A Critical Analysis of the Problems of North-East Indian People with Special Reference to the Role of Education

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Abstract

The people from North-East India in general and tribes in particular are migrating to the metro cities of India for better educational opportunities and employment to lead their wealthy and healthy life successfully. Because of their physical features and geographical influence, people from North-East India are facing problems at metro cities. Sometimes these problems are diverting or converting into a racial discrimination also. The real citizens of India are not treating as citizens of their own country people. It is a painful and not helpful for national integration. The main aim of the present study is to focus on the problems of North-East people in metro cities of India with special reference to education. Primary and secondary sources data, and descriptive method was used for the present study to know the real problems of people from North-East region at metro cities (New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Mumbai) of India. The paper also concentrated on safety and security of North-East people in metro cities and role of education in increasing the affinity between citizens of metropolitan cities and migrated North-East people.

Key words: North-East Tribes, Problems, Metro Cities and Education.

Introduction

India is a vast and multi-cultural society. 'Unity in Diversity' is the greatness of India. Indians are enjoying the fruits of science and technology. Every year lakhs of students and people are moving to abroad for higher education and employment. In the same way, North-East people are also moving to plain India in general and to metropolitan cities in particular for higher studies, job opportunities in public sector, private company, business and other purposes. North-East People are enjoying the fruits of science and technology very little in one hand and facing so many problems like poverty, terrorism, alcoholism, teenage pregnancy, corruption, under-development, unemployment and natural disasters in other hand. These problems are common for all parts of India.

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But, the people from North-East are facing one more problem i.e. racism. They are the citizens of India. But, they are not enjoying the citizenship freely and easily. Because of physical features, they are facing discrimination. The North-East has also been suffering due to wrong political and development agendas: the policy of declaring forests as 'restricted forest' or 'prohibited forest' have uprooted many tribal communities and affected indigenous culture, history and identity. Politically, the region is under-represented. Except Assam, all other North-East states have only one to two Member of Parliaments (MPs). Racism is not good for healthy society. In general, Indians think that racism exists only in west. It is time for Indians to look into the problem of racism faced by North-East people in metropolitan cities of India.

Literature Review

Kamei Aphun (2014) has identified many problems faced by North-East people in the article entitled 'North easterners face a lingering sense of fear and insecurity' to Hindustan Times on 10th February 2014. The author found that many in mainland India feel that racially the Northeasterners are different and represent uncivilized and primitive communities. However, the rise in hate crimes, racial attacks and discrimination has made it difficult for Northeasterners to survive in other parts of India.

According to Annesha Mathur (2014) racial discrimination against North-East people is higher in capital. Over two-lakh persons from Northeastern states migrated to Delhi between 2005-2013 and nearly 86% of them have faced sort of "racial discrimination" in metropolitan cities across the county, says the M P Bezbaruah Committee Report, which was set up to look into problems faced by people from North-East in other parts of the country.

Yengkhom Jilangamba (2012) has explained the racism in India in the article entitled 'Let's stop pretending there's no racism in India'. Writing the article to The Hindu on 12th June 2012 she has written that, most of Indian think racism exists only in the West and see themselves as victims. It's time they examined their own attitudes towards people from the country's North-East.

Mukul Sangma et. al. (2012) has expressed their views regarding problems of North-East People. According to Times of India, 78 out of 100 People from North-East India living in Delhi face racial discrimination.

The investigator referred many journals, documents and books along with the studies of North-East India Studies Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Centre for North-East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Institute of North-East India Studies, Guwahati; and Cultural &Creative Studies, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Statement of the Study

The emotional and psychological gap between the young people of North-East and other parts of India is increasing and this will adversely affect our nation building efforts. If unchecked, this racial divide can ultimately paralyze the State. The present study *'A Critical Analysis of the Problems of North-East Indian People with Special Reference to the Role of Education'* is an attempt to know the real problems of the people from North-East to strengthen national building.

Research Questions

Based on the above statement the investigator framed the following research questions:

i. What are the problems of North-East People in metropolitan cities?

ii. What is the status of safety and Security of North-East People in metropolitan cities?

iii. What is the role of education in creating affinity towards North-East People in metropolitan cities?

Objectives of the Study

The investigator formulated the following objectives:

i. To understand the various problems of North-East People in metropolitan cities of India.

ii. To examine the status of safety and security of North-East People in metropolitan cities.

iii. To ascertain the role of education in creating affinity towards North-East People in metropolitan cities.

