

## **CHAPTER- V**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.0 INTRODUCTION**

The central objective of the present study has been considered to examine the nature, problems of ethnic conflict issue and the affects of the conflict on the affected or displaced people of the Kokrajhar district who were displaced from their original inhabitants as a result of protracted conflict. The north eastern region is full of separatist movement, insurgency, militancy, struggle, ethnic movement for identity and counter movement, conflict, displacement, human rights violation and security issues of the civilian. Likewise, the present Assam is not exemption from such situation. It has also faced almost the same problems; the north eastern region has faced in the since decade. Moreover, Assam is suffering longest period and most than the rest of other north eastern states in case of identity based autonomy movement and counter movement and along with security issues and human rights violations of the common masses. In the same way, the Kokrajhar district located in the western part of Assam and one of the present four districts of BTAD which was created as a result of BTC accord on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003, it has also faced lot of violations of human security issues in the region due to repeated ethnic clashes, passes of the period in temporary arrangement relief camps after the displaced of the affected people without proper amenities for livelihood and drastic humanitarian crisis during the peak period of the conflict and post conflict situation.

Hence, in this concluding part of the chapter of the present study the major findings have been summarized with the aim to see whether the sets of objectives have been achieved or not and to test the hypothesis and to highlight the concluding remarks and suggestions to improve the security of the displaced or affected people of the study area.

## 5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

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

- a. The study shows that ethnic conflict resulted huge number of population displacement and affect on their economy condition. Many of the people have been affected three times; some have been affected two times by the conflict. Thus, the conflict of Kokrajhar district is protracted one and has affected the people of the area economically very badly. Because of the conflict and displacement the properties of the people viz. harvested paddy kept together in house for their daily use and also for sale, economy earning source from animals like buffalos, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, good vegetables grown up in the garden, utensils for household etc, were destroyed, burnt down or looted by the opponent groups. It is found that 70.84% of the people admitted that the ethnic conflict affected their economy condition very badly.
  
- b. The problem of land alienation of the indigenous Bodo people and the rising ethnicity and identity assertion of the ethnic groups residing in that area and the movement by the Bodos for preserving their identity, language, culture and finally a separate homeland and the counter movement initiatives against the Bodos backed by some anti Bodoland forces and feeling of domination by the Bodos led to the emergence of ethnic conflict between the Bodos and Santhal. Still today, there is always instigation or third party involvement in the incidents where conflict like situation arises in the district. The hidden elements which do not want separation of Assam and opposes the creation of Bodoland separate state curving out Assam always tries to destabilize the situation in the study area. Presently, the ongoing division of the society in the name of “Ona- Boro” organization meaning different groups of people living in the Kokrajhar and BTAD except the Bodo which is unconstitutional word is the best example which are working as the counter movement group of Bodos that do not want creation of separate Bodoland from Assam.
  
- c. The study shows that the Adivasi or Santhal are not indigenous group whereas Bodos are the native and indigenous group of that area. The study shows that the Santhal were the migrated ethnic community from Jharkhand and Orissa. Basically, the Santhal were

brought and resettled in Assam by the British rule to work as tea garden labourers and to weaken the movement of the Santhal against the British administration in Jharkhand. Finally, study shows that the unchecked and ongoing aggression of the outsiders on the opportunities of the local people and exploitation and oppression of facilities led dissatisfaction among the indigenous people.

- d. The study reveals the fact that there prevailed a high situation of insecurity condition among the displaced people in the area, camps, or even after the resettlement. The administration failed to create a situation of freeness for the movement of the affected people to work and earn for their livelihoods. It shows that due to presence of insecurity and risk of murder somewhere if someone goes out from the camp in the area for working deprived them off for earning their livelihoods.
- e. The study also reveals the truth fact that the supplies of essential commodities for the survival of human beings like rice, dal, salt, oil , kerosene etc. by the administration for the internally displaced persons were limited and inadequate. It is also found that some of the people are still living in the camp like situation those who were not able to resettle themselves for various reasons mainly due to inadequate compensation, insecurity after the conflict of 1996 and 1998 that are no longer treated as IDPs but constitute a forgotten lot, hence, no help from the government for rations.
- f. The study shows that the satisfaction level of income among the affected people or internally displaced persons to fulfill their requirements during their displacement period is very low. It is seen that only 20.83% were satisfied with their income. However, 79.17% of the conflict affected people were not satisfied with the income they earned. Thus, it is observed that IDPs were compelled to lead their lives with a very difficult condition as there was no other source of income for earning except depending on the supply of administration.
- g. The study also throws us the light that the ethnic conflict created a great affects on the livelihood of the affected people. Due to sudden outbreak of the conflict and attacks, retaliation, people with great fear leaved their houses, belongings and everything behind

