

Project work
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KANTAPUR MOVEMENT



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ABSTRACTS

Ethnic diversity as well as ethnic politics is playing a decisive role in functioning of modern state throughout the world.

The separation of Goalpara from north Bengal and merger with Assam in 1874 is another important event as it divided Rajbanshi community after the division of traditional belt of the Rajbanshi homogeneity and because for the first time after 1874 a section of them has formed a common platform - Greater Kumbha Uti - united forum for the common interest of the Rajbanshi Kshatriya community of west Bengal and the Koch Rajbanshi Kshatriya Sammilani of Assam.

Notwithstanding the fact that a number of studies have been conducted on the ethnic unrest in north Bengal including the move of Rajbanshi community for the formation of Kamtapur state yet there is scope to review and address problem.....

PREFACE

The forward march of human life throughout the world has passing in the midst of unrest reflecting the loss of confidence or confidence on each other which leads to an unrest in their social and political life.

It is needless to mention that any study of an-going movement or unrest will face so many limitations.

The conclusion that one may draw is bound to be tentative.

Knowing this limitation the present study will try to explore all possible variables to reach a tentative projection of the future.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The study seeks to find out the present ethnic unrest of North Bengal as well as the mobilization pattern of demographic changes, involving of an old, yet new ethnic community, the Rajbanshis/Kamtapur in the multiethnic society of North Bengal.

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Siliguda

B.A. 3rd year (Political Science Honours)

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis entitled KAMTA-
FOR MOVEMENT IN NORTH BENGAL GEO-ETHNO-
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
has been prepared by me under the guidance
of Dr. Sushma Chakraborty, department of geography
and applied geography, university of north bengal.
No part of this thesis was formed the basis
of any degree or fellowship previously.

Date :- 7/07/2021

CERTIFICATE

I certify that Soumendrea Nath nag is pursuing research under my supervision since 2009. Since he has opted for continuing her Ph.D. work under new ordinance of this university, a new registration has been allotted on 09.11.2021. He has prepared the thesis entitled 'KANTAPUR MOVEMENT IN NORTH BENGAL GEO-ETHNO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE'. He has carried out the work at the department of Geography & applied geography, university of north bengal. His thesis is ready for submission. So, I recommended his case for pre-submission for her Ph.D. thesis.

Date: - 26/07/2021



The problem-conceptual frame work
The past few decades movement for ethnic autonomy has marked the political discourse not only in North Bengal and North East India but throughout the country as a whole which even we can describe in it as a problem of global phenomena. While some of them strongly advocating the need for autonomy within the present administrative set up, others resolutely expressed their support for more militant or secession ideas of political and geographical demarcation of territory.

Ethnic diversity as well as the geographical location and its environment along with ethnic political and playing the decisive role in question of social relation and watering the geo-

nation of the feeling of regionalism which ultimately led for the march of demanding a separate state to accumulate the political power to govern the region where they claim demographic majority within region.

Geographical location which is one of the most vital factors in determining both the physical and mental environment including the population distribution and their economic activity and the question of development should take into account for the understanding of the problems. Further geography played an important role in bringing about unity among different ethnic group of different cultures and linguistic groups.

The hills - plains dichotomy was frequently allude to by the ethnic leaders in order to give their movement a distinct geographical identity.

role of language :- language always plays the vital role for the establishment of identity and becomes the most powerful instrument to ignite the emotive sentiment for the question of self determination.

to secession.

Development of ethnic consciousness:-

Notwithstanding the fact, the focus of the present study is to examine the Kumbhpu movement ignited by the Rajbanshi community, the largest scheduled caste of West Bengal (Mukhopadhyay, 2005). The ethnic upsurge has become a challenging situation throughout the world both for multi-ethnic developed as well as developing countries. The very basic problems of most of the developing countries. The very basic problems of most of the developing countries are more or less same.!

The role of the state:- The role of development and distribution of resources by the state. Machinery should also be taken into consideration in explaining the ethnic movement. The state should provide the opportunity to the people to participate in development programme.

