

The Phenomenon of Bangladeshi Migrants and Detention Camps in Assam

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ABSTRACT--Due to mass migration from Bangladesh to Assam before and after 1971, the local government of Assam has constrained different strategies to filter those who have migrated from Bangladesh to Assam prior to 1971. However, those who migrated after 1971 are considered illegal migrants. Although the filter process through National Registration for Citizenship (NRC) on but on the other side those who got detected as illegal migrants are kept under different detention camps established in Assam. A mass number of individuals confined in those detention camps live a miserable life especially women and children being kept behind the bars with hoodlums as they lack adequate identity proof. This has led them in the state of isolation and hindered their right to education and equal opportunities. On the other side people under detention are quite far in performing their socio-economic roles and social participation. However, this has violated the human right norms and universal educational principles UNESCO guidelines. So, it demands urgency to research in this area and to explore the condition of people and process under detention camps of Assam.

Keywords-- Detention Camps, D voters (Doubtful Voters), FTC (Foreigners Tribunal Court), Illegal Migration, NRC (National Registration for Citizenship)

I. INTRODUCTION

Mass migration a procedure of preparing extensive sum of people starting with one place then onto the next place for all time or might be for sure timeframe. Likewise, when this procedure occurs between two countries is regarded as international migration. Migration from Bangladesh to India is one of the largest international migration corridors of the world with more than 4 million people have been migrated from Bangladesh to India, mostly in northeastern states like Assam and Tripura (Sharma, 2015). But this relocation process converts into illegal migration when it violates the certain rules and regulations (immigration policy) set by the host nations, and the issue of illegal migration starts hindering the government attitude and policies. Recently the issue of universal relocation has been making strides and resulted into different socio-cultural, financial and political issues in various nations of the world. However, in Assam also the profuse concerns are turning up on account of mass migration. Some of the major problems remain reduction of the forest, increases pressure on land and drastic wage decline of unskilled jobs etc. (Das & Talukdar, 2016). Thus, to tackle down the issue of illegal migration, the local government shows strict approach and introduces various policies and methods, in many cases these policies or methods become pessimistic for emigrated people. Eventually leads to a chaotic situation and puts the future of emigrated people in total uncertainty. Further the environment leads to more devastating when migrated people

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live in the host country for many decades and change in the protocol of the government forces them to reexamine their existence and identity. Establishment of detention camps in several districts of Assam to detain doubtful citizens (D-voters), can be considered as oppressive initiative adopted by Govt of Assam. By January, 2018 more than 20,000 people declared as foreigners by Guwahati High Court and they have been kept in such camps however government declared that such people will remain in detention camps until the process of deportation gets completed (Roy, January 3rd, 2018). This kind of reformation puts the emigrated people in stress and chaos and many unanswered questions ensue in their wisdom, like who am i? What's my identity? What could be my future? This shift in the code of government leads to violation of universal human rights when thousands of emigrated people are surpassed from moral rights and face traumatic perversions that force them to fight for their future and identity.

II. THE SCENARIO OF DETENTION

Picture the situation when somebody goes to your home and asks your identity, and says that on the off chance that you couldn't give fitting records then you need to leave your home and won't have any rights on any of your property. A great many individuals (labeled with D-voter) encountering the very same conditions. A report published by The Telegraph added that around a total of 29,663 people officially declared foreigner by courts of Assam. According to parliamentary affairs minister of Assam Mr. Chandra Mohan Pattowary, 1, 25,333 people have been officially identified as D-voters (Doubtful Voters) by February 2018 in Assam and their documents yet to be verified (Sharma P. February , 2018, The Telegraph). Administration of Assam stands clear that all the declared foreigners ought to stop in confinement camp until expelled to Bangladesh; then again Government of Bangladesh isn't prepared to acknowledge the way that these individuals relocated from Bangladesh and denies to offer citizenship to any of them. Despite the fact that Bangladesh has acknowledged a couple of a number of individuals yet just about 97% of aggregate announced immigrant life approaching in detainment camp with unverifiable future. Presently the inquiry emerges that till when these individuals will be kept in detainment camp and be dealt with as criminal? Furthermore, from Bangladesh's position, certainly they are not going to acknowledge any of proclaimed outsiders soon or later. Does this implies all the declared foreigners should spend whole life in the confinement camps? These individuals now wound up in such a loathsome position, to the point that in the nation where they have been living since decades and considered as homeland because of absence of few records they moved toward becoming criminals, now they don't have any homeland, they don't have any nation's citizenship, there is no land in this universe for them, there is no authority in charge of them, the only identity remains for them is "human being". According to Universal Declaration of Human Rights "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood" Article-1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Those 29,663 individuals of Assam who declared as outsiders, their fundamental rights have been grabbed and they are put behind the bars, its explicit infringement of Article-1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Regardless of whether they are Indian or Bangladeshi yet fundamental human rights ought to be given to them however due to political tactics and international diplomacy, nobody is prepared to hear the distress of these desperate individuals. No global association has approached to fathom this issue by giving the reason of 'it's an inward matter of India

