CHAPTER II

Types of Displacement — An Overview
If we open the pages of history, we find that these pages are filled in with the stories of displacements of the people from one place to another. In their hearts, there is a craving for security and better living. No group of people leave their homes because of their own will, an individual may do so. The circumstances around them compel themselves to do so. When their stay at a place turns unbearable, they look out for better places to go. The trauma, the people suffered from at the time of independence of India, is a glaring story of displacement before us.

Millions are forced to leave their homes where they lived for generations and crossed the borders led only by the instinct of survival. The human nature is beset with the two extreme features, cruelty and nobility. As he is intelligent, he is also moved by his self interests. For the sake of self interests, he shows cruelty towards his opponent and he becomes a noble creature when a better sense of nobility controls him. The human intelligence should lead us to build up the culture of nobility in man and not the opposite. The separation from one cultural environment and settlement in another is attended with signs of deprivation resulting from one economic experience which turns traumatic. When the ethnic rivalries are reported, the tale of human miseries becomes too glaring.¹
The economic and political reasons are the twins and these are responsible for the immigration of people. In the olden period, when lands were not scarce and the earth only presented her plentiful nature everywhere, the people migrated and got settled easily in vacant spaces. But when the earth saw the constant rise of human population, one set of people got displaced by another and often, such displacement was attended with extreme violence where the weaker people suffered much.

With the rise of population and the growth of communication, the nature of displacement has acquired several dimensions. The economic necessity acquires a political dimension. The ethnic clashes are now a reality in areas where the ethnic groups fight for survival. The stronger group forces a minor one leading to an exodus of the hapless minority.

It is also difficult to know the exact number of people who are displaced after the Second World War, but it is roughly estimated between 15 million to 20 million. The host countries face economic and political crisis due to the pressure of these displaced people, often it is beyond their capacity to tackle. In the case of a large scale exodus, ‘the local causes’ are present and the points of conflicts differ from place to place.
Now, if the human dispersals, the reasons thereof and the effects are chronicled properly, it would be clear that the displacement related conflicts are on the rise in many areas of the globe. There are several causes of forced migration.

The number of refugees under the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) set up in 1951 for the better coordination to rehabilitate refugees or the displaced persons at the global level, saw a great increase from 2.5 million to 15 million.

Africa was under the rule of the European powers and when the continent’s large numbers of countries were granted independence after the Second World War, many subject people of erstwhile colonies began to move to the old colonial master countries, Great Britain and France in search of employment. Many people of South Asia came as immigrants to the developed European countries. The green pastures being saturated, the immigration to Europe has now declined a little and the refugee destination is now America.

There is a tremendous scientific and technological revolution occurred after the Second World War and the world is virtually reduced to a village. There is speed and accuracy in the best of human actions. In the field of telecommunication, transportation and
information technology, we find the demonstration of it. We are living in a world in which the news travels in a split second.

The immigration of the people is not a new phenomenon, it happened in history always, very few of them were properly recorded. But in the recent times, the knowledge of immigration and refugee dispersals throughout the world is recorded and the people know the reasons thereof. The turmoil in Mizoram and the exodus of the Reang refugees is now known to the people in general. A century ago, it would have remained a local incident, hardly noted by the world at large.

The global communities are fully aware of the complications arising out of international displacement of people due to war, political oppressions or natural disasters. When an establishment suddenly becomes hostile to a set of people and forces them to leave their homes, they flee just to save their lives. The crisis emanating from the refugees puzzled the world bodies and the scholars, humanitarian groups and the UNO officials are engaged in the discussions how to tackle the problem. It took many forms and dimensions under the different compelling circumstances.

Types of refugees are different in national and international levels. It is difficult for the international community to properly identify these people as the recognized refugee group. It is seen that
inspired by the economic prosperity in some of the western countries, the people, in batches seek asylum in those countries and Canada is one of them. Canada, a prosperous nation in the continent of North America attracted immigrants from the third world countries which number nearly hundred. The pressure of asylum is great in Canada. Atleast, 40,000 refugees sought asylum in Canada in 1990 alone.

