

Political Parties, Democracy and the Regional Question in Manipur: A Historical and Analytical Perspective

Naorem Bimol Kumar Singh

Research Scholar, History Department, Khongnangthaba University, Manipur, India

Email: [naorembimolkumar1979\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naorembimolkumar1979[at]gmail.com)

Abstract: *Political parties function as the institutional backbone of democratic practice by translating public opinion into governance and policy. This article traces the evolution of political parties in Manipur from the Pre-merger period to the post-merger era situating their growth within wider historical, social, and ideological changes. It examines how democratic aspiration emerged in response to feudal and colonial experiences leading to the formation of early political organization within a largely national outlook. The discussion then turns to the rise of regional parties after Manipur's merger with India highlighting how regional identity unmet expectations and center state relations shaped their trajectories. Particular attention is given to the Manipur people's party and the Federal party of Manipur assessing their political roles, limitations and eventual decline. The analysis suggests that structural constraints, leadership instability, financial dependence and defection politics collectively weakened regional parties in Manipur despite their initial public support and symbolic importance for regional identity.*

Keywords: political parties, Democracy in Manipur, regional parties, center state relations, political defections

1. Introduction

A political party is a public platform established by a like minded group of people with an objective to promote and foster the national interest within the framework of some specific agendas and ideological principles.¹ It is also a well aware fact that the concept of democracy is a resultant outcome of the dialectical process of the society and its political outlook. From the ground of historical realities, it is quite evident that right from the period of the evolution of social life the human beings had enjoyed a very good experience of several system of administration and political system. In these long periods of time the people had enjoyed several experiences both positive and negative sides of the system under the existing political principles. After having a long experience of the taste of its positive and negative side of the autocratic and feudalistic political system the people again moved towards a new direction with a new political outlook. In spite of so many plus points of the feudal political system, the people began to challenge the hereditary administration of feudal political principle. Due to this condition a new political vision was spontaneously emerged among the mindset of the masses. Through which people began to express their desire to challenge the autocratic and feudal administration by a new political system and principle. That the new generation people used to called it 'Democracy'. The people began to claim that the welfare and development of the masses would be able to achieve only when the administration of the country was in the hand of the people or masses. Then the people began to feel that they would be able to enjoy the maximum freedom of basic human rights under the democratic principles and practices.

But the question is how the idea of democracy would be able to materialize in a practical and systematic way. Here the

concept of political party was developed just to help towards the success of the concept of democracy. It has already been mentioned in the preceding chapter, that a political party is the only platform of the execution of the idea of democracy. It is also a firm belief, that the importance of democracy would be able to remain forever if the political parties played their basic role effectively towards the positive direction. It is also observed that the importance of political parties would remain forever until the autocratic and dictatorial concept is completely removed from the mindset of the political actors and actresses. From this angle it may be observed that a political party in a free society, is an organized groups of citizens having the purpose of controlling the government through shared consent, by placing some of its members in the public office. In democracy public opinion is the key factor towards the strengthening of its ideological foundation. Political organization and their platform are the best place to express different views and opinions. It is also true that in democracy political parties provides an agency to the society to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government. Among the various forms of views and opinion the best choice is selected through the means of competition. i.e. election.

The election system is the only mechanism through which the general people has gets and opportunity to select the right political ideas and agendas from among the various political platform. Accordingly, the organization who secured the mandates of the people gets the opportunity to exercise their authoritative power of controlling the public office for a specific period of time as facilitated by the legal provision of their respective conditions. From this angle, the democracy is defined as the government of people by the people and for the people.