The uneven development had resulted inequality in sharing the fruits of development due to which certain groups and regions are at the receiving end. Due to this discrimination and development (actual and receive) these ethnic groups are be effort(Highly)!

Ethnic Identity :- Ethnic conflict which ultimately turned into ethnic separatism within nation state demonstrated the spectacular phenomenon since the last century.

Ethnic Identity consciousness in developing countries

Ethnic politics is playing important role in the functioning of modern nation states, the world over.

While the process of development had contributed largely to integrative tendencies has succeeded a lot states, it has produced tendencies in others. On one hand the developed countries has succeeded lot in containing ethnic problems through process of nation building and modernization, on the other hand, in the developing poor countries it has worked the other way i.e.

Ethno nationalism :- Brass defines ethno national movements as ideological movements based on shared meaning of common descent, real or imaginary movement that elites in the appropriate group formulate in order to mobilize political support for a variety of objectives ranging from to formulate in order to mobilize political support for a variety of objectives ranging from autonomy



The region and the people:-

The area of the ethnic unrest the present research study confined with the boundary of north bengal.

This chapter depicted the historical and geographical account of naming this northern part of west bengal as popularly known as north bengal, notwithstanding the fact no such name has administrative sanction officially but used as Uttarbangla or Northbengal even in the official scripts and also in different administrative organization of present setup.

This chapter described the geographical location of north Bengal which was epicenters of different historical events during

the period of early historical age and even during both the middle and modern ages. It also dealt with the brief account of history of the Rajshahi, the most dominant ethnic community in this area before the partition of India with the historical account of the Koch-dynasty and the ethnic relationship between the Koch and Rajbangshi to between the Koch and Rajbangshi to explore the facts behind the difference of opinion in question of their ethnic identity.

Historical Background:- Before going into details let us have an idea about north Bengal as no such name has been officially recognised, still the name of north Bengal ~~the~~ has been widely known and ~~and~~ even accepted in different officials' description.

Geographical landscape of north Bengal

geographically north Bengal located between 27° 13' N to 24° 13' 20" N latitudes and between 89° 54' 35" E to 88° 47' 40" E longitudes.

It has an area of 21855 sq. km and a population about 120,36,292 of which male population is 62,36,108 and female population about is 58,00,118. the density

of population in north Bengal is 560/sq. km being the highest density population in Jalpaiguri and lowest in Darjeeling district (census 1991).
origin of the name

If we go back to the pages of history we come across the name 'Banga'. But at that time this name did not bear the same identity of whole of Bengal.

The modern review under the title Chandra Mitra in the reference journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal & under the title of 'on the worship of the diety Jalpeshwar in the district of Jalpaiguri'!

uses of the name of north Bengal

The concept of north Bengal or a discourse building about north Bengal though is not a novel one the concept has seen geographical, demographic and administrative in denotation and connotation of its change in the tunnel of ongoing political transitional possibilities in gestation.

The ethnic identity of bangorasis and there by dint of their demographic majority.

A brief account of the rasbarshi community
 It becomes necessary to give an account of his-
 tory of the rasbarshi as the point of disputes
 has one the issues whether they belong to
 any one of the sub group of the point of commu-
 nity and in consequence their language is a di-
 alect of a bengali language.

Let have a look on the history
 of the history of attack against the Kamrup
 kingdom by the powerful turkey suler of gar-
 o which will prove the mighty presence of the
 Kamrup dynasty during this period.
 Shihabuddin Azam Shah (1389-1409) the Udaya Shah
 king of gauda invaded invaded Kamrup but
 could not advance beyond the Fista - Karotyog,
 being resisted by the joint force of Kamrup
 Kamrup and ahom king.

Again, Saikunuddin Barbak Shah
 (1459-1474) sent his general Shah Ismail ghazi
 to war against the king Kamrup - Kamrup but
 Ismail faced a terrible defeat in a battle
 near to Santoshpur in Dinajpur in 1498. This
 proved that there was a close bondages among
 them!

KAMAPUR MOVEMENT; GENEST AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

The Kshetraya movement which was one of the most remarkable social movements in the early part of the 20th century.

