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A ROLE OF TELANGANA RASTRA SAMITHI (TRS) PARTY IN SECOND PHASE TELANGANA MOVEMENT

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Abstract

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is a political party which started to realize separate statehood for Telangana from the state of Andhra Pradesh. The main agenda of the party is to achieve separate Telangana state and Hyderabad as its capital city. The journey of the party and its struggle of events to express the demand of separate statehood and its participation in various elections. The demand for separate Telangana state picked up in view of political conditions and paved way for the emergence of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) party.

Keywords: Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Achieve, Telangana.

INTRODUCTION

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is a political party which started to realize separate statehood for Telangana from the state of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. K.Chandrasekhar Rao was formed the TRS party on 27th April, 2001. The main agenda of the party is to achieve separate Telangana state and Hyderabad as its capital city. The demand for separate statehood to Telangana has been an agenda of the intellectuals, employees and student youth, even after the suppression of 1969 movement, in view of the fight for the discrimination, injustice and humiliations affecting Telangana people and employees. Several organizations, forums have been formed like Telangana Mahasabha, Telangana Janasabha, Telangana Teachers Forum, Telangana Intellectuals Forum, Telangana Information Centre, and Telangana Study Forum to take up the issue of Telangana statehood in the late 19th and 20th century.

TRS PARTY AND ELECTORAL POLITICS

Telangana Rashtra Samithi was emerged on 27th April, 2001 with the single agenda of achieving separate Telangana state. The party often declared that the combination of Telangana movement is political participation and lobbying meanwhile main strategy to achieve Telangana statehood is primary than electoral gains. However, it has been participating in local body elections, Parliamentary elections since 2001. Even though the party was born for the separate Telangana state, in practice electoral gains were considered as vital. Though the Congress party leader from Telangana launched a political party and won the elections in the name of Telangana statehood but unexpectedly closed the party in view of few political benefits in 1971. TRS party has participated in local body elections on its own but shared power in Zilla Parishad, Mandal Parishad and Gram Panchayat with Congress party. Similarly, TRS party was forged an alliance with the Congress party for 2004 general elections.

The party was considered winning elections as an important strategy. The TRS party was joined an alliance with the Congress party in 2004 and shared power at the state and Centre, deviating from very objective of achieving Telangana state. The TRS party's president KCR and Narendra have joined in Manmohan Singh's government and 6 MLA's of TRS in the Cabinet of YSR's government. They have joined with the alliance with the Congress party against the wishes of the Telangana people.

These were various organizations which emerged as a result of the frustration with the TRS party's attitude and strategies such as cultural organizations (Dhum-Dham), Telangana Ikya Karyacharana Committee, Telangana Vidyavantula Vedika, Telangana Rachayathala Vedika, and a number of local groups have been formed to enlighten the people of Telangana. The TRS party was made target of all these organizations except T.V.V led by Prof. Kodanda Ram.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao has resigned to his Parliament seat in Karimnagar with the intention of regain the lost faith among the people of Telangana and won the by-election with good majority in 2006. Once gain the TRS party asked his party 4 M.P's and 16 MLA's to resign for their membership in 2008 and went for elections.

C.H. Hanumantha Rao has specified that the recent by-election has provides an opportunity to the people to express their support for Telangana, where people had the choice vote either for development in the integrated state of Andhra Pradesh or separate statehood for Telangana region but people have supported sentiment of Telangana and make won the KCR in that elections.



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Moreover, he says that people wanted development in terms of equal share in budget allocations, water distribution and jobs meanwhile significant role in decision making such a way the sentiment of people is aspiring for separate statehoodⁱ.

The TRS party has made an alliance with the Telugu Desam Party which is completely integrationist party during general elections of 2009. The people of Telangana did not support this alliance and described it as an opportunistic and made for electoral gains only rather than to achieve Telangana state. Moreover, the people had rejected the TRS party through defeating majority of its candidates. As a result, out of the total contested of 8 MP seats and 52 MLA seats, this party wins only two MP's and 10 MLA's with small majority. The important point one should observe here is that TRS party at all times tries to gain from electoral politics and did not hesitate to make alliances with the parties which dead opposite and those which opposed the demand for formation of Telangana state.

ROLE OF TRS PARTY IN BY-ELECTIONS

The better performance of the TRS party in the recent by-elections further led to the another step of resignations by the party legislators in support of demand for separate Telangana, which is not wonder for anyone because this is the reaction according to the ground situation. It has given the strong confidence to the TRS party to assert that its success in elections is a clear judgment over the issue of Telangana statehood and it can be treat as a referendum on the issue of Telangana. Thus, this election marked an important turning point and influenced greatly the dynamics of party politics in the Telangana movementⁱⁱ.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao had gone for indefinite Hunger strike in view of attract the people's attention and improvise its party's popularity towards the demand of Telangana and slowly the movement picked up and reached to the level of such an extent to force the central government to make declaration in this regard. The continuous disintegration of his health led to increase awareness and agitation among the people towards the issue of Telangana. Consequently, the Union Home Minister, P.Chidambaram has announced on 9th December 2009, that the process of Telangana state formation would be initiated soon. As a result of the mass mobilization, people cutting across political lines have come forward to support the demand of separate Telangana state. The TRS party President K.Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to go for fast unto death has collected ability in the latest phase of movement for separate state of Telangana in view of gathered public supportⁱⁱⁱ.

