



**TWO DAYS INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON**



**‘THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION IN THE BTR: STATUS AND
FURTHER STEPS FORWARD – LINKING RESEARCH AND CIVIL
SOCIETY PROCESSES’**

**(बि.टि.आर.आव गोरबलायनाय बिखान्धि: संजिरनाय आरो सुबुं समाजखौ फोनांजाबनाय बिखान्धिजों बेनि
थाथाय आरो इयुन राहाफोर)**

29th October – 30th October, 2024

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Organized By

BODOLAND UNIVERSITY

Sponsored by

**GOVERNMENT OF BODOLAND TERRITORIAL REGION (BTR), KOKRAJHAR,
ASSAM**

VENUE: BODOLAND UNIVERSITY, RANGALIKHATA, KOKRAJHAR (ASSAM)

**Government of BTR Sponsored Two Days International Workshop
On**

**‘The Process of Reconciliation in the BTR: Status and Further Steps Forward - Linking Research and
Civil Society Processes’**

(बि.टि.आर.आव गोरोबलायनाय बिखान्धि: संजिरनाय आरो सुबुं समाजखौ फोनांजाबनाय बिखान्धिजों बेनि थाथाय आरो
इयुन राहाफोर)

Date: 29-10-2014

Inaugural Session

Time	Events	By
9:30 am	Floral Tribute to Bodofa UN Brahma	Homage to be paid by all the Guests
9:40 am	Acceptance of the Chair	Dr. Subung Basumatary, Registrar, BU
9:45 am	Introduction of the Guests	Convenor, Organizing Committee
10:00 am	Welcome Address	Prof. Jatin Sarma, Rector/VC i/c, BU
10:15 am	Keynote Address	Dr. Peter Anderson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
10:30 am	Speech by Guests	Sjt. UG Brahma, Hon’ble Cabinet Minister, GoA
11:00 am	Speech by Chief Guests	Sjt. Pramod Boro, Hon’ble CEM, BTR
	Invited Guests	1. Mr. Gobinda Basumatary, Hon’ble Dy. CEM, BTR 2. Mr. Ranjit Basumatary, Hon’ble EM, BTR 3. Wilson Hasda, EM, BTR
11:30 pm	Presidential Address	Dr. Subung Basumatary, Registrar, BU
11:40 pm	Vote of Thanks	Prof. Sanghamitra Choudhury, HoD, Political Science & Dean of Social Sciences

11:45 – 12:00: Tea Break

Plenary Session (Day - 1)
29-10-2024

Time	Theme for Plenary (I)	Plenary Speaker
12:00 – 12:30	The Long Road to Inclusive Peace and Stability	Prof. Sanjay Hazarika,

Lunch Break (12:30 – 1:00)

Time	Theme for Plenary (II)	Moderator / Speaker
1:00 – 2:30	Cases of Successes of Reconciliation in NE India	Mr. Raju Narzary, Executive Director, NERSWN NGO, Kokrajhar (Moderator)
		Mr. Dipen Boro, President, ABSU
		Mr. Bimal Kr Hembrom, President, ASSU (Speaker)
		Dr. Kamal Kumar Tanti Asstt. Prof. Physics, MSMSU/Poet and Author (Speaker)
		Mr. Rajen Singh, SP, Golaghat (Speaker)

Time	Theme for Plenary - III	Moderator/Speakers
2:30 – 4:30	Language, Education and Cultural Heritage in Reconciliation-The Creation of Mutual Respect	Dr. Digambar Narzary, Chairperson NEDAN Foundation, Kok (Moderator)
		Mr. Sanjib Tanti, EM, BTR (Speaker)
		Mr. Nilakanta Goyary, General Secretary, BSS (Speaker)
		Prof. Anil Boro, GU
		Mr. Madhav Chetry, MCLA, BTR

Tea 4:30

Dinner: 7 pm Onwards

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Plenary Session (Day 2)
30-10-2024

Time	Plenary Theme (I)	Moderator/Speakers
9:30 – 11:00	Women Representation in Conflict Reconciliation	Prof. Sanghamitra Choudhury, HoD Political Sciences & Dean school of Social Sciences (Moderator)
		Ms. Sabana Ahmed, Social Worker (Speaker)
		Ms. Paulina Ekka, Social Worker (Speaker)
		Ms. Pratibha Brahma, Social Worker (Speaker)
		Dr. Bibharani Swargiary, Asstt. Prof. ADBU, Ghy. (speaker)
		Mrs. Tarulata Tangoi, President, ARWC, Kokrajhar (Speaker)

