PREFACE

Democracy is considered as the predominant form of government in the present times. Democracy has become popular because it gives each and every person a share in the decision making process. Democracy encompasses the world’s best values like equality, liberty, justice and fraternity. However, in practical field most of the surveys regarding the citizen’s approach towards democracy have come up with negative results. Citizens of the country look upon democracy as an ideal form of government, yet at the same time they remain deeply skeptical when evaluating how democracy works in their own country. As most of the democratic structures are surviving only in the procedural form, it shows that the authority of the systems have failed to materialize the real values of democracy. In this context, the concept of Democratic Deficit has arised. Democratic Deficit as a concept analyzes the structural as well as functional aspect of a system. On the one hand it studies the loopholes of structure for which the system fails to deliver the basic requirements of the people and on the other hand it also discusses the functional deficiency of the authorities of a system for which the system has failed to prosper. The present study has been done with an intention to analyze the democratic structure and nature of Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD), the only plains tribe council formed under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The concept of democracy can be best understood not merely by the political process. Democracy has a very wide meaning. It encompasses social, economic and cultural aspects of a society. The success of a democratic structure depends on proper way of addressing the social, cultural and economic aspects of the citizens along with the political aspect. The present study examines the democratic nature of the system with three core aspects of democracy- political participation, accountability and human development.

Present study area, BTAD, is the outcome of a long historical movement organized by the Bodo community to protect their culture and livelihood security. Now more than a
decade has already passed since the formation of the Council and considerable experiences have been gained. But still question arises-how far the Council has been functioning towards the fulfillment of the aspirations of the people living in the BTAD in respect of socio-economic and cultural development. The present study has been undertaken to understand the working of the Bodoland Territorial Council.

Date:

(Bhaben Kakati)