The role of thakur Parichaman Bhowa in taking the leading role of this movement which was aimed to elevate the Rajbanshi community in the caste status of the hindu cast system is also an important event of this movement. the biography of thakur Parichaman Bhowa is depicted here to show how he had to face the evil practice of the caste hindu which led him to take leading part in the Kshetraya movement.

The Kshetraya movement

The 20th century has been regarded as the turning point for the establishment of ethnic identity of the Rajbanshis of north Bengal.

Although this movement is not free from controversy but this movement can be taken as the age of the forward movement of the Rajbanshi community as young Bengal movement of the bengali during the period of 19th century which is considered as the turning point of Bengali rejuvenation in their modern Socio-Political history!

Thakur Parichaman Buxarma: His role in the movement:-

Parichaman Buxarma, regarded as the father of Rajbanshi community, originally named Parichaman Sarker born on 13th February 1872 AD and lived on active up to 19th Sept. 1935. The name of the village where he was born was Khatkisamai located under Mathabhanga subdivision of Cochinberoo district.

So the movement against this discrimination and recognised them as the Khatkis in the Hindu society was initiated by the educated Rajbanshis of urban areas and the villages flock simply responded to the call of their leaders.

Sanskritization:-

Some of the researchers like M.N. Srinivas stamped this of Sanskritization syndrome. But their argument could not find the sufficient ground.

The most popular god of the Hindus, Parshuram, for the so called lower caste community of the Hindu society had been the most attractive and prevalent festival amongst the Rajbanshis long before the origin of

of the Kashatriya movement. Extraneous factors

some extraneous factors might be taken in this context. The impact of the modern education and westernisation of thinking still remain virtually absent in the Koch as Rajbarshis whatever westernisation of thinking some the name they were called.

It was this continuity of national contact that brought dividend in the long run. We can summarise the Kashatriya movement in three phases; in the first phase it was for the name of the 'Rajbarshis' in the second phase to recognise as the Kashatriya Kashatriya; in third phase electoral participation and relation with national stream. critical observation on the Kashatriya movement

nt:-

some extraneous factors might be taken in this context. the impact of modern education and westernisation of thinking still remain virtually absent in the Koch Rajbarshis whatever the name they were called. as the Kashatriya movement was the turning point for the political and social position of the Rajbarshis and a stepping stone to

move further and ultimately reached to the present position. It needs a critical eye on the movement to find out the motivational factors to drive the present ethical question which ultimately led to the ethnic unrest over this region.

A movement ends but it plants not the germination for the future generation. So the movement that was initiated during the nineteenth century and after wards under the leadership of Thakur Parsharan Barman which culminated with the organization of the movement of Uparayan must have their relevance in the present study.



Evolution of the movement and present state

Partition of India was not only the most unfortunate event in the history of last century but it also destroyed the demographic equilibrium over the vast region of India subcontinent particularly in the Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and some other states of north east India.

Now with the emergence of strong educated middle class among the *rasthanshi* community they are trying to reestablish their own identity as a general rule of social science defying the authoritarian position of the Bengali community which from the ethnic conflict between the majority and the minority complex. Bengali refugees and the immigrants of Bangladesh whatever may be the causes of the division.

of Koch and rathbarshi or whether they are really different races of origin, but there is no room to deny that both of them have imbibed their spirit from the Koch behar kingdom.

When they came down to the soil of the reality the poverty and oppression in waiting for them.

They read they had the land but now they are landless.

They heard that they had plenty for grains in there granary now there stomach is empty. they now where all of them had gone.

The demographic character of north bengal

It should be kept in mind about the basic difference between the southern part of west bengal and the northern part of it.

The social combination of north bengal and south bengal was completing different.

The then Pakistan to stop the mass killing and rape of Hindu community by the communal section of the Muslims. But by giving this definition this definition India govern the large section of Hindu community beyond the definition.

Downs and tea plantation

Before the partition many peoples from east bengal were coming to get agricultural land as there was plenty of land for agriculture. From the census report of 1881 it is found that from chateelding, dinadipur, and cooch behar the number of 4418 peoples came to settle here.