¹ Naorem Joykumar Singh – Feudal Party of Manipur Pub. 2006 P.115

Even though it is not widely explained it is quite clear that dialectical process itself is the reflection of the changing dynamics in the historical, socio-economics and ideologies. Therefore, the emergences of the concept of political party is also an outcome of the modern political process which was laid down by the dialectical process. One of the most important functions of the political party is to open a channel of communication between the people and government. Through the platform of the political party the political actors and actresses always informed the government the desire and wishes of the common people and their grievances. In addition to this, through the political party the people were able to point out the room for correction in the nature of the governance of the country. Thus, a political party played a great role in the process of establishment of relationship between people and government in framework of democracy. On the other hand, apart from the role of bridge between masses and government, the political parties also have to adopt some kind of ideological stand and their agendas in the development process in social, economic and cultural aspects of the country or social life. This is called aim their and objective. This is a kind of the manifestation of the real identity of the characteristic features of the party. In addition to this the role and qualification of leadership is also another important criteria in the display of the party to the masses. It is the duty of the party to establish some kind of confidence among the masses through their ideology and agenda in the process of their political journey. In short it may be observed that even though the political parties are treated as the vanguard of democracy, the success and failure of this institution is heavily depended on the comprehensive ideology acceptable to the masses and their nature policies and programs. At the same time sincerity, sacrifice, dedication and commitment of the mature leadership are also additional qualification in the working of political parties. Therefore, even though the concept of political party was a new phenomenon of the outcome of historical changes of the political, social and economic environment their success is always closely associated with the change of the mindset of the masses.

The existence of multi-party system is also one of the finest criteria of the establishment of democratic institution. Particularly in the context of India there are two types of political parties i.e. national and regional. The national political party means the party who have units in various states. They follow the same policies, programs and strategy that is decided at the national level. Any party can be a national if they fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Election Commission of India (E. C. I). Accordingly, any party can become a national party if the concerned party secured at least 6% of the total valid votes polled in any four or more states at the general election of the parliament (House of People) or to the State Legislative Assembly. Another condition is that the party have to win at least four seats in the parliament from any state or states.

Another category of political party is regional or local party. A regional political party is a political party that operates its political function within a small geographical area. The regional party's function is limited to a single or a few states. From the nature of their function, it may be said that the regional political parties represent the interest of specific

region. In addition, the regional party or state political party refers to those parties that take care of people who live within the respective region, fulfill their requirements and also promote the regional interest. In the term regionalism has got two connotations i.e. negative and positive. In the negative sense it implies excessive attachment to one's region is preference to the country or states. On the other, the negative sense regionalism is a great threat to the unity and integrity to the country. In the positive aspect it is a political attribute associated with people's love for their region, culture, language etc. with a view to maintain their independent identity. While positive regionalism is a welcome thing as so far maintaining and encouraging the people to develop a sense of brotherhood and commonness on the basis of common language, religion of historical background. It is also said that the regional party merely seek to capture political power at the state or regional level and do not aspire to control the national arena.

In the context of Manipur, the growth of political parties may be analyzed from two angles. One is from the perspective of pre-merger period and another from the post-merger period. It has already been mentioned in a very exhaustive way in the previous chapter about the responsible factors of the birth of political parties in Manipur. It is well award fact that for a long period of centuries the people of this place had a very good experience of the nature of feudal administration. Then from the last part of nineteenth century up to the middle of twentieth century Manipur again witnessed a new experience of colonial system of administration. After having enough experience of these two systems of administration, the people began to think for another better alternative political system to replace the earlier two features. This innovative idea of democracy was developed among the people due to the growth of political consciousness and influence of changing political scenario of the surrounding areas. Therefore, the demand to introduce of the idea of the establishment of democratic institution was not directly or indirectly related with the concept of regional character. It was purely a national movement in the political framework of Manipur. It is also a well-known fact that before the 15th October, 1949 Manipur had enjoyed her own distinctive unique political identity as a sovereign country. Therefore, from the perspective of national identity of Manipur the characteristic feature of the emerging political organization was purely colored of national political image.

