The Bodo Peace Accord of 2020 :

Implications for Reconciliation and Development in the North East

Editor

Dr. Bidyut Bora

The Bodo Peace Accord of 2020: Implications for Reconciliation and Development in the North East:

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A study on primary education of Bodo people of Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) special reference to Udalguri District, Assam

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Introduction

Education is the most important and powerful instrument invented by mankind to shape and mould itself in a desirable manner. Any modification brought about in the behavior of an individual, as a result of his interaction with the environment, constitutes learning. Education makes a man perfect. It helps to think critically, systematically in proper time at proper place. Education mainly includes three types – formal, informal and non-formal education. The primary education is one of the most important and first stage of formal education.The primary stage is very crucial stage in the life of the child. So, the objectives of primary education are different from those in the middle stage of education. At the primary level the child's curiosity, creativity and tries to explore new things from the surrounding.

According to the 2011 census Udalguri district's population is 8, 31,668, an increase of 9.8% over 2001. The literacy rate is 66.6% and the gender ratio is 966. There are 449 inhabitants per square kilometre (1,160/sq mi). The district is multi-ethnic and multi-religious in nature. Bodos forms the largest ethnic group in the

district with 33.76% of the district's population. Other ethnic groups with significant population are Adivasi community with almost 23.12% and Bengali Muslims with 12% of the district's population. Assamese and Bengali Hindus reside mainly in urban areas. There is also a presence of sizeable Nepali speaking Indian Gorkha community with estimated 5% of the district's population thinly scattered across the Udalguri district.

According to the 2011 census, 26.9% of the population speaks Boro, 22.62% Assamese, 20.08% Bengali, 7.88% Sadri, 5.6% Nepali, 2.79% Santali, 2.64% Odia, 2.08% Kurukh, 1.66% Hindi, 1.45% Bhojpuri and 1.04% Mundari as their first language.(Source: Wikipedia)

About the Bodo's

The Bodos are considered to be the earliest indigenous inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley having their own kingdom, religion, culture and language. There are different opinions by historians regarding the origin of Bodos, with many saying that the term 'Bodo' is derived from the Tibetian word 'Bod' — meaning homeland.

According to historians, they belong to the Tibeto-Burman family of the Mongoloid race. Their population is concentrated mostly on the North bank of the Brahmaputra river, in western and parts of Central Assam, the northern part of West Bengal and in some parts of Bhutan and Nepal, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.The traditional religion of the Bodos is Bathouism — they traditionally worship Bathou-Borai, often identified as the Hindu God Shiva.

Rational of the Study

BTAD includes 4 district of Assam i,e Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri. The Bodoland Territorial Council main aims at bringing about accelerated progress to one of the most backward region of the state of Assam with special focus on the development of the Bodo people in the field of education, preservation of land rights, linguistic aspiration, culture and its ethnic identity.

But in reality most of the village people has not got proper facilities for their livelihood. So this paper helps the people to know about the actual scenario of the Bodo people in Udalguri districts in terms of primary level.

Another purpose to this study is to help the people to understand about the medium of instruction in teaching and learning process at the primary level. So, the researcher taught that this paper create awareness among Bodos people about importance of primary education and also helps to know why local or own language is very much important for the child to development of personality.

Statement of the Problem

"A study on primary education of Bodo people of Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) special reference to Udalguri District, Assam"

Objectives of The Study

1. To find out the number of primary schools Bodo people in Udalguri District.
2. To know about the medium of instruction at primary level.

Research Methodology

This study mainly follows qualitative descriptive method. In this study data has been collected by using secondary sources. The secondary data were collected through internet, research articles and through telephonic conversation.

Result and Discussion

Objective no 1: To find out the number of primary schools Bodo people in Udalguri District.

The number of primary schools at Udalguri District given below with the help of table:-

Number of Block	List of schools block cluster	Total no of schools in each cluster
Schools in Khoirabari block	38 cluster	2256
Schools in Mazbat block	22 cluster	558
Schools in Udalguri block	36 cluster	612

(Source: Schools.org.in)

Udalguri a district of Assam primary school is having about 3 blocks in its district. All the schools in the district are divided into three different blocks that are- Khoirabari block, Mazbat block and Udalguri block. In Khoirabari block is having 38 cluster and total number of schools in each cluster are2, 256. In Mazbat clock is having about 22 clusters of the schools and total number of schools

in each cluster are 558 and In Udalguri block also divided into 36 cluster and total number of schools in each cluster are 612.

Objective no 2: To know about the medium of instruction at primary level.

According to collecting information of one my friend I able to know that in Udalguri district both Bodo and English language used as a medium of instruction. Approximately 90% of students studied in English medium private schools and only approximately 10 % student studied in Bodo medium schools. As per the information in remote and financially weaker people prefer Bodo language in primary level otherwise other people mainly prefer English language.

Conclusion

Though Bodo Peace Accord 2020 give emphasis on education sector in reality most of the remote areas people are deprived from those facilities whatever included in that accord. And other some problems also found that is lack of adequate infrastructure facilities, lack of teacher training institutions, lack of awareness of importance of Bodo language and so on.

To solve these kind of problems BTAD should take some initiatives so that people are able to understand their importance of own language, culture, custom and traditions. And need to establish at least one teacher training in Udalguri district and also should focus on women empowerment.

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