



India's Role in the Creation of Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT:

This paper aims to explain the role of India in the creation of Bangladesh as an independent country in the world map. This paper describes the actual intention of Pakistan army and how India through diplomacy got support from Soviet Union. The paper also tried to find out why U.S.A remained silent during the genocide. More than 10 Million men and women were driven away from Bangladesh. The paper also analyzes the role of Indian people, government and military forces. We must confess that without strong support from India, it would have been impossible for Bangladesh to win the war against Pakistan.

Keywords: India, Soviet Union, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Genocide, Civil war, Independent country.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh as independent country emerged after 1971. But the journey towards independence was not easy. As we are aware that India played vital role in the creation of Bangladesh from many perspectives. India shares longest land border with Bangladesh (4096.7km). Bangladesh people were very fond to come Calcutta rather than Karachi. But it was worst mistake which was done by British, that East Bangladesh was given in the hand of Pakistan, though Bangladesh and Pakistan had no cultural ties except religion. Bangladesh had cultural ties with India especially with West Bengal, Assam, Tripura. Bangladesh shares common language, food habit, culture with Indian state of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design of this paper is based on descriptive studies. The study is based on secondary data. Data collected from different secondary sources like books, official website of many organizations, research articles etc.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are more than 500 books which were written on issues of Bangladesh liberation war but rarely few of them truly confessed the role of India for the creation of Bangladesh as an independent country. Author (Salam, Azad) in his book namely 'Contribution of India in the War of Liberation of Bangladesh' explained many untold incidents of liberation war. This book not only explained many aspects of liberation war but also confessed the role of India. Author (Salam, Azad) in his book included 3630 soldier names who died during liberation war. There were different chapters in the book which praised the contribution of the people of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam.

"We also do not recollect those days when these people amidst all their poverty and sufferings shared their plates of rice with the helpless people of Bangladesh"----- (Salam, Azad)

Another book which was important as secondary data for this paper that was the book which is written by Manash Ghosh namely (Bangladesh War: Report from Ground Zero). Author of this book worked as ground reporter during liberation war.

LIBERATION WAR OF BANGLADESH

East Bangladesh was ruled by Urdu speaking Pakistani, although common people were Bengali speaking. Pakistan tried to impose Urdu over Bengali. In December 1970, the general elections were conducted in Pakistan and Awami League won 160 out of 162 seats in East Pakistan. Awami League got similar landslide victory in the provincial assembly election. Awami League emerged as the single majority party in the Pakistan National Assembly with 167 seats out of 313.

Mujibur Rahman was the leader of Awami League, on the other side, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party won 88 seats (all from the Western Wing) and emerged as second largest party. [1]

Unfortunately they did not hand over the power to Awami League. In the name of Operation Searchlight, Pakistan Army carried out military operations in Dhaka to curb the nationalist movement in East Bangladesh. Lakhs of Bengali speaking people were fled to Indian state as refugees.

“In the name of Operation Searchlight, Yahya Khan wanted to carry out such a barbaric genocide that the Bengali nation would never speak of independence again. Therefore Tikka Khan, infamous for conducting genocide in Balochistan, was given the responsibility to execute the genocide blueprint in Bangladesh. Upon the orders of General Tikka Khan, the Pakistan Army attacked the sleeping Bengalis with sophisticated weapons around 11:30pm on March 25” [2]

India's role in Bangladesh war of independence

On August 9, 1971, India signed a peace and friendship treaty with the Soviet Union to lay the foundations of a victory in the war of independence in Bangladesh. Government of India decided to open its eastern borders so that Bengali refugees could enter India and take safe shelter from Pak Army. People-to-people contact also occurred during this period. Bengali refugees got aid from local Indians also. Government of India repeatedly appealed to international community for assistance but unfortunately India did not receive response from western nations. On 28 April 1971, the Gandhi Cabinet had ordered the Chief of the Army Staff General Sam Manekshaw to “Go into East Pakistan”. Indian Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) immediately started using the Bengali refugee camps for recruitment and training of Mukti Bahini guerrillas and they were given training against Pakistan [3]

From 24 October 1971 Indira Gandhi travelled many western countries to create world public opinion against anti-human activities by Pak Army. To combat the attack which was done by Pakistan at 5.40 pm (evening of 3 December) India decided to declare war at late night on 3 December 1971. India deployed vast number of its forces in the ground of war. Three million people were killed during the liberation war, uncountable number of women were tortured by Pakistani Army.

World community must confess the role of India during the liberation war. India lost 3630 of its soldiers, including 213 missing and 9856 soldiers were wounded.

It is well known fact that major powers in world like U.S.A, China they supported Pakistan, so we can understand that what kind of risk was taken by India. India supported Bangladesh from all aspects. India did not care the red eyes of super power and continued its helping hands towards Bangladesh. If India did not help then the condition of Bangladesh could have been like Palestinian. Bangladesh had to live like slave under Pakistan. During the nine months war India received very less amount of money from foreign, so that India had to bear all the expenses in its own. India spent thousand crores of Indian rupees for giving food to Bangladeshi refugees who took shelter in Indian state West Bengal, Tripura, Assam. Brotherhood countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Organization of Islamic Countries did not support the Bangladesh liberation war.

Role of Indian Military forces

BSF (Border Security Force) was initially responsible to provide support to Mukti Bahini (freedom fighter). Mukti Bahini received guerrilla and sabotage tactics from BSF. From November, the Indian Army was given permission to conduct operations up to 10 miles inside Bangladesh territory.

It is known that US 7th fleet, led by the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise entered Bay of Bengal in support of Pakistan. Russia had treaty with India so on December 13, it dispatched a nuclear armed flotilla on Bay of Bengal.

India's role in the recognition of Bangladesh as independent country

India not only fought the war with Pakistan but also was the first country to give recognition to Bangladesh as an independent country. India did not take the matter to UNO rather Indira Gandhi took the matter at the Parliament session of India. India declared Bangladesh as an independent and appealed other democratic countries to give recognition. India did not stop its helping hands after the liberation war also. India helped Bangladesh to construct bridges, culverts, roads which were destroyed by Pakistani Army.

CONCLUSION

It is well known fact that India played very crucial role for the creation of Bangladesh, but the unfortunate thing is that there are many anti-Indian organizations in Bangladesh. After the liberation war political situation of Bangladesh got changed. There was a conspiracy for the destroying spirit of Bangladesh war which led to the killing of the father of nation Banga Bandhu SK Mujibur Rahman. On November 3rd in the same year four life forces of the liberation war Tajjuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Captain Mansur Ali, A.H.M. Qumruzzaman were murdered inside the jail. So we can understand how well planned they were for destroying the spirit of liberation war. In present days with the leadership of SK Hasina, we see the active role of the government to curb pro-Pakistani activities in Bangladesh.

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