It has already mentioned above about the establishment of Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha as the first national party of Manipur. This political party was a kind of transformation from the social religion and cultural organization called "Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha". This party was born in the year 1938 with a basic aim and objective for the establishment of the democratic institution in Manipur. The nature and characteristic feature of the birth of this party is quite identical with the formation of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in India during the colonial period in the year 1885. It is a known fact that Congress Party was established as a political platform with a basic objective to liberate the country from British rule. At the same time another of their aim and objective was to establish the democratic institution through the introduction universal franchise system. Still Congress party is enjoyed the status of

the category national party of India. Like the Congress Party of India, the Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha also had consistently emphasized to promote and foster the historical identity of Manipur through the introduction of democratic institution. The Party were very much against the feudal and colonial administration. But unfortunately for one reason or other this party was not able to make a wide range campaign and activities as well as could not carry out political awareness programs. In the meantime, the people again witnessed the outbreak of women's agitation in the year 1939 which aimed against the undesirable policies of the feudal and colonial administration. No doubt the outbreak of this women movement had produced a deep-rooted impact and its turbulent activities brought a sudden change in the mindset of the people in favour of the maintaining of the historical identity of this place by placing on the platform of democratic institution.

Then just after the outbreak of women's agitation a new political party was also emerged in the national political scenario of Manipur. The name of the party was 'Praja Sammelons'. The aim and objective were in the same line of the Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha. The only difference between these two parties lies only in their approach. As has already mentioned above about the un-ability that the Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha to carry on any type of political activities for the purpose which they work for. Whereas the Praja Sammeloni gave a consistent effort to achieve their goal by penetrating inside the core of the mindset of manner. For their political activities their leaders got penalties from the feudal and colonial administration. But their political activities were forced to stop abruptly due to the coming of the ferocious dark colored of Second World War. The fight of the Imperial Japanese force and Indian National Army (INA) of Subhas Chandra Bose against the imperialist force of British created a confusing situation among the people for their own survival. Then just after the end of this war the energy of the political activities of the political parties resume again with the emergence of some more political organization like Krishak Sabha Party, Manipur Praja Mandal and Manipur Praja Sangha etc. Thus, the member of political parties was also increased with various types political activities. Along with the political activities of this political organization the Manipur State Congress Party had brought a new transformation of the political landscape of Manipur. Even though it was not coming out as an agenda of their party in the visible point of the naked eyes this party laid down the foundation for having a close contact with Indian National Congress. On the other hand, the Manipur State Congress party, like other political organization, also had strongly asserted for the establishment of democratic institution in Manipur. They also gave a strong political voice against the feudal and colonial administrative system. The liberation of Manipur on 15th August 1947 had brought a new political picture and along with this the intensity of the degree of demand for having the democratic institution was further intensified. Ultimately, as a token of respect and acknowledgement of the desire of the masses the Maharaja Budhachandra Singh who took the responsibility of the administration of Manipur from British, had introduced democratic institution through the provision of Manipur State Constitution.

From the above-mentioned analytical observation, it may be suggested that up to this particular period of time the characteristic features of the political parties were highly influenced by the national characteristic of Manipur. From the 15th August of 1947 until 15th October 1949 Manipur had enjoyed a unique political status of independent character. Therefore, the question of regional character to the nature of political parties was not reflected. That all the political parties worked within the orbit of the national feature of independent Manipur.

Then from the day of 15th October 1949, the whole character of the political parties began to change with a division two identities. One was the national political party and another was regional party. The moment Manipur had merged into the political boundary of Indian Union three political parties was emerged as national party. They were Congress party, Socialist Party and Communist Party. It has already been mentioned above that the Manipur State Congress party had established with an undisclosed objective to make themselves as a branch of All India Congress Committee. Before merger into India the Manipur State Congress Party had already established contact and relationship with Congress Party of India in one way or other without undisclosed. On the other hand, since the Manipur State Congress Party was an influential party among the people, they had enjoyed the opportunity to work freely according to their desire. From the ground of the historical realities, it is also true that Manipur was compelled to merge into India at the strong initiative of the Congress Party of Manipur. When the process of the merger took Place almost all the other political parties had remained silent except a few small parties. It is also a fact that Manipur was compelled to merger into the political boundary of India by two unavoidable factors i.e. external and internal. External factor means the hegemonistic policy of the government of India and internal factors means the role of pro-India political parties like Congress and Socialist parties. Then just after the merge took place these parties began to act as the branch of national parties on the line of the All India Congress Party, Socialist Party and Communist Party.

