Chapter-VII

Summary and Conclusion

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Summary and Conclusion

This Chapter reviews the key findings of the present research and suggests certain policy measures. It also points out the limitations that remained in the present study and provides a broad view of the future researches in the relevant fields. Section 7.1 reviews the key results obtained in the chapters of analytical discussion and empirical illustration. On the basis of these results the inference about the hypotheses has been drawn. Policy suggestions are provided in section 7.2. The limitation of the present study and scope for future research are indicated in sections 7.3 and 7.4 respectively.

7.1 Summary of Findings and Decision on Hypotheses

The present research was carried out in three major steps: first was a document review step where we present a detailed assessment of the expansion of human capabilities from the existing secondary information available in various government publications. In this step we compare the status of human development indicators in five Bodo inhabited districts of Assam and that of the rest of the state. Second was the question-answer type Interview step in which stage an empirical study intended to generate information on overall expansion of human capability and its decomposition over attainments. Following standard methodology of Human Development Index (HDI) we evaluate empirically the level of human development of Bodos living in the areas under BTAD. This step of the research was carried out on the basis of primary information collected from
randomly selected villages of all the four districts under BTAD. The final step conducts *Focus Group Discussions (FGD)* to obtain qualitative judgments of the concerned people of different categories. This stage of the study intended to gather the perception of the common people on their development and aspirations. The decision of the hypotheses that were set in Chapter III has been taken on the basis of the results obtained in three stages of our research. Here we present a step-wise review of the findings, and attempt to interpret them in the context of our hypotheses.

The document review stage of the present study examined the stock of secondary information to evaluate the status of Bodo inhabited districts in terms of human development indicators. Despite the fact that Assam is a poor performer in the country the Bodo-inhabited districts of our concern are lagging significantly behind in some aspects of development as compared to the state average. This observation, however, is not sufficient enough to draw any inference on the first hypothesis of the study such that the poor performance in human development triggered the on-going movement for the protection of ethnic identity and thereby overall development. The second stage of our research i.e., the *question-answer type step* establishes the fact clearly that Bodos are lagging marginally behind the rest of the state in overall expansion of human capabilities. After the findings obtained in this stage there remains no problem to accept the first hypothesis. In addition, the distinguishing feature of human development of Bodos, revealed in this stage of the study, indicates that it has been income-driven as compared to the overall State scenario. The expansion of economic opportunity remained unaccomplished with parallel expansion of human capabilities. This emerged as
one of possible reasons of social unrest and frustration. At this stage of the study we accept the second hypothesis, set in the Chapter-III, saying that poor expansion of human capability played a crucial role in triggering of the movement. The decision of accepting two consecutive hypotheses of our study has been ratified ultimately in the final stage of the research.

The third as well as the final stage of the study which conducted focused group discussions in each of the study villages intended to capture the perception of the respondents on development; and also on the decades-old agitation for full-fledged statehood for the Bodos in Assam. This stage of the study endorses both of the hypotheses set initially. The discussions moreover reveal that the issue of identity and feeling of exclusion had also played critical role in the mind of Bodos. Poor expansion of human capabilities due to miserable public services and rampant corruption along with ethnicity-led identity crises triggered the frustration, and spread the feeling of exclusion in the mind of common people.

7.2 Policy Recommendations

The findings of this study have important policy implications. Understanding various factors leading to political economy of Bodo movement in the state has been crucial for formulating effective policies. The policy suggestions arising out of the present study indicates for evolving an inclusive policy model for development where all sections of the population feel included. Everybody should have equal role in the decision-making of the matters that often shape their lives. An unprecedented effort would be required to bring back the lost
faith in the mind of common people. People of all spheres of life should work together to achieve this goal.

7.3 Limitations

Despite a significant contribution in the literature of human development and identity issues the present study suffers from few limitations. Due to severe scarcity of secondary data on Bodo population the study was based on collected primary information exclusively from the Bodo population living in the areas under BTAD. On the basis of which the Human Development Index (HDI) for the Bodo community was computed. Along with this, the information of the Non-Bodo population living in the same region would have given much better scope of comparison between two communities.

7.4 Future Scope

The present research is a preliminary study of a particular ethnic group that suffers from acute feelings of exclusion for over a century and agitating for the establishment of their role in decision-making. The evolution of the process through which simple identity issues turned into massive violence has been studied under the broadest possible doctrine of capability-based development thinking. The topic is not only relevant in national context where thousands of ethnic groups are in the same row, the issue is equally important in global perspective. A number of studies can be undertaken by the future scholars following the framework developed in the present research. The important contribution of the present study is the observation that the **acute imbalance between the expansion of economic opportunity and enhancement of human**
capability were one of the major factors behind the polito-ethnic unrest in the region. This particular angle of observation can be taken as a solid basis of many future social science researches.