

BTAD: Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract:

BTC/BTAD was created in 2003. It was an offshoot of long agitation of Bodo's for separate state Bodoland. It was created mainly with the purpose to give Bodo's the political autonomy, preservation of their culture and language and to bring rapid socio-economic development in the region. The creation of BTAD has its positive implication in socio-economic and political aspects in the region. It has been believed to be an instrumental in transforming the socio-economic aspects and basic infrastructure in the region. It has been believed to have promote the political interest of the Bodo's and security of their land right. However, BTAD have undergone many challenges from time to time. More especially a section of non-tribal group has shown disapproval. Further, it is compounded by the challenges like corruption, mis-governance, insurgency and ethnic unrest. The study intends to evaluate the prospects and challenges on three main grounds- Socio-Economic and Political in BTAD since its inception.

Key Words: BTC/BTAD, Bodoland, Politics, Socio-Economic, BPF, VCDC, BJP, PTCA, BPPF, ULFA, NDFB, KLO etc.

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Introduction:

India is a land of diverse cultures, faiths and socio-economic background. The problem in India is also a multi-dimensional in nature. To begin with, the pre-independence period marked the political, socio-economic exploitation of Colonial master. This period was characterised by poverty, hunger, backwardness, socio-economic inequalities etc. both in rural and urban India. Far from the National Capital of India the North East region is connected to the mainland with a chicken neck corridor. It is a home of different tribal ethnic groups with distinct cultural practices. It abodes to more than 200 fascinated tribes.

Until 1826, this part of land remained un-invaded by the British. However, the later period saw the British set their foot over this land. With the advent of British the people from outside flocked into this land at large scale. And, with the passage of time the migration from outside remain unchecked and in addition the migrant labourers brought by Company doubled the migrant's population. As such, the apprehension among tribal groups of being marginalised at the cost of Company's interest in the backdrop of grow more food and other policies and the massive alienation of tribal's land by outsiders put their cultural and political security and the land control under threat further aggravated. Soon, this prominent issue turn political overtone having a significant linked with inherited right of tribal from their ancestor to rule over this land after Independence.

In later period, the question of identity crisis, land control, threat of cultural assimilation, socio-political marginalisation all together set a ground for separatist movement among different ethnic groups. Hence, the creation of Autonomous District Council within the State under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India was justified in the name of political autonomy to different tribal groups for the preservation of their language, culture and so on. BTAD is one such Autonomous District Council created in this line to give the Bodos political platform to bring along the rapid socio-economic transformation in the region.

Objectives of the Study:

- i) To examine the Socio-Economic prospects in BTAD.
- ii) To examine the Political prospects in BTAD.
- iii) To evaluate the Challenges in BTAD.

Methodology:

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The researcher has applied document review method. Based on the set objectives related documents were considered to analyse the prospects and challenges of BTAD. For authenticity of the study documents published by various departments, annual reports and statistical handbook of BTAD were considered.

Genesis of Bodoland Movement: And, the Birth of BTAD:

So far as autonomy demand by the plain tribal of Assam is concerned, it started in 1928 when several Bodo tribal leaders submitted the memorandum to Simon Commission. The Kachari Yuba Sanmilani representing Plain Tribal submitted a memorandum placing their demand- to preserve the integrity and independence, ii) reservation of seats in the Assembly, iii) reservation in the Government and Administration iv) Creation of Administrative Unit within tribal areas.

In 1933, the tribal leaders created Tribal League to give a common political platform for assertion. Though, their basic aim was to fight the socio-economic problems of the tribal but it can be stated that it was the first institutionalisation of political endeavour of plain tribal. The Tribal League demanded reservation of seats and got five seats reserved in the State Assembly. Their demand for protection of tribal league was also conceded with the creation of Line system or Tribal Belt and Block.

On 13th January 1967, the then Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi proposed for reorganisation of Assam in a backdrop of All Party Hill Leaders' Conference (APHLC) demand for a separate Hill State. In this backdrop some young, educated and energetic Bodo youths formed an ad-hoc committee of the Plains Tribal Council of Assam (PTCA) on 27th February, 1967. In subsequent year it was made full pledged umbrella organisation of plain tribal to give them political platform. PTCA was a political organisation of amalgamation of different plain tribal. The Plain Tribal autonomy movement got its impetus with the creation of Plain Tribal Councils of Assam (PTCA). This political organisation on 20th May 1967, submitted a memorandum to the President of India demanding separate political setup for the plain tribal of Assam called "Udayachal". The proposed areas for Udayachal includes pre-dominantly tribal inhabited plain areas of northern tracts of Goalpara, Darrang, Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts including the Tribal Belts and Blocks of these areas.