It is also a known fact that the resultant outcome of the merger of Manipur into India was not to the expectation of the people. Indeed, before the integration majority of the people, mainly because of the cultural and religious relation, had a firm belief to the sincerity, honesty and integrity of the Indian people and their leaders. But the outcome of the merger had produced some kind of havoc to the dream of the people of Manipur. The younger generation was of the view that the integration into India led to the destruction of the historical identity of the people of Manipur. Therefore, they also had started to work in their own way to promote and maintain the historical identity of Manipur. Likewise, the political parties also began to work to protect the identity of Manipur within the framework of the constitution of India. Though they have two different approaches their ultimate goal was of the same nature. Gradually the idea of regional character had spontaneously developed among the political leaderships and people who were very much in favour of the protection of regional character is within the Indian Political System.

It is also said that the feeling of regionalism might have been developed either due to the continuous neglect of a particular area or region by the ruling authorities or it may also be sprung up as a result of increasing political awareness of the backward people that have been discriminated quite often by the political leadership. The neglective attitude of the feeling of regionalism had helped to maintain their hold over a particular area or group of people. On the other hand, it may also be observed that the idea of regionalism may be emerged through certain historical realities like the desire to promote and maintain the distinctive cultural identity, historical importance of the region, failure in the outlook of national leadership to meet regional aspiration, economic disparities and regional imbalance in the development. Besides it is also suggested that the idea of regionalism may be cropped up by some other factors like clash of egos among the leadership and emergence of charismatic personalities in the particular region, centralizing tendencies of the national leadership, role of caste and religion in the process of national politics etc. Some writers are also of the view that re-organization of state. On the basis of language is also major factor for the growth of regionalism.

This is also a well-known fact that in the context of India her constitution provides room for having multiparty system. And it is divided into two i.e. national party and regional party. The characteristic features of national and regional parties had already been discussed above. And some broad features of the outbreak of the idea of regionalism was also discussed above. Therefore, right from the inception both national and regional parties played an important role in the developmental process of the politics of India. It is also of the view that the assertion of regional identities is intimately associated with the formation of political province on the basis of line of language. It is said that the demand for states based on linguistic lines gave rise to entities that become the voice of specific linguistic and cultural communities. This shift marked a kind of departure from the dominance of national political parties heralding an era were concerned garnered increased attention. It is also of the view that the idea of regional party gave three basic criteria. First a regional party restricts its area of action to a single region which in the prevailing Indian situation, means state. Second it articulates and seeks to defend a regionally based ethnic or religious-cultural identity. Third the regional party primarily concerned with exploiting local sources of discontent or pressing a variety of primordial demands based on language, caste, community or region².

In a country like India where the characteristic feature of pluralistic social life is dominant the regional party also plays a very good and outstanding role in the ongoing process of her body politics. Because the existence of regional party poses a challenge to the one-party dominant system in the country and ultimately led to a decline in the dominance of one party. And the regional party makes a strong impact on the nature and course of center - state relation. The tension areas of center - state relation and demand for greater autonomy makes central leadership more responsive to the needs of the regional political actors and their focusing points

on local or regional issues. In short it may be suggested that the emergence of regional party provides a chance to check the growing tendencies of the dictatorial characters of the central authorities over the issues of regional party is a kind of remarkable contribution to the successful functioning of a healthy political practices of democracy particularly in the parliamentary democracy. One of the biggest contributions of regional party was always lies in the formation of coalition ministry. It is a known fact that due to changing political phenomenon the concept of coalition politics was gradually emerged as an important part of democracy. In such unavoidable circumstances regional parties played an important role in national politics. Thus, in the national level politics the regional party was able to share power and thus they are able to place the important agendas of regional issues as the national issue.

