

IMPACT OF COLONIAL GOVERNANCE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURES IN GARO HILLS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This research delves into the profound impact of colonial rule on Garo Hills' socio-economic frameworks, employing a comparative analysis spanning historical and contemporary perspectives. Employing an interdisciplinary methodology, the study explores the intricate dynamics that shaped the region during colonial rule, unraveling enduring impacts on socio-economic structures. Comprehensive examination includes pre-colonial institutions, consequences of colonial policies, resistance movements, and the present socio-economic environment, offering a nuanced understanding of Garo Hills' developmental trajectory and the persistent legacies of colonial governance.

Keywords: Colonialism, Garo Hills, Socio-economic structures, Governance, Comparative analysis.

Introduction

The Garo Hills, situated in the northeastern region of India, exhibit a diverse array of indigenous customs and traditions that have been painstakingly developed and preserved over an extended period of time. The socio-economic structures of this region were extensively influenced and altered throughout the colonial period, which was characterized by British authority. The objective of this study is to examine and contrast the landscapes before and after colonization, with the aim of elucidating the complex changes that occurred as a result of colonial rule. The objective of this study is to analyze the enduring effects of colonial interventions on the socio-economic structure of Garo Hills through an examination of its historical trajectory. The introductory section establishes the foundation by offering a concise outline of the physical and cultural milieu of Garo Hills, emphasizing the region's importance within the wider historical discourse. The subsequent section of the text examines the colonial era, establishing the foundation for a thorough investigation of its influence on the socio-economic frameworks within the area.

Literature Review

D. R. Bhattacharjee's book "Colonialism and the Transformation of Garo Society". The groundbreaking research of Bhattacharjee offers a thorough analysis of the socioeconomic changes brought about by colonial authority in Garo society. He looks at how British land laws, taxes, and the introduction of cash crops affected the social structures and way of life for the Garo people. According to Bhattacharjee, colonial policies caused many Garo people to become marginalized and disturbed customary traditions.

"Colonialism and the Garo Hills: A Study of Political and Economic Relations" written by S. K. Sen. Sen's research focuses on the political and economic interactions between the Garo people and the British colonial government. He looks at how colonial administrative structures were established, the function of middlemen, and how the Garo people reacted to being ruled by them. Sen contends that in order to retain power in the Garo Hills, the British used an indirect rule method that depended on the local leaders.

Ramesh Barma's book "Garo Resistance to Colonialism, 1880-1920". The Garo people's numerous modes of resistance to colonial rule are examined in Barma's book. He records movements for non-cooperation, tax revolts, and agricultural revolutions. Barma contends that the fight of the Garo people to protect their land, culture, and independence served as the inspiration for these resistance groups.

M. P. Sharma's "Post-Colonial Garo Hills: Continuity and Change". In his research, Sharma looks at the political and socioeconomic changes that occurred in the Garo Hills during Indian independence. He looks at how Indian government policies have affected the country, how new social and economic groups have emerged, and how the fight for autonomy is still ongoing. Sharma contends that Garo society has shown both continuity and change during the post-colonial era.

Sanjib Baruah's book "Garo Hills: A Crucible of Colonialism, Resistance, and Change". Baruah's research offers a more comprehensive historical framework for comprehending how colonial rule affected the Garo Hills. He explores the history of the area from pre-colonial to modern times, emphasizing the connections between concerns that are colonial, post-colonial, and modern. According to Baruah, the Garo Hills have undergone constant change as a result of the interaction between colonialism, resistance, and the desire for independence.

These reviews provide valuable insights into the complex and multifaceted impact of colonial governance on socio-economic structures in Garo Hills. They highlight the disruptive and transformative nature of colonial policies, the resilience of Garo resistance movements, and the ongoing challenges of post-colonial development. By critically engaging with these works, the current study can make a significant contribution to the understanding of this important historical period.