	Plenary Theme - II	Moderator/Speakers
11:00 – 1:00	Displacement and Relocation: Issues and Challenges	Dr. Z. Khiangte, Asstt. Professor of English, BU (Moderator)
		Prof. MP Bezbaruah, Retd. Prof. GU
		Prof. Rakesh Batabayal, JNU, New Delhi
		Mr. Rejaul Karim Sarkar, President, AMSU
		Dr. Anirudha Kumar Boro, Asstt. Prof. Pandu College
		Dr. Jhanin Mushahary, Asst. Prof. Dept of Political Science, Bodoland University

Lunch Break (1:00 – 1:30)

	Plenary Theme - III	Moderator/Speakers
1:30 – 2:30	The Role of Media in Peace Building	Mr. Preetam Brahma Choudhury, Senior Journalist, Kokrajhar Press Club (Moderator)
		Ms. Sushmita Goswami, President, Ghy. Press Club
		Mr. Anirban Roy, Editor in Chief, North East News, Guwahati
		Dr. Samarjit Kachary, Asstt. Prof. Pondichery University (Speaker)
		Ms. Monalisa Sarma, Senior Journalist, Kokrajhar Press Club (Speaker)

Tea

	Plenary Session IV cum Valedictory Session	Moderator cum Chair/ Discussant
2:30 – 4:00	Way Forward in Establishing Harmony	Prof. Anil Boro (Moderator)
		Mr. Kwrwmdao Wary, VP, ABSU
		Mr. Shorjun Hanse, Gen. Secy (i/c), AASU
		Dr. Romeo Lokobok, Asstt. Prof. Janata College
		Mr. Ranjan K. Baruah, Adviser, Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department, BTR, Govt.
		Mr. Victor Narzary, OSD to CEM, BTR
		Concluding Remarks
		Prof. Peter Anderson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

4:00 pm Onwards Cultural Events Followed by Dinner




Concept Note

The Problem:

The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) was established in the Bodo heartland with the signing of the Third Bodo Peace Accord on the 27th of January 2020 between the Government of India, Government of Assam and the leaders of the Bodo community leading to a number of armed groups giving up arms. Later, on the 15th September 2022 another armed groups in Assam signed a Peace Accord with the Government of India and the Government of Assam. These peace accords have led to the end of decades of armed struggle in Assam and the neighbouring states however armed struggle now and then reappear outside the BTR.

Since 2020 BTR have taken many important steps towards involving all groups in the region for the creation of peace and harmony in the society in collaboration with relevant social actors representing some of the former militant groups as well as cultural associations. In a number of cases such associations have formal contacts between each other. Despite this there is still need for the creation of further interaction. Some of the reasons are due to the extended period of conflict which have led to distrust among different ethnic and linguistic groups as well as within the very same groups. For this reason, the seminar/workshop aims at bringing relevant persons from different groups in dialogue with others on issues of the above theme for collaboration, identify elements of common culture and the creation of trust and security. Members of all groups remember atrocities committed against themselves committed by other groups, but those memories can be addressed through establishing mutual dialogue and process of reconciliation.

The workshop/seminar aims at addressing the present situation and establishing ways for further building of communal trust. These objectives are obtained by analysis of the process of reconciliation as seen in a theoretical perspective and interventions involving NGOs/CSOs as well as scholars. One way of reaching this aim is through **interaction** between people of **different affiliations: linguistic, social, religious and gender** as well as **scholars**. Affiliations in BTC include of course Bodos, Santals, Rajbongshi, Muslims and Assamese as well as others. It is indeed difficult to aim for identifying areas for collaborations in between people who have painful memories about what have happened in the past, and an event as the planned can only be a very small part in a process adding to related efforts conducted in other contexts. We can however stipulate some frames for the discussions at the seminar/workshop.





Objectives:

- To facilitate the building of trust by bringing people together.
- To testify their present experiences and identify possible ways forward
- Encouraging for further discussion within different groups on their own initiative.


