



A CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE ON THE WORKING OF SIXTH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

By *Dr. Aniruddha Babar*

*Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political Science,
Tetso College, Dimapur*

Abstract

The constitution of India is considered as the most crucial and supreme law of India. It helps the system to work in a directional and systematic manner. It provides uniformity in terms of rule within the entire country however there are certain regions that are governed by some special provisions. In this regard, constitution of India has made some special provisions for administering the tribal dominated areas especially from Northeastern States that includes Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. Based on the article number 244 as well as 6th schedule, all such areas are considered as Tribal Areas that are technically distinct from Scheduled Areas that comes under fifth schedule. Main objective of the Sixth Schedule is to provide self-rule to various tribal communities in Northeastern states of the country. It was successfully implemented in tribal areas to provide autonomy as well as to initiate or improve the growth and development opportunities in these regions. However it failed to provide institutional and structural development of regions.

The study reflected in the current article effectively identified the performance of Sixth Schedule in terms of addressing the merits and demerits attained by the tribal regions with its implementation. The impact

of Sixth Schedule on Northeastern States and tribes can be determined in both positive and negative manner. In addition to this, detailed discussion on Autonomy of tribes will be followed by the discussion of Sixth Schedule implied within Northeastern States. Further the recommendations would be made on how the deficiencies in the overall functioning of the sixth scheduled could be addressed and also on how the conflicts and differences of various stakeholders in these Northeastern States can be resolved such that it will not only facilitates smooth functioning of the ADCs but also contribute towards overall development of the regions and the Constitutional Justice to the people.

KEY-WORDS:

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, SIXTH SCHEDULE, TRIBAL AUTONOMY, GOVERNANCE, NORTHEAST INDIA

Introduction

The most prominent structural change required is within the administration of political autonomy within North East India. The discussion has been at the verge since the British Era, and this has led to the appointment of sub-committee to the Constituent Assembly. Recommendations of the committee were related to the setting of autonomous district councils so as to represent the tribal population at the local level (Bhuyan, 2013). This recommendation was turned out to be Sixth Schedule within the Indian Constitution. Sixth Schedule to the constitution came into existence after the number of discussion and debates held in constituent assembly in the year 1949. The provision was put forward for retaining the administrative structure of tribal areas as well as to promote the existing culture of these backward communities. The Sixth Schedule



of Constitution of India supports developing autonomous districts with an interest of protecting economic and cultural interests of the hilly tribes. Northeastern India with hilly regions has been governed and controlled by different criterions when compared to the rest of the parts of India.

Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (Article 275 and Article 244(2)) supports developing provisions for tribal areas majorly in four states such as Assam, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya (Jacob, 2015). Under the articles, a distinct mechanism is being provided only for tribal zones because of political significance, and this has changed largely with the changing times. In other words, it can be said that it makes special provisions related to governance, types of local bodies, financial powers, alternate judicial mechanisms, etc. In this context, the article will also highlight the importance of autonomous district according to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. With such provisions, it has been stated that tribal areas are strictly to be administered as the autonomous district. This includes the development of the district and regional councils for exercising and implementation of judicial as well as legislative functions. The article will; therefore, support discussing the power of councils in terms of law-making related to the preservation of environmental resources, customs and rituals, etc. (Sampat, 2013). Role of government will also be discussed and its influence upon the councils.

The current article will support; concluding with benefits and disadvantages of the Sixth Council of the Indian Institution upon the growth of tribal areas. The development of autonomous councils will be discussed along with the role and benefits of each of the council that is responsible for governing the

specified tribal regions. Development of tribal areas in terms of education, culture, technology and various other aspects is the main aim of formulating the Sixth Schedule. However, along with benefits number of limitations and challenges has been identified; while the functioning of autonomous councils and the same will be discussed in various sections of the articles. This will help to determine appropriate recommendations so that issues can be resolved from the roots and the development of tribal regions without the existence of conflicting situations can be done. In addition to this, implementation of Six Schedule in its true letter and spirit will not only support the development of tribal regions but will also contribute towards equal participation of all the states in the cultural and economic growth of the country.

