



ILLITERACY ATTRACTS NAXALISM : AN ANALYSIS OF NAXALITE ACTIVITY IN INDIA

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Abstract

The research paper tries to analyze the various causes of naxalite activities in India more specifically as illiteracy as the main reason for the rise of naxalism. According to 2011 census tribal population or adivasis constitute 8% of the total population. Even after such a good population in the country they remain the most vulnerable part of society as they are away from the mainstream. Due to improper implementation of government policies the adivasis support the Maoists group in order get their rights. Naxalism poses a serious threat to the internal security of the country which makes the country vulnerable to the external threats. In this research paper the author tries to answer as how can education bring multi facet development of the adivasis and how the can the problem of naxalism can be eradicated and bring peace, growth and harmony can be restored in the red corridors. The paper also suggest as what can be done to bring tribal population in the mainstream. In short, it is an attempt to analyze the importance of eradicating illiteracy in order to eradicate naxalism.

KEYWORDS – Naxalism, naxals, maoist , illiteracy, adivasis.

INTRODUCTION

In order to develop, maintain law and order, peace in a society education and learning is must. It is truly and rightly said that there is no development and growth of a country without people being educated. India has the capability to become superpower in upcoming years as it has majority population as youth and it has the largest democracy in the world. However, in spite of these factors India faces a lot serious internal security threat. In the year 2011, Dr Manhoman Singh pointed naxalism as the most serious threat to the country's prosperity. The term naxalism has its origin from the Naxalbari village of West Bengal. The naxal activity traces its origin from the 1967 when local tribal group of people revolted against the oppression and

exploitation of landlords. It is based on the idealistic principle and teaching of Mao Zedong of China. The leader of party Marxist-Leninist , Charu Majumdar initiated and led the naxal movement in Darjeeling District of West Bengal. He formed independent military groups with the local tribal villagers to fight against the landlords and overpower the government. This movement acquired the support of large number of tribal population as they were oppressed class wanted to restore their land rights. This movement gained its momentum and spread across other parts of counties, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh , Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra as these areas have considerable amount of indigenous tribal population, those who are far reached from development. The Maoists aim to overpower the government. The part of country where naxalite insurgency is present is called the Red Corridors or the Red Zone. These regions are mainly forest-rich , coal and mining rich and are situated far away from the reach of state government. In present day the naxalite are engaged in various illegal activities such as killings , poaching , smuggling etc.

They pose serious threat to the state, they attack police stations, police training schools, election booths. Let us discuss some of the major gruesome naxal attacks that took place. The country faced most internal security threat between the year 2006 -2010. In Jharkhand a total number of 405 independent attacks took place in 2008 that resulted in 286 deaths. In the gruesome attack of 2007 a total number of 39 police force were killed, the dsp was also killed in the naxal attack. In the same year Naxals killed 37 innocent people in the year 2007 on the pretext of being police informers. Similar, incidences took place in other states too. 75 CRPF personnel were killed in the Dantewada district attack in the year 2010. According to Unlawful Activities Prevention Act of 1967, all the naxal groups are considered as terrorist organisation as their main aim is to overpower government by violent means and establish their own reign. In the year 2017, the naxalites killed almost 25 CRPF personnel and 7 of them were seriously injured in a gruesome naxal attack that took place in Sukma district of Chattisgarh. In the same attack almost 10 to 12 naxal were killed and shot dead. In the same year , again twelve CRPF personnel were killed in the naxal attack. In the year 2017, the Maoists bombarded the police vehicle which was carrying about 13 passengers out of which 7 police officers were killed. In the year 2010, the naxals attacked the army camps in Silda district of West Bengal wherein 20 army officers were killed.