Methodology

The investigator has adopted the descriptive method for the present study. He has referred many secondary sources and interacted with North-East people those who are staying and metropolitan cities of India especially in New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Rational of the Study

The mysterious death of Loitam Richard in Bangalore, the murder of Ramchanphy Hongray in New Delhi, the suicide by Dana Sangma and other such incidents serve as reminders of the insecure conditions under which people, particularly the young, from the north-east of India have to live within the metros of this country. What these deaths have in common is that the three individuals were all from a certain part of the country, had a "particular" physical appearance, and were seen as outsiders in the places they died. These incidents have been read as a symptom of the pervasive racial discrimination that people from the region face in metropolitan India.

The death of 19-year-old Arunachal Pradesh student Nido Taniam in Delhi on 30th January 2014 has exposed the deep racial hatred that some people harbour against those who come from the North-East of the country. In an attempt to understand the level of racial discrimination that exists in Delhi, 701 Northeasterners were interviewed recently by researchers of Delhi School of Economics. Unsurprisingly, all 701 said that they have faced varying degrees of abuse/discrimination in Delhi. For happy and healthy life, it is the duty of all individuals to respect each other and co-operate in all the ways. It is very important and urgent need to know the present situation regarding safety & security and problems of people from North-East. The High Court of Delhi and Supreme Court of India are also ordered Central Government to set-up a committee in February 2014 to find the problems faced by North-East People living in other parts of the country, especially metropolitan cities. The 11-member committee submitted its report on 11th July to Ministry of Home Affairs. Majority North-East People living in metropolitan cities of India are refused the committee because there is no single female member and the committee was set-up without consulting them.

There is no single research study done on problems of North-East People with special reference to education. Education is a key for development. Any type of problems can be solved through education. It is a right time to do a research study on problems of North-East People in metropolitan cities of India.

Limitations of the Study

In any research study, it is difficult to cover all the things. The investigator is limited his study to get valid results in a fixed time. The limitations are:

i. The present study is limited to four metropolitan cities only i.e. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

ii. The study is limited to two years only i.e. from 2016 to 2018.

Operational Definitions

i. *Problems*: Problems related to Socio-cultural; Psycho-linguistic, Safety & Security; Educational and Economic.

ii. *North-East People:* People belong to eight states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, and living in four metropolitan cities of India viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

iii. *General Public*: People living in four metropolitan cities of India viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

iv. *Police*: Police working in four metropolitan cities of India viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Findings of the Study

i. Problems of North-East People in Metropolitan Cities

The following problems were identified by the investigator with the help of both primary and secondary data.

a) Discrimination

b) Harassment

c) Ill-treatment

d) Racism

e) Racial Attach

f) Abuse

g) Rape and attempt to rape

h) Beating

i) Human Trafficking

j) Molestation

k) Killing

l) Bias at workplace especially for women

m) Getting Low salary against to agreement at the time of interview

n) Facing difficulty to get house for rent

o) Calling with unparliamentary words (as chinki, momo, etc.) by native metro citizens and NE citizens too.

ii. Safety and Security of North-East People in metropolitan cities

a) The safety and security of North-East people in Delhi metropolitan city of India is not good.

iii. Role of Education in creating affinity towards North-East People in metropolitan cities

a) Imparting education is one of the best options available to make aware of their rights.

b) More professional and technical higher education must include in their educational careers

c) Need for encouraging women for higher studies within the schools so that school going children may get knowledge of better career from school level which is required for bringing a better education among the women in the Northeast states.

d) More public awareness on prevention and safety against sexual violence, human trafficking and racial discrimination is needed for working women, which could be carried out by the political leaders, community leaders, and student bodies.

e) Basic legal awareness on how to file cases and legal remedies are essential part of sensitization. More cultural integration between people of Northeast region and local communities is needed.

f) The Bezbaruah Committee recommends that when the next the NCERT takes place, one, all teacher training institutes be advised to make their syllabus in a way that can sensitize their trainees on the North East and, two, universities and schools outside the North East make projects on North East a mandatory part of the course curricula.

g) Organization of Seminars, Workshops, and awareness programmes are important to increase the affinity between the metropolitan citizens and North-East people.

Academic Significance of the Study

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

*...**Nelson Mandela***

*Racism can have many serious consequences for the people who experience it. It can shatter their confidence and their sense of worth. It keeps people locked away from social and economical opportunities. We are living in the high-tech and modernized society. According to Indian Constitution all are equal. It is a duty of all citizens to follow it. Racism is not good for national development. It destroys peace and harmony of the nation. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. It is better to take care of the present generation. If we take care of the present, we can see the beautiful future. Today, all societies are facing different types of problems. Education is the only weapon to solve all types of problems. Through value education only it is possible. It is very important and urgent to know the problems of North-East People. They are also Indians like people belong to other parts of the country. But, they are facing racism within their own country. They are losing their psychological and emotional strength. It is a right time to remember the motto of Supreme Court of India **'Yatho dharma statho jaya'** meaning 'whence law (dharma), thence victory'. There is no meaning of humanity and government if we don't protect the rights of people in general and rights of North-East people in particular.*

