

## **An assessment of the level of political awareness and participation among the Minyongs**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The objective of this paper is to find the Political Awareness and Participation of Minyongs in the socio-economic and political spheres. The aim of the paper is to analyze the level of Political Awareness and Participation and also explore the social-economic factors that influences of Minyongs. Simultaneously, the study analyzes whether low level of political awareness effects their participation in electoral activities. This paper also finds the obstacles in the way of Political participation among Minyongs. Findings of this study show that majority of Minyongs people are insufficiently informed about politics and correlated issues whereas people have reasonable awareness and participating about politics. Therefore, the consequence reports a high influence of political awareness and participation in electoral activities and also it highly impact the socio-political life of the Minyongs.

**Key Words :** North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), Political Participation, Awareness Programs, Adi (Apor) Land

### **INTRODUCTION**

The political awareness is a term broadly used in political science literature. Delli Carpini and Keeter define political knowledge as “the range of factual information about politics that is kept in extended period memory”.<sup>1</sup> Robert C. Luskin defined political awareness into three elements. They are:

- (i) Level of revelation to political facts.
- (ii) Rational ability to retain and organize the encountered facts.
- (iii) Enthusiasm to obtain and comprehend the political facts.<sup>2</sup>

Political awareness meaning is approaches to like political facts, political participation, media revelation interest in every field of politics and also the education was connect to political facts being the best pointer over all. The political awareness play a significant role for explanation as how to variation in political participation. In the political awareness the main importance occur to electoral attached participation need hardly be overemphasized. Most of the democratic people should have a least considerate but due to the political method in which they express favorites and

1. DelliCarpini, MichealX. and Scott Keeter. 1996. what Americans Know about Politics and why it Matters. New Haven: Yale University Press
2. Robert C. Luskin. (1990) “Explaining Political Sophistication.” Political Behaviour 12-335.

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elect representatives.<sup>3</sup> The assessment level of political awareness was Upper because level of participation would be in electoral activities and the higher assessment level of voter's participation awareness was in dispensible of any kind of activity. The political awareness needs to keep the informed in many types such as political matters, roles of political organizations and political rights and their roles as a political participant. Sometime it was not necessary to process the political awareness but many issues are also including in political institutions. The people are who are not in political involvement in politics and such related issues they are not interested to participate in politics and issues.

They only think about their personal life, whatever they are interested. Those who are interested in politics they are trying to catch up any political field and they also get idea and information of any type of political issues and any information get of from dissimilar bases, Mass Media is some of the source to given facts about the politics which is gave information what was elections are going and progression their level of political awareness. Arunachal Pradesh was one of the important states of India. It was located in North-East. The Arunachal Pradesh is connected with many state borders and international borders, in Arunachal Pradesh there are two political parties are dominated *i.e.* Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Indian Natioanal Congress (INC). There are 60 MLAs and 3 MPs in the state, presently the Pema Khandu is the Chief Minister of the state and Padmanabha Acharya was the Governor of the state. Geographically the total space of Arunachal Pradesh is 83,743 sq.km, then according to 2011 census the population was 13,82,611. In Arunachal Pradesh there was a many Tribe, Adi Tribe is one of major important Tribe in Arunachal Pradesh and again in Adi Tribe there also a many subtribe and its subtribe are belong to anchester Tani which is include Bokar, Bori, Pailibo, Millang, Pasi, Padam and Minyong. Minyong Subtribeis generally originated from Riga Village in Upper Siang. The Minyong people are covered and found in East Siang, Siang, and Upper Siang Districts in Arunachal Pradesh. Minyong people are consider as Donyi-Polo Religions which 'Donyi' means 'Sun' and 'Polo' means 'Moon'. They are celebrating the three festivals like Solung, Aran, and Etor. In the Minyong Subtribe, Dr. Daying Ering was the only who are participate in NEFA. His career was started from IFAS (Indian Frontier Administrative Service). Later in 1963, he was selected to Lok Sabha Member from NEFA.<sup>4</sup>

### Review of Literature:

H.E. Brady (1995) : According to Brady, the development of a store ideal of the political participation was abstract which the possessions are measured to period, cash and public skills, the infrastructures and structural capacities these two points are the great vital to political activity but services are not enough to seriously during the early human existence but he gives idea that advanced in the non-political influential settings of modern life. The churches, organization and workshop these are the resources which the distributed.<sup>5</sup>