Preparations:

One month before the seminar/workshop meetings are held with some of the interested groups as represented by NGOs/CSOs or other relevant bodies or single individuals in order to prepare themes to be addressed in the panel discussions. Our present knowledge leads us to address a) Cases of Successes of Reconciliation in NE India – what to do and not to do. Special emphasis will be given to possibilities of collaboration in arts and heritage and its meaning in reconciliation b) Languages and education in reconciliation – the creation of mutual respect; c) Women's representation in conflict reconciliation; and d) ways forward of establishing peace and security in the region.

Among the possible issues in a) Identification of processes pointing towards reconciliation and limits in reconciliation. Collaboration in the registration and circulation of joined cultural heritage in folklore and archives of memory. This may include collaboration between different organizations belonging to different communities and consultation of the files of the Anthropological Survey of India as well as Indian Museum. b) collection of successes and bottlenecks in the organization of education in the BTC. c) Females are often essential actors for peace and reconciliation even if their experiences and extended recovery after terror may be forgotten in later analysis. There is need to focus on core themes as seen by women belonging to different communities to identify ways of collaboration. d) issues of personal security transgressing different communities will be identified and emphasized.

The Seminar/Workshop

The seminar/workshop will consist of public seminar for the public on the first day followed by closed workshops in the afternoon and the following day focussing on issues carefully selected from the themes given above. The participants in the workshops will participate after invitation, but it is important to keep the workshops open for key persons representing certain groups in any way as well as for specialists who may want to participate. The workshops will be introduced by researchers and resource persons identifying experiences of reconciliation that will open for panel discussion and the floor. These panels will have to be strongly convened, in order to keep the focus on experiences reports as well as promises of collaboration on issues will have to be recorded to sustain the process in the future. The second day will end with a public performance of music for reconciliation, pointing towards reconciliation through collaboration in arts.



Day One

Morning

Processes of Reconciliation - Public

Scholars and other specialists present theories on the change from conflict to reconciliation. Part of this will be from the political science position considering different types of reconciliation processes and considering where BTC may be situated in such typologies. The focus will be on approaches relevant to understand and strengthen processes of reconciliation in the BTC rather than on general theories. Relevant comparative experiences from the Northeast are presented for inspiration by activists and/or scholars.

Day One Afternoon and Day Two – Panels and Workshops – Invited Guests

Only for invited guests selected to obtain a broad representation of different interests and experiences. The process of issuing invitations to is initiated; and from will be followed up by meetings paring representatives from different groups from September in identify productive issues for their discussions as well as issues of general interest.

Outcomes

The main objective is to further contacts and collaboration between different groups in the BTC in order to further the many other initiatives for reconciliation. In order to reach these aims a souvenir will be prepared with a few of the presentations and last, but not least, statements on how far some of the workshops have reached in identifying issues for further collaboration.

The seminar/workshop is sponsored and convened by the institutions as mentioned below. Relevant parts of the inputs will be presented in an edited volume to be published in English by an established Indian publishing house.

❖ **Funding Agency: Education Department, Govt. of BTR**

❖ **Host Institution: Bodoland University**

❖ Collaborating Institutions/Organizations:

- Department of Political Science, Bodoland University, BTR, Assam
- Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, Bodoland University, BTR, Assam
- Department of History, Bodoland University
- Department of English, Bodoland University
- Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Natives' Institute of Bodology, Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam
- Department of Folklore, Gauhati University, Assam
- Pandu College, Guwahati, Assam

Special Invitees

Sjt. Pramod Boro
Hon'ble (CEM), BTR, Assam
(Chief Guest)



Prof. (Dr.) B.L. Ahuja
Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University



Sjt. Gobinda Chandra Basumatary
Hon'ble Dy. CEM, BTR



Sjt. Urkhao Gwra Brahma
Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, GoA



Dr. Peter B. Andersen

Associate Professor
Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies
University of Copenhagen, Denmark



Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika

International Director of the Commonwealth Human
Rights Initiative
Former Director of the Centre for Northeast Studies
and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia



Mr. Dipen Boro

President
All Bodo Students Union



Dr. Kamal Kumar Tanti

Poet, Writer
Assistant Professor
Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya



Mr. Khwrwmdao Wary

Vice President
All Bodo Students Union



Mr. Ranjit Basumatary
Hon'ble EM, BTR, Assam



Mr. Wilson Hasda
Hon'ble EM, BTR, Assam



Mr. Rajen Singh
Superintendent of Police, Golaghat, Assam



Moderator

Prof. Sanghamitra Choudhury

HoD Pol. Science &
Dean School of Social Sciences
Bodoland University



Mr. Digambar Narzary

Chairperson
NEEDAN Foundation, Kokrajhar



Mr. Raju Narzary

Executive Director
NERSWN NGO, Kokrajhar



Prof. Anil Boro

Dept. of Folklore Research
Gauhati University



Dr. Z. Khiangte
Asstt. Professor
Dept. of English, Bodoland University



Mr. Preetam Brahma Choudhury
Senior Journalist, Kokrajhar Press Club, BTR, Assam



Panelist

Ms. Shabana Ahmed
Social Worker



Mr. Morin Daimary
Development Professional
Programme Manager Bodoland Happiness Mission



<p>Dr. Romeo Rwtin Lokobok Adviser of All Rabha Students Union (Central Committee) Assistant Professor at Janata College, Serfanguri.</p>	
<p>Mr. Monjib Mochahari Assistant Professor (Senior) Dept. of Mass Communication Assam Don Bosco University</p>	
<p>Dr. Bibharani Swargiary, Assistant Professor (Senior) Dept. of Social Work Assam Don Bosco University</p>	
<p>Ms. Priskila Basumatary SDLC Member (Gossaigaon Sub Division) Sub Divisional Level committee member (Forest Right Committee and Social worker)</p>	

Plenary Speakers

Mr. Nilakanta Goyary
General Secretary
Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS)



Mr. Sanjib Tanti
Hon'ble EM, BTR, Assam



Mr. Madhav Chetry
Hon'ble MCLA, BTR, Assam



Ms. Paulina Ekka

Social Worker



Ms. Pratibha Brahma

Chairperson, Kokrajhar Municipal Board and
Social Worker



Ms. Tarulata Tangoi

President
All Rabha Womens Council, Kokrajhar



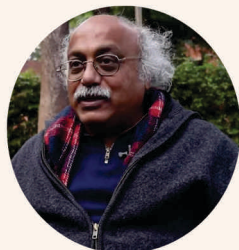
Prof. Madhurjya Prasad Bezbaruah

Retd. Prof. GU



Prof. Rakesh Batabayal

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



Mr. Rejaul Karim Sarkar
President
All Muslim Students Union



Ms. Sushmita Goswami
President, Guwahati Press Club



Mr. Anirban Roy
Editor in Chief
Northeast Now, Guwahati



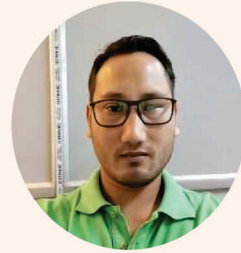
Dr. Samarjit Kachari
Asst. Prof. Pondicherry University



Ms. Monalisa Sarma
Senior Journalist
Kokrajhar Press Club



Dr. Anirudha Kumar Boro
Asst. Prof. Pandu College, Guwahati



Mr. Bimal Kumar Hembrom
President
All Santhal Students Union



Mr. Shorjun Hanse
General Secretary (i/c), AASU





Abstarct

Reconciliation in Bodoland Territorial Region seen from outside

Dr. Peter B. Andersen

Associate Professor

Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

University of Copenhagen


After the 2020 Peace Accord in the Bodoland Territorial Region in India militants have laid down their weapons and peace have been established after more than half a century of severe , often armed conflicts. There is though a waste difference between a stable peace and reconciliation. A process the Bodoland Territorial Council aims at strengthening in collaboration with civil society actors and educational institutions.

In an abstract form there is need for institutional community building addressing a new and changed community, integrated socio-cultural development, equal empowerment of the different interest groups together with mechanisms to address the past and an effective government to carry the initiatives through.

In a concrete form the different groups in the conflict need to feel represented in the political system, and to feel that their interests are legitimately addressed. The educational system must be restructured in a way where the cultures and languages of the groups are included in apt ways. This means strengthening the cultures and languages in the curriculum as well as aiming at creating a unified culture where individuals belonging to different groups can identify.