Review of literature

1. Aishwarya Diwan ,Rajanandini Shukla , **Education to bridge socio-economic gap: In context to naxalism in India.**

In this research paper the writer tries to dwell upon the education as the key to curb naxalism in India. The research paper deals with various causes as to how and why naxalism begin in India. It deals with poverty, caste system , forest acquisition as the main reason for the rise of naxalism. However, the paper doesn't clearly explain the historical background of naxalism and in depth explanation of the causes of naxalism as to why naxalism emerged in India. The key highlight of the research paper is that how education can play important role to stop naxal movement. It also tries to bridge the gap between naxalism and education . The later part of the paper also deals with the steps that are taken up by the government to stop naxal activities. It also deals with the conversation of surrendered naxalite. In conversation with surrendered naxalite we come to know that schools in the village are in dire condition and naxalites have good control over the school. The reason why the ex naxalite surrendered is that his own brother was killed by the naxalite group. Coming to the last part of the research the author suggested that government should work upon and try to achieve sustainable development of classes.

2. Dr DeomanS.Umbarkar , conflict, violence, causes and effects of Naxalism: In vidharbha ,Epra international journal of multidisciplinary Research, Volume 5,Issue 11, Issn number 2455-3622

This paper discusses about in depth origin of naxal movement in India. It talks about hoe did naxalism got it's name from a rebellion that started in naxalbari of West Bengal. A person named Kanu Sanyal started this movement from Siliguri on may 18, 1967. It also tends to find a similarity between terrorism and naxalism by analysing their ultimate goal as creating fear in the minds of people. The paper has state wise bifurcated the districts wherein the problem of naxalismexists . The author has exhaustively discussed the problems pertaining to naxalism in vidharbha region of Maharashtra. It also tries to compare the naxal movement in Bengal with that of Maharashtra . The paper lacks in explaining the causes of naxalite movement. However, it has done justice in explaining the effects of Naxalism in the economy of the country.It correctly points out as to how the GPD of the country gets affected due such naxalmovements. The key highlight of the journal is the problems faced by the locals due to naxal activities. The children of the villagers are forced to join naxal schools. The locals are kidnapped, murdered and raped if they don't cope with naxalites. The naxalites are provided money , arms and acquisitions by the local leaders . The concluding part of the research paper deals with the ways or the actions that must be taken up by the government to restrict the naxal movement and to win the trust of locals. The paper lastly suggests that the government and the society should work hand in hand to suppress naxalism.

3. Lakshmi Pandey: Issues and Challenges by tribal youths an Empirical Study

The paper aims to identify the problems in the various facets of life that are faced by

the tribal youths. The author of the paper conducted a sample based research methodology in the Santhal Pargana districts of Jharkhand. This research was conducted in a group containing of 100 Schedule tribe youths and 100 non tribal youths. The studies suggest that the main issue that are faced by the tribal youths in terms of education are lack of proper schools in tribal areas. Also, there is significant difference of literacy rate between Schedule Tribe men and women. Also, there is a major gap in context to literacy between people falling in the category of Schedule caste and Schedule tribes. School dropouts are very high in tribal areas. The tribal population can be also divided in a group of two 1. Those who is away from mainstream and lives a primitive live 2. Those who are connected to mainstream. The group that are connected to mainstream doesn't face as many problems as faced by the groups that lead a primitive life. The tribal group that are still forest dwellers doesn't have access to basic needs like hospitals and health care. The study suggests that due to lack of education and employment the tribal people are engaged in malpractice of witchcraft, domestic violence, child marriage, Wife exchange etc. The government has tried to implement various policy to uplift tribal people still a lot of work needs to be done.