and ran away to safe far distant places. As a result, they were bound to stay for a long period in the relief camps for their safety which were congested and had to lead their lives amidst the scarcity of foods and the problem of unhygienic situation.

- h. The study shows us that there was irregular supply of rations and essential commodities which were provided by the administration. It is also observed that the supply of essential commodities were inadequate in compared to the affected families and also for proper twice meal in a day for a month. Only 9.58% of the displaced people were satisfied with the essential items they received from the administration. However, 90.42% of the conflict affected people were not satisfied with the quantity of items like rice, dal, oil, salt, kerosene etc. they received during their displacement period.
- i. The study also brings us to the knowledge that there prevailed incidents of children abuse a lot after the conflict along with the presence of the act of trafficking in little number to different places within the state and outside the state for the sustenance of the family. Maximum of the children were deprived of educational facilities after the displacement which is the fundamental rights. It is seen that rather than sending them to schools for education the parents isolated their children from themselves to serve as servants in others house due to vulnerability of the family.
- j. The study also finds out about the health related issues. Health and medical facility is the most important aspect for the survival of human beings. However, it seen that access to health and medical facilities is very difficult for the conflict affected displaced people. The study reveals that the Internally displaced persons have to face the shortage of doctors / medical facilities when they suffer from water related diseases like jaundice, malaria, typhoid, cold, cough etc. As the relief camps were confined, overcrowded these diseases were easily communicable to the people. Due to lack of proper care in the camps, they even had to shift to Kokrajhar Civil Hospital, Bongaigaon Hospital and Barpeta Hospital which were very far from the relief camps and risky at journey on road at the post conflict situation.

- k. The sanitation and water facility is also one of the most important and unavoidable part of every human being. The findings of the study reveals that the conflict affected people had to live without adequate latrine and potable water facilities. As a result of which they had to become the victims of many diseases. It also shows that due to inadequate latrine facilities and bathing place or well installed within the camps women lacked the problem of privacy and had to go outside the camp for open defecation in the jungles of riverbank even neglecting the concern of their security.
- l. The study reveals that women were not safe in the relief camps after the displacement. Maximum women faced the problem of physical harassment for which they did not feel secure themselves. The study also shows that as the displaced people both male and female were kept in together in the camps, women had to face harshly the problem of privacy and sexual harassment. Thus they lacked the facility of maintaining and securing privacy and sexual harassment which was very necessary.
- m. The study reveals that conflict internal displaced persons faced with the issue of free and dignified life during their displacement period. The large number of people within the camps created the problem of sexual rape of someone's wife by others prone incident, chaos, quarrel, fight, murder etc. and the hope of IDPs to live with dignity and honour was overwhelmed due to insecurity and overcrowded camps.
- n. The study reveals the fact that the amount of compensation provided by the concerned authority was not sufficient to rehabilitate the displaced families. As per the views of the displaced people, Rs. 10,000/- per family was given for the purpose of resettlement and rehabilitation displaced during the conflict of 1996, 1998. It also shows that displaces families during the conflict of 2014 were provided Rs. 50,000/- as a part of rehabilitation package. However, this amount of money was not at all sufficient to rehabilitate the displaced people. As a result, many of the displaced or affected families in the conflict decided to stay back in the camps rather than going to their original displaced places as the amount of compensation was not adequate to resettle them.

- o. The study shows that most of the conflict displaced persons were willing to return to their original places. However, some of them did not want to go back due to various reasons. About 54.17% IDPs had the willingness to return to their original places but 45.83% conflict affected persons wanted to remain in the camps.