Education has a prominent role in mainstreaming people at any society. Majority of people from North-East are migrating to metropolitan cities for Education in general and Higher Education in particular. The main aim of education is character formation. Education gives discriminative power to understand the society as it is. Philosophical, Sociological, Psychological, Cultural and Linguistic foundations of education help the students to live in the right way. Education and development are two faces of a single coin. There is no

meaning of development without education. Education is a weapon to change the world. Education tells how to interact with others nicely. Education gives all types of suggestions, clues and recommendations for better life and helps the individual to accommodate himself/herself nicely in the society.

Relevance to Preset-day Problems

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn"

… Alvin Toffler

The present education is not concentrating on life skills. Value-oriented education is very important for happy and healthy life. Values are guiding principles. It gives right direction to the individual. Today we are facing many problems viz. corruption, illiteracy, sexual harassment, alcoholism, teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, pollution, terrorism and racism etc. These are the evils of society. Humanity is the foremost value. If a person has humanity, he can't act as an animal. No problem will happen. Humanity is more important for all. Love and peace are also more important for better life. According to Mahatma Gandhi 'You must not lost faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty'.

Education is essential to sustainable development. Citizens of the world need to learn their way to sustainability. Our current knowledge base does not contain the solutions to contemporary global environmental, societal and economic problems. Today's education is crucial to the ability of present and future leaders and citizens to create solutions and find new paths to a better future.

Relevance to Need of Society/Country

The importance of India as a large nation lies in its Unity. Unity is India's strength and Unity in Diversity is the most important feature of India.

In India, national integration alone can be the foundation of a strong, united and prosperous India, especially in these days of extremism and terrorism. Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life for communal unity. Though, there are Bengalis, Punjabis, Maharastrians, Tamilians, Assamees and Nagas etc., in our country. The fact remains that regardless of divisions and distinctions, caste or creed, we have lived together for thousands of years.

Unfortunately today, instead of unity there seems to prevail, some disunity that hinders national harmony in India. Most of the time, the quarrels are between Hindus and Muslims, but sometimes a few other communities have also clashed with each other. Moreover, social and

economic inequalities are also responsible for the disunity prevailing in the country. Now we are facing one more problem, which is racism. The majority of North-East people living in metropolitan cities of India are facing racism. The whole North-East India is worrying about it. It is not good for national unity. The North-East India has many neighbouring countries. If the situation in this region is not good, it is harmful for whole nation. It is very important and urgent to look into the matter. The investigator is planning to study the problems of North-East People with special reference to education for happy and healthy life of each individual in the nation.

It's Likely Contribution to Knowledge

The present investigation is aimed at an in-depth study of the problems of North-East People. The study paves way for knowing the shortcomings in moral values which will have negative ramifications on the well being of the society. Based on the revelation of the probe, corrective measures could be suggested to guide the people in general and youth in particular to proceed in right direction without creating turbulence. The results that are generated through this effort could be extrapolated to the youth/students in other parts of the nation where in near similar societal conditions prevail. By and large the suggestions that emanate from this study if implemented religiously mailed to:

Love in speech is Sathya (truth)
Love in action is Dharma (righteousness)
Love in feeling is Shanti (peace)
Love in understanding is Ahimsa (non-violence).

Conclusion

India is a nation of multi-cultural societies. Unity in diversity is the greatness of India. The constitution of India has given equal rights to all. It is our duty to respect the fundamental rights. North-East People are not treating nicely by others in metropolitan cities of India. They are facing many problems. According to Times of India, 78 out of 100 people from North-East living in Delhi face racial discrimination. Discrimination within own country is shameful for all. It is a curse for healthy society. The present study gives answers to many unsolved problems. It also helps to know the real problems and causes of those problems. At the end the investigator will give appropriate suggestions and measures to the government, general public and North-East People to strengthen the unity of India for healthy future. Love and peace are two eyes of a society. If some groups of people are suffering, it is not good for healthy nation. We are in the 21st century. Education has a prominent role to change the society. The foremost duty of the government is to provide quality and

value based education to all the children. Good governance is also more important to protect the rights of people.

Hence, a right man for aright job at a right place is to be identified for governance in civil society as the succeeding Chinese proverb yells:

"If you wish to plan for a year, sow seeds;
If you wish to plan for ten years, plant a tree; and
If you wish to plan for lifetime, develop man."

…CHUNG Tzu (7ᵗʰ century BC)

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