Moreover, It is necessary to understand that, one of the foundations of Autonomy in Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh is the application of the Inner Line Permit Regime under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873, by which citizens from the other parts of India have to take permits to enter these states to check influx. Outsiders cannot buy land in the Sixth Schedule and other tribal areas such as in the hills of Manipur.

All these different types of special status were not conferred as a gift to the tribes and the other struggling communities, but were the result of tough debates and negotiations by the leaders of the tribes at the time of creation of the Indian nation in the Constituent Assembly - side by side with much struggle and bloodshed outside of the constitutional arenas.



Sixth Schedule

Main aim and purpose behind the formulation of Sixth Schedule is to facilitate tribal communities with the power of administration of tribal areas within Northeast. This comes under the provision of article 244(2) and 275(1) of the Indian Constitution. Sixth Schedule provides broader framework for administering tribal areas of North-eastern States of Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram (Middleton, 2013). Meghalaya and Mizoram are categorized as tribal majority states and Assam and Tripura comes under tribal minority state. The regions and population under tribal areas are being governed by Autonomous Districts and Regions irrespective of less intervention of state legislatures. However Meghalaya is the state where President has declared that all the areas within the State come under Sixth Scheduled Area.

According to Middleton, (2013), Six Schedule supports developing a framework related to autonomous decentralized governance that includes executive and legislative powers. Such powers effectively resolves the issues related to culture, customs, water, land and soil. Councils are also provided with judicial powers so that issues related to criminal or civil cases can be resolved. Therefore it has been identified that councils within Sixth Schedule are allocated with more powers as compared to local government based on the 73rd and 74th amendment made within the country. It has been identified that autonomy paradigm has helped to maintain the equilibrium within tribal communities through dispute resolution with the help of customary laws as well as control over facilities like money lending (Sivaramakrishnan, 2013). Autonomous councils within Mizoram,

Tripura, and Assam holds the power to make decisions on whether there should be involvement of State Legislations should be applied to their territories or not.

Powers under Six Schedule

Under the six schedules, powers hold by the councils is related to executive powers and functions, judicial powers, legislative powers, along with financial powers and functions (Sivaramakrishnan, 2013). Autonomous district councils possess executive power which is effective in managing the primary schools, roads, water ponds, administration of villages, forest, land revenue and many areas under the similar aspect and his clearly mentioned under the part 6th and 8th of Sixth Schedule. Executive members are mostly selected by the Governor as well as by members of district council. Judicial powers and functions entail the council to involve district and village council courts within autonomous areas to make formal judgement over customary laws with the involvement of both the tribal parties. Regional and district council courts in this regard are considered as courts of appeal (Tiwari et.al.2013). Based on the articles and laws formulated under Sixth Schedule, it has been declared that Supreme Court and high court are the only bodies that possess jurisdiction power over suits decided by council courts.

In addition to this, legislative powers allocate powers to the district councils to create laws for the occupation, utilization of land, grazing for various purposes, regulations related to cultivation, use of water sources, money lending and many other such areas. These laws are applicable to non tribal's that exist within autonomous districts (Goswami, 2013). Only the governor holds the power to



modify the laws that are passed or agreed by the district councils however governor's power are only applicable if laws violate the provisions stated within Sixth Schedule. Therefore according to the Sixth Schedule, only the Governor acts as the head of autonomous district council as mentioned in Para 3 of sixth schedule. Furthermore, financial powers and functions can also be utilised by the district and regional councils for the formulation of rules for monitoring of finances that is being approved by the Governor. They have the power to collect taxes, land revenues, tolls while entering the goods into market. Leases for the mineral extraction or royalty on licenses come under the district council (Sunipun, 2017).

There are various provisions under Sixth Schedule for the Administration of Tribal Areas in North Eastern States. These provisions are the amendment of laws in 5th schedule and therefore it can be said that Sixth Schedule is more advantageous as compared to 5th Schedule (Phukan, M.D., 2013). Sixth Schedule has helped tribal communities by considering the constitutional autonomy that it offers. In addition to this, role of states and government are restricted with powers that are being developed on the local scale. Regional and district council receive grants from Consolidated Fund of India to fulfil the financing needs for development of healthcare, roadways, education and development. Regulatory powers under the State control are also effective in protecting the rights of consumers and also contribute towards economic development (Hausing, 2014). In addition to this, the functioning of autonomous district councils (ADCs) as per the Sixth Schedule has been identified to be successful to larger extent especially in Meghalaya as compared to other regions.

