

THE UNFEIGNED CONFLUENCE- TRANSFORMATION FROM INSECURITY TO COOPERATION: AN OVERVIEW OF COLLUSION AND CONFLICT PERTAINING TO SOCIO-POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

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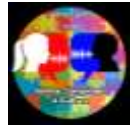
Abstract: *BANGLADESH, a vulnerable Angel, quest for freedom and justice, historical process of state formation with the support of INDIA.*

The country decked with agrarian greenery, fertility, buoyant culture, strong ethnic values geographically demarcated by Bay of Bengal on southern part and surrounded by Global giants India, China has witnessed the state building processes through political and economical challenges . The political transformation through Mukti Juddha, ravaged by liberation war of 1971 and deprived of resources has proved itself a secular, democratic constitution , won respect of the World , gained membership of the United Nations and actively pursued peace and stability in the region . The country is one of the key players in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). From the very beginning India stayed beside Bangladesh in the state formation process and extended loyal political , military , economical support to the new born. The historical chronological developments have paved a true unfeigned confluence between the two Nations. Right from The Lahore Resolution to 1971 Liberation war, Bharat acted as an elder sister to recognise and protect the new born. Both the elected Governments of the Nations were cordial enough at diplomatic level to pave a strong connectivity through ethno bonding nature with common origin through ages irrespective of conflict between the states on several issues. This research study discusses how the bilateral relationship build from insecurity to cooperation irrespective of political, border conflicts and religious fundamentalism.

Keywords : *Bangladesh , Liberation War, Indo- Bangladesh bilateral Relations , Border, Sentiments*

Introduction

At the earliest pre historic era , Bangladesh was engulfed to migratory waves with incursions with European powers and later Indo-Aryan population. The history states the subjugation and economical colonisation by the Portuguese , French and British time to time who established a trade outposts and later political supremacy over the land. Long 190 years rule of the Mughals and defeat of Siraj Ud Daulah in Plassey 1757 paved the economical drainage of the resources on the land. 1947 witnessed the independence of East Bengal and Sylhet, then part of Assam but the conflict grew with the distance of land border with the political approach and mindsets of the leaders of Pakistan. 1600 kilometres distance and disagreements on political control , language policy , economic policy and more dominant nature of the superiors crept towards resentment . The birth of Awami League and confrontation with Pakistan Peoples party on official language policy of the Government created distance. The campaign for autonomy in East Pakistan and political control raised several issues which became the trigger of intense political tension between the Pakistan and East Pakistan leadership . The constitutional crisis along with economical autonomy were more concerned areas amongst the leaders and soon the political gamut in the sub national region changed . The big neighbours with their external affairs policy took



their stand. India, Bharat was the first country to recognise Bangladesh and support in an unfeigned manner which led to the birth of a new Nation. The bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh from the very beginning is anchored in true history, root culture, language, shared values of secularism, democratic principles and countless other commonalities between the two countries. It is based on sovereignty, equality, trust, understanding and win-win partnership that goes beyond strategic partnership as loyal friends. Irrespective of recent disputes on religious fundamentalism effecting the socio-political arena of both the countries on land border crisis, river water sharing disputes, cattle smuggling in the bordering areas, security issues in the border management, still the trust with understanding at the bilateral institutional mechanism and political leadership has created a heart-to-heart connectivity from insecurity to mutual cooperation.

Aim and Objective of the Research

This research paper is an attempt to understand the social complexity of the migrated residents who crossed the border under compulsion in the year 1964 to 1971. To learn their public communication engagement with the approach of their social, economical, political identities. This study will also explain whether the main aim is simply to reach a wide audience or whether it is to engage meaningfully with a smaller targeted audience in a most trustworthy manner in Indian bilateral context. The main objective through this research of the residents in the Petrapole (Bongaon), Mahadipur (Malda) and Aurangabad (Jangipur) bordering villages of India is to explore the need of social stratification, economic benefits with constitutional provisions keeping in mind the high level external affairs strategic mutual developments by institutional mechanism for mutual benefit of the bordering residents of our country.

Literature Review

The purpose of the literature review is to provide an overview of published research in order to establish current knowledge on the Indo-Bangladesh relations in the last five decades and the **inter dependency factors of the people**. The overall trends in the published scholarship in the area of Indo-Bangladesh relations are as follows –

- 1) Bangladesh Quest for freedom and Justice- **Kamal Hossain**, (Oxford University) associated with the Awami League team at Ayub's Round table conference and with Yahya Khan in 1971, later Minister of Law, Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee (1972), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Petroleum & Minerals of Bangladesh Government (1973-75)
- 2) Road to Bangladesh Series – published accounts of the narrative events of 1971, South Asian affairs.
- 3) Secret Letters from Martial Law Administrator, Peshwar, 1971, Lt Colonel Wazir Khan Malik.
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- 7) India- Bangladesh Bilateral relations – Official declaration The Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India on March 2021.