4. Rajat Kumar Kujur, Naxal conflict in 2008 : an assessment

In this paper the author assess the various naxalite activities that took place in different part of country in the year 2007- 2008. The naxalite activities took place through three modes namely - mobile warfare , marine warfare and communal warfare. Talking about naxal violence that took place in Orissa. A total number of 132 deaths got reported in orissa due to naxalite activity. Some of the gruesome attacks thst took place include attack in police training school in the armory district of orissa and a marine attack that took place in Malkangiri district. The maoist , along with four others also killed Swami Laxmanand Saraswati who was the leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad . This incident took place in Kandhamal district of orissa that let to formulation of two different maoist group in orissamaoistgroup. Discussing about the naxal activity of chattisgarh. It is one the most naxalite affected states . In the year 2008, about 261 death took place in chattisgarh due to naxal activity. Talking about the naxal violence in Jharkhand, we come to know

that about 286 people were killed in naxal violence in the year 2008. In Jharkhand there are total six major maoist groups. The naxalites are spread in the mining belts of Jharkhand. The paper also talks about the various initiatives taken up by the government to curb naxalite movement but due to lack of proper coordination between state and central government these initiatives couldn't be implemented properly. In this

study the author fails in explaining as what couldn't be done in order to curb the naxalite activity taking place and how parity can be brought between central and state government

5. ¹DR Abid Ali and Dr Sant Lal, Naxalite movement in India: Causes and Solutions ,International Journal of Informative and Futuristic Approach Research, Volume-2, Issue-8. ISSN NUMBER- 2347-1697

The main objective of this paper is to find the root cause of naxalism in present times. The author has taken up secondary research methodology. The paper talks about the current position of locals in the tribal affected areas and how they are pressurized from both the sides ,i.e, government and the naxalite group in the name of development. The author also tries to figure out the main causes of naxalism. However, has failed to give a clear explanation of the same. The paper also deals with the various legislative measures that are taken up by the government to curb naxalism . The paper suggests us that in order to solve the problem of naxalism multi level development shall take place.

6. Beatrice Gorawantschy and Martin Mourice Bohme, India Internal and External Security- current challenges to the government

The paper enormously the origin of the maoism. It deals with the problems that maoist cause in red corridor area. They extort money from businessman . They kill innocent people if they deny supporting the maoist group. The paper makes us understand that how naxalism poses serious internal threat. It is important for the government to curb internal threat as it is equally important to curb external threats. The author provides us in depth explanation of relationship between India and neighbouring countries. India shares a friendly relation with Nepal and Bhutan but on the other hand India shares hostile relationship with Pakistan and China. If there exists tensions in outside the country then the peace of our nation will also be disturbed. The paper lacks in providing us the suggestions as what could be done to restrict serious internal and external threat.

Hypothesis

This research paper would show how by increasing literacy rates in tribal would help them fight naxalism within there community. It also deals with how education acts as a catalyst in decreasing the impact of naxalism in an area.

¹Ali, A., & Lal, S. (Year). Naxalite Movement in India: Causes and Solutions. International Journal of Informative and Futuristic Approach Research, Volume-2, Issue-8, ISSN NUMBER- 2347- 1697.

Research objectives

1. To understand the role of illiteracy in having persistent naxalism over the years.
2. To understand whether the current legislation is sufficient in curbing the problem of naxalism.
3. To come up with various suggestions that would help in curbing naxalism.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

This research paper deals with tribals blindly believing the Naxalites due to illiteracy amongst them, their lack of knowledge and social and economic backwardness have made them likely unknown victims to Naxal problems.

Research methodology

The research methodology used for this research paper is doctrinal, for that we have relied upon two sources namely

1. Primary sources such as statutes, case laws.
2. Secondary sources such articles , standard text books.

Causes of Naxalism:

The root cause of naxalism is the social deprivation and exploitation that are faced by the tribal population.

1. Zamindari System :The tribals were deprived of their land rights. Before the abolition of Zamindari System. The Zamindars or the landlords made the poor peasants to cultivate and till their land in exchange of some share of the crops produced. The poor peasants were immensely exploited through this. They got almost nothing in return of their hard labour in the fields.
2. Poorly drafted legislation and lack of proper implementation: The faulty drafts of various environment legislation has created various social disparity. The forest act declared certain forests as reserved forests which deprived tribal people of their native lands. Tribal people mainly depended upon collecting fruits and hunting animals. Thus, Reservation of forest took their livelihood. Also, improper implementation of government policies has created a lot of disparity. Government came up with policies like MNNAREGA ,MID-DAY meals for the upliftmen of masses but due to corruption and lack of proper supervision.