Benefits in Meghalaya are related to protection of tribal rights, ownership of property, land tenure systems, as well as right to occupation. There has also been number of achievements in Karbi Anglong District under the district council. According to the statistical data of 2012, there has been identified 2517 schools in the district that includes 2310 of rural schools as well as 207 urban schools (Bordoloi, 2013). The council aims at development of education by focusing mainly on Lower Primary Schools that includes schools with different mediums, Upgraded EGS Schools as well as Karbi Medium Schools.

Along with this, literacy rate of Assam also improved with the efforts made by district councils. Economic condition of average tribal household is found to be similar when compared to ordinary household. As per the data of 2011, 18.6% of tribal household were identified lagged in terms of durable household assets. While making comparisons of achievements of various district councils in terms of health, education, standard of living, and development, the highest index was estimated to be of Assam (Mondal and Terangpi, 2014). However Mizoram in terms of educations was ranked at top position because of its outstanding performance but at the same time it still lack behind in other areas.

The State of Meghalaya ranked at 7th position in terms of Human Development Index among North Eastern States. As per Goswami, (2013), the Meghalaya Human Development Report 2008 indicates the sluggish development rate of the state. The main reason behind this downfall identified was related to poor health conditions of population within the State. Reasons behind such deterioration are related to



mismanagement of ADCs in terms of misuse of government funds that is allocated for the development activities. Along with this there has been identified number of conflicts between state legislatures and district councils. For an example, Meghalaya was considered as whole state under the Sixth Schedule causes regular conflicts on different issues with the State Government (McDuierra and Kikon, 2016). Para 12 (A) within the Sixth Schedule states that state legislature would be prevailing in case of conflict arises between state legislature and District Council which evidently gives superior position to state legislature.

Disparity among local bodies and autonomous bodies is another demerit with the implementation of Sixth Schedule (Sen, 2013). Local bodies that were formulated by Seventy-third Amendment gains fund in more flexible manner through State Finance commissions. Conflicts are related to gaining more or less amount of fund and it becomes the issue of getting more and less favours as compared to other councils. It has often been identified that few of the functionaries within district councils as well as regional councils misuse their functions and powers without in a restrictions. In addition to this, violation of rules and laws for self motive and benefits is another issue that has been identified with the implementation of autonomous councils within tribal areas. As per (Sen, 2013) Members of the councils are often found to be indulged in activities like favouritism that lead to kill the motive of council that is being made for.

Furthermore, councils have also indulged into activities such as misuse of autonomy and financial powers by diverting government funds by violating rules and regulations as well as procedures (Goswami,

2013). This is one of the biggest demerits while implementation of Sixth Schedule as it largely affects the economic conditions of the entire state and country. There are certain regulations related to customary system of land tenure and protection of land so that economic development can be fostered however unnecessary amendments in the concern laws often drawn serious criticisms as it has been accused that the amendments in question have been used for gaining personal financial benefits.

Impact of Six Schedule on North Eastern States

There are various articles in the Indian Constitution that made provisions for customary practices, protection of lands that belong to tribes, reservation of seats within Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Tribes and population within North-eastern States including Mizoram, Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya are few of the groups that collectively enjoy some special privileges in terms of protective discrimination as stated under Indian Constitution (Kolås, 2017). The Sixth Schedule allows Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) to develop laws that forbid outsiders to buy tribal land and also restrict the entry of outsiders to conduct trade while protecting the custom of population. With the failure of fifth schedule in terms of protecting the land of Indian tribes, Sixth schedule with amended powers and schedules is considered as more effective for the development of tribal regions or areas within North-eastern states. With the latest amendments in Sixth Schedule, population of 10 million tribes is identified to exist under the umbrella of Sixth Schedule in regions across Meghalaya, Tripura Mizoram, and Assam.