Methodology

The study is based on **ETHNOMETHODOLOGY** which is a study of social order through processes of social interaction directly with the migrated people from Bangladesh during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan and 1971 liberation war. The residents of bordering areas in Bongaon (Petrapole), North 24 parganas district, (Aurangabad Border))Jangipur, Murshidabad district and Mahadipur Border of Malda district of West Bengal state were taken into consideration with questionnaire. The research scholar stayed for two nights in each bordering villages, interacted with the migrated households to understand their social, economical and political approach. The key research questions at Micro and Macro level which have been raised were the main theme to understand the nature of research study.

ETHNO which means People, Method = method, ology = study is basically based on the study of ordinary members of society in everyday situations in which they find themselves and the ways in common knowledge, procedures, understanding, interest, and act on the situations. Ethno methodological studies include open ended, in depth interviews, observation of the participants, videotaping, documentary, and ethno experiments often known as breaching experiments. A questionnaire was prepared which acted as a research instrument consisting of series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents on the interdependent factors of the bordering areas, migrated residents of both the countries.

Focus on Ethno-methodology

Our intention was to focus on peoples tacit resources of social action, their common sense, patriotism towards their roots, interactional activities with their members.

Thesis Outline / Research Gap

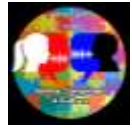
Framework for determining research gap during systematic review in the bordering villages, interacting with the migrated people, keeping in mind the review of the literature, the published articles and work in this particular area we can clearly state that these areas of Petrapole, Mahidipur and Aurangabad, the social stratification and inter dependency factor is very much relevant nowadays, though the people have left their root last 50 years ago. Their connectivity through trade relationship, business, occupation, medical aspects, sentiments, food, culture, language, behavioural pattern, lifestyle are fully inter dependent. The problem that has not been answered or determined at the diplomatic level for the bordering areas of this particular arena. This gap should be further developed through stakeholders with prioritization, more engagement from higher to root level people for the development of these areas. The concept of connectivity, more engagement at every level in these particular bordering villages should be immediate priorities for the common people from the government level to enhance the strong heart to heart connectivity.

Types of Questionnaire

- 1) In House survey research in the bordering areas
- 2) Telephonic Questionnaire design were conducted with utmost importance to ensure accurate data so that the results are interpretable and general sable.

Characteristics of a questionnaire

A proper series of questions were asked to increase the rate of response to the questions. Uniformity, Exploratory, Easy to understand, structured questions on various aspects of everyday life, past and present to the roots, origins of the motherland were prime focus.



Selection of Sample Size , Sample design & Sampling method

Sample size is a frequently used term in statistics and research study which inevitably comes up whenever we are surveying a large population of respondents. The size of the sample is very important for getting accurate statistically significant results and running the research study successfully .A sample size is a part of the population chosen for a survey experient .

If we survey a certain percentage of the true population , we can never be 100% sure that our statistics are a complete and accurate representation of the selected population of Petrapole, Mahadipur and Aurangabad border. This uncertainty is known as Sampling error which is usually measured by a confidence level. That means if we were to repeat our survey over and over , 90% of the time our survey would get the same results.

Age Group

50-85 years old migrant people who crossed the border in the year 1965 to 1971 .

Segregation of Sample Size

The sample size had been segregated into two categories based on their areas and year of transfer

- 1) First , the residents of bordering areas in Bongaon(Petrapole), Mahadipur (Malda) and Aurangabad (Murshidabad) in the year 1971 liberation war.
- 2) The second category, the migrated people who got transferred to India in the year 1965 during India Pakistan war.

Key Research Questions

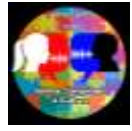
The present research work is designed to achieve the following specific objectives with reference to Petrapole , Mahadipur and Aurangabad Bordering villages of India .

Micro level -

- Are the bordering villages still dependent on the counterparts ?
- Are fencing and friendship can work together ?
- How frequently the migrant people prefer to access on cross border movements ?
- Is the root cause of the migrated people who transferred themselves on compulsion is still having the sentiment of value system prevailing in the RNA , DNA of their blood, their root origin of Bangladesh ?
- How the political confrontation has affected the migrated people ?

Macro Level -

- How the institutional mechanism , border management at bilateral level of both the countries will benefit the migrated residents at border ?
- How both the countries will curb tension and establish a transformation from insecurity to mutual trust with cooperation with flagships programs ?
- How to address the gap and find out the aesthetical components which trigger the sentiments of the roots ?
- How to redefine the strategy of understanding the psychology of the migrant people at the higher level of bilateral relationship ?