The paper will emphasize the many, often conflicting interests for some of these groups: Bodos, Santals, Raj Bonsis, Muslims and Assamese. That regards sustenance of languages and cultures as inclusion in the educational system, as well as the formal creation of safety, sometimes through land rights, sometimes to the many other means provided by The Indian Constitution.

These are issues which will be discussed in the other lectures and indeed in the following panel discussions where representatives for many of the involved groups have been invited. Not to look back, but to identify issues of common interest. If these issues were easy to solve, they had been solved long ago, so we cannot aim at conclusive statements, but at identification of issues for further work.





Abstarct

Considerations on the establishment of peace and the needed provisions for stability.

Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika

International director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
Former Director of the Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research
Jamia Millia Islamia

On the background of cases from Mizo Hills (now Mizoram) (March 5, 1966) and the following pacification of guerillas leading to displacement of lakhs of people, the paper will address for establishment of peace.

In conditions of conflict, several conditions are necessary for the establishment of peace and for its sustenance. These include a combination of ground realities and political vision. The first is that political challenges cannot be resolved through the barrel of a gun. This is the experience not just in India but in other parts of the country and the world. The second is that political accommodation needs to be embrace economic, social and historical concerns – thus elements of innovation need to come in. The Indian State has shown that such unique initiatives depend on significant flexibility. That is because flexibility is built into the Constitutional process. But there are drawbacks also which we shall consider.

One is the division among rebel or resistance groups which erupts when they are faced with the challenge of laying down weapons and accepting a constitutional process. A fourth is where many agreements have failed: there has been little effort to heal the trauma that so many combatants, their families but primarily ordinary people have suffered for so long, Post Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) which manifests itself in many ways and ensures that the enduring nightmares continue. Another key issue is the continuance of legislation that bestows arbitrary powers on the State and its actors, protecting them from legal action.





Abstract

Adivasi Perspectives on Reconciliation in BTR: A Call for Collaboration.

Dr. Kamal Kumar Tanti

Dept. of Physics, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya
Centre for Environment and Climate Action Foundation, Guwahati

The BTR region has witnessed a tumultuous history marked by conflict and displacement. Reconciliation is a crucial and key step towards healing the wounds, thereby fostering a harmonious coexistence among diverse communities. Adivasi communities of this region have been deeply impacted by these events and are committed to play a pivotal role in the reconciliation process. Despite significant efforts, the reconciliation process in BTR still remains incomplete. While there have been some positive developments, there are challenges persist in terms of trust-building, land restitution, and addressing the socio-economic disparities faced by Adivasi communities. The lack of meaningful participation of Adivasi voices in decision-making processes has also hindered the progress of reconciliation. In this paper, I propose a comprehensive approach to reconciliation that centers on the experiences and perspectives of Adivasis of this region. This includes: (a) Empowering Adivasi communities to drive reconciliation efforts through grassroots initiatives, such as peace building workshops, cultural exchanges, and conflict resolution mechanisms. (b) Ensuring the return of ancestral lands to Adivasi communities to restore their cultural identity and livelihoods. (c) Strengthening Adivasi representation in decision-making bodies to ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed. (d) Promoting education and awareness about Adivasi history, culture, and rights to foster understanding and respect among all communities. 2 Reconciliation in BTR is a complex process that requires a multifaceted approach. By centering the voices and experiences of Adivasis, we can build a more inclusive and equitable future for all. I urge researchers and civil society organizations to collaborate with Adivasi communities to develop effective strategies for reconciliation and ensure that our collective aspirations are realized.





Abstract

Civil Society Role in Reconciliation and Peace Building in BTR

Dr. Digambar Narzary

Chairperson Nedan Foundation

The North East region of India, comprising eight states, has been a hotbed for ethnic conflicts, insurgency, and violence, particularly in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The conflicts often stem from political, social, and economic disputes rooted in ethnic identity, migration, and land encroachment. BTR, which includes the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Udalguri, and Baksa, has witnessed protracted insurgencies and violent clashes, leading to large-scale displacement, most notably between Bodos and other communities like Muslims and Santhals. Over 400,000 people were displaced during clashes in 2012 alone. Such conflicts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including women and children, leading to psychological trauma, loss of livelihood, and a breakdown of trust within communities. Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in promoting peace through dialogue, coexistence, and addressing root causes. However, the scale of the problem requires sustained efforts from both government and civil society to rebuild trust and foster long-term reconciliation.





