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INTRODUCTION

India, the largest democratic country of the Globe has experienced different types of Government during post Independence Period. It has experienced the fruits of single party Government and Coalition Governments as well. With the emergence of Coalition Government new experiences and experiments are being emerged in the Indian Parliamentary democracy. The conception of Coalition Government however is not a new one in the Indian Political arena which has traced back to year 1946, when the Interim Government was formed under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Consisting of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. At the same time Coalition Government was formed in Assam also by the able leadership of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi. After the new Constitution of India came into force since 26, January, 1950, there have been more cases of coalitionisms in the state than at the centre. At state level, even before 1967, there were experiments of coalition government. They were in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerela, all short lived and did not run smoothly. In 1967 there were spurts of coalitions in eight states (Kerala, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab, U.P., H. P., M. P., Bihar). There were Sanyukty Vidhayak Dal (SVD) governments. They were based on negativism “anti-Congressism” and hence, these unprincipled governments were short lived.

From the present political trends it seems that one-party-dominance era of Indian politics has come to an end, and the coalition government has come to stay. Such situations arise only where there is a multiplicity of political parties participating in general election.

The U. F. experiment can be explained in this light. Similarly the B.J.P. experiment with its 18 to 22 party coalition also explains the emerging trend in Indian Politics. In Assam provision of Coalition Government returned in 1996 with the AGP –CPM coalition Government which was followed by the Congress-BPF coalition Government in 2005. This
indicates that an era of coalitional politics has come to stay in spite of acute crises of smooth and stable governability.

The positive aspects of coalition Government are the rise of the small and regional parties that received the importance and inclusion in the formation process of the Government. This has widened the arena of representation to the government and thus the regional parties received the opportunities to extend their sincere service and dedication for the greater interest of the country. Thus the party hegemony has been changed and it has received a new dimension. Hence the future existence of Coalition Government in India is very sharp and its results may be rational and far reaching.

There are multiple cases for the emergence of the coalition government in our country. The provision of multiparty system and the structure of Indian Federalism have deep influence over the subject. But the provision of power sharing is not always sweet. It depends upon the dealings and the policies adopted and maintained by the major parties that play the vital role in such government. Therefore the future of the Coalition Government depends upon the outlook of the political parties involved in the formation process of the concerned Government.

An attempt will be made in the research study to understand the nature and relevance of political coalitions. The study will also take into account, the questions and controversies raised with regard to the crisis of governability under a coalitional system. With the help of extensive data, an analytical attempt will be made to document the trends and socio political changes that may be bond to an evolution of coalitional system of governance in India as well as Assam, while highlighting its implications on India’s Parliamentary Democracy and other socio-political institutions and the pluralist socio-cultural fabric of India in general and Assam in particular.

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The study has highlighted the *Introduction of West-Minister Institutions* in India and its resultant impact on the Indian society. An attempt has also been made to understand the factors responsible for the decline of the single party dominant model and the rise of multi-party coalition. There has been a long debate on the suitability of Parliamentary System in view of the growing problems of governability consequent upon the emergence of multi-partism in India. Hence an attempt has been made to understand the nature and causes of the Crises of Governability. The emergence of coalitional politics ushered in and causes of the Crises of Governability. The emergence of coalitional politics ushered in new experiments and experiences in the nature and style of governing. An attempt was also been made to explore the new emerging trends in the process of governance.

1.1: IMPORTANCE

1. The recent process of fragmentation and fractionalization of the party system could also be arrested if polarization could get accelerated by the constellation of the parties on the basis of same policies and programmes at electoral and governmental levels. Institutionalization of this process in the form of a viable and substained coalition, in the process could help our political system in stabilizing itself at the state and central levels.

2. The compulsions of politics taking shape around the breakup of the one - party’s dominance-system and the fragmentation of the congress system began giving shape to political parties which are not hierarchically ordered but in multiple points of contacts with another a different parties possess different resources. Politics in the new context will now much proceed along the stenos path of coalition building with its sub-processes of bargaining, compromise and consensus formation.
3. There is no possibility of our returning to one-party dominance any more, one has to analyze future coalition more objectively.

4. There is nothing inherently wrong with a multi-party system. Multi-party systems have functioned successfully in some other countries.

5. The task of searching the literature in a research investigation is necessary with a view to study the technique adopted and the result obtained by earlier researchers. This provides a clue to the researcher in designing the study. Good research works on coalition govts has been done but not in detail. In our research work many references to various dimensions have been done.

1.2: PROBLEMS

Every government at the Centre from 1989 to 2011 has experienced inherent weaknesses of governance because every Prime Minister, party or political group in power has been busy in manipulating and maneuvering support for just survival. The focus is not on the well known vulnerabilities and inner contradictions of coalition governments, but to the serious crises of political party system, the Congress, the BJP and the Communists, every party is a group based on some large, specific regions or states. While the Congress still has national presence, due to rise of political parties it is away from power for long. The Communists despite having a national programme and presence are confined to a few states. The political space vacated by the Congress has been occupied by some parties representing interests of some sections in some areas only. And adding to the woes is the fact that the Congress vacuum is being occupied by a party of Hindus, by the Hindus and for the Hindus. Similarly, during the 1990s, the Congress has been replaced by purely sectarian and casteist parties in the garb of RJD, SJP, JD-U or Samta Party et al.

The 1990s and early of 21st century is a decisive break with the past because political parties as a reflection of significant social coalition and alliances have been replaced and is placed by sectarian, casteist and Hindu communalist parties and governments have become a handmaid of pure caste or Hindutva interests. This is reason that Indians do not have any large social and nationl agenda for national reconstruction and the country is moving towards
social fragmentation. Only when political parties are able to link general and social good with specific sectional interests, can large social issues and goals become a social reality.

1.3: REVIEW OF LITERATURE


1.4: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the characteristics of coalition governments.
2. To understand the concept, rationale and desirability of coalition govts
3. To analyse the efficacy of coalition govts in general and their performance
4. To suggest certain remedies and guidelines for the better functioning of coalition govts.
1.5: METHODOLOGY
The basic method followed in this research study has been documentary. Our primary source material depended on the writings and references of concerned persons and experts. Various libraries have been consulted. Besides the researcher have made personal interviews with the concerned persons and knowledgeable scholars. Data for this research study has been collected from the primary and the secondary sources. The study has employed survey method also to elicit data.

1.6: MAJOR HYPOTHESIS

For every scientific enquiry the well-defined set of hypothesis in form of a research question is essential. For the purpose of conducting the present study following hypothesis has been developed.

1. It is the Federal Political System of the Country is responsible for the growth and development of Coalition Government.

2. Rise of Regional Party in is also responsible for the rise of Coalition Government in the states.

3. There is fundamental similarity in the problems faced by the central (coalition) govs and state Governments.

4. Coalition Governments are inevitable in multiparty system.

1.7: CONCLUSION

The aggressive manner in which the phenomenon of coalition politics has become to pervade the democracies of the developed and developing countries reflects new configurations of power and affords new challenges as well as opportunities. This article, while making a preliminary appraisal of the modus operandi of the coalitional phenomenon in the Indian context, also examines the new issues and problems emerging out of this phenomenon which seems to have become a permanent feature of the Indian polity. In the following chapters humble efforts have been made to understand the concept of coalition, to explore its implementations throughout the Globe as well as India and Assam. It is understood that the
 multiparty system of Indian Democracy is responsible for the rise of coalition government in the country as well as the state. The problems and prospects in the form of merits and demerits have also been extensively discussed and explained. All possible efforts have been made to make full justice to the subject matter and clearly reflected every cons and pros of Coalition Government.