



## Role of Journalism in Telangana Movement

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**Abstract:** *Today journalism has acquired a great deal of importance nationally and internationally in context of the whole globe. Journalism not only makes the news reach to the masses, it also plays an important role in revealing the truth to the society at large. In acquiring the Telangana a status of an individual state from being a part of other state, journalists of Telangana played a crucial role. The special role of journalists of Telangana in enlightening the masses about the injustice happening in Telangana, the oppression and the exploitation of wealth is unforgettable. The present paper has focus on the important of journalism role in Telangana movement and particularly, the significant responsibility of print and electronic media during the Telangana movement.*

**Key words:** *Role of Journalism, Telangana movement, Political Affair, Role of Print & Electronic media.*

**Introduction:** The Telangana movement was a movement of self-respect and pride. It was a movement of the masses with the common ideals of the liberation of Telangana. It was a struggle for the food, water, treasures, and livelihoods. It was a fight for the freedom of the land as genuine as a promise on the mother and that historic struggle had many literary scholars, academicians, educated, students, and the journalists fighting for it. The important people involved in this movement were Chakali Polamma, Doddi Komarayya for their battle spirits, Bhimreddy Narsimhareddy, Ravi Narayanareddy, Arutla RamChandrareddy, Nalla Narsimhulu, Uppala Malunuru and many more. If the listing of people who played important roles were to be enunciated, that land had some four thousand black heroes can be mentioned who fought valiantly, sacrificed a lot which goes on to say how powerful the soil of Telangana is and the pride that is associated with it. There are innumerable stories of sacrifice which are

associated with the struggle for the freedom of the pride filled land. Before the formation of the state of Andhra on November 1<sup>st</sup>, as per recommendation of forming states around linguistic boundaries in 1956, people of Telangana expressed their desire to be independent and having a state of their own. People native of Andhra just crushed and rejected the recommendations of Faizal Ali Commission to this effect. They have been dominating the Telangana with their foot over our necks.

For example, the names of Prof Jayshankar, Kaboji, Prof Kondandaram varachara rao, Gaddar are all too familiar to the masses as the revolutionaries of Telangana as a result of efforts of the journalists of Telangana. On the other hand, the newspapers of Andhra not only tried their best to nullify the revolution of Telangana but they also made all horrendous feats to stop the news and reality from reaching the population at large by doing so. Telangana journalists



have grinded and struggled for the making of Telangana into a state both implicitly and explicitly ever since 1969 for a period of a whole 45 years. Their efforts and struggles can never be forgotten by the Telangana state. Journalists, now called as the fourth estate, play an indisputable role in rising or falling of a government and in the branding or glorifying of the government's works. They work as the bridge between the common man and the government by telecasting people's polls to the government on issues and by publishing works taken up by the government.

In this connection, the reality behind the shady deals that were done in the names of so called leaders came out into open in 1969, 369 people took their lives to make the seriousness of the exploitation that has been done be felt by normal masses. As a result, to stop it from becoming independence struggle rulers of Andhra Pradesh took care of all the areas in their ruling and were successful in keeping people's heads down for quite a long time to come. The great heroes eventually were buried and became the burning flames of the torch of the revolution. Many great heroes' statues line tankbund of Hyderabad, the deep forests leaders like Kallena, Koteswara Rao's statues line outside the legislative assembly in Hyderabad. Palakurti saw the stupa of Chakali Pelamma and all these places were ablaze with the flame of Telangana movement in due course of time when it almost looked like their struggle and fight became just statues like them with time.

#### **ROLE OF JOURNALISTS' IN THE TELANGANA MOVEMENT**

The journalist is usually a neutral person by profession. He plays the role of a mediatory between the people on one side and government on the other side. A journalist also plays the key role in taking the public's problems and concerns to the government. But this did not happen in the case of the movement for Telangana. One person took it to himself to be the journalist of the journalists who were all in a strike. He went on to find a special paper for the purpose of the movement of Telangana whose prime focus would be the movement. From the start of 1969 when the first movement for Telangana took place to the day of declaration of forming Telangana as an independent state on June 2 of 2014 journalists played a great and important role both behind the scenes and directly as well.

For example, Allam Narayana, Venugopal and many more journalists of Telangana participated in the movement indirectly while simultaneously fulfilling their professional duties as a journalist. Their presence and enthusiastic participation was extended directly to community call for all people's assembly and in millennium march apart from many other historic movements. Their spirit of revolution forever stays alive in the hearts of people of Telangana and gave them a boost to fight for their cause.