Direct Questionnaire to the Migrant People in Bengali (Bongaon , Mahidipur , Aurangabad)

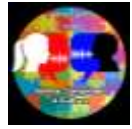
1. Apnara Kobe o ki bhabe Bharoter matite paa rakhlen ?
2. Apnara ki ki smriti rekhe ashlen ?
3. Ei swadhinota , desh bhag apnader moner upor kotota probhab bistar koreche?
4. Desher mati ke hoyto kata tarer badhone badha jay, monk e ki kokhono badhte perechen ?
5. Apnara ekhono kotota atmik somporko anubhob koren protibeshi der proti ?
6. Ei j bhag holo desh ta , tatey apnader shamajik o orthonoitik bhabe ki poriborton holo ?
7. Rajnoitik bhab dharar songe poribortito manoshikotar mel bondhon korlen ki bhabe ?
8. Ekhane eshe kormo songsthan ki bhabe korlen ?
9. Basosthan toiri korte kon kon osobidher sommyukhin hotey hoyeche ?
10. Shikhyar sujog peyechen ?
11. Voter Card ba Adhar card korte prothome somosya hoyechilo ?
12. Ekhon ki oparey jaan ? gele ki bhabe jaan ? koto bar gechen kormosutre naki byabshya na ghurte ?

Key Respondents

- 1) **Malati Naskar** , Female, Age 53 (Resident of Petrapole, Bongaon Border , Mohonpur Village.
- 2) **Dolly Pramanik** ,Female , Age 59, (Resident of Petrapole , Bongaon Border, Mohonpur Village)
- 3) **Avik Roy** , Male , Age 51, (Resident of Mahidipur Gram panchayet, Malda border)
- 4) **Sk Qutubuddin** , Male , Age 56, (Resident of Aurangabad , Jangipur Murshidabad Border)
- 5) **Rahima Bibi**, Female , Age 55, (Resident of Aurangabad , Jangipur, Murshidabad border)
- 6) **Tapan Roy**, Age 75 , Resident of Kolkata, shifted during 1965 war in Bongaon.
- 7) **Tapas Roy**, Age 70, Resident of Kolkata, Shifted during 1965 war in Bongaon.
- 8) **Arun Kumar Roy**, Age 85, Resident of Kolkata, shifted during 1965 war in Bongaon.

Expected Outcome

Against this historical diplomatic background of two countries keeping in mind the social, economical, cultural root arena of both the countries , the traditional social stratification of the migrant people in the bordering areas and who have transferred themselves out of compulsion from one land to a new country out of compulsion , keeping behind the long root is still interdependent emotionally, economically, socially, culturally and in many aspects . Fencing and friendship cannot go together but by keeping the international standards and morale , the doctrines of the international relations with constitutional provisions , still there are ample areas where both the countries can curb and erase the division diplomatically. The common root of both the motherland with communities should reflect togetherness, unity, compassion and share the rich tradition of every aspects. In the new dawn of era, this particular research will open and show a very comprehensive approach for both the countries in new possibilities . More openness at diplomatic to root level from BSF TO BDR , from communication to culture,



education, social and esocnomical aspects , both the countries can shine in the south Asian region with hand to hand support. New opportunities in energy sector to academics, science and technology to food processions etc , the countries can contribute more to the development of the society in a collaborative manner through dialogue model which should be multi directional. There are more opportunities for creative , dialogue based relationship which would help to overcome the knowledge gap and relationship status of both the countries and transform the model of more cooperation, participation , engagement wholeheartedly for the developmental process in every sector of both the countries. From insecurity to win win cooperation , the model of diplomatic relation will change with a new dimension in World politics .

Conclusion

The new born in 1971 through war, economical exploitation and political subjugation has today emerged as a fifty years old giant , as a key role player in the South Asian region . Both the countries have witnessed ups and downs down the memory lane but stood beside each other with firm hand. The religious fundamentalism, internal politics, external aggression, big brothers red eyes , multi theory threats on economic ground , still both the countries have emerged as one of the leading members of United Nations at International arena. Bangladesh the third largest muslim populated country and India the second largest populous country with largest democratic system have achieved fame through political, social, cultural, diplomatic , science and technological aspects. There have been regular high level visits and diplomatic exchanges between the two Nations have paved a true sense of trust cooperation and win win partnership . There are few prolonged conflict areas where both the countries needs to take initiatives soon to curb and erase tension. The bordering areas and the local people should be more prioritize for mutual benefit and inter dependency factors with all facilities. The strategic friendship should go far beyond for strengthening respect. All bilateral institutional mechanism should coordinate more and initiate with implementation strategies for each ones benefit. Security and border management should be highly taken into consideration , bilateral trade , investment , economic assistance power and energy sector cooperation. Cultural ethics , connectivity , communication , training and capacity building processes should be more prioritize. Both the countries share common culture therefore more cultural exchanges , more transfer of knowledge and community cuilding process should be engaged in large numbers.

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