

Insurgency In Nagaland: Past, Present And Future

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on reasons of development of insurgency in Nagaland. The study is also on political, social and economic conditions of the Nagas, the initiation of development remains a question and the living standard of the Naga people cannot go up due to insurgency. The Naga insurgency has led the growth of more insurgency in Northeast India; the role of China, Pakistan and other countries in helping this insurgent situation has been continuing till today. The other state actors are playing their politics to weaken India. The people of Nagaland are still uncertain about their future so the study is also on the future of the Naga people focusing more on economy and international relations. The initiation of Act east policy will also bring reformation to the economy of India and the North-east states. The liberation of Myanmar from military juntas and the initiation of democracy in Myanmar will also help the Naga people in many ways in terms of political, social and economic aspects. The present study came up with noteworthy suggestions to tackle with this debatable issue.

Key words: Insurgency, NSCN, NNC

INTRODUCTION

India which is a land of diversity with different cultures and religion consisting of Hinduism, Bhuddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Muslim and Christianity. The East India company came to India in 1757 for trade and slowly they started colonizing India. The British had ruled India from 1858 to 1947 during that time they had partitioned Bengal that is west and East Bengal; East Bengal which is currently known as Bangladesh. The Britishers had partitioned India in 1947 that is Pakistan and India; India got independence in 1947 and Pakistan was trying to take Jammu and Kashmir which India led war with Pakistan. In 1969 there was an armed uprising led by

communists in Telengana which is in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In 1960s, in south India there was a demand for separation from India by the Tamils with the growing power of the Tamil nationalist Dravida kazagham, later the Dravida Muthera Kazagham (DMK). The DMK was the first influential political movement and so it was resolved and the Telegana problem was also solved without the use of armed forces. The central government felt that they had enough power to deal with this uprising with the use of local police. The Indian government managed to solve it as this issue threatens unity in diversity and it will lead to disintegration of India. There was also Peasant uprising in west Bengal which came to be known as Naxalites movement and it started from Naxalbari, a small village in West Bengal, where a section of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) started a violent uprising in 1967. Naxalite movement started for redistribution of land to the landless and poor farmers.

There was also a demand of separate Nation by the Nagas and this demand had started during British rule in India. The Naga demand was a unique one and this unique was due to difference in culture, identity and history. The Nagas were free people and were never part of india from time immemorial; even during the Mughal rule in India, Naga hills remained untouched by the Mughals, it was only after the coming of the Britishers in India. The British had promised the Nagas that they will be left free for self-determination when Britishers left india. The Nagas had declared their independence on 14th August 1947- one day before India declared independence.

Significance of the Study

The demand for State autonomy in different regions of India has lead to development of various events of strikes, agitation, protest, violence and death. These demands have raised mainly due to uneven development in some specific areas which has resulted into unrest among people from different regions in India. Nagaland is just another example in this regard. The Naga movement at first was a peaceful movement for self-determination but as Indian government started sending Indian armies in Nagaland during the year 1954 which led to the killing of thousands of innocent Nagas thus the insurgency movement started, the atrocities committed by the Indian army on Naga people had led more Nagas to join the revolutionary movement. The Nagas by blood are staunch nationalist and for that reason Insurgency movement survives till

today. Albert Einstein once said “Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.”

The scholars who had conducted studies on Insurgency in Nagaland had described the past history of the Nagas during British rule and the Indo-Naga war which was fought between Indian armies and Naga rebels. The scholars had shown why insurgency movement started in Nagaland and why the split of Naga National Council happened after the signing of Shillong Accord in 1975 which led to the formation of NSCN and later it led to the formation of so many factions/groups in Nagaland. The earlier scholars haven't given attention to newly formed group NSCN (reformation) which was formed in 2015. The research also lacks in the area of Peace Accord which was signed in 2015 between Modi government and (NSCN IM). The scholars haven't clearly mentioned the Future of the Naga people. Apart from this the idea whether granting autonomous status to the Nagaland State or granting complete Independence to Nagaland would lead to solving the Naga issue or not, has not been explored thoroughly.

The present study has explored various issues like taxation imposed by the various Naga Insurgent groups and attitude of people of Nagaland towards taxation. The study has explored on why so many insurgent groups had come up and creation of new insurgent groups has become a big burden to the society as they are required to pay taxes to newly formed groups. The study also highlights on Peace Accord which was signed in 2015 between Modi government and (NSCN IM), its reasons as well as outcome and the Naga People attitude towards this Peace Accord. The study also focused on NSCN (k) stand on complete independence of the Naga people. Keeping the above mentioned points in mind the researcher resolved to undertake the present study.