However, the demand for Udayachal could not succeed because on the other end the Bodo Sahitya Sabha had started its script movement which eventually led the imposition of the president rule from 1975 to 1977. The collective movement of plain tribal further weaken when the ABSU and Bodo Sahitya Sabha started a parallel movement demanding separate State Bodoland. This movement with taking violent turn had compelled the State Government to set up Autonomous Council and accordingly Bodoland Autonomous Council was created in 1993. In subsequent years, the failure of BAC resurge the old movement for separate state "Bodoland" in lower part of Brahmaputra Valley. These, led the government to extend the Sixth Schedule to plain tribal region of Assam with the creation of BTAD in 2003 by an amendment Act- 43. The Sixth Schedule also covers two Hill Districts of Assam namely- Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC). The Sixth Schedule at present applies fully and partly only in four North Eastern states- Meghalaya almost fully covers under Sixth Schedule and partly the states of Assam, Tripura and Mizoram.

BTAD: And it's Experience:

In the backdrop of intense movement for separate state Bodoland the tripartite agreement called the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) between the Govt. of India, Govt. of Assam and the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) was signed on 10 February 2003 leading to the creation of Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD/BTC) under Sixth Schedule of the constitution by an amendment Act 44 of 2003. It covers a geographical area of 8790 sq.km spread over four districts viz, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa Udalguri. The BTC was set up as a self governing body to administer the Bodo Tribal dominated areas covering large part of Brahmaputra Valley. The main aim of BTC is- i) To fulfil the economic, educational and linguistic aspirations and preservation of land rights, socio cultural and ethnic identity of the Bodos ii) To speed up the infrastructure development in BTC area.

The Administrative jurisdiction of BTAD at present spread over 25 Development Blocks, 19 Revenue Circles, 408 VDCs and 3082 villages. The BTAD is bounded by the Brahmaputra River in the South, Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan in the North, Sankosh River in the West and Pasnoi River in the East. As per 2011 census, total population of BTAD constitute around 31, 51, 047. The majority of population around 30, 10, 953 lives in rural areas and just an over of lakh population lives in Urban. It has 2 Lok Sabha Constituency, 1 Rajya Sabha seat and 24 Vidhan Sabha Constituency. The principal languages are Bodo and Assamese where both the languages are used as official language in the area. The Bodo population constitute dominant group among all other groups like Garo, Rabha, tea tribes and other SC and OBC population in the areas.

Table:1 Basic statistics relating to BTAD

Council		Population			District	Details of Elected Body
Sl. No	Name	Rural	Urban	Total		
1	BTC	841823	63941	905764	Kokrajhar	46 (40 Elected + 6 Nominated) CEM+ 11 EM
		343626	0	343626	Chirang	
		717642	0	717642	Baksa	
		671030	0	671030	Udalguri	

Source: Decentralised Planning in Sixth Schedule and other areas of Assam

BTC as an administrative apparatus is entrusted with 40 subjects involving executive and legislative powers. It consist of forty-six members, of whom thirty seats are reserved for ST, five seats to non-tribal communities, five seats are open for all communities and the remaining six shall be nominated by the

Governor from amongst un-represented communities of BTAD resident, of which at least two seats are reserved for women. The forty members are directly elected by the people through adult suffrage. The Council comprise of 12 Executive Members including Chief and Deputy Chief of the Council. They enjoy equal status of the Cabinet Minister of Assam and the other Executive Members enjoy equal status of the Minister of State of Assam.

BTAD: Introspection on its Prospects and Challenges:

Far from development BTAD region of Assam had suffered a severe poverty even after fifty years of Independence. This region have remained untouched by the light of development for so many years when other parts of Assam have already had accessed to the process of modernisation. The honesty, simplicity, ignorance, illiteracy of the people of this area had subsequently meted with socio-economic discrimination and political subjugation, thereby, keeping this particular region far from development. This area has been deprived of basic infrastructural development year after year. The instant discrimination and exploitation however came as a blessing in disguise to the people of this region. Of late, the political renaissance in this region with the creation of BTAD have brought a new dawn of development.

