp on permanent basis on their own without basic security of livelihood and authorities help. Those displaced people who are still living in the camp have to face physical and mental trauma as they cannot return to their original place because of various reasons. As the conflict in the region is a protracted one which is like adding salt to the wounds of the IDPs. The study reveals us that the conflict among communities living in the area at a regular basis has aggravated the already fragile conditions of the IDPs.

6.2 ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Research is being carried out to achieve certain targeted objectives in mind. The major findings in this research as analyzed and enumerated above have facilitated the researcher to fulfill the targeted sets of objectives as follows:

- a) The history of the major conflicts and populations displacement in Bodoland Territorial Council since 1980s to 2014 has been carried out.

- b) The human rights protection mechanisms of the internally displaced persons through various International and UN Agencies have been done along with various policies of the Indian government has also been explored.
- c) The human rights issues of the conflict induced internally displaced persons in Bodoland Territorial Council has been studied.
- d) The response of the state authorities towards resettlement and rehabilitation of the IDPs in the area has been drawn.

6.3 TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

In order to lead the present research in the right direction two hypotheses was formulated. The findings of the research study have been verified and compared to test the validity of the drawn hypotheses. It is found that the findings of the study have proved to be true and hence proved to be valid as understood from the following facts.

Hypothesis – I

“Displaced persons are facing lot of problems due to lack of national/state policy towards conflict induced IDPs”.

The present findings of the study clearly indicates that the conflict induced displaced persons in the study area face numerous problems due to the lack of concrete national and state policy towards conflict induced displacees which includes:

- a) State unwilling to accept the fact that there are conflicts induced displaced persons in the first place.
- b) Lack of policy and disparity in resettlement and rehabilitation packages.
- c) Government role is always on ad hoc basis while dealing with conflict displacees.

- d) For decades displaced peoples due to conflict have been living in a relief camp on a permanent basis without the help from the authority concerned.
- e) Lastly, there are laws specifically to deal with displacement due to development, however there are no specific laws to deal with conflict related IDPs which further contribute the problems of the displacees.

All the points mentioned above validates the hypothesis that ‘lack of policy towards conflict induced IDPs are the contributing factors of the problems faced by the displacees. Hence hypothesis one proves to be valid and true.

Hypothesis – II

“Protracted conflict among communities living in Bodoland Territorial Council has aggravated the plight of IDPs”.

The study has also indicated the truth of the second hypothesis as the findings of the research shows that resultant conflicts in the area have caused immense problems to the displaced people in their livelihood. Due to long drawn conflict people were displaced and re-displaced again and again adding more and more problems. The findings of the study indicate that 56.67 % persons have been displaced for second time till the time of this research. Secondly, 25 % of the displaced people faced third time displacement as a result of frequent occurrence of conflict and lastly 19.33 % faced displacement of one time. The general perception of the displaced persons in the area also proved that it is the prolonged conflict that has affected their lives in the long run. The finding of the study shows that 98 % of the respondents believed that prolonged and resultant conflict has ruined their livelihood.

Thus, the second hypothesis is also valid and accepted to be true as findings shows that frequent conflict aggravated the plight of the displaced persons in various ways.

6.4 SUGGESTIONS

This research investigates the human rights issues of the people displaced due to conflict in Bodoland Territorial Council covering the districts of Kokrajhar and Chirang, Assam, India. It presents an analyses of the various aspects of human rights issues concerning conflict induced displaced people in the area. Based on the major findings of the present research study presented above, the following suggestions and recommendations are being made for the effective management and timely intervention of the IDPs relating to human rights needs and protection.