The incoming population on one hand and on the other hand, losing the agricutural land the local sabbasins becoming land less 'refugees' in their own home land.

Table 4.1

Number of immigrants from 1901 to 1961 year	No. of immigrants
1901	95,899
1911	1,52,174
1921	1,63,024
1931	1,58,757
1941	1,56,765
1951	2,78,842
1961	4,54,177

From the census report of 1961 it is found that 2,14,281 persons of this district were born in east Pakistan, new Bangladesh. From the same census it shows that a number of 1,41,617 immigrants coming from the then east Pakistan made their settlement in the village of the district.

Linguistic diversity of Jajpurguri

In the census report of 1961 it is found that 7,40,829 out of total population of 13,59,292 i.e. 54.5% had enrolled their mother tongue as Bengali.

Most striking feature is that, not only the Bengali speaking Hindus and Muslims had stated Bengali language as their mother tongue but most of the Rajbanshis, a substantial number of the Mech also among them who enrolled their mother tongue as Bengali.

Now with emergence of the educated middle class intellectual in the Rajbanshi community and the question of identity and their glorious past as a general rule of the social history become the strong weapons of the Rajbanshi community.

KAMTAPUR LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (KLO)

ORIGIN: The origin of the Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO) can be traced to the attempts of certain members of the Rajbongshi community belonging to the all Kamtapur Students' Union (AKSU) to organize an armed struggle for a **separate sovereign Kamtapur State**.

The KLO came into existence on **December 28, 1995**. At the time of its formation, its cadre strength was an estimated 60. However, subsequently, it is said to be operating with approximately 300 'active cadres'.



Fig. K.L.O cadres

Locating Kamtapur movement among some other

Ethnic movement

merger of cochin dynasty to the dominion of india is remarkable event in the history of north bengal after the partition of india. this merger did not come in a

smooth way. There was serious differ in opinion among the rajbongshi community in question of the merger with west Bengal.

Their social origin which ultimately influenced their demand one for kamtapur state and for greater cochin state. Following the difference in their language kamtapuri language and

Rajbanshi language.

Uttarakhand movement

I like to include the Uttarakhand movement in my study, as the last survey that I have conducted for the research work to find the root causes of this unrest and the geo-ethno environmental impact on the present ethnic unrest.

The formal support towards their demands they preferred to take 'khamd' from 'Shrokhoid'. In order to the protest and gave the name of their movement Uttarakhand!

Geographical Isolation

In the Paleolithic epoch, the human population was sparse and had spread in different direction of the earth that had vastly different conditions and had to natural barriers that prevented contact between other peoples.

The study of comparative large groups since individual variations are much rather than racial.

Thus it should be bear in mind that racial diagnosis cannot always be applied in full to an individual, and may sometimes give no result at all.

Inter marriage

The socio-economic development of the process of intermarriage of the mingling which has been going on for a long time.

In view of above discussion it may be said that the development of man and his races proceeded under the influence of various factors and the socio-economic factors in the end began to dominate over biological factors and even to force some of them to cease functioning.

Common features to all races

Before entering in to the discussion on the relation between the bengali and the bangshi/koch it is needed to sum up the above observation to look in to the matters of my study in the light of the anthropological relation between two communities.

The races are of common origin and cannot be regarded as different stages of development each of them is characterised by a definite but hereditarily stages of development each of them is characterised by a definite but hereditarily changing complex of morphological and physiological features.

The Identity of Bengali

Such the Bengali claim the carrier of pure blood.

Race as we mean a more or less big biological group of individual having relatively similar form the morphological point of view.

The following charts of the anthropological measure shows the fact that the mixing of different blood took place in the blood of the Rajbanshi/Kochi.