3. Poverty: as tribal people reside in the remote villages. They are hardly provided with any employment opportunity. So, they become vulnerable group who can be easily manipulated. Dalits and tribal people are more prone in joining naxal group as they are given greed of money. They join naxalite group and indulge in illegal activities like poaching, kidnapping and smuggling.
4. Resettlement and Rehabilitation: The tribal population are easily defrauded in the name of development, rehabilitation and resettlement. Land from the tribals are taken in order to develop and industrialize that area and they are promised that they would be given compensation but in reality no such compensation is given to them. In order to get their revenge they join hands with naxals and as a result they get exploited from both the sides.
5. Lack of industrialization and development : The tribal people live in remote dense forest which are far from industrialization and development. They suffer even for getting access to basic needs. As a result they become easy target group in the name of revolution and radicalisation.

Illiteracy and Naxalism

The development and growth of the society is directly proportional to the educational status of the society. Education brings awareness and comprehension in the society. For sustainable development of a society education is the key. 86th amendment of the Indian Constitution in 2002, inserted Article 21-A that mandates free and compulsory education for the children of age group between 6 to 14 years. The literacy rate of India has significantly increased post independence. Also, there was a significant improvement in the literacy status of the tribals. The literacy rate of the Tribals in 1971 was found to be 8.53% and in 2011 was found to be 58.96%. However, the literacy gaps the male member of schedule tribe and female still remains the same. A survey conducted by Annual Status Education Report found that though the literacy rates is increasing but the children are not able to understand and solve basics. There are few problems to the current education system that include fragile buildings, the teachers are not properly trained to teach and they are not committed towards students. Also, language is a problem; there are not enough teachers who could teach students in native language and make them understand.

The red corridor area faces some other challenges too. The naxal groups attack school buildings as they are government buildings. There are high drop outs in naxalite area among tribal students as the naxals don't want the students to study. The naxals intimidate local population that they will face dire consequences if they do not cooperate with naxals for disagreeing against government and law enforcement agencies. As a result they are stuck in loop. The Naxalite forcibly recruit tribals into their group by way of coercion, threat, violence and abduction. The naxalite regroup and admit children in Bal Action team. It is a naxal wing that trains children to use arms to rebel against the government and later deploy illegal activities. The children above the age of 6 are admitted in these schools. They even take admission of girls and engage them in

criminal activities. Since, majority of the population are uneducated and illiterate they have limited access to the information. They are more prone to the radical thoughts that the naxals feed them in their minds. They are not in a position to judge and critically evaluate whether particular act is correct or not. Due to high illiteracy rates, they do not have employment opportunities and face financial problems which make them susceptible to join naxal group for the need of money. Naxal group promises to provide them with employment and financial group. The tribals easily get manipulated to join hands with the naxals to do extreme anti-national activities. Illiteracy among the tribes leads them to isolation and marginalization so they accept radical ideologies from the naxalities. As tribals are not aware of their rights and legal remedies they do not know where they can address their grievance and rely on Naxalites for remedy. Due to these reasons tribals are stuck in a loop. They are being extorted by the Naxalite and the Naxalite problem seems never ending.

