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Political participation is a wide concept. It covers many things other than voting or joining a political party. It is therefore, very important to study the political participation of the student community who are the future citizens of the country. During the student’s life socialization process particularly political socialization begins. Political parties in our country try to mobilize students at this stage. Moreover, in Assam after the Assam movement students begin to play a significant role. Thus, it was interesting how students were mobilized, influenced at different stages.

In the first chapter entitled ‘Introduction’ discussion in respect of certain aspects concerning the broad discussion of meaning and definitions of the term political participation, Factor affecting political participation has been made at the beginning. The statement of the problem, Aims and Objectives of the study, Methodology, Review of the Literature and also the profile of the area of the study have been described in the first chapter. The chapterisation procedure of the thesis has been narrated in this chapter.

In the ‘chapter II’, we have reviewed the theoretical background of our study. In this chapter discussion of the concepts like Social Movements and Students movements and also the role played by the students in various student movements in international sphere have been done at length.

The history of the origin and development of social movements has been discussed in this chapter. The history of the beginning of social movements in India in the 19th century is also focused here. While discussing about the development of Social movements, it has found that due to the gradual
development of consciousness about inequalities, injustices and exploitation of men by men among people of every political society mainly, political societies with democratic environments, social movements have emerged to scrapped all these barriers which blocks the path of establishing a society based on equality and justice. Along with social movements, the chapter also broadly discusses the meaning and definition of student movements, its impact on various social issues, causes of student’s indiscipline have also been narrated at length in the chapter.

Active role of students in various student movements in International sphere have also been focused. From the beginning how students of various countries of the world such as at China, Russia, Pakistan, Tibet, Nigeria, United States of America, Nepal and Ukraine played active role in various student movements have been narrated in the chapter. We have seen that students played an important role in all the issues varying from freedom movement of their country to social reforms.

The chapter also discusses in its last part the origin of the students awakening and the beginning of student activities in India. The students of India were attracted towards the social issues at the beginning. They were also influenced by the social reformers of that time. Hence, following reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Swami Vivekananda, Indian students took up various activities on social reforms such as widow marriage, stop killing of girl child and land reforms etc. On the whole students become conscious at different occasions of injustice. On the other hand, the spread of western education in India also helped in the development of anti-British feelings in the youths of the country and they gradually took active part against anti-British activities. The formation of Indian National Congress in 1885 and its leading role had organized the Indian people to fight against the imperial British and finally brought freedom for India in 1947, where the students of the country were also an integral part. The origin and development of various other organizations in the society which also contributed in the developments of student awakening and activities in India also focused in this second chapter.
The ‘Chapter-III’ discusses broadly the active participation of student community in the freedom movement of India. The chapter focuses how the student of India involved in the freedom movement with the partition and swadeshi movement of Bengal and played their role vigorously to overthrow the British rule from India. Revolutionary role played by the students of Bengal and its spread to outside Bengal, role of students in the non-cooperation movement, students’ protests against Simon commission, role of students in the civil disobedience movements and finally the role of students community in the last battle of freedom struggle of India the ‘Quit India’ movement have been discussed promptly in this chapter. It has been found that student community of India played their sincere role in pre-independent India for social reforms and also fought against the British to free their country.

In chapter IV, on the other hand, discussion of the active role played by the students of Assam in the freedom movement have been made at length. In this chapter, the beginning of students involvement in the freedom movement, their participation in khilafat movement, their role in Non-Cooperation Simon Commission, their involvement in Civil Disobedience Movement, role against the Cunningham Circular, their participation in the issue of National Schools, role in Quit India Movement and also the role played by the students of Assam as the extremists in the freedom movement of India. On the other hand, to continue their rule in India and to suppress the movement the imperialist British government had exercised repressive measures over Indians for which hundreds of Indians won martyrdom in the freedom movement and more than millions became disable. This ‘black chapter’ of freedom movement has also been discussed in this chapter. We have seen that students of Assam also played active role along with the students of other states of India in the struggle for freedom.

Movement can be regarded as an integral part of the Assamese society. It has been discussed in the previous chapter about the active role played by the students of Assam in the freedom movement of India. But after Independence it has been seen that the students of Assam have to involve in all the issues of Assam whether
Educational, Social, Economic or political issues, from the beginning Due to the step motherly treatment by the centre the people of Assam have to fight against the centre for achieve their due justice. The Oil Refinery movement of 1955, the official language movement of 1960, the food crisis movement of 1964-67, the medium of instruction movement of 1972, the Assam movement of 1979-85 are the best examples in this regard Among these movements the Assam movement of 1979-85 has recognized by the world community as the famous student movement in the world. Along with above movements the impact of Assam movement in out side the country and also the Bodoland movement of 1986-2001 have been focused at length in this chapter V. Unlike any other place students' role is unique in the cases of various movements in Assam

'Chapter VI' is a core chapter of the thesis. As it has already been mentioned that to participate in the decision or policy formation process of the government, the constitution of our political system has conferred political rights to the youths in their age of 18, hence in this chapter we have tried to examine the level of political awareness and political participation of the student community of Sonitpur District. A well-prepared questionnaire has been used for the purpose. The analysis is based on our own findings.