Table 5.3

	Anthropological measurement		Height
	Cephalic index	Nasal index	
1. Kshatriya Rajbanshi (Jajirguri)	76.2	72.8	1608mm
2. Rajbanshi (E. Dinatpur)	78.3	71.5	1600mm
3. Paliya Rajbanshi (Madda)	76.8	74	1592mm
4. Rajbanshi (Mugshid-bad)	77.7	74	1610mm
5. Rajbanshi (25 Pargana)	75.4	76.9	1607mm

Source: 'Bengalir Naittaik Parichay' actual size.



Ethno linguistic aspects of the movements

Language is the identity of the race.

Language brings is the strongest weapon of the movement language year-

creates the emotion.

Language brings the idea of collectiveness. Language gives the sense of unity among the members of the community or the race.

It also examined the attitude of the 8th scheduled language of the country. Standard language of the country.

Debate on Khamtapuri and Rajbanshi language

A large section of the Rajbanshi-Koch community strongly argued that the Rajbanshi and Koches are same and by naming the language as Rajbanshi language, most of them Rajbanshi the psychological division if any among the Rajbanshi community will be eliminated.

Kolkata is not only the political capital of the state but Kolkata is the guardian of the culture and literature of the state apart from her political and economic supremacy. Without the blessing of the Bengali to Kolkata no Bengali could be noble Bengali to be called.

The ill of one centered state and co-

GA is not the issue between Kolkata and Koch behavior or any other district.

The issue is one centered urbanization versus decentered and a source of one the great language and culture of great literature lost his status and confined within their colloquial language of educated me, now class in the Rajbanshi community if middle

In a seminar on the international mother language day memory of the departed soul who gave up their lives for the mother tongue in dacca held at bagdogra where a large number of teachers of north bengal university attended.

So those sections of the bengali intellectuals jumped into the band of war to establish that saikharishi language is the dialect of bengali they had to wear one of the masses responsibilities for the ethnic interest of this region.

Justice-based the strongest tool of participation

language is the state.

It has no scope to speak in their mother language can have a serious impact on individual's employment opportunities.

and recreational support the right to mobilise support for a language community or policies that he or she considers a collective or public good.

becomes the strongest weapon to establish the ethnic identity.

The historical account of Kambapur literature

It has already been stated that in the 18th century the name of the kingdom Kambapur was changed on shifting the capital of Kambapur to Kambapur.

Fifteen miles south to present Koch Behar

It is no doubt that when there was a darkness in the field of literature in the east and south due to the political instability during that period, Kambapur glow with its own unparalleled radiance for language, culture and ideal administration.

The forces behind the linguistic conflict the to translate san

Kamba kings patronized the to translate san

kept books in to Kamba languages.

I am mentioning these books as the Kamba languages because I could not find the names in the history of Bengali literature.

Identity - autonomy question and the state:

The Kanteipur experience

The Kanteipur experience

Hitasabdheshi Sabha which was formed before the independence of the country and during the rule of the Cochinbar dyansty played a dominating role to organize the Kantebarshi community in favour of remaining the Cochin bar dyansty as an independent state.

again the uneven distribution of development helped to create some kind of the feeling of alienation from southern part of the state.

A from hitasadhari movement to greater
cooch behar movement

Nothing happens all on a sudden. there must be some causative factors behind it.

Some postulation is applicable in the social movement. it compared with the match box.

So it needs to look at the past to judge whether there was any hidden seed began to germinate in the new form of demand and responsible for the ethnic unrest of north Bengal.

class composition of the organization

The hitasadhari movement, the traditional left parties analysts discarded it as the movement of the land owners patronized by the royal family.

this simple explanation fails to explain why this movement got the momentum at its initial stage.

As a consequence of this biased attitude they failed to judge about the

Influence of that movement upon present demand of the greater cooh behar movement. Factors behind the hitasadhari sabha

It became evident that India was going to achieve her freedom but there would be two States india a pakista.

The subjects of the state were divided in to two groups - deshi and bideshi, the first open division in the line of comonunity feeling.

There emerged the hitasadhari sabha, an organization of deshi people comprising rather ngshi both hindu the muslim along with other indigenous groups.

