

A Study of Maoist affected Jangle Mahal

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Abstract


Jangle Mahal is a barren and rugged land surrounded by hills and forests, sharing border Orissa and Jharkhand in the south- West of West Bengal. After a long period of Naxal Movement, Arms movement started again in West Bengal. In spite of century's poverty and deprivation of the people in this region, no massive people's movement has ever developed here since the independence. Even the land movements organized by communists during this period in other parts of the state did not significantly spread to this area. The Naxalist, first MMC group, and the peoples war group and finally after their unity, the CPI (Maoist) party try to organized the people since the 1980,s. the Maoists, no doubt are dedicated and self-sacrificing, working for the uplift and liberation of downtrodden people, though many have serious and reasonable differences with their methods. The Maoists gained the sympathy and support of the people of the jangle on the basis of the burning problems in the area. The simple indigenonous people of jangle area had been alienated from the government due to government deprivation, The dominance of the ruling party, corruption in local government and the complexity of government machinery. After 2011 assembly election in west Bengal Trinamul congress (TMC) came into power led by Mamata Banerjee. The mamata's government has initiated lots of efforts and welfare scheme to jangle mahal for peace and development. Although Mamata's development agenda has undergone many changes in jangle mahal. But some important local issues still remain.

Keywords: *Deprivation, Arms conflict, Undeveloped, Property, Downtrodden people*

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Introduction:

Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram districts at the western side of the state of west Bengal is mostly rural. There are however few urban and many semi urban areas within the jurisdiction of these four districts. People have been familiar with name of 'Jangle mahal' Through the media since the beginning of Maoist activities. There is long history behind this name jangle mahal. English east India Company set their sights on this jangle for almost a decade after the company gained civil rights in Bengal in 1765. After 1767 the British company began a campaign for torture and military operation in the jangle to satisfy their interests. Military camps were set up at jangle mahal to bring the independence zaminder and common people under control. The military in jangle mahal were set up mainly suppression the "chuar movement" and rebels. The east India Company brash up a new law regulation of xvii of 1805 and form a new district called jangle mahal. According to the act, a major part of Manbhum, Bankura and Medinipur comprising 25 parganas or mahals was formed under the supervision of a magistrate. Bankura was made the headquarters of the new district for convenience of administration, because Bankura is situated of at the centre of the entire jangle mahal. The geographical and administrative boundaries of the jangle mahal have changed a lot since the British and after independence. The post-independence Manbhum district was divided and purulia district formed in accordance with the 1956 act. And Purulia district was annexed to west Bengal. A Large portion of aboriginals has mingled themselves with mainstream Hindu community as lower classes. Some of the tribe communities are still maintaining their originality as far as possible. The official

abolition however could not erase the name and fame of jangle mahal. The famous or infamous term always remain in public mind. From the writings of O'Malley it is clear that during its formation the district was quite large. At present however the forest and hill-based regions of paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia are known as jangle mahal is a truncated part of the British 'Jangle Mahal'. But this is to be noted that such classification is purely unofficial as well as verbal.

Why Effected:

The district that comprises the red corridor is among the poorest in the country. Bihar Jharkhand and Orissa are un development state in the country. Other areas encompassed by the red corridor, such as Chhattisgarh state and the Telengana state, are also either impoverished or have significant economic inequality or both. The picture of jangle mahal in west Bengal is not exceptional. A large section of the population of the region consists of Adibasi or tribes and scheduled castes. These downtrodden people have deprived of any effective development endeavor. In terms of development, this region termed the western region by government is like to sides of same coin, coexistence of endless rich forest and huge area of uncultivated land, or of natural beauty and harsh poverty and deprivation. Most of this region is backward in respect of income, literacy and health. Most of this region extremely Maoist influenced almost fourty blocks in Bankura, Jhargram, Purulia and west Medinipur district, the scenario is really miserable. Many political analysis' and functionaries attributes this dissent to the negligible failure of governance and under development in these area. The elected panchayat bodies in many blocks of jangle mahal had virtually stopped functioning since 2008, with most elected members having fled the areas. The block development officers' office became a protected zone.