It has already been mentioned above about the unhappiness among the people to see the resultant outcome of the merger of Manipur into India. This is also a well-known fact that with high hope and expectation the political leaders of Manipur took a great initiative for merger of this tiny state inside the political boundary of Indian Union. But just after merger the central government relegated her political states to the category of the 'Part C' under the constitution of India. Accordingly, Manipur was put under the direct administration of the center through the office of chief commissioner. At this stage the people began to realize the political motive, lack of sincerity, lack of integrity and also the negative attitude of the Central leadership of the government of India. Even the member of the Congress Party who spearheaded for integration of Manipur into India also began to express their unhappiness to the negative attitude of central leadership towards the people of Manipur. Because of this reason all the political parties including the Congress Party have started to take a strong political movement in a non - violent way to reassert the lost political status of Manipur. It has already mentioned above that a sizeable section of the society who believed with violent action also had prepared to take up a political stand on their own way to promote and protect the historical identity of Manipur. Thus, for about two decades a consistent mass movement was continued till Manipur attained full fledged state on 21st January 1972. However, the ultra-elements in the society had continued their violent activities with an absolute objective until Manipur achieved her distinctive historical identity outside the boundary of India.

During this long period people were able to witness the emergence of local parties based on ethnic communities. But in late years people were able to see the political activities of some regional parties such as the Nationalist Socialist Democratic Party (NSDP), Manipur People's Party (MPP), Naga Integration Movement (NIM), Kanglei League, Federal Party of Manipur (FPM), Kuki National Assembly (KNA). Among these parties only the Manipur People's Party (MPP) and Federal Party of Manipur (FPM) was able to get confidence and favorable mandates of the people of electors in their political journey. Other regional parties inspite of their best attempt they were not able to come up to their best

² S Bhatnagar Pradeep Kumar – Regional political Parties in India. Pub. 1988 P.4 – 6

expectation. Rather their importance was appeared only when the coalition politics emerged in the except this political phenomenon, they were not able to go to the names with their political ideology and principles. For example, NSDP was not able to survive and it was died down in the natural way. The Kanglei League just after their participation in a general election, were not able to survive for quite long time and merged into MPP. The Kuki National Assembly (K. N. A), since it was based on the objective of the Kuki ethnic group, they were not able to come out from the circle of their own community. Therefore, they were not able to play a big political role except to participate in the coalition politics. But MPP and FPM were able to play a big role in the state politics of later years. Between these, two MPP has enjoyed maximum political opportunity. In the electoral politics even though they were not able to get absolute majority they were able to take the leading place in the formation of ministry. Likewise, the Federal Party of Manipur (FPM) also was able to grow as an important political party through its political ideology and objective and also leadership. The people of Manipur kept a high hope in the nature of functioning of this party. Thus, in the electoral politics the FPM was able to get the number of seats from two to four and again from four to six. Then the number was increased to thirteen. Thus, the FPM was able to gain the confidence of the people while the FPM was in such advantageous position politically the condition of MPP was very bad shape due to their inner conflict. Then due to unavoidable circumstances the FPM was merged into MPP. Thus, the political journey of FPM also came to an end and abruptly liquidated. With the end of the political journey of FPM the high hope and the importance of regional Party was slowly faded away from the mindset of the people and completely shattered from the political map of the soil of Manipur.

From the historical ground realities and past experiences of the features of the survival of regional party in the post-merger period a very big question may be put forward on the issue of why regional parties was not able to sustain for quite long period of time in Manipur compared with other states in India. It has already mentioned above about the appearance of several regional or local parties right from the beginning of post-merger political journey. But due to their nature and aim which confined in a limited areas they were not able to come out in the broader political perspective. But in later period only a few regional parties were emerged. But due to some certain unavoidable factors they were not able to sustain further and their life of political journey was also abruptly finished in the natural way. Only after two or three decades from the merger, two regional parties were emerged. They were MPP and FPM. Between this two MPP still is able to survive in a very precarious political condition of their own. Whereas in other states their regional parties are able to sustain with bright and dignity in their political arena. They even have got the power to influence in the governance of the country which is controlled by the national party. Every regional party was emerged in the political arena of the state with solid aims and objective to protect and maintain the historical identity of Manipur within the orbit of constitution of India. Even though they came with high hope and objective they were not able to survive for a pretty long period of time. In one way or other they vanished their existence. In this respect three important factors may be analysed as the weak

point to the survival of regional in Manipur. They are the relationship between the national party in the center and regional party which control the state government, lack of sincerity and integrity among the local political leaders of regional parties, and weak financial resources of the local parties.