Mass support behind the hitasadhari sabha At my be mentioned here that the cooh state legislative council was formed in the year of 1909 during the reign of maharaja Nripendra Narayan and provision was made therein for direct election of eight members - two members (one hindu one mohamedan) by Jotedars of the state, one member

by the members of the legal profession of the state.

The election result of the state legislative council which was held in 1949 almost ~~at~~ all the candidates of the hitasadhari sabha were elected.

The role of hitasadhari sabha towards the merger in order to search the roots the ethnic parent of north bengal nobody can deny the role of the hitasadhari sabha. Many of the scholars as mentioned earlier tried to ignore hitasadhari sabha as the organization of local level and hence they are new irrelevant in the history of cooh behar. Many of them even expressed their opinion in the interview as part of my field study that to bring the episode of the hitasadhari sabha would be an attempt to invite the ethnic division which they thought that had buried under the grave with the merger of cooh behar with the emergence of the demands that were raised by the district. The were hitasadhari freedom of india as they sensed with the learning of the colonial ruler a new political door is going to be opened.

WHY 'KAMTAPUR'?

Koch Rajbanshis did not get a respectable position in the society. Bengali writers like Nagendranath Basu in the early 20th century while writing his Vishwakosh (Encyclopedia), mentioned the Koch Rajbanshis as barbarians or (Mlechha). Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the renowned Bengali scholar says in 'Bongo Darshan' that the Koch identity cannot be synonymous with Bengali Hindu identity. It is not only in the literature where Koch Rajbanshis were humiliated, they also faced social oppression in their social life in Bengal and Assam. Even in Assam also they were not allowed to enter in the Barpeta Kirtan Ghar. So, all these issues were sufficient to create a strong background for the movement and the Rajbanshis organized themselves for the movement for separate state. Their demand of the separate state of Kamatapur comprises of the areas of both West Bengal and Assam (15 districts of Assam and 6 of West Bengal).

conclusions

In the preceding chapters I have attempted to study the nature of the ethnic unrest of north Bengal and the impact of historical, social, geographical, and environmental factors upon this unrest situation of, the sarkarshi community of north Bengal.

The role of the various institution responsible the unrest which has been depicted as my subject of research and the suggestions responsible for the unrest which has been depicted as my subject of research and the suggestions based on the facts

that are collected through my study.

The heterogeneous nature of the demographic distribution

The present unrest in north Bengal whether it may be the demand for the Gorkha land state or it may be the demand for the Kaintapur or greater Koch Bihar state has been revolving around the fulcrum of the ethnic sentiment.

on the contrary it is at least ought to be, integral to democratization process; enabling people to make as well as realize choice of their own, without compromising their legitimate moral and political claims to human dignity and diverse socio-cultural identifications as citizens practicing civility favour the norms of reciprocal civility

Identity consciousness in the developing countries
 'Ethnic politics is playing important role the functioning of modern nation states, the world over.'

Ethno-nationalism on the other hand, in the developing poor countries it has worked way i.e. it has contributed to disintegrative process and gives rise to large scale ethnic assertions.

The ethno-nationalism has resulted in functional behavioural pattern in the the very ethnic minority groups present in the state and state itself.

ethno-nationalism

The ethno-nationalism is working as a double-edged sword.

In the third world countries mainly from asia and africa, which emerged after the decolonization process as independent states have been the hot beds of these ethnic assertions and resultant conflict.

But in the context of the ethnic movements of north bengal such components may be classified as ethno-identity, ethnolinguistic, ethno-historical, ethno-geographical, ethno-environmental and socio-economic and political.

A brief discussion of these components is discussed below.

Question of Identity

Ethnic upsurges have produced similar problems and challenging situation both for multi ethnic developed as well as developing countries but state response in the two has been different. Identity and its relation to ethnicity and community, on one side, and conflict, on the other have emerged as the significant topics for scholarly investigation in the social sciences.

community

Identity was become pervasive among different communities parts of the world.

The fact that identity did not originally have a term to designate an existing word for the purpose (Jayaram 2004). The fact identity did not have a semantic location in many Indian languages is a significant factor that should be taken in to consideration in understanding people's concern with their collective identities today.