Meghalaya

Meghalaya is the part of the tribal area and therefore after number of discussions there was formulation of number of Autonomous District Councils within the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Lushai Hills, North Cachar Hills, and Mikir Hills, and Garo Hills. Even after the development of District councils, development was not up to the market and therefore now Meghalaya is the only state that is entirely governed by Autonomous District Councils (Bhuyan, 2013). As per Kolås, (2017), there are various tribes within Meghalaya districts such as The Jaintias that exhibit developed structure in terms of political governance however tribes known as Garos are slightly less developed. In this regard it can be said that ADCs in Meghalaya have success in their mottos to larger extent while managing the rights of tribal's. However ADCs of the state has often been indulged into conflicts with the government in terms of provision of grants. In addition to this, corruption and conflicts between has also affected the development of Meghalaya and did not meet the level of expiation in terms of health and living standard.

Assam

Considering the facts of Assam, there exist 38, 84,371 of total tribal population however state has recorded 17.4% tribal population decadal growth in the year 2001-2011 (Gassah, 2013). The Assam comprises of maximum tribes as compared to North eastern states. The overall implementation of Sixth Schedule was not appropriate for the growth of Assam tribal population in an effective manner. Inappropriate structure in terms of defining guidelines and functions led to chaos and confusions. Lack of funds was one of the major reasons that contribute towards declining downfall of tribes. The

smooth functioning of autonomous district council requires effective coordination among the mechanism of central, state, and council functioning (Hausing, 2018). The Dima Hasao region of Assam faces high corruption among different government officials. In addition, there is absence of coordination among Hill area department, Department of planning and development, and the Government of Assam with the ADC represent the failure of government in developing associated tribal areas. As per Gassah (2013), considering the facts of Karbi Council, there was greater development observed in terms of education and school facilities. Overall outcomes in terms of Assam district Councils can be summarized as absence of coordination amongst various mechanisms, Security issues, lack of appropriate governance system, and likewise.

Mizoram

Mizoram's districts are also governed by Autonomous councils and after the amendments of Sixth Schedule, districts face issues of shortage of funds or insufficient funds allocated by State governments (Prasad, 2013). Even after such difficulties, Councils managed to facilitate the State with appropriate educational facilities and therefore it is ranked at top position amongst all the North Eastern States. In this context, members of the council urged for allocating the funds direct to the village councils instead of district councils so that development procedures can be undertaken from the roots.

Therefore it can be concluded that the provisions under Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution can be considered as an effective tool in terms of governance of tribal regions and can put positive impact over preventing the cultural rights along with



economic and social development. Therefore it is important to implement the provisions to gain maximum benefits in terms of various aspects. In this regard it is important for district and village councils to gain financial support from the government for their development in better manner (Goswami, 2013). Tribes in other parts of India are also facing serious issues pertaining to effective self-governance and development and therefore Autonomous Council Models are essentially to be introduced in varied backward and tribal regions of the country.

Autonomy of tribes

Introduction

The federal practices of India have unparalleled varieties which are evolved due to colonial practices. However, the clarity in the constitutional provisions regarding the power distribution on different subject matters as defined in three lists: State, Centre, and concurrent lists. However, due to constitutional layers in India, there are many cases in which the state ignores the centre or centre ignores state even of the well-established provisions are stated in the constitution. Therefore, for the effective development of some of the dominated areas in the Indian North-Eastern region, a special provision was amended in the constitution with the sixth schedule provisions (Middleton, 2013). The schedule has prescribed separate administration provisions for the tribal areas in Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya. The prime goal of the sixth schedule is to help tribal areas in establishing their exclusive and distinct identity of tribes and their cultures.

The Indian constitution makes special administrative provisions for the tribal-dominated areas of the North-eastern region,

which includes, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, and Mizoram (L.S Gassah, 2019). The special provisions for different tribal areas are presumably due to backwardness of people in such north-eastern areas. There are different tribal communities in India which have their own different traditional governance system which is hard to understand by the government. Hence, the Indian government has given autonomy in the administrative activities of the people comes under schedule VI of the constitution. As per (Middleton, 2013), In the constitution, the sixth schedule is amended with the recommendation of Bordoloi committee and North Eastern Frontiers (Hausing, 2014). Hence, considering the recommendations, a new administrative body is established considering the regional autonomy in relation to the matters of inheritance laws, customs, forest, justice administration, etc.