Objectives of the Study

- 1.) To explore the causes responsible for the development of Insurgency in Nagaland.
- 2.) To study the present Insurgent conditions in Nagaland.
- 3.) To examine the impact of Insurgency on socio-economic conditions of Naga people.
- 4.) To analyze the role of the government in tackling insurgency in Nagaland.
- 5.) To analyse the role of NGO's and Churches in bringing peace, unity and re-conciliation in Nagaland.

- 6.) To explore the attitude of inhabitants of Nagaland towards insurgency.
- 7.) To explore the future of the Naga people.

Research Questions

- 1.) Which factors have led to the development of Insurgency in Nagaland?
- 2.) What are the present Insurgent conditions prevailing in Nagaland?
- 3.) How far insurgency has effected the socio- economic condition in Nagaland?
- 4.) How far government has played an effective role in dealing with the problem of Insurgency in Nagaland?
- 5.) How far NGO's and Churches have played a major role in bringing peace, unity and reconciliation in Nagaland?
- 6.) What is the attitude of Naga people towards Insurgency in Nagaland ?
- 7.) What will be the Future of the Naga people?

Method

The present study aimed at studying Insurgency in Nagaland of selected areas of Nagaland by taking the feedbacks of the Naga people. So considering this a descriptive survey method was used in the present study.

Sampling

As far as sampling technique is concerned, stratified random sampling technique was used by the investigator. In the present study the investigator collected the data from Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland, from educated Naga people. In the present study sample comprised of 100 respondents including men and women from Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland.

Tools

The investigator analyzed different articles published in newspapers, journals, political science books and certain weblinks. For answering one of the research question primary data was required, for this the investigator had to refer a questionnaire. To the best of the knowledge of the researcher. No standardized tool is available to test the attitude of Naga people towards the insurgency in Nagaland. Therefore, in the present study the investigator resolved to construct the questionnaire to assess the Naga people's attitude towards the insurgency in Nagaland

Conclusion**Conclusion Pertaining to Factors Responsible for Development of Insurgency in Nagaland**

- The threatening attitude of the Indian army is also making people to support and join the insurgents.
- The past history of the Nagas has inspired the people to join the cause.
- The disunity among the Naga groups and the blame games between rival factions is all responsible for the growth of insurgency
- The formation of new faction due to differences of ideology among the leaders is responsible for the continuance of insurgency.
- The Naga insurgents never surrender as they are staunch nationalist by blood.

Conclusion Pertaining to Present Insurgent Conditions Prevailing in Nagaland

- As unity lacks among the different groups and in every decade more factions are growing up.
- The collection of taxes by different groups have become a big burden to the society and it is bringing imbalance in Nagaland
- The imposition of AFSPA in Nagaland is making the situation more worst.
- The rules, regulation and details of Naga peace accord signed in 2015 are still not disclosed to the people

Conclusion Pertaining to Insurgency Effecting the Socio-Economic Condition in Nagaland.

- For decades no development works can be initiated in Nagaland due to insurgency.
- The Indian armies in the name of fighting insurgency seems to be threatening the Naga people.
- The living standard of the Naga people cannot go up due to insurgency and all the people are suffering due to multiple taxation.

Conclusion Pertaining to Effective Role Played by Government in Dealing with the Problem of Insurgency in Nagaland.

- The central and state government had been playing so many roles in dealing with insurgency and the signing of cease fire with insurgents had somehow brought normalcy in Nagaland

- The Indian government had rounds of talks with Naga groups at the highest level and they had recognized the unique history of the Nagas.
- The centre and state government had been making so many policies and strategies to end insurgency in Nagaland

Conclusion Pertaining to Role of NGO's and Churches in Bringing Peace, Unity and Re-Conciliation in Nagaland

- The FNR, various church bodies and tribal bodies has done a remarkable jobs in bringing different Naga groups on one table.
- The Action Committee Against Undebated Taxation(ACAUT) is playing an effective role to curb multiple taxation and they are also bringing awareness to the people.

Conclusion Pertaining to the Attitude of Naga people Towards Insurgency in Nagaland.

- The unification of all the Naga groups has been the Naga people's dream.
- Without the interference of all the Naga groups the future of Naga people can't be decided by NSCN-IM alone.
- The insurgency in North-east may continue until Naga issue is solved.
- Once the problem of insurgency is solved then corruption will die out in Nagaland.
- Development will come once insurgency problem is solved.
- There must be one administration unit that will collect one tax for all the insurgents and not by different insurgents themselves.
- In this present context most of the Naga people don't like Naga insurgents because they have become corrupted but it doesn't mean that they have stop their faith on them.
- The Naga people wants AFSPA to be removed immediately as it is not the answer to solve insurgency.
- The possibility of Nagas achieving Independence still remains an uncertain and debatable issue.