Abstract

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN BODOLAND TERRITORIAL REGION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Jhanin Mushahary

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science

Bodoland University

[Email: jhanin14@gmail.com](mailto:jhanin14@gmail.com)

The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam, India has once emerged as a significant area of ethnic tensions and socio-political unrest, arising from historical grievances and the aspirations for autonomy among indigenous communities. This paper explores the intricate dynamics of peace and reconciliation in the BTR, highlighting the multifaceted issues and challenges that impede progress. Key factors include lingering mistrust among ethnic groups, socio-economic disparities, and the impact of armed conflict. The role of governance, civil society, and community engagement in fostering dialogue and building trust is critically examined. Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of inclusive policies that address historical injustices and promote equitable development. The sustainable peace and reconciliation among communities in the BTR can be achieved with the comprehensive approach that integrates local voices, enhances socio-economic opportunities, and reinforces the rule of law.

Keywords: Peace, Reconciliation, Equitable Development, Rule of Law





Abstract

Towards Lasting Peace: Reconciliation Processes and Violence Mitigation in BTR after 2020

Dr. Aniruddha Kumar Baro

Assistant Professor,
Department of Political Science
Pandu College, Guwahati 12

Northeast India has long grappled with separatist violence, hindering its democratic development. The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) exemplifies this challenge. From its post-independence inception, the region has experienced successive waves of ethnic strife and violent movements, transitioning from democratic protests to extremist separatist activities led by groups like the NDFB and BLT. State responses evolved over time, marked by initial failed agreements like the 1993 BAC and eventual territorial autonomy granted in 2003, which, albeit decentralizing power, accentuated ethnic and political divisions. The culmination of state action came in 2020 with the establishment of the Bodoland Territorial Region, granting greater autonomy to the region. Notably, the reduction in violence post-2020 can be attributed to the proactive measures of the BTR government structure and the leadership's commitment to nonviolent means in advancing the goals of the Bodo community. Drawing on interviews and qualitative analysis conducted in the Bodoland area of Assam, this paper seeks to analyze the reconciliation process and violence mitigation efforts in the post-2020 decentralized BTR region. Through this examination, it endeavors to shed light on the evolving dynamics of violence and peace-building initiatives in the region.

Keywords: Violence, peace, reconciliation, BTR, decentralization





Abstract

Women and Conflict Transformation in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Assam

Prof. Sanghamitra Choudhury

HoD, Political Science

Dean School of Social Sciences, Bodoland University, Assam

The involvement of women in conflict transformation, especially in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in Assam, has been a multifaceted and dynamic issue. BTR, historically impacted by ethnic violence, insurgency, and identity-based conflicts, has witnessed an active involvement towards conflict transformation and social rebuilding. Notwithstanding their substantial contributions, women's involvement in formal peace discussions and political decision-making remains constrained.

This study investigates the diverse roles of women in conflict transformation within BTR, emphasising their contributions to peace, reconciliation, and community reconstruction. It examines how women, frequently viewed as victims, have actively influenced non-violent resistance, engaged in grassroots peace initiatives, and fostered conversations between opposing ethnic groups. The research underscores women's participation in conflict transformation through a case study conducted in Tamulpur area whereby the rural women provided community-based assistance to populations affected by conflict.

The study examines the structural obstacles women encounter in attaining leadership positions in peace negotiations and policy-making, focussing on gender disparities and the impact of local cultural norms on their agency. It underscores the necessity for inclusive conflict transformation frameworks that acknowledge women not merely as beneficiaries of peace but as pivotal agents of change. The findings indicate that although women have significantly contributed to grassroots conflict transformation in BTR, there is a necessity for enhanced acknowledgement and incorporation of their viewpoints in formal peace processes to guarantee sustainable peace and development in the region.

Keywords: Assam, Bodoland, Conflict Transformation, Peace, Women



Abstract

Transformative Higher Education in Assam: NEP 2020 and 'Gunotsav 2024'

Prof. Sanghamitra Choudhury

HoD, Dept. of Political science, Dean School of Social Sciences.

