

CHAPTER V

Summary and Conclusion

The year 2000 witnessed redrawing of the Indian territories with its internal boundaries, which has resulted in the formation of three states in the northern half of the country. Jharkhand was divided from Bihar, Chattisgarh was formed out of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand was made out of Uttar Pradesh. The demands for separate states have come from across the country—for Kukiland in Manipur to Kongu Nadu in Tamil Nadu, for Kamatapur in North Bengal to Tulu Nadu in Karnataka. Other statehood demands come from Awadh Pradesh and Bhojpur (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar), Bodoland (Assam), Bundelkhand (Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh), Coorg (Karnataka), Harit Pradesh (Western Uttar Pradesh), Konkan Pradesh (Konkan region), Marathwada (Maharashtra), Mahakoshal (Odisha), Mithilachal (Bihar), Muru Pradesh (Rajasthan), Poorvanchal (Uttar Pradesh), Saurashtra (Gujarat), Vidarbha (Maharashtra), and so on. These regions having different regional identity on the line of region, language, culture, caste and class now pose a grave challenge to the Indian federalism. The time barely needs a second States Reorganization Commission to address these issues.

However our research problem that we have dealt so far, began with the stated objective of dealing with the nature and outcome of the interaction between an organised political movement in our case viz. the Gorkhaland and Telengana movement and its relation with the structure and agencies of state mainly in the context of India, political parties, government in power and parliamentary system of politics. In respect of both the movements to understand the idea of culture or identity as a foundation for political mobilization. To have a deeper understanding of the relationship between the leadership of the movement and the government.

While investigating and finding answers to our research questions, the study has been made under five chapters. In the beginning Chapter I dealing with the theoretical framework of our comparative methods to be used while finding answers to the questions with an outlined methodology has been detailed while in Chapter II and Chapter III a detailed historical and political evolution of the Gorkhaland and Telengana movements respectively has been showcased. Chapter IV is focussing on the comparative analysis of similarities and differences

between the Gorkhaland and Telengana movements and finally Chapter V is drawing a summary and conclusion of the undertaken research work.

India is a complex plural country consisting of a number of identities. One of the most important phenomena is the emergence of regional movements in India. The proposed work has taken two such regional movements under study namely the Gorkhaland and the Telengana movement demanding separate statehood taking into account the relationship between different factors working within a political process. Telengana and Gorkhaland movement have different outcome, Telengana has successfully become a separate state where as Gorkhaland demand still exists which is already discussed in chapter II.

Moreover, the announcement of Telengana has acted as a stimulator to those agitating for similar demands in different parts of the country. Demands for Bodoland, comprising Bodo dominated areas in Assam, intensified with supporters calling for an economic powercut. One of the complexities of India is its population, for instance India has five states namely Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh each with populations larger than Europe's largest nation, Germany, which has 80 million citizens. The western state of Maharashtra has almost twice as many people as Europe's second largest nation, France. Even the country's sixteenth largest state, Haryana, has more people than Australia. It is evidently on this basis many scholars view that India needs many more small states. However the Indian case cannot be cited out of calculations because of its inherent diversities and complexities where any experiment may lead to astonishing outcome.

So far as the Gorkhaland movement is concerned, even though the GTA is signed, the voices demanding Gorkhaland refuse to die down. For fear of repercussion, the signatory party to the GTA keeps harping about Gorkhaland and making unclear statements about both the GTA and Gorkhaland. Besides being seen as a major climb-down from the demand for a state, the agreement is also perceived as a betrayal of the peoples' aspiration of a state of their own. Dooars, of course, continues to simmer. The history of the movement and the responses to the movement clearly point up that the demand is for nothing diminutive of a full-fledged state and that any other administrative arrangement will only be unsuccessful. As long as the complete

power to legislate is not made available to the people of the region all arrangements will only prove to be provisional and useless.

Further more given that the Gorkhaland agitation is taking place in the strategically sensitive area of Siliguri location where the governmental authority needs to knob the situation carefully and earnestly, and must not allow the situation getting out of control. At the same time, it is important that before formulating a solution, it takes into consideration the sentimental aspiration of the people of the Hill district.