and Bangladesh. In the contemporary era each nation is talking all-inclusive fraternity and solidarity and builds different strategies to exceed universal brotherhood and unity. Still when an individual or his/her fore-father crosses the fringe of a specific nation and after decades this turns into a crime gradually they turn into victims. This characterizes the darker side of modern societies.

III. RELEASED VICTIMS: JOURNEY UNDER DETENTION

A few cases became known that confined individual based on D-Voter concern later ends up being certifiable Indian. The instance of Kismat Ali and Ashraf Ali the two inhabitants of Sonajuli town of Udalguri, Assam in 2006, election commission of India expressed them two as D-voters, with no sufficient examinations and they were put into Goalpara Detention Camp, Assam in the fifteenth of August, 2015. While Kismat Ali was born in Siwan District of Bihar and move to Assam with his ancestors in youth and Ashraf Ali's father was born in Deori locale of Uttar Pradesh. Later on, they appealed to respectable Supreme Court of India and with the guideline of Supreme Court, CBI (Central Investigation Bureau) lead an examination and discoveries of the request shooked numerous individuals. Both the parties proved genuine Indian and their fore-fathers link with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar respectively verified as genuine. On 29th October, 2017, the Foreigners Tribunal of Udalguri, Assam discharged them two from Goalpara detainment camp, the objection of long 2 years 2 months and 17 days trouble life in jail, they strolled under the free sky (Khan, November, 2017, Kashmir Times). Kismat communicated his distress by describing "iskei Liye bahut kuch khona pada mujhe" means "for this freedom I lost numerous things throughout my life and possibly I won't get them back". Both the individuals belong to middles class families and family relies on their procuring, when they were tossed into the detainment camp, it's not possible for anyone to gauge the trouble looked by their family. Facilitate they needed to spend a gigantic measure of cash for enlisting legal counselors, in the end their monetary circumstance deteriorated and this improved theirs distresses of agony. Default system and mistake of authority snatched 2 valuable years of both the individuals, these kinds of instance challenge the democratic system of our country and humanity of our society. There is no one responsible to answer the injustice happened with Kismat and Ashraf. Despite the fact that this is a result of Democracy, the two are free now however they have lost numerous things in their life due to blunder committed by authorities and officials, which tells that still there are numerous escape clauses in our democratic framework. It can't be denied that in future numerous cases like Kismat Ali and Ashraf Ali will come up and no one will be considered as in charge of this sort of prejudice. As a resident of a democratic nation it's our obligation to raise our voice against these sorts of extreme xenophobia and blunder performed by officials. Otherwise the democratic systems will misfortune its qualities and individuals like Kismat and Ashraf will begin addressing democratic framework of our country. There are a huge number of individuals having all the essential documents yet because of an alphabetical mistake in the name which brings about a jumble with archives are labeled with D-voter, some of them doesn't have minimum savings to enlist an attorney to prove their identity. Presently the inquiries emerge that is equity in our nation approaching on cash?

