

Right to Self-Identity of Dalit Fishermen's in Sundarban (Sundarboner Dalit Matsyajibi Antmaporichitir Odikhar)

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Abstract: *The length of the Indian Coastline is about 7600km. This long coastline is a reservoir of amazing biodiversity. This biodiversity is of immense importance. It also provides live hood to core of fishermen and food and nutritional security to core of Indian citizens. Above all like any coastal zone its ecological importance and significance easily transcends national boundaries. On 1 may 2008, the ministry of environment and forest, government of India, issued a draft notification titled 'coastal management zone notification 2008' according to this notification the coastal zone includes not only territorial land but also the national maritime area of India. The subject of my research is mainly the fishing community included in this political geography. I will also highlight the fishing community of the Sundarban region as a special field study. In this case the "struggle for the right to achieve rights" of the fishing community of this region, which is mainly in a marginal position in socio economic and political terms. I willing to present the full picture of the long historical period that they have been carrying. The unfortunate is that the Indian state has not yet developed anything at the legal level and practically for the protection of the lives or Upliefment of this marginalized Dalit Community. At the root of this we may see that this community has not been able to develop any collective movement that could have improved their condition if organized.*

Keywords: Sundarban, Dalit, Marginalized, Fishing Community, Self identity, struggle for the right to achieve rights

1. Introductions

Political identity is a form of social identity. It marks membership in certain groups that share a common struggle for a certain kind of power. Caste, religion, language, gender play a significant role in India electoral politics. Different communities have developed their own identities based on these elements. Again many times these elements have challenged Indian democracy. In short regional identities or self identities are being developed around these. The right to self identity is very important in the present times. Therefore, different tribes are united and agitating for the right to self determination. This has often faced danger from the state. This multiculturalism emphasizes recognition identity, diversity and minority that is it emphasizes people from all walks of life, race, sex, religion colour and language. From this multiculturalism emerged the right of people to self identity. I will try to discuss the right to protect self identification of Dalit fishermen in that region. The population of the 11 blocks of the Indian Sundarban is 4.20million. In this article I will try to highlight their "struggle for the right to achieve rights" of the fishing community of that region, who are in a marginalised position in socio economic and political terms.

2. Literature Review

This article has been based on secondary form of Researchers category to collect the data. In this case the main focus has been on literature review (government documents, policy, statistical handbook, global report). In addition interview was conducted through questions and answer session.

3. Research Questions

- 1) Their "struggle for the right to rights" of the fishing communities in this region, who are socially and politically marginalized.
- 2) Their right to self-identification of Dalit fishermen in the fight for their rights.
- 3) The overview of the Indian state for this region and that particular community to protect their fundamental demands for their livelihood.

Dalit fishermen's "Right to Self Identification"

The Unfortunate matter is that the Indian state has not fulfilled their demand for justice in their day to day life. Because the Indian state still view on like a deprived child of Mather. At the root of this, we may see that this community has not yet been able to collectively build any kind of movement, which if it had happened, might have improved their situation. Various organizations such as the South Bengal Fishermen Forum, the Sundarban Fishermen Joint Struggle Committee, the Kakdwip Fisherman Association, The Kanthi Sub district Marine Pole Employees Association, in addition, the demands of the "National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations" of all India are agitating for:

- 1) Formation of a separate central ministry for the development and protect their right of the fisheries sector and fishermen.
- 2) Enactment of laws to recognize and protect the rights of small and traditional fishermen.
- 3) Recognition of the rights of women workers in the fisheries sector.

The Indian state to the fishermen of the Sundarban as marginalized community

The issue that has emerged from this article are implementing the laws and regulation related to the

Sundarban and the land of the fishing community, implementing the various reports and policies that are being published at The National and State levels, providing fishing market and fisherman identity cards and providing loans in a very simple way.

The policies/schemes available for the fishermen of West Bengal (central and state) were discussed. For example JAGO, savings cum relief, khadya surakha scheme, Pradhan mantri ujwala yojana (PMUJ), Women Jandhan yojana, Joy Johar Bandhu prakalpa scheme, PMGKY, MGNREGA, social welfare scheme, West Bengal accident insurance, old age pension accident insurance coverage, medical insurance, kanyashree, Shiksha shree, sabooj Sathi, Mid Day Meal, etc

Kakdwip subdivision of the Sundarban region as a core area of my field study

To conduct this research, I have selected Kakdwip sub-district as a field study. In this case, I mainly interviewed the fishermen who go fishing in the Bay of Bengal, including Kakdwip, Sagardwip, Bakkhali, Pathar pratima, Raydighi. In addition, I interviewed the boatmen and owners of trawlers and trolleys.

4. Outcomes

The following are the things that future Researchers will learn from this article _____

- 1) Fishermen play a vital role in the Indian economy by contributing to national income, providing employment, and ensuring food security. They are also crucial for the export of seafood and development of rural and coastal communities. In 2017-18 contributed Rs 175573 core to GDP, 2023-2023 approximately 1.09% to India's total GVA (Gross Value Added) at constant prices.
- 2) The Sundarban is a vast mangrove forest and delta region located in the Ganges Brahmaputra delta, spanning across India and Bangladesh. Specifically, the Indian Sundarban is situated in the coastal area of West Bengal mainly the south and north 24 Parganas district.
- 3) The Sundarban, a vast mangrove ecosystem, is homeland to numerous fishing communities where livelihoods rely heavily on fishing and related activities. Fisherman and their families depend on the region's rich aquatic biodiversity for their substance, with fisheries often being their sole source of income. However, they face various challenges including climate change impacts, restricted access to fishing grounds, and economic vulnerabilities.
- 4) The struggle of the fishing community of this region, which is marginalized in socio economic and political terms, for the "Right to acquire Rights".
- 5) 5.The quit Unfortunate things is that the Indian state has not developed much at the legal level and in practice to protect the lives or improve the quality of life of this vast Marginalized community.
- 6) Among the organizations in West Bengal that are still fighting for the livelihood of traditional and small- scale fishermen in the Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum, Sundarban fishermen joint struggle committee, Kakdwip fishermen association.
- 7) The economy of the Kakdwip, sagar, Namkhana, Bakkhali, Pathar pratima and Raydighi in the Sundarban

is based on the business of fishermen. Who are mainly directly involved in trawler and trolleys? Even in this region it is seen that when the business of these fishermen is good, Durga Puja and festivals are celebrated in these places on a large scale. They mainly go to the deep Bay of Bengal to catch Hilsa fish.

In the above context, my proposed article is going to be a combination of theory and data, which can be said to be a manifestation of the "politics of self-identification" in a broader sense, in the discourse of achieving a new right.

5. Conclusion

Emerging form of new social movement to protect their identity and existence their livelihood within the globalised world. That is why raise their voice like local for vocal and also global. As a student of Social Science I discover their passive suppressive movement must be out come in my research orientated this kind of paper.

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