

Emergence and role of Student's Organization In Arunachal Pradesh (With Special Reference To AAPSU)

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Introduction:

With the establishment of modern education and growing numbers of student's community in Arunachal Pradesh stimulate student's organization to enroot into this frontier state. In Arunachal Pradesh altogether various types of student's organization based on community/ tribes, District & area level, Professional group, Political Party etc works simultaneously. The community based students' organization representing students' body of different tribes in Arunachal Pradesh viz. ANSU of Nyishi tribe, GSU of Galo, ATSU of Tagin so on and works for the cause of their respective tribes while party based students' organization like NSUI of INC, ABVP of BJP, and NSU of NCP etc. works for the cause of their party. And independent and autonomous student organization like AAPSU, since its inception in the state, played significant role in decision making process in state politics of Arunachal Pradesh.

In the absence of strong opposition political party in the state, these students organization play key role as spokesman and upholder of the grievances and aspiration of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Among the above stated organization AAPSU and ANSU both are more vocal, stronger and effective. Hence, this paper is an attempt to highlight the emergence and role of AAPSU in Arunachal Politics.

History of Emergence:

The All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union, in short AAPSU is an apex student's body in Arunachal Pradesh. It is independent and autonomous body. Nonaffiliated to any political parties or any community groups and represents the interest and aspiration of the entire student community of the state irrespective of tribe, religion, race etc.

The history of the emergence of AAPSU can be trace back from the year 1947, in which few Adi and Mishong students formed an organization called "Adi-Mishong students union" at Pasighat to bring the Adi and Mishong community under one identity of their original culture. Latter on with growing strength in its members and its branches as well as inclusion of students from other communities, it

was renamed as "All NEFA Students Union" with headquarter at Pasighat and extend its areas and scope of activities.

After the attainment of the union territory in 1972 and subsequent renaming of Area from NEFA to Arunachal Pradesh. The NEFA Students Union was renamed as AAPSU. With the elevation of the status of the area, the responsibility and burden of the AAPSU too also became broader which is clearly manifested from its objectives to promote unity and fraternity among the students in particular and the people of Arunachal Pradesh in general, as well as to explore and exploit the energy of the student community in the greater interest of the nation and to preserve and promote the tradition and culture of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Role of AAPSU:

For a long period AAPSU remain as elite club confine to small numbers of students. Its mode of activities was pray, petition and partnership with the government to draw its attention to some of the problems of the students community in particular viz. establishment of higher institution, enhancement of rate of stipend of Arunachal students, reservation of seats in various higher and technical institutions for Arunachal students outside the state etc. And the people of the state in general viz. shifting of administrative headquarter from Shillong, creation of more administrative centers etc. After the attainment of full-fledged statehood of Arunachal Pradesh the charter of demand of the AAPSU become more specific and broad based like solution of boundary issue both domestic and International with neighboring states and country, detection and deportation of illegal foreign nationals from the territory, withdrawal of land allotment permit and trading license etc. from the non Arunachalis (Non APST) and effective checking against further infiltration of illegal foreign nationals. AAPSU for a long on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh ventilate all these issues before the state and the central government. In order to secure the desire objective of resolving such vexed issues AAPSU intensified its movement through agitation i.e. band calls, rallies and hunger strikes etc. and pressurize the government or the authority concern to consider their demand. The vexed boundary row emerged due to the improper demarcation made during the time of reorganization of north eastern states in 1971, compelled AAPSU to stand firmly on resolving the boundary issue amicably.

The role of AAPSU in refugee movement is manifested from its constant activities concerning the issue. The refugee problem in Arunachal Pradesh has created apprehension and anger in the minds of the general public, students and the government of the state alike. The foreign nationals or refugees particularly Chakmas, Hajongs and Tibetans were temporarily allowed to settle in Arunachal Pradesh by the Govt. of India when the area was under the ministry of foreign affairs without consulting the people and its representatives. The growing numbers of the refugee population in state became a serious matter as it create demographic imbalance between indigenous tribal population and the refugees and also threatening the socio-cultural fabric and the security of the state. Thus, AAPSU launched their first campaign against the refugee problem in 1982, in the wake of granting citizenship to Chakma, Hajong and other refugees by the central government and served "Quit Arunachal Notice" on 1. Aug, 1994 to all the refugees and the foreign national to leave the state voluntarily, honourably by 30. Sep, 1994. It also organized "Delhi Chalo Movement" where a delegation of about 400 student

went to Delhi, organized rallies to attract the attention of the central leaders to the problems of detecting and deportation of the illegal foreign national. Since then AAPSU organized series of rallies at different part in the state. Despite repeated request of the state government, student's organization, people from different walk of life and above all historic Supreme Court verdict declaring the Chakmas and Hajongs as foreigners, central government had not initiated any action to deport these refugees. So to keep the refugee issue alive and in protest against the indecisive stand of the central government on deportation of the refugees, AAPSU launched "Quite Certificates Movement", in January 1995. Accordingly in which the central executive members of AAPSU and its women wing surrendered their all educational certificates and boycott the visit of prime minister P.V.Narashima Rao and other central leaders belonging to different political parties at state capital for election campaigning infavour of their party candidates. AAPSU along with all political parties of the state cutting across their party lines joined hands and held an all party legislatures meet on 6.Sep,1995 to discuss and evolve an action plan on the deportation of the refugees and organized "Peoples Referendum cum Rally on 20,Sep,1995 at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium Naharlagun wherein demanded for deportation of Chamas and Hajongs refugees from Arunachal Pradesh by 1,Jan,1996. In 2003 when Election Commission of India order for electoral revision to enrolled the eligible Chakmas and Hajong refugees in the state electoral roll, AAPSU strongly opposed the decision and organized band call and held rallies in Chakmas and Hajong refugee inhabited areas in the state, which was supported by all the political parties irrespective of their party affiliation, other students body, NGOs and intellectuals of the state. However, despite all this efforts the refugee problem was not solved altogether. Rather it remains as long pending and challenging issue before the AAPSU and the state government.

AAPSU apart from above issues in close coordination and collaboration with other community base, District and Area level, Professional etc students organization time to time raise the issues like cancellation of trading licence, land allotment certificates, ST, PRC and other certificates given to the non APST and others, growing menace of corruption in the state, illegal appointments in various government jobs as well as other socio-political and economic problems confronted by the students community in particular and general public and state in general.

Thus, AAPSU as pressure group play significant role in ventilates the issues confronted by the state and its people and made their endeavour to bring lasting solution for all the issues for establishing Arunachal Pradesh a better, secure and prosperous state in India.

Conclusion:

Hence from the above account it appears that the role of students and students organization specifically AAPSU in Arunachal Pradesh is much broader, positive and of greater importance than that of their counterparts elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Student's organization particularly AAPSU has been successfully neutralizing the multipolarity of the student's bodies by maintaining a collective identity in the form of the AAPSU and voicing the demand and aspiration of the state

and its people effectively and strongly stand as crusader to protect the sentiments and the aspirations of the diverse indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.