CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF SEPARATISM

According to wood ‘Separatism covers all instances of political alienation which features a desire for the reduction of control by a central authority in a specific area.’ Wood argues that separatism metamorphose into secessionism when the group demands not only a few powers from the state but all the powers and full autonomy.

According to the Cambridge Encyclopedia ‘Separatism is the demand for separation by a particular group or area from the territorial and the political sovereignty of the state of which they are a part’. It is associated with claims for the right to self determination and is often connected with discrimination against minorities (The Cambridge Encyclopedia,1990:1089).

Political separatism may be referred to as situation where the powers of the Central Government are transferred to a particular group of people who represent their respective territory (Alexseev, 2008:450)

Separatism can be seen in many contexts like regional autonomy, formation of a separate state within the central administration. Separatism takes the form of secessionism only when the demand of separate sovereign state is put forward.

Following are the major three reasons which motivated separatist movements-

1. **Structural Conditions**- the demographic trends and the ethnic origins of the people, quality types and the federal structure played an important role.

2. **Behavioural Micro Foundations**- this concludes the aggressive behaviours and frustration levels due to any reasons among the
people and also the psychology of the people of a particular region. Intergroup bias and emotions also play a pertinent role.

3. **Economic disparity**- people of a least developed region automatically become prey to a resentment through which they put forward such demands in front of the union.

**THEORIES OF SEPARATISM**

There have been many theories put forward by scholars to explain the separatism. (Boyle and Englebert 2006:NP). Following are the most important-

1. Theory of Globalization- this theory was put forward by Guljeet Arora. The theory claims that with the globalization many economic disparities have increased among the people which have led to a frustration among them. This frustration gives rise to demands of separate state by a political class.

2. Theory of Ethnic Diversity- this theory claims that ethnic diversity is also one of the major reasons to give rise to separatist demands as people from different ethnic origins find it difficult to live together under one administration. The theory falls in line with Naga issue where the people of Naga considered themselves to be different from the other people living in the state due to their ethnic origin.

3. Gerard Delanty’s Theory of Globalization- According to Gerard every citizen of a country has a right to enjoy identity, rights, participation and responsibility. With the advent globalization all these elements did not remain united. It has resulted into a new nationalism which has become an inseparable part of violent separatist movements. Louis Pauly is also of opinion that globalization has negatively affected the needs and desired of the masses who have started questioning the state monopoly. Thus the
demand for the autonomy is raised and a feeling of separatism is promoted.

4. Christan Allen Theory of Criminal Activities- the theory provides a link between the exploration of natural resources of the region and the backup provided by the criminals. He states that the natural resources are explored by the criminals who help the separatist groups in getting a separate nation. He cites the example of Myanmar, Peru and Chachnya where the criminals have close links with the separatist groups who have further confiscated the reservoirs of natural resources.

5. Theory of Diaspora- this theory was put forward by Meredith Weiss who has linked the Diaspora with insurgency with the example of Kashmir, Punjab, Basque and Catalin. He claims that Diaspora provides economical, emotional and motivational forces to the separatists.

6. Economic Growth and development- this theory states that the fast economic developments within the state have given rise to economic inequalities among the citizens. Thus a political new class is emerged which further demands territorial sovereignty where they could demolish the economic stability.

7. Centre-State Relationship Theory- when people of a particular region witness or experience a step-motherly behaviour from the centre they conceive an opinion of separatism which further gives rise to such situations.

8. Natural Resources Theory- this theory states that the demand of separatism is raised when the people feel that the Union is not investing enough in order to explore the natural resources of the place. Hence they demand for a independent status in order to look after their natural resources by themselves. This theory is also
applicable in the Naga insurgency issue where the Government is not exploring natural oil found in the region hence the people are of opinion to take the responsibility by them.

Besides the above given reasons there are also reasons like culture, ethnicity, religion, language and race etc. Which become the major determinants of such movements.