The various factors have contributed to the spread of Telangana movement, such as the prices of necessary goods have suddenly increased, underemployment in the agriculture sector and impact of the international financial crisis over Hyderabad, all of these have instigated the Rural Telangana people who are unhappy and angry with discontentment, led them to involve in the agitations of separate statehood in December 2009. But the actions of the participants have changed according their interest and reaction during the movement across in the Telangana region. In view of K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) who was supposed to tilting to surrender the movement once again likes as earlier, which provoked the students in two universities of Osmania in Hyderabad and Kakatiya in Warangal, to intensify the movement through their agitations and emotional mobilization across Telangana region. Consequently, students declared that regardless of KCR's decision in breaking the fast, the movement will continue to operate, such a way the movement went into the hands of the people of Telangana across the region^{iv}.

Prof. M. Kodand Ram says that there are several political formations in the form of Joint Action Committees which has been maintained the aspirations and spirit of the people in the region of Telangana. The T-JAC is a new political formation, has originated during the latest phase of Telangana movement, and it provides a platform for expression of problems from the people of different sections of the region. The first Joint Action Committee was the Osmania University Student's JAC, which was formed in the Month of November, 2009 and started acting as the leader for the formation of JAC's in various parts of Telangana region. The political JAC comprises of the representatives of political parties which was not able to make decisions because the political parties are unwilling to respond to the sudden increase of people connected movement. Moreover, they were not in a position to understand the problems of people completely in their articulation^v.

As a result of the announcement of P Chidambaram's Union Home Minister, there was rapid change in the people's attitudes which was not expected from the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions in the form of opposing this decision begins a new stage in the politics of Telangana statehood. The members of Legislative Assembly of the state of Andhra Pradesh and Indian Parliament from both the regions of Seema-Andhra, with high speed submitted their resignations regardless of the political party lines and tried to gather the support from students and employees in view of continue the protests against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh state. The demand for separate statehood for Telangana region has been represented widely and mobilized public support in this regard across Telangana region^{vi}.



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The TRS party leaders always preferred elections and impressing by-elections to attract people's attention and keep Telangana movement alive and sustain. The TRS party all MLA's have resigned to prove that they have people's support in connection to the sentiment of Telangana and express out the aspiration of the people for separate statehood in the year 2010. Meanwhile MLA contesting candidates belong to the Congress and TDP parties have lost their deposits in all the constituencies. It passed the message to all the political parties that people have voted for separate statehood^{vii}.

The political parties from Seemandhra region initially expressed their willing for bifurcation of the state, later on they have changed their stand and united together to influence the central government to withdrew decision in forming separate Telangana state. All the MLA's and MP's of political parties have threatened the Centre through submission of resignations to their membership. They severely opposed the Telangana statehood demand because they are not willing loose Hyderabad as capital city of Telangana. However, again Union Home Minister retracted his announcement due to the pressure and agitation from Seemandhra region on 23rd January, 2010.

PROMISES OF TRS PARTY IN 2014 ELECTIONS

The TRS party leader K.Chandrasekhar Rao was declared his party manifesto covering the main aspects like Welfare of the people, Agriculture, Industries and economic development of Telangana region. He was stated that if his party came to power, he would give increment to the all employees of Telangana region in the name of Telangana state.

- The expansion of the districts of Telangana region, through reorganization of the districts with 14 new districts would be established in Telangana in order to bring the total 24 districts
- There will be about five assembly constituencies in each district of Telangana state.
- As per as the education was concerned, there must be free education from KG to PG in the residential institutions and establishment of Guru Kula schools and colleges.
- In connection to the Agriculture- granting legal right up to of Rs 1 lakh crop loans, 8-hour quality free power, exemption of surcharge for agriculture pump sets.
- In Health grounds-24 Super Specialty Hospitals in 24 new districts and Area hospitals with 100 beds in every Constituency of the Telangana region.
- People's Welfare Concerned –Old age pensions 1000/ &Physically Challenged Pensions 1500/ etc.
- Weaker Sections concerning – 3 Lakhs Double bed room houses.
- Regarding rural development – power, CC roads, Drainage and toilets & Hariitha Haram.
- Regarding promotion of language & culture –pension of 1500/ for old age artists and constitute Language literature Academy and Tax exemption for movies in view of encouraging Telangana language and culture^{viii}.
- Bathukamma would be recognized as a state festival of Telangana region.
- Bathukamma would be recognized as a state festival of Telangana region.
- About Rs. 50,000 crore of rupees would be allocated for the development of Scheduled Castes in five years
- Providing 33 percent reservations for Backward Classes (OBC's) in the representation bodies meanwhile give an amount of Rs 25,000 crore for the welfare BC's and also ensure Rs 1000 crore annually for developing the Corporation of Backward Classes.
- Specified 12 percent of reservation quota for minorities and also legal powers for minorities meanwhile Urdu would be recognized as second language.
- Provide central pay scales for the state government employees and also employee friendly government. Moreover, transfer of all Andhra staff to their respective region meanwhile regularization of the present working contract employees in the state government.
- Increasing salaries for all the staff working in Telangana Road Transport Corporation.
- Establishing a new High Court for Telangana region.