The vast stretches of empty spaces in the country and the bright prospects of employment attracted half a million people to Canada since 1947. Canada is the second largest country in the world of little more than 33 million people (2009) faces acute shortage of work force needed for her expanding economy. Every country has its own strategy to accept the displaced persons and Canada is no exception from this rule and she has admitted two types of displaced persons. First, those who fulfil the UN criteria as Convention Refugees. Most of the refugees arriving from El Salvador were accepted on this basis during 1978-1987. These people were accepted by Canada on the basis of a well founded fear of persecution. Secondly, in some cases, those who do not fulfil the UN criteria but are forced to flee to safety to save themselves from the tyrannical persecution of a ruthless authority where the fate of the entire ethnic group is at peril, are admitted as Designated Class
Refugees. Canada generally uses the term Designated Class Refugees in order to accept the people who are displaced due to tyranny and widespread persecution and ethnic conflict. For example, the Vietnamese, Ipso facto are accepted by Canada.\textsuperscript{4}

Canada was colonized by the British and the French in the seventeenth century and she took her shape as a nation within the British Empire. The vast country is still a desolate corner on the face of the earth. She is having equally vast mineral resources waiting for exploitation but the population is still very small. Because of the immigration after the Second World War, it became truly a nation of refugees and immigrants.\textsuperscript{5}

After the Second World War, there was an exodus of large number of ethnic German people mainly from the communist held East Germany, attracted by the growing economic prosperity in West Germany. They soon, were merged into the population and became part of the prosperity. Atleast 3,44,000 ethnic Germans left East Germany and took shelter in West Germany. Germany’s affluence invited 1,21,000 refugees from the third world countries. On the other hand, the continuous strife in Palestine and Lebanon in the Middle East, Civil war in Somalia, Iran, El Salvador and Sri Lanka forced a huge number of people to shift their allegiance to the
prosperous First World Countries surrendering their national pride to avoid political persecution.6

**Note:** **Designated Class Refugees:** On humanitarian and compassionate ground. No quota.

**Convention Refugees:** Processed by the Immigration and Refugee Board according to the convention refugee definition. No quota.

In the 19th century, the people seeking political exiles were admitted as the refugees in Britain, a country considered a safe haven for the refugees. Britain was called a classical democracy with liberal traditions and many people preferred Britain as a destination. The people persecuted under more severe political ideologies sought shelter in Britain and scores of people from the Soviet block countries took asylum in Britain.

Canada and U.K. were the signatories to the Geneva Convention in 1951 and the Protocol of 1967 relating to the status of refugees. The French Hughnots, earlier went to Britain for asylum to avoid persecution at home. Peter Kropotkin, the Russian anarchist, described the Union Jack as the flag under which so many refugees, Russian, Italian, French, Hungarian and all nations found asylum. “Britain accepted 20,000 Hungarians in 1956, 2,000 Czechs in 1968, 3,000 Chileans in 1970 and 20,000 Vietnamese between 1971 and 1989. Almost 2.5 million of people took shelter in Britain from
various countries between 1971 and 1989. The people of different
colours, Black, Asian and Chinese population numbered 2.088
million found asylum in Great Britain, many of them already lived
in Britain for thirty years and some of the immigrant families have
spent generations in Britain".7

Definition of a Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

There is a controversy on the definition of refugees and
internally displaced persons. Some scholars give a broader definition
of refugees by including all who have been displaced by natural or
man made disasters and the denial of food, water, land rights etc
and some scholars want to coin the term internally displaced
persons(IDPs). The distinction between refugees and internally
displaced persons may be differentiated by the fact that the refugees
cross the borders of a nation but the internally displaced persons
move from one area of the country to the other without crossing the
national boundary.

Before the establishment of the United Nations High
Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1951, there existed another
organization to see the problems of the displaced people in the
international level in the name of the United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration established in 1943. This organization
was subsequently replaced by the new organization on refugees,
UNHCR which is now the supreme body in the world to tackle the global refugee problems. UNHCR defined the refugees as those who flee their own country because of fear of persecution meted out to them by their adversaries. During the formulation of the Convention on Refugees in 1951, the European situations prevailing at that time were taken into notice by the UNO. The U.N. definition of a refugee is accepted by 100 states of the world.

The UN Convention on the definition of refugees is defined by the Immigration Act of Canada in 1976 as the people who are living outside their country and are unwilling or unable to return to their country where they lived habitually because of a fear of persecution on the ground of race, religion, nationality and membership in a particular social group or of political opinion.

According to international law, a person is said to be refugee or displaced person who has left his state due to bitter relations between the states and its nationalities. But this category does not include the victims of natural disasters.