Ethnic Difference:

Ethical variation of the region is also remarkable. Almost 25-30% of the total populations of the aforesaid district are tribes. The tribe communities are very conscious as to the prevention and reservation of their cultural identity. There is considerable variation among the tribes living in the jangle. Jangle mahal is inhabited by tribes, such as santa, kurmi, bhumij,sarak, brabham, sabar mundar or coul, etc. Also, the general category tribes here is also sufficient here. Santal are the majority of the tribe group in the jangle mahal area. According to Mr Dalton,s report the sandals lived in an area of about three hundred miles in jangle mahal. The santal community is a descendant of the aborigines of Australia, that is why they are considered to belong the austic class. The kurmi community is one of the major communities in jangle mahal. As a result, agriculture economy of west Bengal. Sandals believed in a simple group life. But in the present age, due to introduction of various rituals of the Aryan civilization among the santal, the economic inequality is becoming less in their society. After the independence of India many changes have taken places in the social life of santals. They have gradually improved in education, culture modern life practice employment etc.

Poverty and Deprivation:

Historically it is evident that violence never has been proved to have beneficial effective. But in this case, it is the violence that has compelled people to turn their attendee towards jangle mahal. Along with incidence of violence there have been reports on acute underdevelopment of the area. From various report it seems that jangle mahal particularly its rural parts are lagging far behind with the respect to the changing experience elsewhere. Not only the way of living of rural individuals is appeared as different but to some extent, anachronistic, compared to rest of Bengal as well. Bankura midnapore and purulia also experienced enthusiastic implementation of the programme of operation barga. Data on number of recorded beneficiaries from operation barga shows that at least in Bankura and in co mined Midnapore government had given no less effort in implementing the programme. The other district with in jangle mahal, Purulia however had few numbers of beneficiaries of operation barga. But it is also a fact that operation barga has failed to bring in development or reduce poverty in

the area. It seems that there might have been operations of some sorts of leakages that impeded policy of implementation to bring in required change in jangle mahal.

Tribal community of jangle mahal like to maintain self-sufficient at some level but the conventional concept of development may find hints of underdevelopment in such thinking villagers find it quite difficult to commute freely across regions and the development in the rest of the state remains unknown to them. At the panchayat level such ignorance at the part of the village impedes generation of demand for developmental projects. Members of some Panchayat take advantage of that and in many cases, projects are implemented only in papers. Government remained silent as there was no one to raise complaint against malfunctioning of ruling party led panchayats and corruption of local government officials. The controversial people's committee against police atrocity (PCPA), during their agitation, tried at least to some extent to make villagers aware about their rights. It is evident that during full-fledged Maoist operation against CPI (M) cadres and their good relation with PCPA such local level corruption was reduced drastically. Corruption at the local levels may have been appropriating resources allotted for employment generation and poverty eradication schemes. Hence at the outset it seems that at the decentralized framework of west Bengal, Jangle mahal experienced implementation of state policy. Its character is however somewhat different. Domination of the tribe in population in there which may belong to different cultural environment. Historically the area experienced isolation and freedom. In modern time the area suffered from extremist disturbances. On the basis of above discussions let us now try to summarize objectives of the research as follows.

Conclusion:

The Maoist have killed count-less low-level political party cadres, destroyed many government properties, and created an atmosphere of despair. The violence alienated the peace-loving common people from politics. Common people have been exploited in the fight between the government and the Maoist.

It can be said that the historical identity of jangle mahal as a result of maoist movement has come to the fore in a new way. The discussion of the news headline and the pressure from civil society drew the attention of the government. The front government considered the problems of the area and formed the Paaschim anchal unyaan parishad in 2007. But despite this, maoist activities have increased over time and turned violent. After the trinamul congress came into power in west Bengal and adopted various development projects, the maoist influence may not be there since 2014 but the anger of the people in the jangle mahal area remains. The main reasons for the politicizing government, unequal distribution of government project, lack of awareness of common people etc. due to above an unequal development can be notice in jangle area.

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