Annexure -VIII

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002.

Annual/Final Report of the work done on the Major Research Project.
(Report to be submitted within 6 weeks after completion of each year)

1. Project report No. 1st /2nd /3rd/Final	***Final***
2. UGC Reference No.F.	***5-330/2014 (HRP) dt.17/8/15***
3. Period of report:	***From July, 2015 to June, 2018***
4. Title of research project	***Institution of Managing Diversity in North-East India: Functioning of Bodo Territorial Council***
5. (a) Name of the Principal Investigator (b) Deptt. (c) University/College where work has progressed	***Nameirakpam Bijen Meetei*** ***Political Science*** ***Assam University, Silchar***
6. Effective date of starting of the project	***01-07-2015***

7. Grant approved and expenditure incurred during the period of the report:

a. Total amount approved	***Rs. 8,71,000/-***
b. Total expenditure	***Rs.8,85,147/-***

c. Report of the work done: (Please attach a separate sheet)

i. Brief objective of the project

There are three objectives of the study. They are as follows:

i. To study the issue of ethnic relationship and conflict in culturally diverse societies such as the BTAD in North-East India.

ii. To study the provisions of group rights and autonomy provided by various constitutions including Indian constitution and to see what are the limitations in India's scheme for managing diversity.

iii. However the single most important objective of the study is to find what sort of institutional arrangements will be capable of managing diversity and reducing chances of ethnic conflicts.

ii. Work done so far and results achieved and publications, if any, resulting from the work (Give details of the papers and names of the journals in which it has been published or accepted for publication:

A very good paper has been published out of the study so far. Some more will be done after the final submission of the report. Following is the details of the published paper:

- *State's Response to Intrastate Conflicts: The Case of North-East India, History and Sociology of South Asia, Sage, Vol. 12, Issue 2, pp.1 -12, 2018.web link:* https://doi.org/10.1177/2230807518770257.

iii. Has the progress been according to original plan of work and towards achieving the objective. if not, state reasons: ***YES***

iv. Please indicate the difficulties, if any, experienced in implementing the project:

- *Not much major difficulties were there except two issues. First, the delay in disbursing fund from the UGC for second instalment held up final Field Work for some time. Secondly, since Field works were conducted in areas where violent conflict happened often, there were many uncertainties and expenditure need to be always done within provided limit which is small. Nonetheless, it was successfully completed. If possible P.I should be allowed to use contingency fund or any other fund (if unused) for Travel and Field work.*

v. If project has not been completed, please indicate the approximate time by which it is likely to be completed. A summary of the work done for the period (Annual basis) may please be sent to the Commission on a separate sheet. ***COMPLETED.***

vi. If the project has been completed, please enclose a summary of the findings of the study. One bound copy of the final report of work done may also be sent to University Grants Commission. ***SUMMARY ENCLOSED.***

vii. Any other information which would help in evaluation of work done on the project. At the completion of the project, the first report should indicate the output, such as

(a) Manpower trained (b) Ph. D. awarded (c) Publication of results (d) other impact, if any

11.6.18

SIGNATURE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr. N. Bijen Meetei
Principal Investigator
UGC MRP
Political Science, AUS

SIGNATURE OF THE CO-INVESTIGATOR

25.07.18

REGISTRAR/PRINCIPAL
(Seal)

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Annexure – IX

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF SENDING THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT

1. Title of the Project:	**Institutions For Managing Diversity In Northeast India: Functioning Of Bodo Territorial Council**
2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	**Nameirakpam Bijen Meetei** **Office: Department Of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar. Assam – 788011.** **Residential: LE-2 University Teachers' Quarter, Assam University, Silchar.**
3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION:	**Department Of Political Science,** **Assam University, Silchar, Assam – 788011.**
4. UGC APPROVAL LETTER NO. AND DATE:	**F.No. 5-330/2014 (HRP) dt. 17/08/2015**
5. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION :	**1/07/2015**
6. TENURE OF THE PROJECT :	**3 years (1/7/2015 to 30/6/2018)**
7. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED:	**9,34,600/-**
8. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED:	**8,71,000/-(1st instalment = 6,16,600/- and 2nd instalment = 2,54,400/-)**
9. FINAL EXPENDITURE	**8,85,147/-**
10. TITLE OF THE PROJECT :	**Institutions For Managing Diversity In Northeast India: Functioning Of Bodo Territorial Council**

11. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT :

i. To study the issue of ethnic relationship and conflict in culturally diverse societies such as the BTAD in North-East India.

ii. To study the provisions of group rights and autonomy provided by various constitutions including Indian constitution and to see what are the limitations in India's scheme for managing diversity.

iii. However the single most important objective of the study is to find what sort of institutional arrangements will be capable of managing diversity and reducing chances of ethnic conflicts.

12. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED
(GIVE DETAILS)

Yes. Objectives were achieved. First, the study could find out the dynamics of ethnic relationship in BTAD. These findings can also be related with such dynamics in other areas in the North-East. After conducting extensive field work in the study areas, the research can bring out important reasons for ethnic conflicts in the North-East particularly in the BTAD. Perhaps the findings of this study will help scholars working on the same theme to understand the issue of ethnicity and relationship between different communities in different contexts. Secondly, the study also analysed various provisions often initiated by different states for managing diversity and conflicts between multiple communities living in the same territories. This is required as most of the states have this issue of diversity. And many of the states have developed ways to manage the diversity by incorporating provisions in their respective Constitutions. Thus, Constitutional provisions of many of the states which are thought to be doing well in this regards are studied and found out that many provisions given in these Constitutions are available in the Constitution of India. However, many other provisions which probably help in reducing issues of diversity and conflicts are not incorporated in Indian Constitution. It is also found that by incorporating these provisions in the existing system of autonomy being implemented in the North-East India can manage diversity and conflict better. Third, what one learns from the entire study is that though India incorporates in its Constitution various provisions of group rights, she still faces issues of conflict in various parts of the country.

