

Youth Unrest in Assam: Some Common Causes

Laimwn Basumatary¹

Trainee, Reimalie Academy College (B.Ed.)

Abstract- "Youth Unrest" the single term is now a major issue of concern. It is also one of the major problems in Assam. Generally youth are of imitative psychology and likely to outside influences. But it is wrong to say that youth always follow other and allotted to agitations. Sometime the questions Why? How? arises. Focuses goes on their environment, social aspects that surround them. This paper is highly concerned on the present sharp image of youth unrest in Assam and different reasons to adapt direct or indirect unrest and agitation related to society, politics, administration, school and colleges.

Key Word: Youth Unrest, Agitation, Assam.

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's student is the citizen of tomorrow. They are the imperative part of the society. The success and failure of a society mostly depends on the young generations. Unfortunately now a day one of the common words that often heard is Youth Unrest. Youth unrest can be described as the violent activities and behavior of the youth seen inside and outside in all level of educational institution or in the society. It is not an action of the students of a single institution, when the student or youth of almost whole state or region involve action based on the feeling of injustice it can be considered as youth unrest. The age range of the youth generally covers 13 to 25 years of age. Although there are some controversies relating to the age range of the youth still it will perhaps be accepted by every one that it is the developing stage of the human being. In this article author tried to study the youth unrest in Assam and focus on reason responsible for the unrest.

II. CONCEPT OF YOUTH UNREST

The dictionary meaning of 'Unrest' is Disturbed or disordered condition of society. When we speak about youth unrest it simply means present disturbed and disordered situation among the youth. It is the disillusion on some social issues; and collective frustration among the youth. It is characterized by some collective discontent or dysfunctional condition in educational institution and administration, need for change in existing situation and dissatisfying mood on opportunities and facilities and action based on the feeling of injustice.

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It may be consider that youth unrest may be characterized by four important standards. As-

1. Public concerned.
2. Challenges in the existing norms.

3. Active based on the feeling of injustice.
4. Collective discontent.

Where most of the time education comes first, a committee appointed by UGC in 1960 identified three major categories of behavior in student indiscipline-

1. Believe in destroying property.
2. Misbehave with female student.
3. Disregard for teacher.

The committee also point out a number of reasons for student agitation-

1. Economic cause for example a routine demand to reduce fees develops the support of increasing scholarship.
2. Demand for changes in existing norms pertaining to admissions, teaching and the process of admission.
3. Poor administration or functioning of colleges and universities.
4. Inappropriate teaching campuses, hostel and other infrastructures.

For better understanding youth unrest or student unrest can be categorized into three types. This are-

- A. Resistance agitation** whose main objective is to keep the power holder in their place.
- B. Persuasive agitation** whose main objective is to bring changes in the attitude of the power that by discussing their problems with them across a table and making them accept their viewpoint.
- C. Revolutionary agitation** whose main objective is to bring sudden sweeping changes in the educational institution and social systems.

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

The paper aims to portray the nature and condition of Youth Unrest in Assam.

The paper aims at identifying the reasons of Youth Unrest in Assam.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study used normative survey method of research to describe the problems where data of the study is collected from the sources that are totally secondary such as book,

journal and government reports etc. as well as the self observation of the author.

V. YOUTH UNREST IN ASSAM

The term unrest in Assam is not new. It has been continuing since the time of post independent period. Agitation in Assam is mostly revolutionary agitation. The two major unrests that most of the youth and students involve in agitation are agitation of 1984 led by AASU and Bodo agitation led by ABSU in 1989-96. Besides these two major agitations good number of unrest moment occurred here. All details about it will be discussed below.

Youth of Assam started agitation in 1983-84 on the issue of refugees from East Bengal and ultimately were joined by a majority of the population in the state. People of Assam always felt ignorant by the centre. The source of economy such as petroleum, tea and other agriculture and natural resources of the region is not given interest. The central government has not taken seriously the social, political and economic security of the region. Youth leaders of the region called for protest and engaged in agitation against the administration. Lots of students of various colleges and universities left their study for the agitation and took active part in misbehave against the government and administration.

Secondly, one of the major agitation impacts in whole state and centre government is Bodo Agitation. It was generally a tribal-non tribal conflict. In Assam a sizable number of inhabitants belong to tribal group. It was confronted that the function of administration and the plan policies of the government became a treat to the status of the ethnic groups. The largest tribal community in the state called Bodo stand against the government. All Bodo Student Union called for the movement which lead to great agitation and misbehave toward the government and administration. Good number youth of the community left their education as well as job for the movement. Lot of schools and other public institutions are damaged and public properties are destroyed. This is repeating now again in a democratic process.

