

Role and performance of the AIUDF in the Politics of Assam

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ABSTRACT

All India United Democratic Front is a state political party originating from Indian state from Assam. The leader of the party is Moulana Badaruddin Ajmal presently Member of Parliament. The Headquarter of the party is located in Guwahati. Moulana Badaruddin Ajmal established this party on 3 October, 2005 in Assam. On 3rd October 2005, just few months before 2006 Assam Assembly election, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal supported by 18 NGOs, formed a political party named Assam United Democratic Front (AUDF). Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal establishes the AUDF parties and consolidated its position in Indian politics especially in Assam. Latter he re-launched the party in other states of India through a press meet in New Delhi on 2nd February 2009. It was formally known AUDF. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam. This paper will mainly focus the role and performance of the AIUDF.

Keywords: AIUDF, Origin, electoral performance, political party etc.

INTRODUCTION

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has emerged as one of the influential political parties of Assam. It was formerly known as AUDF (Assam United Democratic Front). It was formed in the eve of Assam Assembly election 2006 and won 10 seats of state Assembly. Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal is the President of AIUDF party. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam. In the Parliamentary election 2009 it got one seat and in the last Assembly election 2011 this party won the 18 seats of state Assembly of Assam. In 2014 Parliamentary election it secured 3 seats from Assam. Now it has been playing oppositional role in the politics of Assam.

The AIUDF plays a very effective role in the politics of Assam and it has been able to unite the minorities of Assam. Besides the problem of Muslim minorities, particularly the problems of Muslim peasants of char areas were generally articulated by AIUDF. Before the emergence of AIUDF the religious minorities were merely regarded as the vote bank, particularly by the Congress party. But the AIUDF entered into the electoral sense that new articulation of vote sharing come out. For Example in 2011 election the party was able to secure 18 seats that were dominated by congress party. Apart from the Congress, AGP and BJP had to suffer because of the emergence of AIUDF. The AIUDF in fact, stand as a parallel contesteer of Congress among the minority voters.

Objectives of the Study:

The study has been conducted based on the following objectives:

1. To find out the role and performance of the AIUDF in the politics of Assam.
2. To study the role of the AIUDF to protect the interest of the minorities and oppressed sections of people of Assam.

METHODOLOGY

The study has been based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data has been collected from the documents obtained from AIUDF office, members, leaders, government documents and from leaders of the political parties. The secondary data has been collected from books, journals, newspapers, magazines etc. The descriptive method and interview method are applied in this research. Total 120 respondents have been interviewed.

Role of All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF)

The AIUDF is playing a significant role in Assam Politics. It is one of the principal oppositional parties in Assam. It has won the 18 of 126 seats in the 2011 Assam Assembly elections. Following are some important roles of the AIUDF:

1. The AIUDF and new electoral calculations: The AIUDF plays a very effective role in the politics of Assam and it has been able to unite the minorities of Assam. Besides the problem of Muslim minorities, particularly the problems of Muslim peasants of char areas were also articulated by the AIUDF.

Before the emergence of the AIUDF the religious minorities were merely regarded as the vote bank, particularly of the Ruling party. But the AIUDF entered into the electoral sense that new articulation of vote sharing come out. For Example, in 2011 Assam Assembly Election the party was able to secure 18 seats which were earlier dominated by the Congress Party. Apart from the Congress, AGP and BJP had to suffer because of the emergence of AIUDF. The AIUDF in fact, stand as a parallel contesteer of congress among the minority voters in Assam.

2. The AIUDF and Minority Consciousness: Another remarkable achievement of the AIUDF was that it was capable of bringing consciousness among the different minority community. It was because of the effort of the AIUDF that ruling party had to show its concern over the problems of other minorities particularly, the ethnic minorities.

3. The AIUDF and problems of Char areas: The AIUDF was also able to represent the social, political and economic problems of the people of char areas who were hitherto used as vote bank. The leaders of AIUDF tried to present the problems at the floor of house and also demanded permanent settlement regarding the question of using patta to the peasants of char areas. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in social, political, economical and cultural development of all section of the society and try to promote the social justice, secularism and democracy.

4. The AIUDF and harmony among the minorities: The AIUDF has been playing a very important role to bringing harmony and unity among the minorities in Assam. Before the creation of the AIUDF the minorities of Assam were dominated by caste, religion and language in Assam. The minority voters mainly were consolidated by the Congress party. But the leaders of the AIUDF try to find out the root causes of this problem and try to solve it permanently. The AIUDF bring the faith and harmony among the minorities.

Performance of the AIUDF in the politics of Assam:

The Political Party mainly exists on the basis of their performance. A good Political Party can be judged by its performances. It is a well known fact that there are four major Political Parties in Assam. As far as the AIUDF is concerned, the party performance has been becoming popular. The views of the respondents in this regard are given in the table no 1.01

Table: 1.1: Performance of the AIUDF in Assam:

Views	No of respondents	Percentages
Satisfactory	28	23.33
Intermediary	48	40.00
Not Well	26	21.67
No Answer	18	15.00
Total	120	100.00

Source: *Data collected from in the field study.*

The table: 1.1 shows that the performance of the AIUDF is intermediary in Assam politics. 28 (23.33%) of the respondents have expressed that performance of the AIUDF is satisfactory while 48 (40%) have expressed that the performance of the AIUDF intermediary. 26 (21.66%) of respondents have said that it has not well performed in Assam politics. So, it is seen that the performance of the AIUDF is not so significant.18 (15%) respondents refused to give their opinion.

Views of the respondents about protection of minorities and oppressed classes:

The AIUDF was mainly originated to protect the interest of minorities and other oppressed section of the society of Assam, which were basically deprive from social, political, economic and cultural aspect. The views of the respondents regarding the protection of minorities and others oppressed classes of the people are given in the table no 1.2.

Table: 1.2: Views of respondents to protect the interest of minorities and others oppressed classes of Assam:

Views of Respondents	No. of respondents	Percentages
Yes	67	55.83
No	41	34.16
No Answer	12	10.00
Total	120	100.00

Source: *Data collected from in the field study.*

The table 4.19 shows that the AIUDF can protect the interest of the minorities and oppressed sections of the society. 67 (55.83%) of the respondents, stated that the AIUDF can protect the interest of the minorities and others oppressed sections of the society, whereas 41 (34.16%) of the respondents responded with negative opinion. 12 (10%) respondents declined to give their opinion in this regard.

CONCLUSION

To sum up the study, it is found that the AIUDF is emerged one of the important Political Parties of Assam and it has been playing a significant role in the politics of Assam since its inception. The solution of the major socio-economic and socio-political problems of the minorities and other backward sections of the people of Assam was also another factor for the formation of the AIUDF. This study also reflects that the AIUDF is an important political party in present time which has a very strong political base especially in the minority dominated areas of Assam. But this party has not been able to do anything remarkable for the development of Assam. The party has neither been able to form the government nor to be a part of the government in the state or in the centre. So, its mass-base is declining gradually as has been proved in the last Assam Legislative Assembly Election 2016 and 2021.

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