As per Patnaik, (2013), the government of India has taken the initiative of granting self-governing powers to the local body of North eastern areas of India so that different affairs of tribal communities can be effectively managed along with the consideration, and protection of their unique cultural identity. However, the main critical issue in autonomous governance is how the autonomous council can contribute to the autonomy of tribal states.

Therefore, the government has made some amendments in the provisions of the sixth schedule in relation to effective autonomous regulations and its management (L.S Gassah, 2019). According to the amendment in the constitution governor of the North-Eastern states: Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya are provided with the power of declaring some of the tribal district and regional areas as the autonomous districts by



order. In addition, article 244 and 275 in the constitution of India are amended to create regional and district councils. Such councils are the administrative bodies that are empowered to manage and administer the areas covered under their jurisdiction. The district councils are set up in accordance with the status of the government (Patnaik, 2013). The central and state government both have the power to establish Autonomous District Council (ADC); however, ADCs by state legislature does not have the privilege of enjoying benefits under the sixth schedule of the constitution.

The autonomous council established by the state legislature is termed as Statutory Autonomous council. For example, the North-eastern states of Manipur and Assam have the statutory ADC. In Assam, there are three governing authorities that regulate and govern its statutory ADC: council, Panchayati raj institution, and State Department.

Structure of the Autonomous council
The autonomous councils of districts are constituted with the structure of village council at the bottom, and a general and executive council above it. The members in the General council consist of 40 members and its term period is of five years. The 36 members out of 40 are appointed by people elections residing in the areas of the council established while other four members get the nomination from the government (Functioning of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule Areas of North-Eastern States, 2016). At the other side, the executive council is the autonomous body liable to execute all the functionary elements of a general council. The members in the executive council consist of executive councillors and chief executive councillor,

the elections of which are done by the General council. The structure of the last Grass root level village council consists of only ten members of whom election is done by the people residing within the autonomous council.

Table 1: Current list of councils in North Eastern region

State	Autonomous Councils at district level
Meghalaya	Khasi Hills ADC Jaintia Hills ADC Garo Hills ADC
Assam	Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Dima Hasao District Autonomous Council Bodoland Territorial Council
Tripura	Tripura Tribal Areas ADC
Mizoram	Chakma ADC Lai ADC Mara ADC

Table 2: Administrative operational structure in other north eastern areas having majority population of tribes



State	Administrative operational structure	
Manipur	Hill Village Authority Act and Manipur Hill Areas District Council	RabhaHasong AC
Arunachal Pradesh	Panchayati Raj Institutions	
Nagaland	Local Village Councils	

Legislative powers of the councils
 The councils at regional and District level are granted with some special powers of making laws on some local matters which are of high importance. However, formation and implementation of such laws in the jurisdiction areas of autonomous councils require the approval of the governor of the particular state in concern. Also, the governor can take considerations of the president for some of the specific laws (Kshetri, 2013). Following is the list of important subjects and areas on which autonomous councils can make laws: flood control, fisheries, modes of transport like, roads, ferries, bridges, etc. education at primary and secondary level, agricultural education and research, animal husbandry, and relevant training, employment, entertainment areas, social insurance and security, public health, dispensaries, hospitals, and sanitation, trade and commerce, land alienation, monuments, museums, etc and minor irrigation. In addition, to this, Bodoland Territorial Council has some more powers to improve the subject areas of local interest (Sixth Schedule, 2016).

Table 3: List of Statutory Autonomous councils

State	Statutory Autonomous Councils
Manipur	Chandel ADC Sadar Hills ADC, Kangpokpi Churachandpur ADC Manipur North ADC ,Senapati Ukhrul ADC Tamenglong ADC
Assam	Deori Autonomous Council (TKHAC) Thengal Kachori Hill Autonomous Council Sonowal Kachari AC Missing AC Lalung Autonomous Council

