Preface

Trend in the writing of history is changing. Today the focus of history is not only on the emperor and the kings, but there has been a paradigm shift to what is called ‘history from below’. Historians of this age have focused their attention towards other issues of human society. Moreover aspects of popular life began to find expression in history writings. As a result one gradually finds the emergence of unexplored areas of research like, history of ethnic insurrection, history of nationality movements, history of criminology, history of fairs and festivals, history of epidemics, history of performing arts, history of environment and woods etc.

The present study has focused on the nationality question which has become a pertinent point of discussion for India in general and northeast in particular. Socio-political incidents like democratic movements, armed struggles, ethnic clashes and conflicts have opened the discourse in the public domain. The Dimasa case is one such domain, reflected in the various stages of the movement for autonomy. Under the leadership of the intelligentsia, the masses have participated in such movements. The character of these movements and its consequences has drawn the attention of social scientists. Although studies on history, society and culture of Dimasa people have been conducted, these studies have not touched the political behaviour or the aspirations of the Dimasa people. As none can ignore the political situation of any nationality, so the situation itself demands the review of the aspirations and consequences of the nationality struggle of the Dimasa people. Therefore the present study is an attempt of writing the history of the nationality movement of the Dimasas from a historical perspective.

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