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**The Courage and Patriotism of Sadhani, The Queen of Chutia Kingdom
(Sadia) of Assam
Gitanjali Bharali**

Asstt. Prof. Of Education Department, Marangi Mahavidyalaya, Golaghat, Assam

Abstract

Sati Sadhini was the historic product of sixteenth century A.D. Sati Sadhani was born in the royal family of Chutia kingdom of medieval Assam. Chutia King Dhirnarayan alias Dharmadhajpal, the father of Sadhani was pious and powerful to administer the Chutia kingdom of North-East part of Assam covering hills and plains, with the capital at Sadia. Sadhani was the gift of God to the royal family of the Chutia kingdom with her flourishing growth, mental and outside the Chutia kingdom. Sadhani's Glorious sacrifice for the cause of her country is one side of the historic event. On the another side of it she shines everlasting as an apostle of valour and dignity. She is dignified as 'Sati' for her chastity, for her valour and dignity. The present paper is an attempt to analyse the glorious status and activities of Sati Sadhani as a Birangana (heroine), women of past India and her rich contribution to the country. The study will conclude by using historical and descriptive methods and the sources of data are different books, journals and souvenirs.

Introduction:

When the women all over the globe were in darkness and were treated as merely as chattels, women in ancient India enjoyed a very high position in the society. Women in ancient India participated in the Yajnas along with their husbands, chanted vedic slokas and worships God and Goddesses. There were instances of many literate women Gargi, Artreyee, Maitreyee, Lupamudra, Opala etc. who chanted Vedic slokas and even composed slokas and even composed slokas and Mantros. But time had passed. Women in order to keep themselves away from the greedy eyes of hords of foreigners confined themselves to the fourwalls of there home.

Like India in Assam which is situated in the North-East corner of India was the birth place of many of the renowned women. Women of Assam were so beautiful and accomplished that Lord Krishna eloped Rukmini, the daughter of king Bhismak of the Bidarbha kingdom (Sadia), Anirudha, the grandson of Lord Krishna married Usha, the daughter of king Banasur of Sunitpur, Durjudhan, the eldest of the Kaurawas, married Bhanumoti, daughter of king Bhagadatta of Kamrup and Bhima, the third brother of the Pandawas, married Hirimba, a Kachari princess.

The Tai Ahoms when penetrated into the Brahmaputra valley brought with them the system of writing history of thier own. The Tai Ahoms while writing the history of their own mentioned the tribes with whom they came into conflict. In the cronicles composed by the Ahom pandits (scholars) there are instances of Joymoti, who sacrificed her life to save the life of her husband Godador Singha for the cause of the county, and Mulagabharu, wife of Pharasengmung Barguhain, who riding an elephant's back fought with turbock the Mugal general to take revenge of the death of her husband in the battle field in the hand of Turbock.

But the sacrifice of Queen Sadhani, the wife of the Chutia King Nitipal was one of the rare examples in history. Sadhani sacrifice her life for the cause of the country by jumping from the top of the Chandangiri Mountain. Thus Sadhani earned the credit to be the first martyr of the continent of Asia.

Aims and objectives:

1. To let the readers know all the details regarding Chutia Queen Sadhani.
2. To inspire the coming generation introduce them with the ideal of patriotism and bravery of queen Sadhani.
3. To introduce the readers that the Chutia women including Queen Sadhani were expert in using tools and arrows.
4. To acquaint the readers with the glorious reign of the Chutias who ruled in Sadia reign for more then 300 years

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**Methodology:**

The methodology used here is purely historical and descriptive Primary datas are collected from the Ahom chronicles and secondary sources are collected from different books, journals and souvinirs. All the datas are carefully arranged and only the authentic datas are used here.

