

Executive Summary of the Minor Research Project

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The Title of the Minor Research Project is ***“Regionalism in India with special reference of Andhra Pradesh”***. The Project is divided into five chapters dealing with all the aspects of Regionalism. Word ‘Regionalism’ is derived from the word ‘region’ which is homogenous with physical and cultural characteristics distinct from those of neighbouring area. It can be said that region is a socio-cultural concept, which represents more of an analytic category than geographical entity.

According to the International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences The Regional idea in action as an ideology or as a social movement or as theoretical basis for the Regional planning, it is also applied to the scientific task of delimiting and analysing regions as entities lacking formal boundaries India like, USA and USSR has many Nationalities with their own history, language and cultural patterns. For a proper understanding of the ‘Regionalism’ in Indian scene, one has to differentiate the origin of various Regionalist forces by analysing the nature and content of their demand.

Even before Independence, Regionalism manifested in the form of linguistic Nationalism demanding re-organization of provinces on common cultural homogeneities. As the demand for linguistic provinces became vehement, the government of India was compelled to appoint a State re-organization commission in 1953. The Andhra State was formed in 1953 following the death of Shri Ramulu in 1950. Andhra Pradesh is the first State which came into existence on the basis of one language- one State in 1956.

To understand Regionalism, it is necessary to study diverse socio-economic roots of various Regional movements that originated in different historic contexts. These movements /parties have originated in different periods of history in response to the urges of different section of society in their respective regions. At the same time, each part / movement had undergone significant qualitative demand to another over a period of time.

The evolution of Regionalism in Indian States can be broadly seen in different phases. In the initial phases, it manifested immediately after Independence in the form of the demand for the re-organization of provinces based on common linguistic homogeneities. In the

second phase, starting from 1967 onwards, Regional parties like D.M.K and Akali Dal came to power in the respective States, have proved their credentials as legitimate representatives of people representing a different dimension in the Indian federal polity. These parties after coming to power have realized that limitations of power of the State governments and started demanding drastic restructuring of Centre-State relations enabling the State Governments to have more autonomy and powers. This demand became the basis for all Regional forces to come together in Bangalore conference in 1983 to fight against centralization of powers in the central Government.

In the first decade of the Twentieth century, Andhras argued that, “there was no opposition between Nationalism and federalism and that the strength of the provinces would enhance the stability of the country.” Sub-National units, they asserted would help the growth of National consciousness. ‘Unity’ they declared is not uniformity but harmony in diversity.

An able exponent of that theme wrote that “Andhra unity is one with the National ideal, one in its human bearings, one in the richness of its intellectual and ethical contents and one also in the ultimate harmony of the spiritual life.” Sub-Nationalism of the Andhras would not fragment the higher goal of Indian Nationalism, according to the Andhras. As Robert L. Hardgrave observed in another context, “primordial sentiment, though regarded with horror by many, would serve as a vehicle in the transference of loyalty from local community to the larger community.”

It was on this lofty plan that the Andhras made their demand for a separate State as early as 1913. Forty years later, the Andhra State was born, only after Potti Sriramulu’s martyrdom and the violent agitation that followed it. Even after the formation of the larger State of Andhra Pradesh combining the Telangana districts with Hyderabad as the State capital, the Andhra quest for a separate identity remained elusive.

Right from the days of the freedom struggle the Andhras felt that their leaders never got recognition commensurate with their spirit of sacrifice and stature. The Andhra pride was hurt and things did not look like improving till N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) dramatically arrived on the political scene and launched the Telugu Desam party. NTR captured the Andhra mood and mobilized tremendous support among the three regions of the State by declaring that his first priority was to get for the Andhras their rightful place at the top in India.

For the first time Andhras began to receive National attention and NTE and the Telugu Desam secured for the Andhras a distinct identity in Indian politics. NTR becoming the chairman of the National front and National leaders coming to Hyderabad to seek his help in the formation of a coalition government at the centre in 1989 marked the birth of a new era in Indian polity. The role played by N. Chandrababu Naidu in 1996, 1998 and 1999 evidence of the constructive approach of a Regional party towards National politics.

N.T.R. had planned his entry into politics for a long time. The timing of the announcement of the formation of Telugu Deasm Party was influenced by a small Group of Kamma intellectuals and political leaders. Like Nandendla Bhaskara Rao, a prominent Kamma leader arranged a meeting at his residence in Jubilee hills on March 28, 1982 where a steering committee of 13 members was formed. It proposed to make NTR, the president of the party.

On March 29, 1982 at the new M.L.A quarters open lawn at a largely gathered public, Rama Rao announced that he was entering politics from that very moment. A Regional party under the name Telugu Desam thus emerged. Justifying the fact that why he named his party as Telugu Desam.

The people of Andhra had many expectations from the Telugu Desam Government and its Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao. Many hoped that he would become the most able and efficient Chief Minister. As Ramoji Rao, the Chief Editor of *Eenudu* observed Chances are that NTR will prove to be the strongest Chief Minister after Neelam Sajniva Reddy.

Similarly, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, a leading Telugu film star and Rama Roa's friend for 35 years I knew my friend. He is sincere in everything he does. He will make a good Chief Minister.

The people of Andhra, Voted for Telugu Desam and its leader NTR, expecting a clean, corruption free and responsive government.

Regionalism in Indian context has acquired different dimensions due to its social and economic backwardness. Though the system operates on western patterns of political institutions and political parties, basically it has turned out to be a populist democracy. the manifestoes of various political parties, both at the National level and Regional level and Regional level clearly indicate the fact that priority is given to the welfare programme apart from the general commitment to the concepts like socialism and welfare State. The schemes

and programmes of the various political parties aim to attract the various sections of a traditional society. No Political party in India can afford to ignore the deeply rooted social values either to operate its own inner party affairs or to capture the major vote banks for their political habitation.

TDP failed to play important role in satisfying the strong pro Telangana sentiment. "Pride of Telangana People - K. Chandrashekher Rao President Telangana Rashtra Samiti succeeded in forming a major political force. He has been able to whip up pro telanana sentiments by highlighting the TDP governments negligence towards Telangana issue.

The Telangana bill was Passed in the Parliament with the support of BJP. The Government of India declaired Telangana declaird as the 29th State of union of India with Hyderabad as its Capital. Both States will Share the capital for ten Years until Seemandhra can established its own however the revenue of Hyderabad and the State governing power will go only to Telangana. Non special status was granted to Seema Andhra.

According to our Constitution, India is a federal polity. After the reorganisation of the States on linguistic basis in recognition of the fact that India is a multiracial, multi –lingual Nation, it is not correct to misunderstand any party if it speaks in favour of the culture and development of a particular State.

Regional Parties have been formed essentially to look after the interests of their own States and work for their development. But it is not right to ask them to be confined to their two States without any National programme and perspective.

It is the States that make up a Nation. A National perspective cannot emerge without the active participation and understanding of the States. Regional parties playing a crucial role in National politics is not a new feature.

To conclude, today several National parties have only Regional jurisdiction while many Regional Parties are displaying a National outlook. This is healthy sign and should be encouraged in the interest of the Nation's unity and integrity. The growing strength of Regional parties in the Parliament necessarily demands that they actively participate in guiding the Nation.