It is a well aware fact that right from the establishment of democratic institution within the framework of the constitution the governance of polity of India was the control of national parties. So, there was no room of the regional political parties of various states of India to come forward to the national level politics. It is also a fact there is always a partiality characteristic features in body politics of the national level political parties towards the regional political parties. In fact, the national level political parties who always occupied the seat of power in national political level do not like to strengthen the political position of regional parties. They are of the view that to increase the political position of their party unit in the states. Therefore, as a matter of their internal political agenda the ruling national party have always adapted a policy to check in the flow of the financial movement in the Center - state relationship. Such type of policy always gives a serious problem in the financial matter of the state particularly to those states like Manipur who has extremely less financial resources. For the rich states who has enough financial resources the problem is extremely less. Mainly due to their rich financial resources they are able to manage the administration with less problems.

There are certain unavoidable factors for the failure of regional parties in Manipur. First, is the lack of financial resources, the second is involvement in the defection politics of the state. It has already been mentioned above about the nature of the attitude of partial political characters of the national level political parties, of the national parties, who was in the driver's seat of the governance of the country. It is also a well aware fact that the national parties who was in power did not like to see the growth of the strength of regional political power in the interest of the state unit of their party. Therefore, in order to check the growing political power of regional party the national level politicians who has in power used the financial relationship between center and state as means to check the growing strength of regional party. The Manipur People's Party (MPP) was a very popular party in the state. People had a high confidence to the leadership of the party. The people had a high impression in that the MPP and they thought that this party would be the only organisation who would be able to foster and protect the historical identity of Manipur. In fact, due to the existing political scenario which was developed continuously just after merger into India the people of Manipur thought that the emergence of the MPP as a regional party was a great boon in disguise to those people who was greatly influenced by Manipur nationalism. In spite of so many difficulties in the general election of the state the people voted in favour of the MPP for two times. Though the MPP were not able to get absolute majority they were able to take leadership with formation of coalition ministry. But they were not able to sustain their political position for quite long period of time. One of the most important unavoidable reasons for the failure to sustain was the absence of the establishment of good

relation with the ruling party in the center. It is a known fact that since Manipur has no enough income to strengthen her financial position everything was heavily depended to financial grant of the central government. Due to the partial political outlook of the national party in power at the center, despite of repeated request for some kind of liberal financial grant by the state government, the center did not make any attempt to give liberal financial grant to the state of Manipur when it was ruled by the regional party. Due to this a serious type of the problem of financial crunch was developed in the state government ruled by the MPP led government.

Secondly it is also a fact that just after the merger into India almost all the political leaders were deeply involved in the politics of defection. Shifting from one political affinity to another was also a common feature among the political leadership of Manipur. As a result of this almost all the political leaders in this place were highly colored by the qualification of the lack of sincerity, honesty and integrity in their journey of politics. Right from the pre-merger period the people of Manipur had witnessed the feature of shifting of political affinity among the members of political parties. However, at that period of time the degree of this feature was not reached to an explosive stage. But just after the post-merger period the degree of the level became very serious. As a result of this a serious degree of the level instability was increased tremendously in the functioning of political parties. Because of this continuous process in the functioning of political parties began to look the characteristic feature of the political actors totally in a different way autonomically the people began to look to the political actors in very casual way. On the other because of the existing political scenario the degree of the level of the Manipuri nationalism among the people particularly among the younger generation people were very high. They all believed that the prestige and historical identity of Manipur would be to promote and foster only by the regional party. Thus, when the Manipur People's Party was formed the people were very happy to think that their aspiration would be able to fulfil through the political platform of the MPP. For a moment, mainly because of the strong influence of the concept of Manipuri nationalism, the people set aside of ground realities that the MPP was formed due to the internal contradiction and conflict among the leadership of Congress Party in Manipur. The fact was that the MPP was formed by the elements of the Congress Party who were greatly influenced by the idea of the politics of defection. It has already mentioned above in the previous chapters that at that particular moment of time there were only two options was focused in the mindset of people in regard to the promotion of historical identity of the state. One was to use violent method to get freedom from all external forces. The persons who believed in this method have already begun to use violent method by taking up arm as a means. Those persons who were in favour of non - violent as democratic approach that the desire of the people could be achieved only when there was a regional political platform. Therefore, when the MPP was formed people were happy and they did not have the time to think that this party was formed by the element of Congress. But the moment the MPP was in power of administration of the state the people were not able to achieve their expectation from the leadership of the party. As has already been mentioned above that people had a high expectation from the coalition government led by the MPP