THE PERFORMANCE OF TRS PARTY IN ELECTIONS

Since from the beginning the Telangana Rashtra Samithi has been experimented resignation as a political tactic in order to highlight the issue of Telangana and attract public attention. As such K.Chandrasekhar Rao was resigned to his membership of Parliament in the year 2006, which was represented from Karimnagar Lok Sabha Constituency, re- contested in the by election and he was gain reelected to the parliament with a huge majority of 2.15 lakh votes^{ix}. It was occurred during the Congress party regime when Y. S. Rajasekhar Reddy was the Chief Minister of the state, who avoided intentionally the Telangana issue. He was successful in attracting national attention towards the Telangana demand meanwhile by demonstrating the strong aspirations of people for separate statehood, pushed the two major political parties into confusion at the issue of Telangana.



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He was attempted to experiment once again in the same way through forcing his party MLA's to submit resignations to the legislative Assembly of the state of Andhra Pradesh. But, the TRS party was not performed to the level of expectation in the resultant by-election, where it was captured only 10 Assembly seats out of the total 16 state Assembly seats whereas the Congress party won 4 seats and TDP party was captured the remaining two seats. As a result of KCR's resignation to the Indian Parliament for the second time as Member of Parliament and then by-election was held in 2008, where he won the election with fewer majorities.

As D. Sathyanarayana said that even though, the movement was started and lead by the TRS party which has never focused on mobilization of the ordinary people largely but just concentrated on politics to highlight the Telangana movement and electoral gains. One should notice that the TRS party was performed better during the elections of 2004 meanwhile 2009 elections as well because of its alliance with the so called political parties of Congress and the Telugu Desam Party before elections. In fact, there has been an independent mobilization for the cause of separate Telangana among individuals who are not connected with the party and social, cultural organizations but they are not having good relationship with the TRS party.

Moreover, they have negative opinion over the TRS party and its special importance on influential politics to gain electoral benefits. The party has no idea over social dream relating to the people of Telangana and it just considered Telangana as a geographic entity. Meanwhile, it is alleged that the TRS party was dominated by the upper castes Velama and Reddy elite groups. For these reasons, the TRS party was not able to develop as a strong independent political organization to face elections on its own. However, the TRS party has shown good performance in the separate, opposite groups of highly developed and competitive electoral sphere and established itself as an important player to push the other two dominant political parties namely the Congress and the Telugu Desam Party into confusion. Thus, it shows that why they are interested to make an alliance with the TRS party in the previous elections. The one and only agenda of the TRS party is to achieve separate Telangana state. Though KCR appears to be the single leader in the party there are some other leaders who could win the consent of people of Telangana like Harish Rao, Etela Rajender and Naini Narasimha Reddy etc.

CONCLUSION

The origin and development of TRS party is due to the dissatisfaction of leaders belong this party and felt that Telangana region is being neglected by Andhra Pradesh State mechanism. Moreover, TRS party pointed out that all the agreements, promises and guarantees on the floor of state legislative Assembly and Parliament are not being correctly implemented and such a way Telangana has been neglected. The TRS party through its electoral politics makes alliances with Congress party, Telugu Desam Party tried to bring the movement of Telangana at the peak level. As such TRS party had developed its political structure in the state politics and national level as well.

The movement for Telangana state has always become a political agenda. Though students, employees, people have been joining the movement in 1969-Jai Telangana movement and 2001-emergence of TRS party onwards it has become a political issue. In 1969 TPS party led the movement meanwhile TRS party took initiative to struggle and fight for separate statehood. But due to some political tactics the movement was not run properly to express the aspirations of the people at the expected level. Each and every political party has been utilized the Telangana people's sentiment in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The political parties in their manifestos have supported before and during elections namely (1999, 2004 and 2009) respectively while divert and distract the issue of Telangana after won the elections. The Congress party would come first in terms of availing the sentiment of the people for its electoral gains on different occasions. The BJP party was also encouraged the Telangana before 1999 elections but could not able to formed the Telangana state because of pressure and opposition from its Coalition partner Telugu Desam party. Hence, all the political parties have availed the issue of Telangana for electoral gains and capture power both at the Centre as well as in the state.

Even though the congress party has established Telangana state in response to the movement from the Telangana people but people have rejected the congress party on the one hand and they have voted and supported the TRS party to form the Telangana government kept in mind the promises whichever made by KCR and TRS party during the movement and before 2014 elections meanwhile it struggle for separate statehood. However, in the upcoming elections 2019 TRS party may not be able to win the support of the people by the region of failed in satisfying the movement aspirations of the people and expectations of the separate statehood movement.



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