A closer assessment of the situation reveals that there is a growing consensus among the major political parties to grant statehood to the Hill people of Darjeeling District. It has been reported that both the Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party have extended their support to the GJM's demand for a separate State in November 2007. In addition, the Parliamentary Standing Committee to which the Bill was referred has advised the Indian government to take into account the "ground realities" before taking a decision.

It can be so stated that the Gorkhaland issue has gradually matured from a demand for a separate administrative set-up to full fledged statehood. The agitation in the 1986 was a violent one which to an extent was able to bring in notice the issue of Gorkhaland before the big shots and major political parties in the country. However the CPIM led West Bengal government dismissed the movement as a law and order problem. The demand for Gorkhaland had also led to the rise of regional upsurges particularly in the Doars Terai and Siliguri. A number of political and social organizations have since been formed to oppose the formation of Gorkhaland and some political parties are formed with the objective of attaining Gorkhaland. They include Jana Chetna, Bangla O bangle Bhasa Bachao Committee, Amra Bangali. The political parties formed which claim of attaining statehood are Gorkha Rastriya Congress, United Gorkha Revolutionary Front, Gorkha Liberation Organization, Sikkim Democratic Front and Bhartiya Gorkha Parishang.

Even though the GTA is signed, the voices demanding Gorkhaland decline to go dead down. For fear of repercussion, the participant party to the GTA keeps harping about Gorkhaland and making unclear statements about both the GTA and Gorkhaland. Besides being seen as a major drop from the demand for a state, the agreement is also perceived as a betrayal of the peoples' aspiration of a state of their own.

And so far as the Telengana movement is concerned there are certain factors which were favourable in the successful attainment of statehood. Firstly the UPA government had taken the demand seriously , moreover Smt Sonia Gandhi was in favour of separation. Secondly, the BJP main opposition party also supported the demand for separate state. Moreover Chandra Babu Naidu and his allies were out of power. All political parties except CPM were in favour of separation. Lastly there was a soft Chief Minister in the state and in such circumstances KCR took the opportunity and plunged into action.

Autonomous area council failures and success:

The formation of linguistic state created linguistic minorities, practically in every part of the country. This created majority phobia and many states and aggressive majoritism in many small pockets of the country. It has worked to disturbed the pluri-social formations and pluri-social ethos of Indian society. The same phenomenon was repeated in ethnic states. A large percentage of population suffered likewise in the new setup. Aggressive minoritism, however, is a new phenomenon in many respect. The Indian states should realize to think in terms of the people of the area and not in the terms of the significance of a vocal aggressive group. The state shall become out of control if every group starts speaking through violent means using weapons. We should aim at integration and the interest of non aggressive groups should never be ignored.

The formation of DGHC failed to satisfy the people of the region. Some of the reasons are as follows:

- i. It failed to conduct Panchayat elections in spite of repeated request by the WB Government. Cases of financial disorderliness and non performing work culture had the demoralizing effect.
- ii. Some politicians involved in running the council do not want its success. They wanted councils as the stepping stones for full fledged statehood.

It should be the endeavor to see that the autonomous area council succeed in achieving the desired level of developmental goals. This success of the experiment shall help in curving the mad race of state demands to a large extent.

We should learn from the functioning of small states before deciding on further reorganization of the country. The backward regions of the backward states have suffered for decades. Their development cannot wait.

Some of the points given below need serious consideration to avoid further complication in this matter:

- i. A council should be established to look forward with the regional demands so that hostility and the force of violence in the country is tamed.
- ii. There is a need for reorganization of territory but any further reorganization in the country should be based on balanced considerations and avoid majority language consideration.
- iii. The formation of new states should only be granted after thorough study of economic viability effect on the neighbouring regions and on regional development, its impact on other similar demands etc.
- iv. The economic non viable state should be reorganised.