Ancestry of the Chutia:

The early history of the Chutias is not definite though they had a far-greater antiquity from Deodhai Asom Buranji, etited by S.K. Bhuyan ,We can know that the medieval Chutia kingdom was Birbor or Birpal (1189 A.D.approximately) who ruled over sixty chutia families. He is said to be a descendent of Bhismok ,the legendary king ,whose daughter Rukmini was accepted by Lord Krishna as his consort. The name of Birpal's wife Rupavati,who worshipped Lord Kubera to bless her with a son.One day while Rupavati was returning from her mother's place ,Lord Kubera meet her in guise of her husband and had sexual union. At night Lord Kubera appeared in a dream to Birpal and told everything regarding the incident. Kubera also advised him to go under a tree in the corner of their house and to bring all the things whatever he got to his home and worshipped these with honour. Lord Kubera also told him that as long as they would worship and kept those poperties with honour ,there will be no danger to his kingdom but as soon as these property would fell into the hands of other's downt all would came to Their kingdom. Following the advice of Kuber, Birpal early in the morning went under this tree and found one shield, one sword and one golden cat. This was the chutia heirloom or kuber datta sampati of the chutias. In due time one son was born to Rupawati. He was named as Gourinarayan alias Ratnadhajpal (1210 to 1250) who became one of the most powerful kings of the chutias. He subjugated all the neighbouring hill chiefs of Rangalguri, Kalguri, Nilgiri, Dhawalgiri and Chandangiri (S.H. Baruah, A comprehensive History of Assam, P. 184). He ever defeated Bhadrasen, the king of Swetagiri hills and brought form there many skilled persons and a large number of bootics. He then established his capital of Ratnapur on the bauk of the river Brahmaputra and assumed the name Ratnadhajpal. He even established this cordial relations with the king of Kamata and the king of gauda. Seeing the growing power and prosperity of Ratnadhaj Pal, the Ahom kings upto the reign of king Sahung-mung dare to attack the Chutia Kingdom.

In the Deodhai Asam Buranji, the names of the chutia kings of medieval period are mentioned but according to new revised vamsawali 17 chutia kings ruled in Sadia region from 1189 upto 1524 A.D. (Chutia Jatir Buranji, P. 107). Dhirnarayan alias Dharmadhaj pal was the 16th king of the chutias who ruled form 1500 to 1522 A.D. Dhirnarayan resorted to pray his own royal God for a son,eventually he was blessed with a girl. Labourious rituals, performed for child on the part of Dhirnarayan was of greater significance. So the girl was named as Sadhani, as because, she was born out of comprehensive blessing of God.

Marriage of Sadhani:

Sadhani was about to cross her teen age,Dhirnarayan, decided about the marriage of his daughter Sadhani. As sadia, the capital of chutia kingdom was a centre of inter national trade to were all the neighboring hill tribes including the Akas, the Daflas, the mishings and the Mishmis and the people of Tibet, Bhutan, China and Myanmar came for trade the king had a good relation with them. The geographical position of the chutia kingdom also encouraged the kings of Northern India to visit the chutia kingdom. Therefore king Dhirnarayan imitating the kings a Northern India thought of arranging a swayambara for the marriage of his daughter.

But the king had made a pledge that one who could kill a crawling squirrel in the branch of tree with a single bow, the king would give his daughter in marriage to him (Ojantimulak sadiar Buranji, Sri Kumar Dahutia, S.S Publication on, Tinsukia, P.66). Nitai, a commoner won in the archery test and the king by keeping his promise gave sadhani in marriage to him Surprisingly sadhani in order to keep the prestige and promise of his father agreed to marry a common boy. This is the rear example of paternal love of a daughter to her fauther. Dhirnarayan, then abdicated his throne and also the chutia heirloom to his son-in-law Nitai. After this Nitai took the name of Nitipal alias chandranarayan and became the chutia king. (Lakshmi Devi, Ahom Tribal Relations, P.63) Soon after this Dhirnarayan died and his three old son Sadhaknarayan was put in the care of his son-in-law (Chutiar katha, incorporated in Deodhaj Asam Buranji).

Disorder and Confusion in the Chutia Kingdom:

All the accession of a commoner to the throne princes belonging to the royal family and the royal officers were not satisfied. When king Nitipal. Proved himself in efficient in conducting the