Introspection on Socio-Economic prospects of BTAD:

Socio-Economic forms a major foundation of modern civic society. The in-depth study of it helps to determine and measure the state of any civic society. The Socio-Economic concept embraces vital areas including education, health, agriculture, industry and so on. The study mainly intends to throw a light on some of the major socio-economic aspects of BTAD after its inception.

Education is a vehicle of transforming the knowledge of a society from generation to other. BTAD area categorically can be placed among the most backward in the field of Education. The region has been in the bottom list in comparison to other districts of Assam. In recent years, BTAD government has taken a keen interest in the process of development in education sector and its infrastructure. Despite, a good numbers of higher educational institutions have been set up in recent decades like- University and Colleges, Technical institutions like CIT, Engineering Collage and others; yet, the region performs poor in this sector. Census report 2011, clearly indicate the literacy rate of BTAD in alarming low with 67.11% against 73.18% of State.

In health sector, this region has lot more to do to improve. Each district of BTAD has a Civil Hospital. The health services and health care facilities in this area are in poor conditions. The region lack good hospital, sub-centres at rural level, and good and insufficient medical staff and other man power. The whole BTAD area has a single Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital. The number of Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centre is only 137 and 15 respectively in whole BTAD area. The number of Sub-Centres is 552 which are relatively smaller proportion to the numbers of villages in BTAD areas. As per the

Health and Family Welfare Department, BTC, the total number of beds in different type of health institutions in 2014-15 is only 1328 for around 32 lakhs population. Thus, the health sector in BTAD region is a matter of serious concern. The region also lagged in road and communication infrastructure, electricity, and other modern means and facilities for good and convenient life.

The economy of BTAD largely depends on Agricultural sectors, other allied activities and small scale industries like household industries, fisheries, livestock and poultry farming, sericulture, khadi and village industries, tourism and forest industries like small tea grower and rubber production etc. Agriculture in this area is the lifeline of both the rural and urban population. It constitutes a major source of income for livelihood in rural BTAD. Some, of the major agricultural products yield in BTAD are rice, wheat, jute, sugarcane, potato, rape and mustard, pulses and oil seed and other cash crops etc. As per the 2014-15 economic survey report the agriculture yield rate of some of the selected crops are-

Table: 2. Yield rate in Kg./Hector 2014-15

	Rice	Wheat	Jute	Sugarcane	Potato	Rape & Mustard	Pulses	Oil Seeds
Source:	6657	1370	1780	42227	11928	719	985	705

Department of Economics and Statistics BTC, Kokrajhar

As per the economic survey the number of agricultural cultivators in BTAD are 3116888 and the area of 344288.51 hector is the agricultural land in operation. The Net Irrigated area is 75,221 hector and 87,225 hectors is Gross Irrigated area in which 86945 hector have a canals and 280 hector is irrigated with tube wells. Development in agricultural sector has been the urgent need of hours since it the backbone of rural economy in BTAD. To increase the agricultural productions the department have taken several initiatives. During 2015-16, the department have distributed 700 Qtls. of HYV Certified Paddy Seeds during Kharif season to 7000 beneficiaries. During 2015-16 around 44,200 farmers and in the 2014-15, around 71,400 farmers were distributed Certified Mustard Seeds and Hybrid Maize Seeds to around 14,000 farmers. The HYV seed has been distributed to the farmers from season to season. The department also encourage the farmer to practise Eco-friendly IPM concept and organic farming in order to minimise the soil damage. To encourage the farmer the department organise Zonal workshop, Cluster training, and Kishan Mela with a view to exchange ideas between farmer and agricultural scientist to educate the farmer with scientific farming to raise the productions. In recent years the “*Post Graduate Diploma in Bamboo Industrial Utilisation of North East*” course was introduced in Bodoland University with a purpose of higher learning in the Agricultural sector.

Livestock and poultry farming is another allied agro-commercial sector which contribute considerable amount in economy of rural population in BTAD. The livestock and poultry farming include raring of cattle,

goat, buffaloes, ducks, pigs, chicken etc. for small scale trading and earning livelihood. The economic report 2014-15 suggests that the production of milk was 68.19 million litres, the numbers of egg production was 65.25 million and the production of meet was 9.22 tonnes. The live stock farming has been an integral part of traditional life among rural households in BTAD. Almost all the households in the villages are engaged in the live stock farming like pig, cattle, poultry, and others. However, the live stock farming in BTAD has never been taken as serious for large trading purpose among many except few. Traditionally, such farming is practised by the rural folks to enable occasional supports to their household needs with capital help and during their urgent needs in time of financial crisis.