Judicial powers
 The judicial provisions stated under the sixth schedule of legislation state that if any state legislature has made any laws pertaining to any subject matter, must act within the council’s jurisdictional areas, and cannot extend its regulatory laws within such jurisdiction unit the council make public notifications relevant to it (Gassah, 2013). The sixth schedule for the autonomous tribe administration has also specified that if the



central act or state act is formed and implemented, then the president or the governor respectively have the power to make non-applicable provisions of such laws or applicable with some modifications as they feel required. The sixth schedule has also endowed the councils with wide judicial powers in terms of civil and criminal aspects. However, such jurisdictions of councils require judicial assent of the concerned state high court.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In India, the administration of tribal areas is always the focal point of the government while making policies at the central level (Actionaid India 2016). In India, Tribal areas are bifurcated into two sections, in which the tribal autonomy administration power has been given to the section of schedule VI while others are included in Schedule V and are still struggling for such autonomy. In the past decade, the sixth schedule has shown success to a certain level in preserving and protecting the identities of tribes. It has also supported those tribes who struggled for their separate existence in the form of state in the Northeastern Indian region.

Although there are various pitfalls in the clauses of a sixth schedule pertaining to the autonomous council, it has delivered various benefits to the tribal communities and allowed them to regulate their jurisdictional areas beyond their villages (Verghese, 2013). The autonomous council provisions under the sixth constitutional schedule are effective tools for efficient governance in specified areas of the tribe. Such a tool has a major significance in the Northeastern part of India with the potential of safeguarding the unique

cultural identity of the diverse group of tribes along with economic and social development. The administrative structure and system of autonomous bodies argued in the report established at District, regional, and village level.

The report has presented an overview of specific ADCs functions and its legislative and jurisdictional powers for better governance system in the areas of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and Meghalaya (Anirudhh Kumar Baro, 2017). In addition, the remarkable achievements are also identified in relation to the Autonomous councils that has made prolific improvement in the political and economic changes in their specific areas of the tribe. Although the people of areas specified under the sixth schedule enjoy autonomy in relation to governance and administration (Sixth Schedule, 2014). There are some key challenges too that makes the customary laws and provisions complicated for the specified tribal groups. Hence, in the present context, it is essential to enhance the scope of the sixth schedule in accordance with the new mechanism regime and expectations of local communities.

The establishment of autonomous councils for the regional and District areas also creates difficulty due to the difference in the ground realities and the provisions. For example, autonomous councils have regular complaints regarding deprivation of their functions and powers by the state legislature under the jurisdiction. On the other side, the partial power to the state is based on the lacking competence and skills of the autonomous council in managing their jurisdiction departments. Hence, it is



recommended that government must develop specific provisions in relation to the powers that can be fully transferred, not transferred, and partially transferred for the welfare of the people of tribal areas under schedule sixth.

Government is required to give immediate attention to the clarity of different functions of ADCs along with the mapping up of all the activities of ADC at different levels of Panchayati Raj system. It will facilitate in identifying the major initiative taken by ADCs in favor of the tribal areas, and every lacking area can be effectively monitored (Functioning of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule Areas of North-Eastern States, 2016). The sixth schedule in its Para 4 has clearly provided that ADCs must constitute District and village council in their respective jurisdiction areas to manage affairs regarding customary laws. However, in Tripura, TTAADC failed to establish such a judiciary system. Thus it is recommended that TTAADC must take essential steps of creating courts at village and district levels to ensure better regulations in tribal societies of Tripura.

It is essential for the central government to take effective measures for the elimination of disparity among council, state, and central functions so that the provisions established for the Tribal people in the sixth schedule can be effectively implemented for their better future. There is a need for a monitoring committee and a team that can reduce the corruption issues in the tribal areas of Assam (Sixth Schedule, 2019). Also, the committee must ensure that coordination among different officials in Assam as well as other tribal-dominated states in India for effective management and administration. In addition, there must be trained members elected in ADCs to ensure healthy governance system

with more responsible officials. There is a need for insertion of provisions in the sixth schedule to make ADCs more accountable towards their functioning. The provisions and clause must mandate the ADCs to make village councils to establish effective interaction at field level.

It is identified that local council bodies established under the 73rd amendment have more powers in access to financial assistance with the support of State financial commission. However, the issues that tribal areas of Northeastern regions are facing in relation to the unequal financial assistance must be resolved with the effective measures (The Statesman, 2019). The government can establish a body or committee that can monitor the budget allocation activities in different areas specified under schedule so that such areas can get equal opportunities for growth and development. The people living in the districts and regions of ADCs must be aware of their rights, and the basic reason for the insertion of the sixth schedule in the constitution to enhance its significance among them. Also, such awareness is essential to reduce the impact of ethnic disturbances and instability among the political forces, and thus help in producing positive results in the long term.

