

DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY: A STUDY OF KARBI MILITANT MOVEMENT IN ASSAM (1972-2012)

ABSTRACT

With the input of historical facts and constitutional commitment the Karbi Anglong district of Assam occupies a strategic position for explosion of ethnic movement for statehood. In the course of statehood movement, the important challenge is the birth of armed movement which resorted to militant tactic. The armed movement opened a new chapter in the history of Statehood demand by the Karbis in Karbi Anglong of Assam.

Through qualitative analysis and evaluation, this research examines the Karbi militants' movement in the light of relative deprivation theory as it acts as the bedrock of the movement and resource mobilization theory for examining the resources mobilized by the movement's leaders for achieving power and influences the successful realization of the movement's objectives.

The findings, however, brings to light that there seems to be no end in the near future to this kind of ethnic movement for the demand of statehood and proliferation of militant movement in Karbi Anglong. If issues such as neglect, deprivation, discrimination and resource control are not adequately addressed, the situation will remain stagnant. In order to concentrate on such issues positively the movement's leaders opted for self-rule or separate statehood so that they can develop and preserve their own culture, language, tradition, population and ancestor's land. This research agrees with the basic postulation that these issues of grievances, deprivation and lack of tangible developmental policies will further escalate the crisis in the territory.

Signing of peace accord is not an end point but it is a new beginning for creating the structures that facilitate a dynamic peace building and reconciliation. The study examines that accord should be downplayed as a milestone on the road to lasting peace and the accent needs to be placed on strengthening the process, with a view to making it part of the political mainstream.