## **5.2 ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of carrying out the research work by the researcher is done keeping in mind certain specific or targeted objectives. The major findings of the research which is discussed and analyzed in the above have helped the researcher to reach his targeted sets of objectives as pointed below:

1. The theoretical framework of human security has been studied in details along with the concepts of ethnicity, ethnic conflict, IDPs, security etc.
2. The ethnic conflict situation of Kokrajhar district has been studied.
3. The various protection mechanism of international, national level for the internally displaced persons or conflict affected people has been studied.
4. The impact of ethnic conflict on human security in the Kokrajhar district has been analyzed thoroughly.

## **5.3 TESTING OF HYPOTHESES**

In order to guide the present research work in the accurate direction two hypotheses was formulated. The findings of the research study have been verified and compared to test the validity of the constructed hypothesis. It is found that the findings of the study have shown to be true and hence proved to be valid as per the understanding from the following facts.

### **Hypothesis -I**

- i) “Protracted ethnic - conflict leads to violation of human security in the district.”

The present findings of the study clearly indicate that the resultant conflicts in the district have caused numerous problems to the internally displaced persons. The study

reveals that due to occurrence of long drawn ethnic conflict people of the area were displaced and re- displaced, settled little and displaced again with more intensity and havoc. The repeated clash between the two communities greatly affected the lives of the people. People of both the community were affected very harshly in respect of economy, food, health, personal security and community security except the political and environmental security. The resultant conflicts destroyed huge properties, brought uncountable miseries, took numerous lives of the people. The conflict violated both human rights and the human security by bringing lots of damages and miseries in the lives of human beings.

### **Hypotheses- II**

- ii) “Government’s failure to provide security poses threat to human security.”

The study also reveals the fact that second hypotheses also true as the problem of ethnic conflict originated from the lack of security in the area. Due to lack of sufficient security forces to control the hostile situations between the two groups the way for taking place ethnic conflict became easy. Moreover, after the conflict and displacement, the provision for inadequate security forces from the government and respective administration in and around the camps and in the entire area to protect the people and their lives, it directly and indirectly posed treats to their economy, food, health, personal and community security as a whole. The livelihoods of the people were badly affected by this conflict. Even after long period of years, many of the families are still living in the permanent semi camps like situations despite the completion of the rehabilitation and resettlement process. Many of the inmates could not return to their original displaced places due to insufficient amount of compensation given from the government whereas others could not return due to fear of their lives, more chances of being killed and again attacked by the opponent groups. The living conditions of these people are below the standard of living, unhygienic, worst and very degradable. In every aspect of life they are neglected, deprived and forgotten one. The overall human security of the displaced people in the

camps and in the area outside the camps was not secured due to lack of security of life.

Thus, the second hypotheses is also found valid and accepted to be true as the findings reveals that the failure of the government to control the situations timely led to the outbreak of the ethnic conflict and after displacement also the lack of security in the daily lives of the relief inmates created the problem of insecurity and a treat to the human security of Internally displaced persons.

## **5.4 SUGGESSTIONS**

The present research tries to find out the human insecurity issues of the displaced people both Adivasi and Bodo community those who were displaced as a result of counter ethnic-conflict between them at different periods of time in the Kokrajhar district of Assam , which is presently the headquarter of BTAD. This study presents an analysis of the various inhuman situations, the violation of human security issues of the displaced people after the conflict in the proposed study area. Hence, basing on the major findings of the present study mentioned above, the following suggestions and recommendations are made for maintaining the human security violation issues of the conflict affected or displaced people and for taking appropriate actions in time by the concerned authority to stop the inhuman and cruel suffering of the human beings at the time of conflict and post conflict situation and for the protection of the conflict.

