



‘Partition Of India And Its Impact On Khowai District, Tripura’.

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ABSTRACT

The ‘1947 Partition of India’ is a heart-breaking and undesirable fact of history before the vision of undivided India. In consequence of the ‘Partition of India’, two independent and sovereign countries emerged. Basically, the Hindu dominated provinces gave birth to India whereas the Muslim dominated provinces gave birth to Pakistan. Besides the entire country, the then princely hilly state Tripura was also greatly touched due to this fact. Khowai of Tripura (presently Khowai Dist.) was not an exception in this reference. Tripura witnessed several changes in Socio; Political; and Economical spheres after as well as before the Partition. At the analysis of Khowai Dist. it is noticed that the major part of this dist. is adjacent to the East-Pakistan border. Such a situation of Khowai Dist was more serious and sensitive in reference to the scenario of that time. On the eve of the Partition of India, there’s a mix and enriched culture noticeably sprouted. During the Partition and on the basis of community, various castes belonging to Tribal and Non-tribal people existed here. Again, on the basis of Religion, both the Hindu and Muslim communities of people prominently used to live in this princely state. But due to the Partition, there’s a variation noticed in population. It’s because, a significant number of refugees touched the land of Tripura and scattered throughout the different provinces of Khowai Dist. for the sake of survival. As a result, an awkward situation turned up for these displaced people. Evidently, there’s a sudden increase in the Bengali population comparing to the people belonging to the Tribal community. The local and indigenous tribal culture started to lose its lustre and shrank to the edge. At the same time, the Bengali community was becoming influential. During this time, a political turmoil erupted and discontentment increased as far as the right of the Tribal community is concerned. Economic reform and rehabilitation favoring the Refugees gave rise to a big problem. The problem of unemployment stirred a serious issue. Effect was witnessed in Education; Health issues and in Communication system. The necessity of the administrative reform was conceived that continued for the years together.

KEYWORDS:- Partition of India, partition impact of Khowai ,Impact inTripura

Introduction:

'Partition of India' was completed and India got back her freedom through the 'Indian Freedom Act – 1947' & Programme of Mount Batten after the two hundred years of slavery. During the 'Partition of India', Tripura was a tiny and sovereign state in the North-Eastern province of India. It is told that more than a hundred of Kings governed this princely state. During the princely reign, the territory of Tripura included Agartala, Udaipur, Dharmanagar, Kailashahar, Kumarghat, Ampur, Kamalpur, Khowai and even extended up to the 'Chaklar Roshnabaad' that belonged to present Bangladesh. Subsequently, changes noticed in this Geographical Map after the 'Partition of India'. The province adjacent to Khowai District once which was a part of the undivided India became the part of East-Pakistan (presently Bangladesh).

In consequence of 'Partition of India' of 1947, India and Pakistan, these two sovereign states emerged. The effect of this partition also felt in this Khowai District as well. If the geographical location of this district is analyzed, it is noticed that this district is apparently formed including the vast areas of both India and Bangladesh. But after the 'Partition of India' a significant part of this district went into the 'East-Pakistan'. The left part remained with independent Tripura and thus the division was created in the larger part of undivided Khowai District. Besides, security and interim problems within the state erupted. On the other hand, an intensive conspiracy was initiated to merge Tripura with the 'East-Bangladesh'. As a result, princely dominated Khowai (presently Khowai District) witnessed several important transitions related to Political, Social, Economical, Administrative and Religious, Cultural, Internal law and order, population segregation and also attached to the demands of Work and Food.

Hence, here's in the following, several effectiveness of 'Partition of India' on the Princely governed Khowai District; presently a part of India, have been delineated:

- A. Origin of Refugee Problems:** After the 'Partition of India', a significant number of Hindu Refugee entered into the Khowai province of Tripura. Statistics reveals that these people dispersed into the various areas of Khowai District like Singhicherra, Paharmura, Samatal Padmabil, Dhalabil, Haatkata, Jambura, Champahaur, Cherma, Chebri, Sonatala, Mahadebtilla, Durganagar, Purba-Ganki, Pashim-Ganki, Town-Ganki, Lalcherra, Officetilla, Kathaltilla, Maranadi, Manipuri Basti, Badher paar, Ramchandraghat, Moharcherra, Tuichindrai, Netajinagar, Chakmaghat, Ampichowmuhani, Kalitilla, Trishabari etc. Certainly, these areas became a shelter place to the refugees. As a result, a noticeable change was noticed in the number of population. Naturally, population within the Khowai Dist. increased rampantly. This change in the population gave birth to 'Refugee problems'. Acute crisis of human habitation was created. They began to continue their settling after occupying the different places of the local people.
- B. Social effect:** '1947- Partition of India', left a major effect in the social scenario of the princely governed state, Tripura. At the arrival of the Refugees, the effect of Bengali culture, tradition and conventions prominently increased in the society. The Refugees was promptly activated to enhance their dominancy in the spheres of their cultures and traditions whereas the tribal people failed to keep the pace at par as far as social perspective is concerned. With the time, a gap widened between the tribal and Bengali culture and society. Though in the survey, it is noticed that both the tribal and the Bengali people used to live together, there's different distinct features were existed. But Princely governed Khowai was exceptional. But after the 'Partition of India', social conflict originated between Tribal and Bengali socio-cultural atmosphere due to the reconfiguration of the refugees.
- C. Economical effect:** Due to the 'Partition of India', like the other parts of Tripura, Khowai District also faced the problem in saturating Land, Shelter and Livelihood for this larger number of refugees. These Refugees tried to find out the land, shelter and livelihood for existence. This fact, greatly affected in the resource management system and thus the emergent situation in 'Food &