Although, the live stock farming is not a primary source of income yet it contributes a considerable capital support to the rural household. The rural household in general and the government in particular should not overlook the commercial prospects in live stock farming. Notably, this sector in recent years has seen catching the eyes of small section of interested export traders. This sector can be cash-commercial for many rural households which can provide avenues of their living if the promotion of it is taken seriously. The government should encourage the rural folk to introspect into its commercial prospects and profits.

The fishery sector also contributes in the economy of rural people of BTAD as the areas is surrounded by many small and medium size rivers and water bodies and swamps like ponds, tanks. Fish farming is fast growing sector in BTAD. It has total number of 114 beel fisheries both registered and unregistered and as many as 27445 numbers of pond and tank. As per the report there are 14835 hector under fisheries. The production of fish seeds was 349 million numbers and production of the fish was 14851 tonnes during the year 2014-15. Considering, it the fishery department have taken a good numbers of schemes to develop the sectors particularly with a view to employ the youth in the pisci-culture. The department have constructed the fishery complex, (Meen Bhawan) at Kargaon, Kokrajhar, construction of DFDO at Udalguri and Baksa, SDFDO office at Gossaigaon. The department provides grant-in-aid to the poor fish farmers. This office look after the construction of Fish Seed Farms, reclamation and development of derelict water bodies, establishment of improved Mini Eco-hatcheries for production of quality fish seeds, and provides training and incentives to fish seeds traders and growers. During 2015-16, under AOP and amount of Rs. 325 lakh was earmarked for the development of derelict of water bodies, incentives to 120 numbers of fish seed trader and development of Model Fishery Villages, Development of existing ponds (IBS) and beel/river fisheries.

BTAD have a rich forest resource since the area covers with lush green forest both reserved and protected with one National Park and three Wildlife Sanctuaries which can promote tourism industry. It can be a great potential to boost up the economy of BTAD if these forest resources are taken care of by the government. The areas in recent years have seen rise in the number of small tea growers. Though, the area doesn't have a big tea grower as well as big tea industries like in some other district of Assam, yet, around 283 numbers of small tea growers have registered in recent years. Besides, the rubber plantation is also encouraged in the

areas. In the year 2014-15, around 496.25 metric tonnes of rubber production also contributed in the economy of BTAD.

The areas still lack big industry. However, in recent years, there are few establishment of small scale agro based industries and factories. It has total numbers of 81 registered factories. Some of them are- 10 Agro based, 3 Forest based, 1 Chemical, 4 Textile and 7 Electronic based small scale industries. It has only one big thermal power industry (NTPC) located at Salakati in Kokrajhar District. Notably, with the creation of BTAD some section of political elites have owned and set up medium scale private industries like carbon industries, stone crushers and hotel business, automobiles dealers and so on.

The sericulture farming was very popular among rural folk in early years in BTAD. The rearing of Eri silk worm for food as well as for silk production purpose was practised almost in every rural household in early year. The Muga and Mulberry Cocoon farming were also very popular in early years however, it has seen declined drastically in recent years. As per the economic survey report 2014-15 only few families were found engaged in sericulture farming. The total number of 1580 sericulture villages is registered till the year 2014-15. The sericulture farming has a high potential with good prospect to usher the economic development in the region. It is necessary that the government of BTAD should introspect in this sector to open up new possibilities of market and commercial activities. The sericulture farming can floor a solid foundation for the establishment of small scale industries like Khadi industries, silk production industries and weaving industries.

Considering, the prospects in these sector the BTAD government in recent years has set up few handloom training centre, Weavers Extension Service Unit and Handloom Production Centre in four districts of BTAD. In this connection, the BTAD has set up 12 Handloom Training Centre (HTC), 10 Weavers Extension Service Units and 6 Handloom Production Centres. Despite of it and the region known for its popular culture of artistic handy craft and hand woven the development in the sector of weaving industry has been very steady and gradual. Neither, the government is taking keen interest to promote this sector. Undoubtedly, this industry could absorb many crafty young unemployed youths through generation of employment opportunities if it is taken seriously by the government.

