



Naxal Problem and Government Policies

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Abstract : *Naxal problem and government policies explore the inter relationship between the Naxalite conflict and the Indian state. To what extent does the conflict affect the state itself? For this purpose we need to look at a some of the causes of the conflict which are deeply rooted in the social and political history of India. The ideology and strategic development of the Naxalite movement has been outlined in order to lead to an understanding of their organization. Who Naxalite actually are is discussed in the paper. Why did people support it and what is the course of action of Naxal*

organization and which ideology is behind it are other issue taken up in this study.

Moreover the way the issue of naxalism is presented and debated in the Indian public discourses is roughly shown at the end of this paper.

Keywords: *Naxal Problem, ramification, government policies, effects.*

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Introduction :

On April 21, 2010 Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh repeated his message that estimated left wing extremism is the gravest internal security threat for the country. The armed group that is challenging the Indian state follows Maoist ideology and calls themselves Naxalites. The term stems from the small village Naxal Bari (Nigam 13) in West Bengal where in 1967 a violent uprising of the exploited peasants in collaboration with communist activists took place. This event marks the beginning of the political movement. All varieties of militant struggle in the countryside have been branded as 'Naxalite' or 'Maoistst' or 'left-

wing extremism'. Most of these currents have adopted some forms of a Marxist-Leninist tag to describe themselves (Ibid).

Maoism (Sen 20) has been romanticized, eulogized and demonized within a framework of the long history of interface / overlap between anarchism and revolutionary Marxism or more generally between petty bourgeois and proletarian revolutionism (Letter to Phil Van Patten. (24th January, 1872).

Today, the territory where the Naxalites are engaged stretches from the Nepalese border to the northern parts of Kerala. The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs states that 223 districts in 20 states are affected.

At the same time the states are badly equipped and underdeveloped. They do not fulfill their responsibility through their administrative and governmental structures. The affected states are paralyzed by inefficiency and corruption.

Objectives :

- The primary objective is to find out why naxal problem is getting acute day by day and how both the Centre and the State Governments are tackling this menace.
- To highlight the naxal syndrome which is worsening the condition of our country.
- To generate awareness in people that Naxalites are not compulsive terrorists rather they are a marginalized section of the society and need to be brought back into the mainstream of the society.

Despite the fact that the issue exists for more than 40 years, relatively little research work has been conducted. However, within recent years a rapid increase in academic work can be observed that is dealing with the root causes of the naxal problem.

The intention is to give an extensive overview on the topic of the naxal problem and government's policy in India for interested readers whether in India or abroad without neglecting the complexity of the topic.

Methodology :

The proposed study is based on qualitative approach-

- Scanning of policies of the central and state government and their plans and programs.
- Constitutional and legal provisions available against Naxalites.
- A study of selected number of secondary sources and publications, book official reports, media clipping and reports concerning the issue.



Naxalite Training Camp

Origin of Naxalism :

Naxalism as a word originated from a village Naxal Bari in West Bengal where there was rebellion for the first time against the atrocities by the rich class and the government against the poor adivasis. In 1967 a violent uprising of the exploited and discontented peasants in the collaboration with communist activist took place (Nigam 13).

This event marks the beginning of the organized armed struggle and the beginning of this political movement.

The Naxalite movement in Central Bihar is one of the most under-theorised issues, when the movement is acquiring unprecedented vicious forms of opposition from the state (mass killings) from caste senas which are forging new alliances (Louis 300).



States affected by Naxalism

Causes for the growth of naxalism :

The causes for the, rise of naxalism are :

- The plight of adivasi is not heard :— Adivasis are just one group of people being targeted by the naxal for there recruitment overall all poor people were being targeted.
- Lack of media attention :— Media campaign is not highlighting the problems of naxalites.