Sir John Hope Simpson characterizes a refugee or a displaced person as one who is forced to leave his country of regular residence, of which he may or may not be a national. A serious political event in that country which renders his continued residence impossible or intolerable. Due to this abnormal situation, he is absent from his
home under compulsion and he is either unwilling or unable to return. He takes shelter in another country where there is no danger to his life or liberty. He continues to stay there as the direct consequence of the political conditions prevailing in the country of his origin. The term political in the description is used in a sense wide enough to include religious conditions.

An individual’s escape from his mother country due to torture may not be called the issue of displacement but if it occurs to his ‘group’, it is a case of displacement. An Einstein escaping from his mother country, Germany due to persecution of the Nazis may be an individual choice but when the Jews, as a whole, were brutally tortured and thrown out of the country, it is a case of displacement of a population.

The Government of India is not the signatory of 1951 Convention on Refugees and she also did not ratify its 1967 Protocol as it would not have benefited the refugees arriving in the country after 1951. The 1967 Protocol to the Convention changed the definition of refugees and the beneficiaries were those persons displaced as a result of events occurring before 1951.

In India, the displaced persons are those people who are compelled to leave their home in western Pakistan on or after March 1, 1947 or leave their homes in eastern Pakistan on or after October
15, 1946. The civil disturbances of grave nature occurred when two dominions of India and Pakistan were created and millions took shelter in India. Some people went to Pakistan.

According to Pakrasi, “the displaced person….. of any state of Indian Union are not in a position to satisfy the definition of the refugee found in international laws which, on the other hand, treat as refugee as an alien for the state where he preferred to reside. The refugees of India were and are never considered socially or legally as aliens, rather they have been accepted as lawful citizen of the country and Indian nationality has been accorded to them unquestionably”. 11

According to Dr. S.N. Sen, “displaced migrants are the migrants who have been driven out to the city on account of communal disturbances”. 12 In the Indian context, refugee would mean the displaced persons from Pakistan, that is, those who came to India due to communal or political disturbances and have sought economic rehabilitation here and have become the citizen of India.

India never ignored the humanitarian aspects of displacements and provided assistances to millions of refugees or displaced persons in the world after her independence in 1947. India has borders with Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and it is a hard task to maintain effective control over the
thousands of kilometers of borders and guard them properly. Our democracy is vulnerable against the anti state activities. It cannot control human movements effectively.¹³

On the other hand, a large number of people are forced to vacate their home villages, towns, districts or states within the state of India. They do not cross the border of Indian state and very often seek shelter in various places within the limits of Indian territory and in the same constituent state of India. They are called internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The UN defined the internally displaced persons (IDPs), are those people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or place of habitual residence, in particular, as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.¹⁴

The internally displaced persons (IDPs) today is a global phenomenon. It is a very difficult task to find out the exact number of internally displaced persons in India. The displacements took place due to ethnic violence, religious persecution, ethno-linguistic oppression, natural calamities, loss of the means of livelihood and construction of dams.
Nearly 56 million of people were displaced by the dams constructed on rivers. There is a hue and cry over the construction of the Narmada Sagar Dam which forced large number of people to leave the site. It is estimated that, in average, 1360 persons are displaced by the construction of a dam (Indian Institute of Public Administration, 2001). The rate of displacement is low where the density of population is small but in large density area, the displacements are high.

The construction of Narmada Sagar Dam is one of the largest industrial enterprises in the country. The river Narmada passes through the area where many tribal groups live and a modern industrial enterprise in the form of a dam requires huge acres of lands forcing displacements to these tribal people. The construction of the Tehri Garwal Dam in the mountainous part of the state of Uttarakhand raised apprehension in the minds of experts that the cause of the devastating earthquake occurred in the recent year (1991) was due to the construction of the dam.

It is no denying the fact that the demand for electricity is increasing considering the rapid industrialization of the country. The Farakka Dam on the river Ganga, for the sake of the development of communication and the increase of flow of water in the river Hooghly downstream to make the Kolkata Port navigable has
disastrous effects in the catchment areas of the river. There is so much of erosion of the banks during the flood time that it has already become a nightmare for the poor people living in the area. The river threatens to change the course when it is in spate and inundates vast stretches of lands on both banks and the resultant landslides force evictions of people and even draughts in some areas downstream. There are many other such projects which caused displacements of the helpless people from their lands and livelihood. The price of industrialization is counted by the acceleration of human misery.

The industrialization of a country is obviously necessary but in most of the cases, the fruits derived from it are distributed unevenly. The big cities like Mumbai and Kolkata have huge slum areas where the poor people somehow eke out their living. Already, Dharavi in the outskirt of Mumbai has become the largest slum area in the world.

