

WOMEN IN BODO LAND AFTER ETHNIC CONFLICT

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This research looks on the post conflict situation of women in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD). Within two decades the people of BTAD witnesses ethnic conflict over more than 5 times between Bodo and Santhals and Bodo and Muslims. These conflicts resulted in internal displacement of thousands of innocent family. There were Bodo-Adivasi (Santhal) conflict of 1996, 1998 in Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon. Within a short span of two years 5.5 lakh was living in camps. Recently in July, 2012 clash between Bodo and Muslim rendered 2,50,000 homeless. When tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes following mob attacks and arson, many others were driven to relief camps by the fear of violence.

This type of conflict induced Internally Displaced people (IDP) faces human rights violation of various form. The condition of the women IDPs are the most vulnerable in such situation. As a woman they face additional human rights violation in the form of sexual violence and denial of safe motherhood. Medical or health facility is always questionable in IDP camps. In such situation pregnant women, lactating mother and children is the worse sufferer. There are many examples where woman give birth on tarpaulin sheet without any medical attendance. This research looks at the vulnerability of women in IDP camps and responsibility of state to protect their rights. Women are not safe from their male inmates. Women's privacy is not taken in to account in the infrastructure of the camp which is one of the most important reason behind sexual violence against women in the camps or near the camp area.

The rights of the conflict induced IDPs are not about prolonging any conflict as many trend suggest. Under international humanitarian laws, it implies right to physical safety, security and liberty and access to basic humanitarian services-adequate housing, food, health care, education and protection. At national level, it is about the duty of the state to protect its citizen and the right of the citizen to enjoy the right to life with dignity. Access to equal standard of basic humanitarian services that ensures human dignity is fundamental.

The main purpose of this research is to understand the exact condition of women in the IDP camps and use the information from the research for advocacy at different platforms for the protection of rights women IDPs.

For this research both primary and secondary data will be used. Interview of women IDP and sample survey of IDP camps will be conducted. And also media reports will be taken in to account.

This research will give an in depth situation analysis of the women IDPs. It will reveal how women become more vulnerable than men in such situation or how men take advantage of their vulnerability in the camps. It will also reveal the performance of state to rehabilitate them and ensure their fundamental rights.

This will be a study which will be very useful document for advocacy of rights of women taking shelter in IDP camps.