Economic issue : *At the national level 45.86 percent of all adivasis live below the poverty line which means that almost half of India’s original inhabitants go to bed every night starving. Several anthropometric studies have revealed that successive generations of adivasis are actually becoming smaller unlike all other people in India who benefit from better and increasingly nutritious diet.*

Land captured by Zamindars : Life of the common man in many Indian villages is so miserable that they have no hope for any solution to their problems whether it is because of exploitation by land lords or the negligence of the government.

Brain washing by the current batch of naxalities : As the naxalite use hit and run tactics, the counter violence by police usually targets innocent villagers who turn against the state.

Recent Policies adopted by Union and State Governments :

- Integrated action plan for 60 selected tribal and backward districts on 25 November 2012.
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.
- Attempt to ensure water and good roads under National Rural Drinking Water programme.
- The recent media campaign launched by the government showing naxalite brutalities is designed primarily to prove that the naxalites are common criminals with no ideological moorings.
- Government institutions focus on the rule of law. Most humans will tolerate oppression, injustice and abuse as ephemeral if convinced about the existence of legal and civilised. recourse.

Major Steps undertaken by the Government:

- The steps of the government have been retaliatory in nature. Para military forces have had frequent skirmishes with the Naxals.
- Operation Green Hunt was started by the government in mid-2000 in which army was directed to carry out strikes to eliminate the threat forever.
- Recently the government has relented and released a few Naxal leaders as a token of good will and understanding.
- It has been proposed by the government that the only way to resolve this long standing conflict is through dialogue.
- The government also intends to provide representation to Naxal leaders in various constitutional organizations.

Ramifications of Naxalism :

- Biggest threat to the national internal security:
It is a threat to national internal security as it is disturbing the peace of country and it is also creating hurdle in the developmental activities.
- It has held the government at ransom on many occasions.
- Brain washing of the innocent adivasis:
Adivasis are just one group of people being targeted by the naxals for recruitment. Naxalites use various strategies to make adivasis turn against the state.
- Loss of life : Many families have been destroyed due to naxal activities and many have lost their loved ones.

Stultifying Effects of Naxalism on Development:

- Due to the violence of naxalism national and foreign markets do not dare to try and develop those tribal areas.
- It discourages the firms, and foreigners from building factories and investing in infrastructural development because of the high amount of risk involved.
- Constant struggle between the police and the Naxals requires a huge influx of money which if saved could be used for welfare purpose .

New Ideas :

- The process of resolution of the feud between the government and the Naxals must be based on negotiations and dialogues only. Both the Naxals and the government must display a higher level of sensitivity towards human life.
- Media can play a huge role as a mediator between the government and the Naxals. It can become the voice of the adivasis, and it

can be the voice of the weak, and the suppressed.

Analysis in year 2012

- Interestingly the integrated action plan of the central government has been welcomed.
- The policy which was dependent on violent action is highly condemned and criticized (Operation Green Hunt).

These policies if implemented prudentially and judicially by the central and state government through mutual co-operation can in upcoming years minimize the meance of Naxalism to some extent.

Finding :

- Naxalism has become a major challenge for the government.
- It is a threat to the internal security and integrity of the country.
- The policies of the government so far have not been a complete success.
- The grievances and grudges of affected people can be sorted out only by peaceful negotiation in a silent environment.

Suggestions :

The process of resolution of the feud between the government and the Naxal must be based on negotiations and dialogues only. Both the Naxals and the government must display a higher level of sensitivity towards human life.

Media can play a huge role as a mediator between the government and the Naxals, it can be the voice of the adivasis and it can be the voice of the weak, and the suppressed.

The involvement of media brings international attention to this issue and therefore the chances of injustice will be drastically reduced.

Conclusion :

The Naxal problem does not only threaten the foreign investment but could destabilize the whole political order as many citizens lose their faith in the state and therefore its legitimacy is challenged.

India is expected to play a bigger role at the international level; therefore, it needs to tackle its internal problem urgently.

Hence, the state must start to fight the conflict legally, minimize collateral damage, strengthen the leadership of the security forces and abstain from any human rights violation.

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