Types of displacements are different depending on the nature of displacement and the number of people involved and what motivated such displacement. Displacements can be classified in the following manner, (a) short and long term and (b) short and long distance displacements. Every displacement has a valid reason behind it. There are seasonal, temporary, periodic and permanent
migrations of spontaneous, forced or impelled, free or planned migration. There are internal, external, inter regional, international, continental and intercontinental migration.\footnote{15}

With the help of dependable factors, the problem of displacement, its causes and solutions may be studied. The problem of displacement varies from place to place and its effects become alarming when there is an apparent lack of sensitivity on the part of the people who handle it. The ethnicity is such a powerful ‘motivating factor’ that the problem of displacement is aggravated when the victims of displacement belong to an ethnic group. The members of the ethnic group are emotionally surcharged and resort to violence at the slightest provocation. A state’s responsibility is to preempt such ethnic eruptions through some positive economic and political measures. It has also the responsibility to interfere before its conflagration goes beyond its capacity to control. If a Government becomes partisan and confuses all issues of the ethnic strife, it takes a serious shape. One ethnic group force another ethnic group to vacate lands they held for generations.

**Different types of Displacement in India’s North East**

There are different types of displacements occurred in many parts of India’s north east. Many countries were involved in it, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar contributed to the problem of
displacement. Till the seventies of the last century, the problem of displacement acquired recognizable dimensions. As a result, the demographic character of some states of this region underwent great changes inviting political troubles. For instance, Tripura state after the independence saw the continuous flow of refugees from the then East Pakistan which transformed the demographic character of the state and the tribal population were restive. The ethnic violence in the eighties between the tribals and the non tribals, kept the state in turmoil. In Assam, the immigration of peasants from East Bengal to the fertile stretches of the Brahmaputra Valley before and after the independence and the arrival of fresh flow of refugees since 1947 disturbed the demographic character in the population. Assam, till today, could not recover from the problem and political turmoils in the state emanate from the clash of interests of the immigrants and indigenes.

North eastern states of India have experienced five types of displacements. These are (a) displacement caused by developmental projects like the Dumber Hydel Project which uprooted and displaced about 5,000 tribal families in Tripura, (b) displacement caused by the Government designs like the massive relocation of Mizo population during the regrouping of villages by the Indian army to tackle the insurrection unleashed by the MNF, (c)
displacement caused by natural calamities like floods and earthquakes, (d) displacement caused by the take over of land by the migrant communities and (e) displacement caused by the ethnic or religious strife, marked by systematic ethnic cleansing.

Among the strife-induced displacements (ethnic or religious strife), there are six (6) major cases of displacements which occurred in different states of India’s north east. These are (1) displacement of Bengalis from Assam and Meghalaya, (2) displacement of Bengalis from the hilly regions of Tripura, (3) displacement of Reangs from Mizoram, (4) displacement of ‘tea -tribes’ in western Assam, (5) displacement of Nagas, Kukis and Paites in Manipur and (6) displacement of Chakmas from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

In the context of north east India, we find that the tribes are nomads due to jhum cultivation. They have no permanent and settled cultivation. Due to this, they move from one place to another but their problem increases when they do not get the land. It is often seen that a human group long habituated to live in a certain geographical condition are forced to vacate it and take shelter where they struggle to adjust. There was a time when the tribes lived in unchartered areas with no political control over head and the result
of such political vacuum meant the continuous flow of people from one area to the other.

The Kuki chin tribes were living in Chin Hills and upper Chindwin Valley when the area was a part of India. But in 1937, the area became a part of Burma. In 1947, the Chittagong Hill Tract area was given to East Pakistan and after the independence of Bangladesh, the area became a part of Bangladesh territory. The smaller tribes, for the sake of their security were forced to identify themselves as part of the larger neighbouring communities.

Thus, it is clear that displacement of the people occur due to various factors, from natural calamities to the spread of industrialization, all affect people and they move to the safer places. In all cases, it is generally the poor people who are grossly affected by the ill effects of it.

There is an uneven distribution of wealth in a society and all conflicts arise when the disparities become very wide between the rich and the poor. The uncontrolled conflict engulfs the country and the violence overtakes the population. One particular reason is not sufficient to analyse the whole question of displacement.