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3. KuotsuKikrunuinuo ( 2016 July) 'Political Awareness and Its Impact in Political Participation: A Gender Study in Nagaland, India' Vol 5 Issue 8
  4. RechardGuyotBerenice (2013, 18 Feb) 'Nation-building or state-making? India's North-East Frontier and the ambiguities of Nehruviandevelopmentalism, 1950–1959' Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09584935.2012.757581?scroll=top&needAccess=true&journalCode=ccsa20>
  5. Brady Henry E (1995 June) Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation volume 89 issue 2 Retrieved from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/beyond-ses-a-resource-model-of-political-participation/CE74BA78807755F0A09E589D631EB03E>

R.J. Dalton (2008) : According to Dalton American democracy was negatively implicated to the trend and also declining the political participation. Dalton disagreeing that earlier revisions were wrong and the bases of political modification but the significances of altering rules of citizenship for American political appointment. He also describe of two expressions of citizenship and their suggestion which are effect on political participation, it was an unstable from a decoration of duty to based citizenship to promised citizenship.<sup>6</sup>

A. Lijphart (1996) : According to Lijphart the problem of dissimilarity was explained by institutional appliances that are exploit the low voter gathering. There is some choice which the mixture of voter – approachable process rules, comparative symbol, rare elections, weekend voting and allotment less significant elections parallel with the maximum significant national elections and another choice is it can exploit without any changing and it was also turnout itself. It is necessary for voting, the benefits of far balance is normative and applied.<sup>7</sup>

### **History of Arunachal Pradesh:**

Arunachal Pradesh is the previously of North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA). It is strategically located in the North-Eastern place of the country. It has three International borders like China, Myanmar, and Bhutan and also it shares two state boundaries i.e. Assam and Nagaland. In Arunachal Pradesh many diverse tribal communities like 26 major and 110 minor tribes. Arunachal Pradesh is amazing location of microcosm of plural traditions of the country. The space of Arunachal Pradesh is 83,743 sq.km which the populations is 13,82,611 according to 2011 census.

So, let briefly discuss the scenario of Arunachal Pradesh politics. Before the Arunachal Pradesh is established the whole region of Arunachal is came under the NEFA, during that time Arunachal was divide in various area. Shillong was the headquarter of NEFA and now shillong is part of Meghalaya. When NEFA was established in 26 January 1954 and it was divided into six frontier separations: Tirap, Siang, Lohit, Kameng, Subansiri, and Tuensang (now it is part of Nagaland). Arunachal Pradesh declared on 20 February 1987 such as state and initially a union territory which carved out of Assam.<sup>8</sup> Arunachal Pradesh has 33 MLAs during the 1990 legislative election but now currently it has 60 MLAs, 2MPs of Lok Sabha and 1MPs of Rajya Sabha. Presently Pema Khandu is the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

The whole journey of politics in Arunachal was start from 1954 but that time Arunachal was came under the NEFA and later in 1987 Arunachal was became the different state. In 1990 it was first legislative assembly of state of Arunachal Pradesh was constituted. People of Arunachal are less active but even though they are participated in the election. During the 1990 legislative election people are not activated or not even well knowledge of election and campaign also. The people of Arunachal are not actively participated because of some reason like lack of communication, lack of transportation, and lack of education and so on. Gegong Apang was first chief minister of Adi community or belt. If we see the scenario of before 1990s Arunachal of politics there are many

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6. Dalton Russell J. (2008, 1 February) Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political Participation Volume 56, Issue 1 Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2007.00718.x>
  7. Lijphart Arend (1997, Mar) Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma Vol. 91, No. 1 Retrieved from [https://www.jstor.org/stable/2952255?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2952255?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)
  8. Joshi H.G. (Arunachal Pradesh Past and Present) Retrieved from <http://14.139.206.50:8080/jspui/bitstream/1/39/1/Arunachal%20pradesh%20past%20and%20present.pdf>

lacking which the people of Arunachal is faced but today we seen that out of 90 percent of people of Arunachal are taking or participating in the election whether it was Assembly election or Panchayat election. People of Arunachal are very active in politics but due to less resources government was always changing so that condition people are difficult to participate in the election and it was negatively affect for the Arunachal government.<sup>9</sup>