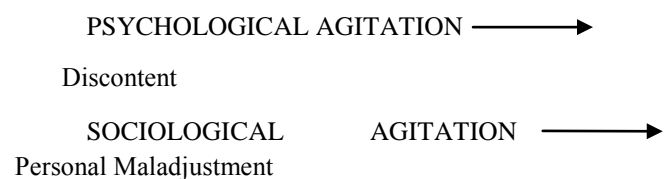
Besides these two, in times various agitations occurred in Assam where extremism is one of the major issues to be concerned. Numbers of communal riots mostly in the lower and northern part of the state are able to gain discontent and disorder in the society which badly affect the parallel proceeding of the youth members. Various agitations have been seen in Assam along with other states of India because of various policies taken by centre and state government. Such as Land deal with the neighbor nation Bangladesh. Now a day one of the burning issue is providing citizenship to Hindu migrant from the East Pakistan or present Bangladesh which is a major treat to

the indigenous people that they will get majority forward and it is against the Secularism of the Constitution.

Various unsocial elements mislead the young generation for their self benefit that are able to create trouble in psychological functioning, which really affect their social life also. Unrest in gender inequalities such as rape, misbehave toward women etc. also not absent here. Misbehave toward the teachers and other administrative staffs, illegal activities in the time of examination and social functions are also common here. Many unsocial elements ever try to overtake others with easy ways.

VI. CAUSES OF YOUTH UNREST IN ASSAM

It is probably true that there will be no agitation without any discontent or disorganizations. A number of theories related to youth unrest have been developed. It is always a part of discussion. Mainly two kinds of theories have been raised. Such as



The Psychological Agitation theories highlights that without any discontent amongst the youth there will be no agitation, or are contented and comfortable with that what they have or what they likely to have, will have no interest in agitation, but the angry youth who feel victimized, mildly annoyed by existing structure collectively act to pressurize the power holder to bring some changes. On the other hand according to the Sociological Agitation theory agitation is a refuge from personal failure. The first one seems more practical in Indian society.

So, we already have said that maximum of the agitation in Assam are revolutionary type. Those were actually a movement against the exploitations and malfunctioning. Impact of political factor is a lot in the agitation. The condition and the chances here are good that the youth can easily involve in agitation. Some majors from the reasons are highlighted below-

1. Inequality: Being a state of variety Assam has a problem of inequality. A varied need is here. Many unsocial elements try to overtake others. There is inequality of higher and lower class, caste like SC/ST(s) and general(s), language barrier etc. so people from different communities starts movement for their rights and lead to agitation in various places of the region. Sometime it seems that some policies of the government become a treat toward the indigenous people. For its best example in

recent Assembly, state government took a bill to enlarge the state capital Guwahati to neighbor districts around which are secured for the indigenous people that ST(s). As well as in north bank of the river Brahmaputra the largest indigenous group Bodo have been continuing their movement on the demand of their political rights and separate statehood led by one of the influencing student organization ABSU. Where lot of youth have engaged.

2. Population Growth: one of the greatest problems of every development is population growth in the state as well as the entire county. It is not different in the case of youth unrest too. Population growth rate above the margin hamper in every quality opportunities and facilities for the people. As per the Census report of the 2011, population of Assam is 31169272. The growth rate is 16.93% between 2001 and 2011. As we known Assam is an industrially backward and mostly agrarian economy where modernization in the field of agriculture is not yet. The economic condition of the state becomes unable to absorb the population. Now in present days migration from the neighbor nation is the most burning issue of the state. All the people in the entire state are in tense with it. Organizations are consciously protesting to the administration and the ruling groups to solve the problem of migration. People in every sections and level are alarming to the issue.

3. High Cost of Education: agitations through the students may occurred due to the higher cost in education such as fees of admission, registration fees and examination form fill up etc. This can be considered as the major course of concern for the student unrest in the educational institutions of Assam as well as for the whole nation.

4. Imbalance Economic Growth: as compared to the other states of the country Assam is one of the economically backward states. As per the developmental report published by Director of Economic and Statistics, Govt. of India the NSDP and per capita NSDP for Assam are below the corresponding rate for the country. It was the Human Development Index for Assam in 2015 that 0.557 whereas the index for country as a whole is 0.624 as reported by NITI Ayog. Kerala top the rank with 0.712 followed by Delhi and Himachal Pradesh where Assam placed in 16th position. Thus the people of the state are deprived from standard socio economic life and are able to gain collective frustration and lose satisfaction toward the power holders that pressurizes the youth to be active in agitations.