7.1 Major Findings:

Some of the major findings of our empirical investigation in respect of political participation of student community of Sonitpur District are as follows:

Firstly. Family is regarded as one of the important agents of political socialization process which imparts knowledge, beliefs, values, norms, behavior and attitudes of the political system from one generation to another. Through imparting such knowledge and information about the political system family plays an important role in making the members of the society aware about the political system and motivate them to participate in the process of the government actively. But in our survey it has been found that lack of political environment in most of
the families of our society have acted as the main hurdle which in turn greatly affect the students to participate actively in the political process of our political System. Thus, though family has to act as the path shower to the student community to take part in the political system by impressing and motivating them by imparting knowledge, beliefs, values, attitude and norms of the political system but it has totally failed to do this. It has been found that there has been lack of political environment in most of the families of our respondents hence, a little 14.8% of our respondents have positively replied that the members of their family or near relative holds public or elected office. A huge majority 83.3% has negatively replied to this question

Secondly, Political parties are regarded as the base pillars of a democracy. Because, political parties also act as the agents of political socialization process. It can be said that the future and stability of a democratic polity largely depends on political parties. Political parties impart knowledge about the political system and impress and motivates the people to participate actively in the decision making process. But our survey has proved that political parties have failed to attract the new generation to participate in the decision or policy formation process. It has failed to take the new generation to its fold as an overwhelming majority 84.2% of our respondents has replied that they have not belonged to any political party. A negligible 3.3% of our respondents have the membership of political parties. Again, political parties have failed to impress the new generations of our society through its ideology. Our survey has revealed that a majority 53.8% of our respondents have no faith in any kind of political ideologies. Parties also fail to impress the student community to take part in the electoral process of our political system. Though the college union election has been regarded as the training and recruiting ground for the college students to act as a good citizen in future but the findings of our survey has acknowledged that most of our students have not interested to take part in our electoral process. As data reveals that a huge majority 76.7% respondents of our study have not contested in the college union election as candidate. The findings are also same in case of off-campus elections. It is to be noted that only a few 25 out of 210(11.9%) of our respondent have got the taste of
participation in the off-campus elections. Though, the constitution of our country conferred political rights to our students with the aims and objects in view to strengthen the base of our democracy with more participation of the people in the decision making process but the hope has not come true yet due to the failure of the political parties to play their role effectively or successfully to act as the agents of political socialization process.

Thirdly, Educational Institutions have also failed to discharge its responsibility as another major agents of political socialization. After coming out of the family the individual comes in the contact of educational institutions. The schools, the colleges and the universities carry important influence upon him. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that the influence of educational institution upon political socialization is more than that of the family. Educational institutions are the biggest means of propagating political ideas, values and pattern of behaviour. The curriculum directly socializes since it establishes respect and faith in national values, national history, national literature, customs and traditions, political leaders and the political system. Through imparting knowledge about the political system educational institution helps the students to be good citizens in the future. Less involvement and non-interest to involve in the decision-making or policy formation process of the government by the students in their college days clearly reflects the fact that our educational institutions have completely failed in this respect.

On the other hand, it is the utmost duty of the educational institutions to show the path of future occupational aspirations to their students and to make them self-reliant in the future. It is worth mentioning that in our survey it has been found that educational institutions have failed to perform this responsibility. Because a good sizeable 50 out of 210 respondents (23.8%) were unaware about their future while asked about their future occupational aspirations.

Fourthly, Though students of 18 years of age has been conferred political rights to participate in the process of the government of our political system but the finding
of our survey has revealed that most of the students of our society are not politically aware and not interested about the day to day happenings of our political system. The finding of our study has exhibited that political discussions held “regularly” only in a few 13.3% home of our respondents. It has also found that a majority 77.6% of our respondents “sometimes” discusses political issues at their home. It is surprising that a total 9.0% of our respondents “Never” discusses political issues at their home. It clearly reveals that if such trend would continue then the future of our democracy would not be secured.

Fifthly, It is to be noted that along with the political party, the image of our political leaders are also not clean in the eyes of the new generation of students. So that the participation of students in our polity is less than expectation. Our leaders have failed to impress, motivate and attract the new generation through their charismatic quality as was seen in the character of our past leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. This was clearly reflected in our survey that a very negligible 0.5% of our respondents have considered “Politics” as their future occupational aspirations. Lack of dedication, consideration of political gain in all works and involvement of criminals in Indian politics can be regarded as the reasons behind.