- a) Since the conflict in Bodoland Territorial Council area is a protracted one the competent authority must ensure proper security in the area especially along Indo-Bhutan International border area and other sensitive places.
- b) The National as well as State government should formulate a policy in the line of UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to effectively deal with conflict induced displaced persons as their needs and assistances are unique requiring special considerations.
- c) The competent authority in collaboration with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) must provide proper training and advocacy to the displaced people relating to enjoyment of governmental schemes and benefits and also relating to maintenance of health and hygiene and proper sanitation.
- d) Special focus should be given to the women, children and elderly people who constitute one of the most vulnerable groups among displacees. Pregnant women and lactating mothers should be given proper medical help including supply of

baby food and other nutritious food items for the children be made available especially during displaced period.

- e) The role of BTC authority as a local government cannot be ignored; therefore the state government in consultation with the BTC government must come up with a policy to rehabilitate the displaced forest dwellers who were still languishing in the relief camps for decades even after getting rehabilitation packages. Alternate government land should be given to them for their decent livelihood.
- f) The rehabilitation and resettlement packages should be increased to meet all the basic requirement and expenses of the displacees such as housing, alternate land arrangement etc. Those people having property but unable to return for various reasons must be properly compensated.
- g) Health services must be made available during the crucial period especially during displacement period. Proper information on health schemes and benefits must be provided to the displaced people. If possible NGOs should be entrusted for bringing awareness programmes on health issues and governmental health schemes.
- h) More collaborative engagement between the Government and the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should be explored while dealing with IDPs in the region.
- i) Further, most of the conflict and displacement in the region is related with the militancy problem. Therefore, the Government of India must make a favourable

condition for talks with different stakeholders and militant organizations to end the militancy problems.

- j) Lastly, in order to instill confidence and rights of the displaced persons in the BTC region the following suggestions can be explored:
- a) Land rights for resettlement of IDP.
 - b) Housing, electricity and sanitation through various governmental schemes.
 - c) Health Centres under Health Mission.
 - d) Access to Education under RTE, and
 - e) Rebuilding the lost livelihood through collaborative engagement with BTC, Central and State government along with local NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies.

6.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present research study titled “Conflict Induced Internally Displaced Persons and the Issue of Human Rights in Bodoland Territorial Council” has been done keeping in mind the human rights aspects of the displaced persons in the BTC. However the study is limited to only two districts of the Council covering four blocks in Kokrajhar district and one block in Chirang district. Further only three communities belonging to Bodo, Santhal and Muslim have been taken for the study as sampling population whereas there are also other communities displaced as a result of the same conflict in the area. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to generalize the results of the study in the whole of Bodoland Territorial Council.

The nature and complexities of the problems of conflict induced displaced persons in Bodoland Territorial Council can be explored more in numerous issues in order to strengthen and for better understanding the barriers in ensuring rights of the IDPs. The micro areas like child rights, women’s rights, health and sanitation, relief and

rehabilitation issues concerning IDPs can be explored more deeply. In-depth research on policy framework addressing conflict induced displacement can also be explored.

6.6 CONCLUSION

Conflict induced internally displaced persons faces numerous human rights violations especially in the study area. The conflict induced displaced persons in India in general and the state of Assam in particular needs special attention and protection, because displacement can take place anytime, anywhere with no sign of warning thus human rights becomes imperative in such a situations. The problems concerning the conflict induced displaces in Bodoland Territorial Council is that neither the state nor the BTC authority has any policy on the resettlement and rehabilitation of the people displaced decades ago. Therefore for the better management of the issue of human rights of those people living in the camps at various places must be given alternative arrangement and bring confidence among them. Efforts may be made by the local authority for all round development of the people displaced due to conflict through collaborative mechanism with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. The suggestions recommended in this concluding chapter of the study need to be considered for minimizing the human rights violation of the displaced people in the region. Long term policy to end the cycle of conflict must be taken by the state and the central government for bringing peaceful co-existence in the state. Internally displaced persons also deserved to be protected from any kind of violations of rights including mental, physical, emotional and good health.

The is an urgent need for the legal protection mandates especially those who are forcefully displaced as a result of conflict, mechanism for policy and institutions to address humanitarian aspects and service delivery system of those who are displaced.