

Gorkhaland Movement: A Study of District Darjeeling (West Bengal)

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Abstract:

This study has been undertaken to investigate the influence of political regimes in Darjeeling District West Bengal using Qualitative design which focuses on words rather than quantification in the collection and the analysis of data. Qualitative approach helps to gain in-depth understanding of topic under investigation on the factors for political influence over the people and also develops in-depth knowledge this approach finding are non-representative and non-generalizable. The main instruments for collection of data for this study were face to face semi structured interviews, group discussions and documentary reviews.

1.0

INTRODUCTION

Seeking Support in history while striving for a cause is a common propensity, the history of the house of Gorkhas from which the monarchy of Nepal traced its lineage where any discussion of Gorkhaland should begin, Gorkhaland is proposed statehood demand by the people of the hill regions districts of Darjeeling separation from the Indian state of West Bengal. The demand for a separate administrative unit in Darjeeling has existed since 1907, when the hill men's Association of Darjeeling submitted a memorandum to Minto-Morley Reform demanding a separate administrative setup. The 'Gorkhas' in the Indian context are Indian citizens of Nepali ethnicity.

The map of India as we see it today is not a necessarily a map of a land having social –cultural homogeneity and unchanged territories, it is a map whose boundaries were carved out over the year by a hungry colonial power through conquest and treaties. One cannot disagree with the fact that India is a multi-cultural and multi lingual country. The societies across the countries are made up of various elements drawn from diverse origins as the people have adapted themselves to different ecological atmosphere offered by physiographic and climatic settings of the country.

These groups sooner or later will develop a political consciousness and become aware of their rights and entitlements and seek them, even fight for them. This paper is an attempt to study one such group, the ethnic Nepalese of India referred to as Gorkhas. The gradual awakening of political consciousness in them is manifesting itself as a demand for a self-governed administrative unit.

1.1 Objectives

- i. Culmination to Identity crisis for Gorkha residing in India.
- ii. Education the only way towards liberation from oppression.

- iii. To understand need of people rather than demand.
- iv. Possibilities on statehood and impossibility on separation from state.
- v. Political awareness amongst the people for the rise of a democratic leader.

1.2 Study Area

The area of study is Darjeeling district residing in West Bengal state India. The district has an area of 10.57km² and population according to 2011 census is 132,016 Density: 12,000/km² (32,000/sq. mi).

1.3 Qualitative Design

The research design that was used in this study was qualitative. Laying in the assumption the factors causing political violence in a district was affected such that the study cannot be generalized beyond Darjeeling district.

1.4 Study Design

Case study design as the research is particularly based on one area which is Darjeeling District, West Bengal, India

1.5 Data and Sources of Data

In this study the data is collected through interviews, group discussion and documents were read and general image was obtained. Thereafter the data were grouped into categories regarding the research questions and objectives. The analysis was done by presenting respondent descriptions and quotations with support from literature review and the findings were presented by narration. This is an analytical type as the objectives of this study is to understand the conflict issue among the political parties with views of the people on challenges faced by them during agitations.

1.6 Tools of Data

I have used both medium of data collection i.e primary source of information and secondary sources as well as use of Mentor, Internet and document reviews.

2. Results and Discussion

The caste system is still prevailing in India as there is marginalization of various tribes and communities discrimination that they experience in administrative field, educational field and society at large. These people cannot contribute sufficiently to national

development unless they are educated and are aware of all their fundamental rights .Narrowing the gender gap in working places providing employment to literate groups, youth section, providing value based education, health facilities and ration resources.

In order to achieve political quality, justice and peace in view of separation in Darjeeling district the current study suggest the following recommendations:

- i. State and Central Government is needed to support Education providing Institutions not just education but scope for value based education, specifically affording school fees , school uniforms and learning materials to enable boys and girls from poor family to access secondary education without barriers when in schools. It was observed from study that poverty limit youths access to education in Darjeeling district thus leading to Unemployment.
- ii. The study findings revealed that the study area lacked adequate infrastructure such as Hospitals, Technical Institutions, Large scale manufacturing Industries to provide employment, thus this study recommends that government needs to prioritize investment in education and develop policies to improve the financing of education, Medical Institutions, Job integrated Institution in a systematic way to provide adequate social and economic facilities.
- iii. The government must also establish and implement new laws and policies to protect women and youths during political violence as the youths are also being heavily influenced towards political ideologies.
- iv. This study calls government to reform various laws which is being exercised and implementation of existing law that defend and protect the marginalized section in Darjeeling district and risk of political violence which leads to discrimination and threaten their wellbeing their dignity and life opportunity .

Conclusion

Education is the most essential weapon for any individual to act or talk according to his individuality and surroundings as in time world is heading towards complexity and creating confusion of oneself and environment as the only motive for human is to survive but in harmony as there is much need of Love and Peace rather than Division and Separation one needs to understand the needs of others and working hand in hand for the development of oneself and nation.

Gorkhaland is an idea a vision which may or may not be accomplished so rather than spreading our palm and asking for our own land we need to focus on creating our land and preserve our culture, Manufacturing strategies and empowerment of youths and women thus the vision of Gorkhaland shall be fulfilled when individuals bring happiness and pride to their home to their society ,friends ,people and country as this struggle is not just a story of one life making a difference but it is the story of our deeds for the needs of future generation.

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