References

Books and Journals

- Bhuyan, B.C., 2013. Political development of the North East. Vol. 1.
- Bordoloi, B.N., 2013. Transfer and alienation of tribal land in Assam: With special reference to the Karbis of the Karbi Anglong District.



Gassah, L.S., 2013. The sixth schedule and the 73rd amendment: An analysis.

Goswami, A., 2013. Traditional self-governing institutions among the Hill Tribes of North-East India.

Hausing, K.K.S., 2014. Asymmetric federalism and the question of democratic justice in Northeast India. *India Review*, 13(2), pp.87-111.

Jacob, A., 2015. *Constitutional Developments Since Independence*. Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.

Kolås, Å., 2017. Framing the tribal: ethnic violence in Northeast India. *Asian Ethnicity*, 18(1), pp.22-37.

Kshetri, R., 2013. *Districts Councils in Manipur (Formation and functioning)*.

McDuie-Ra, D. and Kikon, D., 2016. Tribal communities and coal in Northeast India: The politics of imposing and resisting mining bans. *Energy Policy*, 99, pp.261-269.

Middleton, T., 2013. Scheduling tribes: A view from inside India's ethnographic state. *Focaal*, 2013(65), pp.13-22.

Middleton, T., 2013. States of difference: Refiguring ethnicity and its 'crisis' at India's borders. *Political Geography*, 35, pp.14-24.

Mondal, N. and Terangpi, M., 2014. Prevalence of undernutrition among tribal adolescents of Karbi Anglong district of Assam, Northeast India. *Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health*, 43(3).

Patnaik, P., 2013. Does political representation ensure empowerment? Scheduled tribes in decentralised local governments of India. *Journal of South Asian Development*, 8(1), pp.27-60.

Phukan, M.D., 2013. Ethnicity, conflict and population displacement in Northeast India. *Asian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (AJHSS)*, 1(2).

Prasad, R.N., 2013. Autonomy movements in Mizoram.

Sampat, P., 2013. Limits to absolute power: Eminent domain and the right to land in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp.40-52.

Sen, S., 2013. The tribes of Meghalaya.

Sivaramakrishnan, K.C., 2013. Revisiting the 74th Constitutional Amendment for better metropolitan governance. *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp.86-94.

Tiwari, B.K., Tynsong, H., Lynrah, M.M., Lapasam, E., Deb, S. and Sharma, D., 2013. Institutional arrangement and typology of community forests of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland of North-East India. *Journal of Forestry Research*, 24(1), pp.179-186.

Verghese, B.G., 2013. *India's Northeast resurgent: Ethnicity, insurgency, governance, development*.

Online

Functioning of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule Areas of North-Eastern States, 2016 [Online] [Assessed through] <<https://www.actionaidindia.org/aadocument/Report%20Book.pdf>>, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

Sixth Schedule, 2014 [Online] [Assessed through] <<https://www.gktoday.in/gk/sixth-schedule-and-the-autonomous-administrative-areas-in-north-east-india/>>, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]



Sixth Schedule, 2019 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/S6.pdf> >, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

Sunipun, 2017 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<https://blog.ipleaders.in/autonomous-councils-north-east-india/>>, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

The Statesman, 2019 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<https://www.thestatesman.com/northeast/sixth-schedule-layers-of-autonomy-1502752499.html>>, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

Anirudhh Kumar Baro, 2017 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.%2022%20Issue12/Version-3/B2212030509.pdf> >, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

Actionaid India 2016 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<https://www.actionaidindia.org/aadocument/Report%20Book.pdf> >, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

Sixth Schedule, 2016 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/S6.pdf> >, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]

L.S Gassah, 2019 [Online] [Assessed through] <

<http://www.dspace.nehu.ac.in/bitstream/1/10608/1/The%20sixth%20schedule%20%28L.S%20Gassah%29.pdf> >, [Assessed on 29th August, 2019]