The steady increase of population, the redemarcation of boundaries of states and the creation of new states created trans-
border displacement or migration, a challenging issue. It is not the easy movement on the inter state borders which accelerates the migration of people, our borders with the neighbouring countries are very fragile and porous. This state of borders facilitates illegal migration. The borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar, due to their peculiar features, facilitate clandestine movements of the people. The Bangladeshi immigrants created a severe demographic problem for the indigenous people in the north eastern states. It is a much talked about topic in the region resulting in the persistent political and economic problem. Initially, it was the first wave of the then East Bengal immigrants came on an economic necessity often blessed with local support. Soon, it became a political issue before and after the independence of the country opening up several unsolvable questions. This tenacious issue carried its bitterness to these days and strained relationship with the neighbouring country. Some of the important causes of displacement are discussed here.

1. Economic

Economic condition is one of the important reasons for the displacement of the people from one area to the other. People living in the backward area do not get the sufficient resources for livelihood and become depressed, often go to the developed areas to get economic opportunities and prosperities. It was the economic
interests that brought the Tamils of the former Madras Presidency to Sri Lanka to work in the tea plantations and the common colonial rule assisted the growth of vast plantations. The Indo Nepal Treaty of 1950 which provided for free movement of Nepalese and Indians in each others country together with the concomitant facilities and privileges (except political rights) was reckoned to be necessary for each others economic development. The infiltration of people from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) is also due to economic reasons.

2. Demographic

Demographic situation is one of the important factors of displacement which cannot be ignored. The rapid growth of population especially in the third world countries is considered as one of the main causes of migration. With a mode of production which favours only the owners of wealth and a pattern of investment and technological changes which is biased against the poorer sections within the country, only a part of the labour force can be absorbed in the agricultural sector and hence, the poor people are forced to move to the other countries for employment. The increasing rural unemployment and underdevelopment are due to two important factors, the pressure of population and the low rate of investment in agriculture. The fragmentations of land-ownership,
inequalities in the distribution of land and other against labour are the recurring problems in agriculture. There is a link between resources of the area and the population growth. The scarcity of physical resources of an area force people to migrate to other areas where the resources are available. The movement of people from eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the two regions with high density of population, to the less populated areas is a constant phenomenon encouraging regional turmoils but the issue is essentially economical.18

3. Social

Some displacements take place due to the consequences of social custom. Normally, when a girl is married, she goes to the house of her husband and the unmarried girl children stay with their parents. Girls going to the houses of their in laws cannot be held as the cases of displacements as it is a social custom. The large scale migration occurs when a certain section of the population feel disturbed due to political and economic reasons. Some people are denied the right to follow their faith.

A closed society which does not permit the easy flow of knowledge and actions, prompt people to leave the country. There is no sufficient scope for the upliftment of one's personality in such an atmosphere. Large numbers of people from the third world
countries seek shelters in the developed western countries as they find knowledge and job there in plenty. There is a free and continuous flow of information which is not available in the country of their origin. The growth of technology is a great factor which is unimaginable in the less developed countries. In recent decades, thousands of Hispanic people crossed borders and settled in the United States.

4. Political

Many people are influenced by the political affiliation which is not available in their own country. Some people prefer to leave their hearths and homes for a country where they find their own ideology in operation. In their home country, their voices are throttled and they feel suffocated. Many people dislike totalitarianism or dictatorship and they leave their country and move towards other democratic countries. As for instance, the German people moved to West Germany from East Germany. Various factors work together, political is one of them. There is fear of wars involving military operations, outbreak of ethnic disturbances, inflation in the economy inviting economic disabilities or unstable political system, the policy of discrimination practiced by the government towards certain sections of the population. These are some of the motivating factors for displacement.
5. Insecurity

Insecurity is a general concept which occurs due to different reasons. People face different types of insecurity, insecurity due to natural calamities, political instability, failure of the state system, ethnic conflicts and other causes. People always aspire after security and for its sake, they may sacrifice all good comforts of life. When they are confronted with insecurity of life due to natural and other causes, they want to leave the place. At that time, the life is more precious than the properties they possess. When a devastating earthquake or a volcanic irruption strikes a poor country, it may throw huge population out of gear for a long time and if this event is attended with continuous political instability, the people's misfortunes multiply. The affected people migrate to the safer places, often away from their own country. The effects of floods and the earthquakes throw thousands of people into disarray. The incidence of the Tsunami which occurs rarely but when it occurs, it takes heavy tolls of lives. The hundreds of thousands perished in January, 2006 and many hundreds of thousands are rendered homeless. The general and normally occurring natural calamities affect the rich and the poor countries alike. The larger and the affluent countries, somehow, manage these calamities but the poorer countries cannot manage and the people suffer enormously. There
are other factors like lawlessness in a country as we have seen in Africa. Somalia and Sudan’s Durfur region are two of the worst affected regions in the continent. The aftermath of the partition of India in 1947, saw millions of Hindus and Muslims leaving their homes and migrated either to India or to Pakistan.