1. As the conflict in Kokrajhar district is protracted one to secure human security the competent authority should ensure proper security in the sensitive areas to prevent the incident of feeling hostilities between the groups and to stop the elements which works for the creation of division, hatred and communal feeling among the communities residing in the study area.
2. The national and the state government should frame a policy in the line of United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to deal specially with the internal displacement and tackle the matter or impact of ethnic conflict on human



- security as they need special protection and they are beyond the reach of the exiting national and international laws.
3. The relief and rehabilitation department which is not entrusted to the local governing body should be handed over to BTC as per the Accord of 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003 so that they can manage the crisis situation as they have more concerned for displaced people of the area and the respective state government pays less importance about the condition of IDPs of the area.
  4. The arrangement packages for the resettlement and rehabilitation should be enhanced so that the IDPs can afford the requirements for houses, alternative lands in other places if not returnable, purchase of essential items for securing their human security. The adequate compensation should be provided to the displaced people who are not still able to return to their original places.
  5. The health and medical facilities should be made available during the critical and peak time of the conflict. As most of the affected people are illiterate they should be made conscious about their health related issues by awareness.
  6. The government should come up with a proper and amicable policy to solve the problems of the contending ethnic groups who are demanding for the solution of their ethnic related problems rather than prolonging the issues and creating more and more insecurity condition of the people of the area as maximum groups are running after the gun culture to achieve their demands.
  7. The government should make special provision for the protection of the weaker and vulnerable groups of the society i.e. children, women and the elderly persons among the displaced persons. Pregnant women and the children should be given proper nutritional foods as per the requirement.
  8. The confidence building measures should be taken by the government by involving the different organization of both the ethnic groups along with the involvement of

other NGOs and civil society organizations to prevent further conflicts and to ensure human security of the people in the study area.

9. The Government and Civil Society Organizations should also come up to aware about the large scale affects of ethnic conflict, to spread knowledge about their rights, human security and constitutional protection of each and every group in depth to prevent the mislead thoughts of becoming the mightier than the other aspirant groups that leads to conflict and giving a message to live together unity in diversity in the democratic spirit and thus bringing upliftment of human security of the people.

## **5.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

The present research study titled “Ethnic Conflict and Its Impact on Human Security: A study of Kokrajhar district, BTAD Assam: From 1996-2014.” has been done keeping in mind the human security aspects of the conflict displaced persons of Kokrajhar district. However, the study is limited to only one district of BTAD covering only four blocks which were affected by the protracted conflict. Further, only two communities belonging to Bodo and Santhal community have been taken for study as the sampling population whereas there are also other communities those who were displaced by the same conflict in the area. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to generalize the results of the study in the whole of Kokrajhar.

The problem of human security of the conflict affected displaced people in Kokrajhar district and also in BTC level can also be explored more in the various dimensions and issues for better understanding and in order to address the problem of human insecurity of the conflict internally displaced persons. The study can also be carried out in larger level including the other conflict affected communities than the two communities. It can also be carried out in the entire BTC level taking the conflict of two communities. Moreover, it has also vast scope to carry out in semi aspects like the human security of the internally displaced women, human security of the conflict affected children, health and sanitation facilities of the internally displaced persons, food

security of the IDPs, relief and rehabilitation problems of the IDPs and Economic security of the internally displaced persons etc. can be studied and explored in more depth.

## **5.6 CONCLUSION**

Conflict affected internally displaced persons faces with various kinds of insecurity problems and the violation of human rights. Like the nations of the world, Indian republic has also faced several problems of internally displaced persons as a result of violence and sometimes due to development displacement. Likewise, the state of Assam in general and BTAD is also not free from the presence of such conflict and internal displacement since the decade of Assam movement and Bodoland movement in the Bodo dominated heartland area.

The Kokrajhar district located in the western part of Assam is familiar several times with the conflicts along with the presence of movement and counter movement. The sudden and unexpected outbreak of ethnic conflicts between the Bodos and Santhals in the year respectively 1996, then in 1998 and again 2014 after long period drop which had large scale displacement and numerous human insecurity accompanied issue indicates that there is something challenging problem between the two communities which is resultantly forcing to come into direct conflicts of which some of the problems of the two communities have been outlined and measures have also been suggested. If the respective state authorities find it appropriate and applicable for the solution of ethnic conflict and promotion of human security, the research work carried out for the very purpose will be achieved and will be helpful to thousands of displaced people who are still wanting permanent solution of this problem and the arrangement of permanent human security of the people in the study area.