Conclusion Pertaining to the Future of the Naga People

- The achievement of complete independence will be the future of the Naga people.
- The liberation of Myanmar from military juntas and the establishment of democracy will add more advantage to the Naga people.

- The connectivity of roads and railways from china and southeast asia through via Myanmar area will boost economic trade relations with India and Nagaland.
- Nagas must put aside all their differences and work together as one if they want development and independence.

5.2 Recommendations

Nagaland had been experiencing conflicts for many decades and during this period many steps were taken to control insurgency by Indian government like imposition of AFSPA and granting statehood to Nagaland but this things could not solve the Naga issue. It is a fact that only complete independence in the future will solve the Naga issue but for now some steps are to be taken if normalcy and peace has to prevail. Here are the following points.

- 1.) It is a well-known fact that the Naga issue cannot be solved by using military power but through political talks and peaceful means. So Indian government should provide greater scope for such kind of political talks.
- 2.) The making of ceasefire agreement with Naga insurgent groups will also bring peace and the extension of ceasefire is also the desire of the Naga people.
- 3.) The Indian armies and the Naga insurgent must also abide by all the cease fire ground rules as these rules are being violated by both of them.
- 4.) As the Naga insurgent had to stay in their respective designated camps and so they must not be allowed to carry guns while going out of their camps but only licensed guns which had been approved under ceasefire ground rules, for their protection from rival factions should be allowed.
- 5.) The Indian armies must not block the supplies like rations which are being transported to designated camps and they must not surround the designated camps like they did earlier to NSCN (IM) designated camps as it had brought war-like situation between them.
- 6.) The Indian government and the state government must give full support to Forum for Naga reconciliation (FNR) and Action committee against unabated taxation (ACAUT) as they are bringing peace, law and order and bringing balance in Nagaland.
- 7.) The Indian government must stop deporting thousands of Indian armies in Nagaland as the presence of more armies is making the situation worst.
- 8.) The state need to have more Naga security forces like IRB and they have to be well disciplined or else it will result to chaos. The Naga security forces should be given proper basic needs as they are bringing balance between insurgents and the people.

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APPENDICES

Attitude Scale related to Insurgency in Nagaland

Please fill up the following information: _

Name.....

District.....

Gender.....Date.....

Instructions

There are certain statements given in the scale with the option of three alternatives before every statement for example- ‘agree’ ‘uncertain’ and ‘disagree’. You are requested to select the option which is most applicable as per your opinion by marking tick mark (✓) in the box provided against each statement. Be assured your responses will be kept confidential and will be used for research purpose only.

Sr.No	Statements	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree
1.	The new peace Accord which had been signed recently between NSCN (IM) and Indian government will solve the long going Indo- Naga issue	☐	☐	☐
2.	NSCN (IM) is really representing for the Nagas in Myanmar	☐	☐	☐
3.	The different Naga Insurgent groups in this present context are actually fighting for Naga independence.	☐	☐	☐
4.	The future of the Naga people lies at the hand of NSCN (IM).	☐	☐	☐
5.	The Nagas struggle for Independence will come to an end if Insurgent leaders like Isak chishi swu and SS Khaplang no more remain in power.	☐	☐	☐
6.	The Insurgency movement of the Nagas had also sown the seed of Insurgency in Northeast India.	☐	☐	☐
7.	Insurgency is responsible for the growth of corruption in Nagaland.	☐	☐	☐
8.	Due to Insurgency in Nagaland no development activities could take place.	☐	☐	☐
9.	Due to growing number of different Insurgent groups in Nagaland, taxation issue has become a big burden to the people of Nagaland.	☐	☐	☐
10.	The factionalism among different Insurgent groups led to the growth of tribalism in Nagaland.	☐	☐	☐
11.	The NSCN (K) stand for the complete independence of the Nagas.	☐	☐	☐
12.	The reason behind young Nagas joining various Insurgent groups truly lies in nationalism and not as a desperate measure to seek employment.	☐	☐	☐
13.	The State government, Naga hohos, church bodies, forum for Naga reconciliation (FNR), Naga student federation (NSF) and other tribal organizations are playing effective role in Bringing peace in Nagaland.	☐	☐	☐

14.	The imposition of armed forces special power act (AFSPA) by the Indian government in Nagaland is making the situation worst.	☐	☐	☐
15.	The Nagas will be able to achieve complete independence in the future.	☐	☐	☐