6. Ethnic

In a country, there live many ethnic groups, some are major and dominant and some are minor which are denied of decent prerogatives of life. The conflict is inherent in such a situation as these ethnic groups are jealous of their own rights. Each group has its own agenda, inviting often, the fierce opposition from the other. The clash of policies ensue large scale conflicts and in many places, the ethnic groups indulge in violence. The weaker groups leave their homes for the protection of their rights.

The ethnicity based turmoils are common in the world and this phenomenon is witnessed in the underdeveloped countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. It appears in different shapes and circumstances. We may mention of deadly conflicts between the two tribes, the Hutus and the Tutsis in Rwanda in Central Africa which took a heavy toll of lives in that country. Thousands of innocent lives were lost and many more thousands took shelter in the neighbouring country, Congo. It is therefore, a familiar feature in the
poverty stricken countries where people struggle for everything in their lives. Ethnic assertions take in different forms and ways. The autonomy movement by an ethnic group to achieve separate political identity becomes the issue to fight for. Ethnic conflicts ensue, often, the secessionist movements challenging the authority of the state. Sometimes, it becomes a serious threat. The Ibo tribes of Nigeria demanded separation from Nigeria and were engaged in deadly struggles which took more than a million lives. The Muslim separatists of northern Nigeria in 2009 took the sleep away from the Nigerian Federal Government and thousands died in the turmoils already and thousands left their hearths and homes.

Most of the countries have several ethnic groups within their borders and the political and economic structures are competitive in nature. In the modern context, the ethnic groups try to mobilize its resources to get a share of the state power on the basis of their ethnic identity. For achieving their demands, these ethnic groups come into direct conflict with the state as the state is the repository of political and economic powers. In a democratic country, these turmoils are noticed very often.

Sometimes, some ethnic groups are engaged among themselves on vital issues in which the state becomes the referee. The continuation of ethnic turmoils brings in an unhappy situation
of chaos and no development work can be undertaken as the situation is unhelpful. The equitable economic growth in the areas affected may bring down the vicious cycle of ethnic conflicts. Atleast, the economic growth takes away the mind from these sour factors. The poverty rouses the ethnic jealousy as one ethnic group accuses another for their own misfortunes. On the other hand, the economic stability may not be the sufficient reason to end ethnic conflicts as we have found in Ireland, Canada and other industrialized countries. But the pattern of conflicts in the poverty stricken countries and the industrialized ones differ in content and approach.

The conflicts are found in South East Asia which affects all countries in the neighbourhood. There are various factors which are constantly interacted in South Asian societies. We know it well that most of the South Asian countries are under the rule of colonial powers since long times. The consciousness about the ethnic identities was present in subdued forms which got impetus when these countries emerged as the independent nations.

Many intervening variables like religion, economy, politics, anthropology and even value system in a country constantly interact with each other in South Asian societies. The aggressive religious postures in Pakistan and the rise of the Taliban forces are sufficient
to destabilize any peace efforts in the region. Pakistan is already in danger of further fragmentation. The great upsurges in Bangladesh and the break up of Pakistan in 1971 is a warning to the dictatorial and chauvinistic forces that it is dangerous to nurture extremism as a political creed. The prolonged struggle against the Monarchy in Nepal and its subsequent abolition and the democratization of Bhutan's political system are the phenomena encouraged trends elsewhere. All these factors exhibit deep divisions in the populations which manifest in different forms in different countries.

Before the independence of India, Assam as a province of the British India was peaceful and the people were having only one aim and that was the freedom from the alien rule. Different ethnic groups were politically dormant. The small tribal groups mingled freely maintaining their individual status. But the situation changed after the independence as the ethnic aspirations began to raise demanding territorial 'exclusivity' for the tribe. It is observed that the 'composite' character of the population is broken and the ethnic groups began to assert their individual rights detriment to the interests of the composite character of the population. It opened all avenues for ethnic assertions in the state. Displacements occur only as a corollary to the ethnic assertions, though the symptoms may not be visible in all ethnic assertions in equal measures.
References


4. Ibid.


10. Ibid.


12. Ibid.


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