Another case which stunned the whole nation has occurred with a retired armed force officer Mohammed Azmal Haque inhabitant of Chayygaon, who served in Indian Army for a period of 30 years and retired as Junior Commissioner Officer in 2016. He was blamed for being an unlawful migrant. Later on, with DGP of Assam police

apologized and said it was an error by officials (Chowdhury, 1st, October 2017, NDTV India). Later on, addressing NDTV writer Mr. Haque communicated his profound torment and misery of being blamed as an unlawful settler "I am extremely tragic, I cried a lot. My soul is broken, following 30 years of service I need to face such affront". By this act of authority clearly demoralizing the nationalism of a considerable number of populations, many people like Azmal Haque are a victim of such horrendous glitch of the system.

Table 1: Number of detention camps in asaam

<i>Places</i>	<i>Number of camps</i>
1. Dakurbhita in Goalpara District	1
2. Kokrajhar	1
3. Silchar	1
4. Dibrugarh	1
5. Jorhat	1
6. Tezpur	1
TOTAL	06

Table 2: Prison Population of Goalpara Detention camp

S No.	Category of Prisoner	Total Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	UA (P) Act	03	00	03
2.	Remands	75	03	78
3.	Sessions UTP	17	00	17
4.	NDPS Act	05	00	05
5.	R.I.	85	02	87
6.	S.I.	02	00	02
7.	Declared Foreign National	247	00	247
	Total Prisoners	434	05	439
	Capacity	355	15	370

Data taken from NHRC report on Assam detention camps, 2018

As it is clear from the above data that more than half of people among the categories of prisoners are those who are declared as Foreign Nationals. Besides that the another category of prisoners jailed under Remands, UA (P) Act, Sessions UTP, NDPS Act, R.I and S.I are 192 in total. whittainesle as declared foreign nationals are 247 in number under Goalpara detention camp Asaam. The table aslo shows the level of capacity which is low compaed to the total number of detainees. Thus they might suffer due to over crowding.

Table 3: Details of Foreigners Cases in Kokrajhar District

S. No.	Category	(Approx.) in Numbers
1	Total Cases	4442
2	Reference Case	2800
3	Disposed of	3606
4	Declared Foreigner	1299
5	Ex-Partite	400+
5	Arrested	42

Data retrieved from NHRC report on Assam detention camps 2018

According to the report of National Human Rights Commission of India revealed the details of foreigners cases in another district named Khokrajhar under a survey in 2018. The above table shows the total number of cases in Kokrajhar are 4442 in number who strived to prove their identity in which 3606 have been disposed of the state.. There are some 2800 refrence cases and more than 400 ex-partite category. Moreover 1299 persons have been declared as foreigners and 42 got arrested as such these two catagories are affected in particular and remain in the state of catastrophe and hopelessness. This data shows the social disturbance among people while all of them strive to prove their identity through National Registration citizenship however some detainees the basic requirements.

IV. CONDITION OF CHILDREN

Different reports from various confinements camps of Assam demonstrates that guardians of several children who are charged as D-voter or declared illegal immigrants by the Foreigners Tribunals, they are being kept alongside their kids in different detention camps. To help the assertion, as a proof I have taken the instance of Mr. Dilip Biswas and Ms. Ramani Biswas, inhabitants of Kasashila town, Morigaon Assam. Both a couple products announced illegal migrants by the Foreigners Tribunal of Morigaon. Two little girls of Dilip and Ramani were likewise announced as non-natives and sent them to detention camp of Goalpara, later on Ramani alongside two little girls were exchanged to Kokrajhar detainment camp (HAQ: Center for Child Rights, January seventh, 2014). Like these two kids, their many unreported children and infants are being kept behind the bars of confinement camps with their parents. Matter of concern is that these kids are completely denied the entire essential rights of education; they are kept with convicts' crooks. At the point when the whole world is discussing education for all,

here in our country several innocent children are being dealt with as criminal and no one is being in charge of this disastrous demonstration of government. In spite of the fact that guardians of children may be a criminal why children are thrown into the prison on the premise their parent's records and archives. A further report of HAQ: Center for Child Rights communicates that organization of confinement camps regards all the kept people as criminal, even kids are additionally considered as culprits. They have been tagged as criminal in their childhood, this is one of the most shameful sides of our country. In future this catastrophic act of government will mentally affect these kids and may lure them towards becoming agitator or fanatic. Gradually the eventual fate of these youngsters is going in such way that following couple of years even with endeavors additionally it cannot be corrected. Although after the interference of Asian Human Rights Commission the situation has improved a little but still conditions of hundreds of children in those detention camps remain very much matter of concern.