Land'. To compensate the needs of the refugees, the forest lands were converted into agricultural fields resulting in imbalance in the environmental balance. At the same time, the facts of losing the lands by local peasants also been increased. In the absence of technology and developed irrigation system, the agricultural productivity was not satisfactory. Before the partition, Khowai had direct business connectivity with East-Bangladesh. But after the partition, as the Border was sealed, this business also been exhausted and disconnected. As a result, the local market business for the Natural and agricultural products was shrunken affecting the local economy. After the 'Partition of India', Tripura remained neglected for a long time. Communication, Irrigation and the inadequacy of Industrial projects stood as bar before the development of the State. Trend and tendency in selling the Forest resources increased throughout the state due to cope up with unemployment and inadequacy of resources. The people from the Tribal community plunged into acute crisis after losing their lands. Thus, after the partition, the unemployment and poverty rate began to inflame. The economy of Khowai District confronted a dangerous situation.

D. Effect in the political sphere: After the 'Partition of India', the effect in the political sphere of Tripura was vivid and intense. The fact of Partition guided the political scenario of Tripura to a different way. Refugees' demands' on the land and resource of the Tribal people initiated political difference accelerated between the Tribal & the Non-tribal people. After the inclusion of Tripura within the Indian union in 1949, the administrative frame was reconstructed. The power and role of the then King and the local leader declined and weakened. At the same time the power and authority of the State Govt. and the Central Govt. hiked. The communist parties emerged on the surface after highlighting the social and economical problems of the refugees in Khowai and throughout Tripura. Khowai became acquainted as a strong base for the communist ideology. During that time, the Tribal political and organizations started their movements for their rights and demands throughout Tripura along with Khowai District. In consequence, to restore the Constitutional rights of the Tribal people, TTAADC was formed. A sense of separatism among the Tribal communities after the 'Partition of India'. Such a political instability was a big challenge to both the State as well as to the Central Govt. And this issue generated 'Vote Bank Politics' in the local politics.

E. Effect in the Cultural sphere: After the 'Partition of India; 1947 similarly adversely effected the cultural perspective of Khowai District. These effects include – Language, Rehabilitation, Social structure and the mixture of cultures. The increase in the Bengali population, started a new chapter in the cultural aspects of the Tribal communities. Gradually, the uses of Bengali language accelerated. This fact created dominancy on the local Tribal language and culture. Besides the Tribal cultures, Bengali cultural tradition got it's pace along with the celebration of Durga puja; Kali puja; Holi; Ratha-yatra etc. The local indigenous festivals that are attached to the way of life, like – Garia puja; Kharchi puja; Ker puja; Nadia puja and the Tring festival created a cultural integration and bond. Though the cultural diversity was strengthen due to the 'Partition of India', the incidents of social conflict and disputes cannot be ignored. These partly incidents left a long lasting effect in the cultural and political aspects of Tripura.

F. Challenge of development and change: The pressure continued on the basic structures attached to Health, Education, Food, Habitation, Internal law & order and communication system of Khowai District due to the partition and refugee problems. The necessity of Administrative reform was felt and the same prolonged for a long time.

G. Effect on the religious perspective: After the partition, significant effect on the religious perspective was noticed within the Khowai District. Along with the local religious culture, the Hindu and Muslim religious cultures were mingled. As a result, the prominence of the local religious festivals declined but an atmosphere of co-existence of new religious practices was visible. This is evident from the Religious diversity and Festivals. Thus, Khowai District played a crucial role for shaping a mixed religious culture in Tripura.

H. Conclusion: Thus, from the above elaborative delineation, it can be said that the 'Partition of India' undoubtedly brought a radical effect and change in the Social, Political, Economic, and Political and in the Religious and Cultural perspectives of Khowai District. The arrival of the Refugees; Rights of the Tribal community; and the conflict for the use of the Natural Resources etc. marked an important chapter in the history of Tripura. Even the present finds it difficult to search out the solutions of these issues, reactions.

Reference: It's hard to find a direct publication or book on the 'Partition of India and its effects on Khowai District'. But, to conceive this fact, few mentioning of the Volumes and the Writers can be inscribed:

1. "A History of Tripura".
Author: Kali prasanna Sen.
2. "The Tribes of Tribes of Tripura".
Author: S N Guha
3. "Memories of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya".
Author: Pannalal Roy.
4. "Partition of India and its Impact on North-East".
Author: B Datta Roy.
5. "Tripura Through the Ages".
Author: Beni Madhab Mazumder.
6. Reliable segmented sources available from Internet.
7. Field visits and Interactions with the aged persons who secured the memories of that period in their minds like an asset.