Table: 3 Table Showing Sericulture Farming & it Production

1. Families engaged in Sericulture	Units	2014-15 (year)
Eri	Nos.	50,710
Muga	..	548
Mulberry	..	597
2. Area under Silk worm's food plants	Hect.	2014-15 (year)
Eri	..	1846.18
Muga	..	1127
Mulberry	..	214.48
3. Yield of Cocoons	MT (Metric Tonnes)	2014-14

Eri Cut Cocoon	MT	886
Muga Cocoon	Lakh Nos.	693
Mulberry reeling Cocoon	MT	51.75
4. Production of Silk Yarn	MT (Metric Tonnes)	2014-15
Eri Raw Silk	”	710
Eri Raw Silk	”	11.65
Mulberry Raw Silk	”	4.87

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics BTC, Kokrajhar

While examining the position of BTAD in development activities since its inception much changes in infrastructure is visible though in socio-economic front it still remain critical since the progress in this front has been very gradual. BTAD prior to its inception has been reeling under deplorable conditions in all the fields. With its inception, the new dawn of development in the region flourished. Since, the region was lagging far even in providing basic infrastructural facilities in the rural areas in particular and to the people in general, it was an uphill task for the council administration to accelerate the development in the regions and simultaneously to address all the persistent issues with a small amount of funds it receives. Rural reconstruction came to manifest as the top priority in development manifesto before the council government. Considering the urgent need of infrastructural development in rural areas several policies were initiated to bring the remote places in accessible conditions. To enhance the socio-economic conditions of the regions, inclusive policies were framed to connect all the villages with proper road linkages and other infrastructure like sports complex, cultural complex, up-gradation of academic infrastructure, hospital, school, collages and so on. Nevertheless, BTAD have a long way to go for bringing all round development in the region.

Introspection on the Political Prospects of BTAD:

BTAD is an offshoot of political aspiration of the Bodo's for self-determination. It is a political setup under Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution which gives political autonomy to the Bodo ethnic group. It was created to safeguard their political interest and land rights. BTAD has been a noble experiment to recognise a political hallmark of Bodos intending to serve as torchbearer to their political security.

Notably, the Panchayat system ceases to operate in Sixth Schedule areas. In lieu of it, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) itself operates at District level, while Territorial Constituency level Coordination Committee (TCLCC) and Village Council Development Committee (VCDC), were created at the subordinate level with former operating at Block level parallel to Anchalik Panchayat and later at Village level parallel to Village Panchayat.

BTAD in its fifteen years of existence have so far faced 3 elections. During the immediate year of its creation it was governed in an ad hoc basis by BPF party formed by former BLT cadres. The creation of BTAD has also set a ground for emergence of several political parties. Some of the active regional political parties operating in BTAD areas are BPF, (BPPF, PCDR, UPP) AIUDF. Remarkably, the participation of

National Political Parties like BJP, INC in recent Lok Shaba, State Assembly Election and Council Election is a clear indication of their urges to set a foothold in the BTAD region.

Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF) is a dominant political party in BTAD area. It has so far faced 2 times in BTC Elections, 3 times State Assembly Elections and 2 times Lok Sabha Elections. The party has been ruling the Council since its birth (2005). In 2005, BPF won 32 seats in Council Election and all other MCLAs supported the BPF. In 2004 Lok Sabha Election, the Independent candidate Sri S.K Bwiswmuthiary won from Kokrajhar Lok Sabha Constituency (ST reserved). In 2006 Assembly Election of Assam, BPF manage to win 12 MLAs and became a coalition partner in Congress party led State Government.

Likewise, in 2009 Lok Sabha Election, the BPF candidate Sri S.K Bwiswmuthiary won from Kokrajhar Lok Sabha Constituency. In 2010 Council Election also the BPF could manage to form the government in BTC with 31 seats. While in the Assembly Elections of 2011, BPF could retain 12 MLAs to partner again with Congress led Government for the consecutive second term.