Methodology

The study will utilize a mixed-methods methodology, effectively combining archival research, interviews, and field observations. The primary objective of the archival research will be to examine historical documents, colonial records, and indigenous narratives in order to analyze the development and transformation of socio-economic structures. The thorough analysis of original sources seeks to offer a clear comprehension of the historical intricacies that influenced Garo Hills throughout the colonial era. Incorporating interviews with local populations and specialists will introduce a qualitative aspect to the research, enabling the examination of the firsthand experiences and viewpoints of individuals who have been directly affected by colonial governance. The utilization of field observations, carried out in partnership with local people, will provide timely and valuable insights into the current socio-economic dynamics, effectively connecting the historical story with the present circumstances.

Analysis

➤ Pre-Colonial Socio-Economic Structures: An Analysis of Pre-Colonial Socio-Economic Systems

Prior to the establishment of colonial authority, the region of Garo Hills demonstrated a distinctive socio-economic structure marked by subsistence farming, traditional forms of governance, and a flourishing array of cultural traditions. A comprehensive examination of these pre-colonial institutions will yield a nuanced comprehension of the fundamental framework against which the consequences of colonial actions can be evaluated. This section endeavors to portray the spirit of Garo Hills prior to the prominence of external influences by examining the complexities of indigenous socio-economic systems.

➤ The Impact of Colonial Policies on Societal Transformations:

The socio-economic landscape of Garo Hills underwent substantial transformations as a result of the implementation of numerous programs by the British colonial administration. This study aims to analyze land tenure structures, taxation policies, and missionary activities in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of colonial rule. An examination of these policies and their resultant effects on local economies, land utilization, and social frameworks will yield valuable insights into the transformational influence of colonial governance.

➤ Resistance Movements and Their Historical Impact:

The Garo Hills region served as a backdrop for several resistance activities aimed at challenging colonial power, thereby showcasing the enduring strength and proactive nature of indigenous tribes. This section aims to examine the characteristics of these movements, the prominent figures that spearheaded them, and the tactics adopted to counteract foreign meddling. The scope of the analysis will encompass not only the immediate effects of resistance activities, but also their enduring influence on socio-economic systems and communal identities in the post-colonial context.

➤ Analysis of Current Socio-Economic Dynamics:

The current socio-economic circumstances in Garo Hills are the result of a convergence of historical legacies and contemporary factors. This section aims to examine the persistence's and transformations that have transpired since achieving independence, elucidating the elements that have influenced the present socio-economic dynamics. The region's development will be analyzed with a focus on the significant impact of globalization, modernization, and government policies.

Through the utilization of interviews and field observations, the analysis endeavors to capture the perspectives of the community and offer a contemporaneous comprehension of the obstacles and possibilities that are influencing the present state of Garo Hills. This part aims to provide a critical evaluation of the impact of external forces during the post-colonial era, shedding light on the intricate challenges faced in adapting to a swiftly evolving socio-economic environment.

Conclusion

In summary, this extensive investigation reveals the intricate effects of colonial governance on the socio-economic frameworks of Garo Hills. By incorporating historical assessments alongside contemporary perspectives, this approach offers a comprehensive comprehension of the region's history of development. The results of this study make a substantial contribution to the wider academic conversation surrounding the long-lasting impacts of colonialism. Additionally, they provide valuable insights that might drive future policy decisions about sustainable development in Garo Hills and other comparable places. The conclusion serves to integrate the principal discoveries derived from each segment, highlighting the interrelated nature of past occurrences and present circumstances. This statement contemplates the ramifications of the study in relation to academic research, policy development, and community involvement. Moreover, the conclusion may put forward potential directions for future research, delineating specific domains that merit further investigation in order to enhance our comprehension of the intricate relationship between colonial legacies and socio-economic frameworks within post-colonial settings.

This study demonstrates the significance of historical contextualization in understanding the intricate nature of socio-economic systems in post-colonial environments, highlighting the necessity of adopting region-specific strategies in formulating impactful policies. The examination of Garo Hills' historical trajectory, spanning from the pre-colonial era to the contemporary period, underscores the remarkable endurance exhibited by indigenous

populations and emphasizes the importance of recognizing the impact of historical legacies in crafting a future that is both inclusive and sustainable.

References

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