particularly in the area of economic position and developmental works of the state. But under the financial relationship in the center - state relationship the coalition ministry of regional parties was not able to do anything extra up to the expectation of the people. Because the central government did not give any extra money except the money allotted officially in the budget with not taking the opportunity of prevailing political environment an attempt was made to topple the coalition through the means of the principles of the politics of defection. As a result of this and also taking opportunity of the prevailing situation, the ambitious political leaders mainly elected members in the legislative assembly who belong to the ruling ministry began to give disturbance to the ruling partners. Because of this condition people began to have the lack of confidence to them. So, the members who had lack of sincerity, honesty and integrity to the cause of the national identity of Manipur had given a serious eroded effect to the moving of the political journey of regional party. The same situation was again faced by the Feudal Party of Manipur (FPM) in later years. The only difference with the MPP was that even though the FPM had played a major role in the making of coalition ministry, this party never took leadership in the formation of ministry. Therefore, the problem of the financial relationship between center and states occurred by the ministry of regional party was not directly faced by this party. But this party was also another victim of the politics of defection. Right from the time of the successful journey in the electoral politics the FPM faced the problem of the politics of defection. With this unbearable and highly expensive political environment the FPM was able to sustain for a pretty long period of time. Because of these factors the importance of the political platform of regional party was very much in the mindset of those people who believed in the Manipuri nationalism when it comes in ground realities of the governance of the state came into the form of real picture the ambitious political actors were not able to survive on the platform of regionalism. Rather mainly because of the influence of the personnel political advantageous characters the political actors always make an attempt to shift their political affective very frequently by ignoring the collective spirit of leadership. Due to these two unavoidable factors gave a resultant effect to the failure of the existence of regional party in Manipur.

2. Conclusion

The historical experience of Manipur shows that political parties have been central to the introduction and functioning of democracy, first as instruments of popular resistance to feudal and colonial rule and later as mediator between regional aspirations and national politics. While regional parties emerged as expressions of identity and dissatisfaction in the post-merger period, their inability to sustain themselves points to deeper structural and institutional challenges. Financial dependence on the center, persistent defection politics, weaknesses in leadership cohesion gradually eroded public confidence. As a result, regional parties that once carried strong symbolic value were unable to convert popular sentiment into lasting political influence. The case of Manipur underlines that the survival of regional parties depends not only on ideological commitment or public support but also on stable leadership, ethical political practice and a balanced relationship between regional autonomy and national po

References

- [1] Naorem Joykumar singh-Federal party of Manipur. Pub.2006.
- [2] S Bhatnagar Pradip Kaur-Regional political parties in India. Pub.1988.
- [3] For the people of Manipur MPP (Pub. By Manipur People's Party on annual conference of 29th - 30th July, 1982.)
- [4] Zoya Hanan (Ed.) - Parties and Party politics in India. Pub.2002.
- [5] Gangmumei kamei-A history of Modern Manipur 1826-2000. (A study of federalism, colonialism and democracy) part 3. Pub.2015.
- [6] Report of the police regarding the meeting of 22.8.48 at Imphal Polo ground.
- [7] Resolution of Manipur State Durbar Criminal Case No.4 of 1940. Manipur state Vs Hijam Irabot Singh at 13.3.1940 under section 120 (A) PIC.
- [8] Soyam Chhatradhari-Manipur Itihasta Irabot.
- [9] Ksh. Shyamkanhai-Manipurgi Leingaklon amasung Leingak Pathap (1949-1969)