However, in 2014 Lok Sabha Election, the Independent Candidate Naba Kumar Sarania emerged winner from Kokrajhar Constituency defeating all three Bodo candidates, the former MP S.K Bwiswmuthiary (Ind.), U.G Brahma (PCDR) and BPF Chandan Brahma (BPF). In 2015 Council Election the BPF suffered a major setback as their winning number has come down to 18 seats; though, the party managed to form government taking supports from Independent candidates. In this election the Independent candidates won as many as 15 seats; while 4 seats and 1 seat going in favour of AIUDF and BJP respectively. This Council election has witnessed the ABSU taking a big role which in result has seen a massive rise in the support base of ABSU backed PCDR and so was the differences seen in the result. However, in 2016 Assembly Election, BPF could retain 12 MLAs. This election had witnessed the new trend of BPF-BJP pre-poll alliance in BTAD areas where both the parties have supported each other as per agreed in pre-election alliance. At present the party has 27 MCLAs in BTC, 12 MLAs in Assam Legislative Assembly and a lone Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament. It has 2 Cabinet Ministers in Government of Assam. The party has been ruling the BTC for successive third times.

Despite the realisation of political autonomy the political aspiration of Bodo's has not perished. In adverse the Bodoland demand by ABSU has reached its zenith with getting exposure to National Capital and grabbing the eyes of National media in recent times. Such conviction for Bodoland movement has gained the ABSU a mass support from Bodo population. This could visibly seen in the growing influences of the ABSU in BTAD elections and their role in emergence of strong Independent Candidates changing the course of politics in BTAD.

Challenges:

It was created with high expectation to bring rapid transformation in socio-economic sectors. However, BTC like other districts of Assam is no exception in terms of development. It hasn't met its promise to fulfil rapid socio-economic development in the area; instead the Council Government has seen tapped into multiple issues. Time and again, it is often alleged of being involved in corruption, nepotism, mis-governance, unaccountability, transparency and so on.

Over the decades, this region has undergone much ethnic unrest, arms fight and separatist demand. The problems like Communal disturbances over the decades have rose to leap and bound in numbers. It has become a communal hub with a tendency to turn the region into mass grave at any point of time when provoked. As a matter of fact the BTAD has bore the burn of brute communal clashes in the year 2008 in Udalguri district, in the year 2012 in Kokrajhar and Chirang districts, and in the year 2014 in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Bongaigaon and Sonitpur districts. In addition, the issues like identity, land control, language, and immigrations and demographic change fuel up different ethnic groups to confrontations from time to time. The region is often referred as 'boiling pot' for such disturbances erupting in frequent years.

BTAD is giving evenly abode to non-Bodos also. Further, the silent intrusion of migrants into the region over the years has caused demographic change in the region. In fact, their population have outnumbered the Bodo's thereby posing a serious threat to their political existence. The subsequent increased in assertion and demand of the non-Bodos day by day is not a myth rather an utter truth which affirmed not just their existence but also emerging polarised force in recent years. The emergence of "O-Boro" organisation in recent years (Non-Boro) and its propaganda of divisive politics in the line of racial affinity 'Boro' and 'O-Boro' have created distrust and communal feeling and hatred amongst them. It has jeopardy the socially inter-connection among the different racial groups living in the area.

The region is also affected by insurgent activities. The insurgent groups like ULFA, NDFB, KLO and others are in active operation. The incident of horrific killing of the innocent people in a broad day light in the weekly market of Balajan Tiniali of Kokrajhar district on 5th August, 2016 and the killing of the ABMSU leader in a broad day light in the Titaguri market have created not only havoc among common people but also created a state of uncertainty of the security of life in BTAD. The region is not least from law and order point of view especially extortion and demand by several rebel groups. Further, the region is compounded with multiple issues like infrastructural and economic backwardness, lack of employment opportunities, and geographical isolation from rest of India.

Conclusion:

To sum up it may be stated that under the Sixth Schedule, several Autonomous District Council and Autonomous Council are in operation in North East India to usher the political and land rights of various

ethnic minorities. As such BTAD is one created in recent decades with an aim to provide political autonomy and to accelerate the socio-economic development of this Tribal dominated region of Assam. And, so far it has been believed to be an instrumental in promoting socio- economic development in this region. Going by the common perspective of the general people BTAD occupies less esteem (not impressive) as local government institution; since, its nature and degree of accountability and transparency comes under instant suspect. The Council met often allegation of corruption, nepotism, non-democratic, mismanagement of funds and so on from various public domain. Despite of many limitations BTC/BTAD administration under Sixth Schedule Constitution has been working not only in the direction of Socio-Economic development but also towards appeasing political aspiration of the people of this region.

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