Finally, It has also come to the focus that the participation of the female respondents were low as compared to their male respondents in all concerns of our survey. The findings of our study has cleared that the percentage of female respondents have low in their response regarding the contest as candidate in the college union election (25.0%) as compared to their male counterparts (75 0%), their response in the context of belief in political ideology (45 8%), response regarding their view whether student should participate in politics as the member of political party (45 7%) It is a matter of great concern that increasing crimes against women in India may be the reason behind the low participation of female students in politics than their male counterparts.

The basic findings prove the hypothetical assumptions of the study to be true.
7.2 : In Search of Remedies and Alternatives:

It is not the duty of a researcher to leave the things after explaining the findings he/she found in their study. His/her indispensable responsibility is to search for remedies and alternatives.

Though the constitution of India conferred political rights to our youths in their 18 years of age i.e. in their college days seeking more participation from them, fill with energy and enthusiasm, to strengthen the future of our democracy but the findings of our study have shown that all the hopes have been nipped in the bud by our youth by not involving whole heartedly or not showing interest to participate in the process of the political system with great enthusiasm. But remedies must be found to motivate or to attract the youths to participate in the polity at any cost to fulfill the desire of our constitution

A) The government should organize awareness camps in the urban as well as in rural areas to aware the people about the political cultures of our political system. People will be benefited through this process. Much attention should be given in the remote areas in this respect. As the government is already over burdened with works, hence, the works of organizing awareness camps should be entrusted to the NGOs and the Clubs of the society. Though, such awareness works have been started in our society but they yet to be achieved their goals in this respect due to the lack of proper dedication in their work. As family has the great impact on their children for residing since long under the same umbrella and also it is natural that the political beliefs and attitudes prevailing in the family should influence him, hence, without making the families of our society aware about our political system thinking of the students of our society as aware about the political system is futile
B) Government should make organized efforts in making the students of our society aware about the political system from their childhood through including the ideas like the values, norms, beliefs, attitudes etc. e.g., political culture of our society in their syllabus. Learning about the idea of political culture since their childhood surely attract the students to participate actively in the political system when they will get political rights.

C) No doubt the Election Commission of India plays an important role in contemporary times to make the soul of democracy “election process” clean and tries to conduct the elections in a free and fair way. But still it is seen that person with criminal records participate in the election as the candidates of some political parties. The name of Sibu Soren and Pappu Yadav can be regarded as the best example in this regard. Therefore, it is the utmost duty of the Government of India to entrust the commission with full power and force to stop persons with criminal records completely in contesting elections in Indian political system Recently in an article written in an Assamese daily (Dainik Agradoot) showed that in our parliament there are 96 MPs with criminal and corrupt charges. The innocent people of our society seeing all these consider politics as the game of dirty people and hence, they remain aloof from participation in the political process Therefore, to erase the negative thinking from the mind of the people and to involve them in the political process, it would be the top most duty of the commission to prevent the person holding bad records in contesting elections at any cost. Again the Government of India should bring the “Criminalisation in Politics” bill into force with its real sense. It is sure that if the image of the electoral politics of our political system would clean than the participation of students as well as people in the process would surely be increased.

D) Political parties must take active part in making the student aware about the political system. It is a common method that political parties try to
bring the student community into their fold during the time of election.
The role of student wings of political party is also negligible in this regard.
The organizations seldom organize awareness camps in the campuses of educational institutions. Most of the time these organizations only busy for enrolling members and spreading messages and ideologies of their concerned political parties. If the political parties and their student wings play an important role in this context then it can be expected without any doubt that interest and involvement of our youths in the political process would be increased.

E) Political party also can play a leading role to attract people to involve largely in the decision or policy formation process of the government, directly or indirectly by providing candidature to people with clean image to contest in the elections. Political parties can also attract people by implementing the people friendly promises that has been given in the time of election through their election manifesto after winning the election.

F) Government should pay special attention in matters of equal representation of women in the political process. Though, reservation of 33% seats have been implemented in the election of Local bodies but still the Reservation Bill which will be provided 33% of seats reserved for women in the State Assemblies and in the Parliament has not been yet got the place in the statute book. The Central Governments of the past and also the present government in one hand, the political parties on the other, have been playing hide and seek game since long while public opinion strongly favour in passing of the bill. Though, in theory all are ready to give equal representation to women but in practice the politicians are not ready to share political power with the women, which they have been enjoying since time immemorial. But by giving up selfishness and thinking for the better future of our democracy, women should be given their due right to participate equally with men in the political process of our political system. This will increase the interest of women to involve in the decision.
or policy formation process, directly or indirectly and also it will increase
the participation of women in our political process

G) It has commonly been observed that the Student Organizations (which
demand themselves as non-political) of our society organizes regularly
awareness camps on various issues relating to the social problems. They
rarely organize camps relating to political issues. But if these organizations
organize awareness camps among the students frequently on political
matters than these will help our students to know about the day today
happenings of our political system, which in turn will help them to express
their desire to participate in the matters of our political system