5. Problem of Unemployment: as per the theories of unemployment it is mostly created by economically backwardness of the country. Assam has an agrarian economy. Nearly 70% of the total population depends on

agriculture and allied sector for livelihood. Modernization in the field of agriculture has not really happened. On the other hand forcible flood badly damage the crops every year which obviously paralyze the economy of the state. Industrially underdeveloped problem of unemployment is more here. Lot of youth moving to different cities like Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai etc. shows availability of employment in the state. So it pressurizes the youth to be agitated. It create an unsatisfied mood toward the power holders and similarly they got available times to take part such activities.

6. Low GER: the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in Assam is 8.8% according to the report published by UGC on Higher Education in 2008. This is below the national rate that is 10.8%. Large students deprive from getting admission in higher educational institutions for various reason such as lack of institutions, poverty etc. it is also similar in professional and technical education.

7. Shortage of Quality Teacher and Administration: many institution of the state has a lack of total quality teachers and also administration staffs which may affect in the smooth functioning of the institutions. Due to the adequate procedure of appointing, various public institutions have to run the courses and other activities with sub qualified candidates. It results in the de-organization of the institutions and it truly able to made unrest among the students. According to the micro research done by the author "*PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF THE TRAINERS IN TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGES (Special Reference to B. Ed Colleges)*"¹. A sizable (30%) number of the trainers saw their unsatisfied and detached attitude toward the profession. This can be considered a practical example for the quoted sub heading. This clarifies the question of quality functioning of the trainers. Now Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) scam is another greatest example for shortage of quality teacher and administrator in the state.

8. Low Educational Opportunities: another important issue considered as one of the reason behind the youth unrest in the state is lack of proper educational facilities. Lot of youths of the state moving to different cities like Delhi, Bangalore etc. for technical and professional education along with general higher education raise the question of quality and availability of the educational opportunities in the state. There are a countable number of higher, technical and other professional institutions but yet to enough. Another indicator of high quality education in

¹. Paper Name: "*PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF THE TRAINERS IN TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGES (Special Reference to B. Ed Colleges)*". Presented in an ICSSR sponsored National Seminar organized in KBVS&ASU, Nalbari, Assam. (Not Published).

Assam is status of NAACs' Assessment and Accreditation in the state. Out of 13 universities four have accredited and Awarded "B" grade by 2011-12 where others have not yet. Similarly out 189 colleges only 11 have awarded grade "A". Quality of the institutions reflects in quality production of human resource.

9. Wrong Impact of Politics: political factor is one of the most influencing factors in the field education and social development. Power of the politics has a great impact in all aspect of the society. But in times the Dirty Politics throws black seeds in the educational field as well as in the society for their self benefits. It is mutual in Assam. Many times the ruling groups draw the policies which focus on their party and create beneficial package for them. Undemocratic formulation and execution of the developmental projects and favoring a certain portion of the people create undesirable situation and push the youth to be agitate. Now present politic is not different to this concept.

10. Misguided by Some Unsocial Element: misguided to the youth by some unsocial elements and so called experts to fulfill their self interest able to result in youth unrest in the society. It may be observed that the student generation is being misguided by socially undesirable elements taking advantage their ignorance due to their minimum political experience.

11. Mised Culture and Wrong Application of Modern Technologies: today's society is more dynamic. Changes take place very fast. A controversial quotation that we the Indian people, basically follows the western culture to show up ourselves modern and up to date. Sometimes it seems like true. Because along with Assamese all Indians are very attentive in western culture. Following others without proper manner obviously result disordered situation. This is termed as Cultural Lag in Sociology. Maladjustment to different culture and wrong application of various modern technologies may lead to create an undesirable social environment that lead to unrest among the youth. For example we can take the case of "BLUE WHILE", a deadly video game which push more than single number of youth in the state particularly.

VII. CONCLUSION

It is actually meaningless to keep away the youth from the politics and other administrable works. The only way to reduce the problems of youth unrest is making all the facilities well enough and well functioning of the authority and power holders. A coherent government policy covering a very adequate educational plan, well funding and monitoring is highly needed in the state. The need for creating a climate of hope, confidence and truth rather than coercion and confrontation has to be realized this final

initiatives has to be taken for mobilizing the young aspirant.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- i. The study can be replicated on a large sample to assess the youth unrest in Assam.
- ii. An analytical study of various educational institutions and social groups can be conducted.
- iii. Investigation can be conducted on the problem faced by the youth which lead to create unrest.

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