### **Political Participation of Minyongs:**

Minyongs sub-tribe is one of the major sub-groups of the Adi community or tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. Minyongs sub-tribe is also including in the Tani (ancestor father) clan. Its custom and practices is similarities with Padam sub-tribe. The Padam sub-tribe is settled on the east side of River Siang of the East Siang District. Minyongs sub-tribe is covered 3(three) districts namely East Siang, Upper Siang, and Siang. The people of Minyongs are generally participated in politics before independence of India. Minyongs people are first participate and involved in politics. The Minyongs people were participated since before Independence of India when the British political Officer of Sadiya namely Neol Williamson is came in 1909 at Kebang Village. And it was killed in 1911 by the freedom fighter of Minyongs namely Matmur Jamoh, Lothiang Taloh, Bapok Jerang Bisong Tabing, Lunrung Darang etc. the Minyongs sub-tribe is also called the Abors. So since Independence the people of Minyongs are participating in the politics but due to lacking reason it was difficult to continue to participate. After Independence of India after long years gaping Dr. Daying Ering, Tagolijamoh, and Bakin Pertin these are political leaders who again participate in the election of NEFA. Dr. Daying Ering was the main political leaders of Arunachal Pradesh who has changing from the NEFA to Arunachal Pradesh, he selected as a member of Lok Sabha from NEFA side in 1963 and he was later selected as the parliament Secretary and a Deputy Minister in Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Ering Commissions was recommended the three tier system of local administration and seriously unfair the implementation of the Panchayati Raj System. When Dr. Daying Ering commission was implemented of three tier system it was like the changing as lightning to darkness ages for Arunachal Pradesh, if the Ering commission was not implemented the three tier panchayat then the whole Arunachal are still facing the problem.<sup>10</sup> During that time the women of Minyongs are not able to participate due to lack of education and they are not fully participating in the election. Today according to Indian constitution of 108 amendments for women reservation seat are implemented and also doing a well practices in every election whether it is Assembly election or Panchayat election. In every election election women reservation seat are rotating a turn wise. But still the people of Minyongs and people of Arunachal Pradesh are not being able to fully participate due to corruption which is very dangerous for the future generation.

### **Conclusion:**

Minyong sub-tribe is the main major tribe of Adi tribe. In Adi tribe it has many sub-tribes like Bokar, Bori, PaiLibo, Millang, Pasi, Padam but if we talking about political participation and awareness Minyong sub-tribe were mainly supported and participate in any kind programed. As my point of view and research Minyong sub-tribe are the first participate in politics of Arunachal Pradesh. The

9. The Indian Analyst, (Democracy, Government, Political Parties) Retrieved From [http://www.whatisindia.com/issues/aranprad/aranachal\\_democracy.html](http://www.whatisindia.com/issues/aranprad/aranachal_democracy.html)

10. Pasighat the land of Rising Sun (Looking through my Nomedic Eyes over Pasighat and Arunachal Pradesh) Retrieved From <https://pasighat.wordpress.com/adi-tribe/>

Minyongs people are very aggressive and expertly participate in the politics but due to the less communication, transportation, and illiteracy difficult to participate in the election. The Minyongs people are covered by 3(three) districts namely East Siang, Upper Siang and Siang but the two districts Siang and Upper Siang people are not actively participate because there are many remote places which people are impossible to reach that place.<sup>11</sup>

The study clearly indicates that women are not participating before the 1990s because they are uneducated but there is no discrimination on women in Minyong sub-tribe. When British political officer Neol Williamson came at Adi Land and they tried to spread the politics ideas but due to people are illiterate so, they are not able to understand the benefit of politics. Hence finally people are killed by them. After many years gaping Dr. Daying Ering who was the first political leader of Arunachal Pradesh and he changed the whole scenario of Arunachal Pradesh politics.

The study clearly indicates that women are not participating in any kind of election. The study also shows the Administration is playing a very active role in creating political awareness among the people of Minyongs. The study also proved the Minyongs people are trying to uplift their political awareness and participation.

The study has shown the socio-economic background of the respondents to be high as most of the respondent are said that socio-economic is must important factors for their needy and they tried to take advantage and government of are also should to be help them to uplift their participation and awareness. If the Minyongs people are not start to participate in Arunachal Pradesh then the state is still darkness. Today Minyongs people are actively participate in election and also tried to uplift more about awareness. Ninnong Ering son of Dr. Daying Ering was the East side MPs of Arunachal Pradesh Who is representative of Minyongs sub-tribe. He tried to uplift the political awareness for Minyongs people.

Education must be the top priority towards political participation and level of awareness and also for the effective functioning of the Minyongs people. Education as in countless technique but people of Minyongs are Uneducated which directly or indirectly effective by the awareness. It is also necessary for the state government to organize the awareness programs which people of Minyongs are easily to participate. Corruption is the one major problem of Arunachal Pradesh which is directly effect to the people of Arunachal. So as my suggestion if the state is wants to improve then we have to reduce the corruption. It is also necessary for the women to participate in the political awareness and programs. And government of state also taking care of this things to uplift the women empowerment for their as a reservation.

Therefore, the people of Minyongs are should have to be actively participate in the Awareness and programs. If they want to organize any kind of Awareness programs then are not also to oppose their awareness program. Government should have to be giving advice to participate more in any awareness for the better improvement of Minyongs people.

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