It is also learnt that though many of the provisions which are provided in other constitutions are already incorporated as well as implemented in India, there are still many provision yet to be established by the state in India. The potentialities of provisions like social networking; Bodies to ensure equal treatment of communities etc are tremendous and need to devise ways to incorporate these provisions in our institutional systems. Moreover, issues of corruption and economic insecurity of people cannot be palliated so far in India. Thus, the

most urgently required effort is to devise new political institutions which can rightly address issues of diversity. The basic requirement that needs to be met when addressing issues of diversity is to provide not only the existing provisions of group rights but also four more important principles.

First, principles to provide 'equal space' to all communities so that individuals in any community can live a good life. Second, principle to provide social networking. Third, principle to dispel fear economic insecurity and sense of alienation. Fourth, principle which can replace territory base autonomy. The institutional arrangement incorporating these principles will enhance peaceful coexistence between diverse communities living within the same territory/ies. It is time to think about devising institutions permanently structure to bring to a more lasting solutions to problems of diversity and conflicts. We need to imagine a new form of political community which will ease such problems.

13. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT :

There would be some quality papers to be published from on the basis of this research. That would be process as soon as this final report is submitted. However, base on information and analysis of the research one paper has been published. ***Following is the details of the published paper:***

- *State's Response to Intrastate Conflicts: The Case of North-East India, History and Sociology of South Asia, Sage, Vol. 12, Issue 2, pp.1 -12, 2018.web link:* https://doi.org/10.1177/2230807518770257.

14. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS
(IN 500 WORDS):

The research carries huge significance specially in terms of understanding the socio-economic and political dynamics of conflict and policies of managing diversity in the region. Following is the summary of the findings:

From the observations of public spaces it may conclude that currently violent conflict is not transpired in BTAD. However, if the inputs from other observations such as political rallies, bills and painting on the walls, bandhs are added to these observations, it may be said that even if violent conflict are not seen, it will come again in BTAD. Groups developed political narratives to counter each other. Even in the case of land ownership in

BTAD which Bodos take so seriously there are various counter narratives. The roots of all the political narratives are issue of alienation and deprivation. In BTAD feeling of alienation from the development process is rampant. It is often a cause of various conflicts too. The community that feels alienated starts demanding special status from the State often by making other community as reference. That is how they produce narratives to strengthen their claims. When the state does not fulfill their demands they will launch more intense struggle even leading to contesting the conditions of the other whom they think are more advance. Added to the issue of alienation and deprivation is the contest for available resources the most important of which are land and government jobs. This contest over resources (together with sense of alienation) breeds another serious issue of dividing everything into mine and thine. This is in a sense strategy for protecting (and also promoting) oneself from being alienated. Communities re-narrate histories to tell that they had a particular land where they conducted their lives. This becomes another problem that heightens conflict between groups. These findings further confirm that these contesting narratives have not been addressed by the State properly so far. If one looks at the way Indian state has been responding to various issues and movements in North-East India, it is quite apparent that there are various loopholes in its strategies. Because of these loopholes the State's strategies become a cause of conflict rather than solution. State's Bodo approach has the same loophole. These strategic loopholes along with narratives and counter narratives created another ground for conflict between different communities living in the area. This is trust deficiency. This issue of trust deficiency further breeds new developments such as simultaneous intensification of demands for a separate states; instant reaction of other groups to demand of others, etc. These new developments have made the situation in and around the BTAD more intense and volatile. Finally the research found that there are limitations in the Indian model of autonomy, specially its territorial autonomy system. The system does not incorporate any provision that provides space for social dialogue. So is the absence of the non-existence of bodies to ensure equal treatment and tools to adequately address issues of economic insecurity, alienation and corruption. Therefore, the research finally found out that there is a need to rethink representation system in the existing system of autonomy being implemented in the North-East particularly in BTAD. Thus, altogether, the research suggests that devising new political institutions by incorporating the above mentioned provisions can rightly address issues of diversity. Thus, the basic requirement that needs to be met when addressing issues of

diversity is to provide not only the existing provisions of group rights but also to provide four more important principles. First, principles to provide 'equal space' to all communities. Second, institutions to provide platform for social networking. Third, principle to dispel fear of economic insecurity and sense of alienation. Fourth, principle which can replace territory base autonomy. The institutional arrangement incorporating these principles will enhance peaceful coexistence between diverse communities living within the same territory/ies. We need to imagine a new form of political community which will ease such problems.

15. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY :
(GIVE DETAILS):

If the findings of the research and the suggestions provided herein are taken seriously the issue of ethnic diversity and conflict can be successfully addressed.

16. WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT:

No ph.d. enrolled/produced out of the project. A Project Fellow was engaged. The Project Fellow is currently pursuing Ph.D. under my supervision.

17. NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECT : 1 (One)
(PLEASE ATTACH)

11.6.18

(PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Dr N Bijen Meetei
Principal Investigator
UGC MRP
Political Science, AUS

25.07.18

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