Mr. Ranjan K Baruah

Career mentor and skill trainer and advisor,
Skill development and entrepreneurship Dept. of BTC, Assam

The Assam State Government, led by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, has initiated a transformative reform in the higher education system by launching the Model Framework of the National New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) programmes in June 2023. This reform aims to align education with the demands of the 21st century and reflects India's aspirations to become a knowledge and technology-driven modern society. Emphasising the cultural richness of India, the state government advocates instilling education through the ideologies of Shankaracharya, focusing on listening, self-study, recollection, and deeper contemplation. The government has established the NEP Implementation Cell and a Monitoring Committee, along with a State-Level Quality Assurance Cell for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Accreditation. Various initiatives, including workshops and training programs, have been undertaken to orient faculty and institutions towards NEP. The transition is portrayed as quality-driven, holistic, and democratic, marking a paradigm shift in higher education perception. Simultaneously, the government launched 'Gunotsav 2024', a comprehensive statewide assessment to evaluate the performance of around 40 lakh students in government schools across 35 districts. This initiative, involving external evaluators, aims to identify learning gaps and enhance the overall quality of education. Minister for Education, Ranoj Pegu, highlights the assessment's role in ensuring quality education with grade-specific outcomes and evaluating schools across various domains. The importance of Universal Elementary Education (UEE) is acknowledged, and the Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009, provides a legal framework for equitable education. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the main program for universalising elementary education, focusing on universal access, gender and social category gap bridging, and enhancing learning levels through various interventions. Overall, these initiatives represent a concerted effort by the Assam State Government to bring about structural changes and improve the quality of education at both the higher and elementary levels, reflecting a commitment to a brighter educational future for the state.

Keywords: Assam, Education Policy, Gunotsav, Higher Education, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).



Abstract

Conflict – Induced Displacement: The Issues and Challenges of Reconciliation and Integration of Displaced People in BTR (Assam)

Mr. Solomon Islary,

Research Scholar, Dept. of Political Science
Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, India.

Email: islary1984@gmail.com

Prof. Jyotiraj Pathak.


Professor in Dept. of Political Science.

Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, India.

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Conflict-induced displacement presents a pressing humanitarian crisis globally, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in India is one such region that is facing this unique challenges. This paper examines the gravity of internally displaced persons within BTR. The paper critically assesses the challenges inherent in relocation efforts, including access to essential services, livelihood restoration, social integration, and psychological well-being. Furthermore, it explores potential strategies for effective relocation and integration, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive resettlement programs, development-oriented approaches, psychosocial support, and community engagement. The paper underscores the need for coordinated efforts between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to ensure the safety, security, and sustainable reintegration of displaced populations in BTR. By analyzing these critical aspects, this paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of conflict-induced displacement and advocate for policies that prioritize the rights and dignity of Internally Displaced Peoples, (IDPs,) fostering a future of peace and stability in BTR.

Keywords: Conflict, Displacement, Issues, Challenges, Relocation, Integration and BTR (Assam)





PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS ORGANISATIONS

- ALL BODO STUDENTS UNION
 - ALL SANTHAL STUDENTS UNION
 - BTR SC STUDENTS' UNION
 - BTR GORKHA SAMAJ
 - ALL MADAHAI KACHARI STUDENTS' UNION
 - ASSAM ODIA YUVA CHATRA PARISHAD
 - ALL ASSAM SARANIA KACHARI STUDENTS UNION
 - ALL BTR NATH YOGI STUDENTS UNION
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 - ALL BTR ANUSUCHIT JATI PARISHAD
 - ALL KURUK (ORAON) STUDENTS UNION, BTR
 - ALL RABHA STUDENTS UNION
 - ALL HAJONG STUDENTS UNION
 - ALL BARMAN MANDAI STUDENTS UNION
 - ALL KOCH RAJBONSHI STUDENTS UNION BTR COMMITTEE
 - ALL ASSAM BENGALI YOUTH AND STUDENTS FEDERATION
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 - ALL RABHA WOMEN COUNCIL(KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT)
 - ALL BARMAN KACHARI JATIYA EKYA MANCH
 - KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT GARO STUDENTS UNION
 - MSUA
 - BTR KEOT JATIYA PARISHAD
 - BHOJPURI SOMAJH
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Mr. Ferenga Narzary

Mr. Biliphang Basumatary

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