Laws made by government to curb naxalism

1. Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007² : In order to gain the trust of the indigenous people government came up with rehabilitation and resettlement policy 2007 that aims to provide compensation to people who were involuntarily displaced for industrial development. This policy proposes that land will be given in exchange of land also one of the member of the family shall be provided with employment opportunity later on. It aims to protect the weaker and vulnerable sections of society.
2. Forest rights Act, 2006³ : The government with the purview of empowering local and tribal communities came up with this Act. It aims to protect the forest rights of the people by promoting sustainable development. It also aims conservation of forest by tribal people.
3. Chattisgarh Special Public Securities Act, 2006⁴- This Act is also known as Chattisgarh Vishesh Jan Shuraksha Act. It defines unlawful activities as any action done by an individual or an organization those who do any action that has a potential to cause danger to public peace and tranquility. It also bans such acts and activities that discourage obeying law and order. Acts that interfere with the administration of law and order in the society is also prohibited. According to the provisions of this Act organization that commits, instigate, abets or aids unlawful activities are categorized as unlawful organization. A total number of 6 organizations have been declared unlawful and banned by the implementation of this act. This Act also provides provisions for the setting up of advisory board. It also provides for the punishment and penalty of various offences.
4. Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (1967)⁵ : this law came up with the motive to prevent and prohibit that is taking place in India and threatens the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The act has provision to ban certain activities and organization in regard of unlawful activities taking place. The act gives extensive

²Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007

³Forest rights Act, 2006

⁴Chattisgarh Special Public Securities Act, 2006

⁵Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (1967)

powers to the investigating officers and take actions against such activities and organisation. This act has already banned naxalism groups and has specified it as unlawful organisation. Death punishment or life imprisonment are the most severe that are provided under the provision of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (1967)

There laws are not that effective when the question comes of curbing the problem of naxalism. The provision of land for land is very problematic in its approach itself . it has restricted industrilization. It has also caused lot of problem to the people coming from schedule tribe.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The problem of naxalism is one of the biggest problem that India faces. The naxals indulge in attacking security forces, government employees and the civilians, creating an atmosphere of fear and terror. The red corridor area of the country is often under developed as the presence of Naxalite disrupt in development. They attack roads, schools, railways, industries and power plants. They create such an atmosphere that ensures the tribals to stay in isolation without electricity, hospital and schools. As naxalites know the weak point of tribals in regards to social and economic disparity and their grievance related to land acquisition rights so they get huge support from tribals. Naxalites commit huge human right violation, the indulge in abduction , killing and extortion. Naxalites cause displacement of communities that creates hardships for the tribals. The government has tried various mechanism to curb this problem of naxalities. However, it seems that the measures taken up the government are not effective. It seems that the government is just cutting the branches of the problem and not touching upon the root cause of the problems. If we scroll down to the root of naxal problem we come to know that the main cause of problem is poverty stricken and uneducated people of the community. A lot has to be done in order to curb this problem of naxalism.

This research paper suggests certain sustainable development remedies that can help in curbing the problem of naxalism. The main because of which naxalism arose is land and forest rights, poverty and education. The government shall formulate better legislation in regards to environment that would protect forest and land rights of tribals as majority of them is dependent upon forest for their livelihood. Also, the state government and the central government should work in parity in order to bring significant outcome. Education also plays a very important role in curbing the issue of naxalism. Education promotes critical thinking and awareness. It helps people in critically evaluating what is right and what is wrong and prevent them being influenced from extreme ideologies. Educating tribals will also help them in acknowledging their fundamental rights and in case of grievance redressal they would rely on legal means rather than the naxalites. Government should focus on providing quality education to the tribals and also aim at providing vocational training in naxal-affected area. This would help them in acquiring skills and they would get better job opportunities.

Government should hire teachers of school and vocational training institutes from the tribal community itself that will encourage people from tribal community to come forward. Also, when the people from tribal community will come forward, language will not act as an barrier. Education uplifts the community that bring in development in the society. Educated community will demand for democracy in a peaceful way rather than opting for violence means. Hence, it will help in eradicating in poverty and would help to counter naxalism.

Government should deploy military forces to conduct insurgency operation against the Naxalite groups. It should also equip and train the police force with proper and latest arms and acquisition. Proper security should be given to the police informers as it is seen a lot of people who work as an informer to police has been killed or their family members haven killed. The government should take help from the neighbouring country in order to restrict cross border activities and lastly government should come up with proper rehabilitation and resettlement scheme that would help the naxalites to surrender. Government should focus on all these aspect to counter naxalism and era.

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