The reason behind the people supporting this politicians and agitators of regionalism can be understood by the fact that, people of these regions face problems in everyday life in almost all aspects, education, employment, health and also identity. The country was divided into different regions for the ease of ruling by the Britishers and it is after independence the same policy is followed by the present era politicians by introducing their policy of regional development in the country at the cost of national development. However, the Pandora's box opened by the Telengana declaration is going to bring in more trouble which the Centre has to deal firmly in a way that sentiments of the regional people and diversity of the country is intact.

To sum up, I would like to point out the fact which was already stated that the same outcome cannot be expected between Telengana and Gorkhaland movement. However, the declaration of Telengana state has worked as an igniting context for the Gorkha agitators to make their demand ferocious but the context of their cannot be ignored on logical lines moreover, it may be pointed out that, certain conditions such as common culture and a distinct mother tongue largely helped to create a strong sense of regional identity among the people of a part, notwithstanding the formation of an integrated and united state in independent India. In addition to this, their

relatively backward socio-economic position in comparison to the people of other region created a sense of deprivation between them which may be material as well as psychological. The relative material deprivation in socio-economic terms coupled with the disaffection resulting political disadvantage contributed immensely to the growth of regionalism among the people of Telengana in Andhra Pradesh whereas the question of identity has clamored the Gorkhaland movement.

The big state model was broken after the formation of the state of Nagaland with small size and population. The economic viability was not questioned after that and many states emerging after that state were smaller in area as well as population. Most of the small states except Goa were economically non viable and needed serious doses of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for their plan as well as non plan expenses. Most of the small states emerged in North East India after its reorganization. Manipur and Tripura were the princely states during the preindependence period. Mizoram was a district of Assam, called the Lushai hills. Garo hills and the united Khasi and Jayantia hills emerged as Meghalaya.

Only two small states, located in other parts of the country were Sikkim and Goa. Both the states were merged in India and attained statehood in due course of time. The pattern and the trends of the formation of small states in India deferred considerably. The aim of protecting one's own cultural identity and in course it takes a form of exaggerated movement. A number of arguments have been heard about the problem of identity crises in this country and the need of protecting the identity of certain communities or group of people who claim to have a distinct identity from the rest.

The fact that the Indian society is averse to identity obliteration and tends to preserve the identity of numerous castes and tribes by the practice of endogamy is ignored. Moreover, it is necessary to create over employing state machineries for identity preservation so that no such groups are left ignored. However there are a number of developments in the country we need to think about the following particulars in this connection.

- i. Steps weren't taken by the ethnic states to improve and develop the tribal languages preset. We may say that the linguistic states were not genuine enough to develop the state

language. The states were not able to perform in a way so that the customary law and the customs and usage of tribal codes could be protected.

- ii. Despite of the fact that when desirable the people have no problem adopting foreign culture and habits and at the same time they have a feeling of threat of identity deprivation in their very own country. What is witnessed in our country is the forced and purposeful social and cultural isolation from the people of other region in order to develop one's own culture is what they call as identity protection.
- iii. The State's role in terms of the policies undertaken
- iv. Further more it can be so stated that peoples aspiration cannot be neglected but a larger interest should be looked and must not be forgotten that unity of the country and national integrity is more important.

The above mentioned recommendation however, does not guarantee or should not be taken as a final resolution of the question of demands for separate state. The argument is that the process is an open process with no question of a permanent settlement. There cannot be something called a permanent resolution to the problem, if it is, at all, taken as a problem, as diverse strategic relation are forged guided by different power considerations and position of different groups within a power network leading to better or not so good bargaining capability for the people rising up in demand.

In view of the diversity and complexity of the problems of regional development , as mentioned by C H Hanumantha Rao, it is necessary to have a standing National Commission on Regional Development for constantly examining the way of transfer of resource to these areas in the light of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission which would assemble the essential data on regional levels of development in order to review the growth of development and to explore innovations, organizational and otherwise, for greater transfer of resources as well as for their better absorption. The work done by such a National Commission on a continuing basis could considerably strengthen the bargaining power of the less-developed regions where a significant part of the country's none privileged live. However this arrangement also cannot be taken as a final solution to the problem of regionalism in India, yet arrangements of this kind can tame the force of any further occurrence of regional demands in the country.