IV. CONDITION OF WOMEN DETAINEES

Even if male detainees are large in number still Children and Women could be considered as most effected and hit section under detention camps. This marginalized section living a life of catastrophe and hopelessness having no concern with their society. The immense ruthless situation creates a challenge for feminism, civil society members and world communities. While examining the condition of women inside these camps recently a mission was started by National Human Rights commission on detention camps of Assam which was conducted from 22 to 24 January 2018. In this mission the team of members surveyed in the process of determining the legal identity or citizenship as well as legality and condition of people under these camps. Respondents were taken from two detention camps amid Goalpara and Kokrajhar districts of Assam. The major findings of the report revealed shocking status by finding grave and extensive human distress and sufferings. People trapped in the jail corners having no connection with families, society and having no work or recreation. The conditions of women in these camps are horrible and they wail through mourning repeatedly. While the condition of women and children under Kokrajhar based detention, camp has revealed grim and shocking picture. The situation inside the camp was very disturbing; people were crying and unable to speak (NHRC report, 2018). Moreover, Illiterate or women of poor backgrounds are disadvantaged particularly. However, such births are formally not registered. As women gets married before achieving majority and before their names are entered in the voter rolls. After their names got entered in the voter rolls, it would show their relation with their husbands rather than with their fathers' names. This way they end up struggle due to lack of any such documents that could prove their citizenship as a daughter of Indian citizen. According to Amnesty International 'India' (Report, 2018) says, the process is particularly harsh on women due to difficulties akin in compiling documents to prove citizenship. The report also revealed that detainees were suffering from mental health problems. The depression is common problem under men and women inside these camps and the facilities for treatment are quite inadequate.

Respondents revealed to researchers that women used to cry most of the time. They also starve due to insufficient and low-quality food. As In such immense atmosphere of sadness, women are even not allowed to receive essentials from outside. The scenario thus reveals that detention camp is neither less nor more than a prison.

V. CONCLUSION

There are several categories of crime and according to that the punishment is to be delivered and also there are certain parameters to measure the crime. Be that as it may, for this situation of illegal immigrants, government indicating zero resilience, they are not in any case following moral ethics. In some cases, it is revealed that many individuals have been detained without conducting an adequate investigation. Here its requirement for the obstruction of successful International Organizations like United Nations Organization (UNO) to searched out persuading answers for this delicate issue, a large number of people future holding tight the verge of vulnerability and turmoil. There are a huge number of sections of land in this universe which is still to be possessed, wouldn't we be able to give a couple of measures of land to these desperate individuals as opposed to keeping themselves into detainment camps like creatures and playing political war with Bangladesh thus destroying future of hundreds of innocent people, torturing them on the basis of nationality perplexity. Every human being born as independent and deserves to live their life like others irrespective of caste, creed, sex and race and now I should add also irrespective of regardless of nationality. These confined people being dealt with as a criminal is one disgrace to humankind, they or their fore-father may cross the specific geological limits yet mankind and good morals don't have any limits or outskirts, keeping them in the human zoo (confinement camps) and playing with their future will leave a humiliating spot ever against humanity. Civilization has brought numerous significant components for humankind yet some vulnerable components still exist in our society which challenges the genuine meaning of civilization. When you deny children from education, it should be regarded as one of the greatest setbacks of our civilization. However, the issue of illicit settlers in Assam is especially delicate and has political, monetary and social importance, until the point that an appropriate arrangement comes into a requirement, new conventions for confined or D-voter labeled people needs to present by which their fundamental human rights and opportunity can be ensured. Particularly the fate of those detained children ought to be defended and they ought to be given the privilege to education which is one of the basic parts of human life. When we talk education for all then we should consider whole humanity rather than confine our thinking based on nationality.

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