

Telangana People's Movement

A Study of Democratic Aspirations and Electoral Politics

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The Telangana region has distinct historical, political, geographical and cultural variations. These variations, it is to note, led to witness several people's movements in the region against monopoly of Nizam, landlordism, social inequalities and domination of other region. Telangana peasant movement, Naxalite movement are the examples. Therefore, it is prerequisite to contemplate that all these are the reasons for Telangana movement for the separate statehood. The proposed paper is an attempt to examine the aspirations of the people which had articulated during the movement, particularly from the subalterns (women, tribals, dalits, women and minorities). Thus, the question and the demand of democratic rights and fulfilling the demands became a part the Telangana movement and subsequently in Telangana state as well. As a result of this, all political parties had incorporated the demands in their manifestos including TRS during the 2014 general elections. Question here is arises that does the newly formed TRS government in the state has implemented its manifesto? Do the democratic demands, aspirations, people's dissent, demand for the democratic space in the public domain and concerns are respected?

In the view of this, the proposed paper is an attempt to evaluate, examine, people's participation in Telangana movement to understand the democracy, gap between people's aspirations and electoral politics. The paper further is an attempt to understand the relation and gap between the populist politics and democratic rights in Telangana state. The question, the paper proposed to pose in this context that does the present political culture and regime meet the aspirations of the people? Does winning the elections mean that people are satisfied with the political parties which gets mandate from the people? What is the role of people's movements and social activists in the newly formed state? This paper is an attempt to understand democracy in general (Indian democracy) and democracy in Telangana state in particular.

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