PREFACE

The present study is an attempt to investigate the experiences of victims (direct and secondary) surviving terror attack and ethnic violence. The focus of the study is two significant events of man-made disaster which has shaken the fabric of social harmony in the region of Assam; i.e. 30th October, 2008 Assam serial blast also referred as ‘black day’ and the 20th July, 2012 BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District) ethnic conflict. The two events investigated by the researcher caused massive loss of human life, property. The plight of these victims after the monstrous episode did not receive government assistance in the long run. The study does not intend to investigate the socio-political dimension of the events but aims to investigate the psychological aspect of such disastrous event which leads to the development of humanitarian crisis.

Physical effects after any disaster is obvious which is followed by emotional effects which needs to be taken care of in order to decrease vulnerability of victims from developing severe pathology. Psycho-social support is essential for helping the victims overcome the trauma. Role of mental health professionals is very crucial in fostering quality life among the victims. The field of psycho-social support got introduced in India since 1990s. Despite this the north-eastern region of India which has witnessed numerous violent episodes the role of psycho-social care is negligible. Through the research work researcher would like to bring into notice the necessity of implementing psycho-social support at the earliest aftermath any disaster (natural/man-made).

The researcher in this thesis attempted to peep into the lives of these victims after the events occurred and the direct focus being few districts of Lower Assam where the blast and the ethnic conflict occurred. The psycho-social impact of such devastating man-made disaster needs to be given importance by government along with providing relief to the victims immediately after the disaster occurs.
To investigate systematically the psycho-social effect of 30\textsuperscript{th} October, 2008 Assam serial blast and 20\textsuperscript{th} July, 2012 ethnic conflict the doctoral dissertation has been divided into six chapters.

Chapter 1 deals with the introduction. The researcher has introduced the major concepts of terrorism, violence, ethnic conflict, victims, psycho-social support.

Chapter 2 includes review of the existing literature in the area of disaster mental health, psycho-social support.

Chapter 3 outlines the research methodology adopted by the researcher in order to collect data required for the present investigation. A detailed description of research design, population, sample, sampling method, sampling techniques are mentioned in the chapter.

Chapter 4 outlines the results and discussion chapter where the data collected was analysed to derive meaningful inference of the data. Obtained results were discussed in light of research existing in the area and personal observations of the researcher.

Chapter 5 includes summary and conclusion. The results obtained were summarised and the researcher concluded with a mention of few suggestions and limitations of the study.

Chapter 6 includes resume.

The process of writing this doctoral dissertation has been an wonderful journey filled with enriching experiences and self-transformation. I thoroughly enjoyed my work and I am thankful to God for guiding me throughout my work and making me able to complete this doctoral dissertation on time.

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