#### **GANDHI AS A JOURNALIST IN THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT**

Mahatma Gandhi worked in the Indian movement for Independence not only as a leader but also strived immensely as a journalist, an editor and a columnist. Journals and dailies like 'Young India' and 'Harijan' advertise his views on journalism and his respect for this



indispensable medium of communication to the masses.

Following excerpt written by Gandhiji came out in "Young India" on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1925 which goes as follows:

"I have taken up journalism not for its sake but mostly as an aid to that I have conceived to be my mission is like. My mission is to teach by example for weapon of Satyagraha which is corollary of non-violence." (M.K.Gandhi.org.massmedia)

Gandhi not only strived a lot as the glue that brought the people together for the national movement but also as a great communicator in the form of a journalist. When he was an advocate in South Africa, Gandhi stood as an exemplary communicator. His way of communicating with the masses showed the wholesomeness of his character. He worked as an editor too. Gandhi started his publication of a daily called "Indian Opinion" when he was in South Africa. The journalistic story of Gandhi started with this publication and travelled all the way till the publication of his biography named "My experiments with truth". His biography named 'My experiments with truth' brought him world-wide fame for him.(m.k.gandhi.org.mass\_media2016)

To publish people's opinions on Satyagraha he ran two journals namely 'Young India' and 'Navjivan' which ran the masses views and problems. The enlightenment of masses about the Indian national movement for freedom was to a great part achieved by Gandhi through his newspapers. Other journals by Gandhi like 'Harijan' and 'Deenabandhu' contributed to the upliftment and social justice of the existing downtrodden and untouchable

communities.[Laxmi Narain Journalist Quarterly-1965,267].

### **EFFORTS OF SURAVARAM PRATAPREDDY AS A JOURNALIST**

The fame of Suravaram Pratapreddy is fornicated and known to the state of Telangana and the whole land of India as a literary scholar, a writer, an editor and also as an important journalist. In a journal of Golconda he contributed as many as 365 poems to an essay on 'History of the community of Andhra' which shows the special qualities he possesses as a writer. Pratap Reddy's 'history of the migrated communities of Andhra' was the first literary piece to bag laurels of 'central literature academy award'. He founded the Andhra community in 1921 and worked hard for its journalism and literature.

When he founded the Golconda journal in 1926, he took up the duties of being a columnist and an editor all by himself and worked with for the journal's progress. Alone in the journal of Golconda, Pratap Reddy gave out as many as a staggering 1500 articles of writing. He brought out into the open the cruelties of Nizam and his exploitation and suppression of the Telangana people through his journal of Golconda. Pratap reddy was the founder of 'press' in Telangana and was the father of journalism in Telangana. As a journalist he worked against the suppression of the masses, dalits and had an active role in the primary movement of Telangana. In 1953, he moved from Vanaparti to Assembly and showed his political prowess. He was an exemplary people's leader, who was a journalist, an editor and a social politician by heart who had people and their welfare as his aim for all of his life.



### **WHY DID JOURNALISTS OF TELANGANA FORM UNIONS?**

In the Telangana movement that lasted for decades many a people died. In the first phase of the movement around 300 people gave up their lives. Second decade saw the Nizam's exploitations brought out to people by the introduction of Police Act. By the abolishment of basic rights and in the case of Sri Krishna committee journalists were successful in providing a proper analysis and showed who is on whose side to the people of Telangana. Journalist of Telangana had come to face two problems in the movement of Telangana. First, they were not able to have a stand against government. Second, they were also not able to be favorable to the rulers. To keep the essence of journalism alive and to protect their livelihoods the papers in the end turned out to be in favor of the ruling parties and their agendas instead of being favoring to the people's movement for the formation of Telangana. But with the advent of students' movement, journalists of Telangana were able to take a stand in favor of the movement and striving to do something in return for the place and country they were born in, they went on to form unions.

In the wake of the movement taking two directions with the establishment of Sri Krishna committee, the journalists divided into two unions: Andhra's journalists union and Telangana journalists union. The reasons being the realization among some journalists that if they had to be able to do something for their birth place and people of Telangana then they cannot be seen with the adversaries of Andhra. They felt that dominance of Andhra journalists under the Andhra politicians' support could only be opposed by forming

a separate union for the journalists of Telangana. To declare their support for the ongoing movement they had to make a separate union from the Telangana. History is witness to their solidarity to the movement of Telangana where they risked their affiliation to the journalism just because they wanted to be active participants in this historic struggle. Since the formation of Telangana state on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, they have been able to show their presence, struggles, gratitude and pride for being a part of the separate state movement and this for them became only possible after the establishment of a journalists union of Telangana.

### **HISTORY OF TELANGANA MOVEMENT**

Telangana was given the status of a state after a long struggle of sixty decades. The history shows light to the social suppression, economic exploitation and insults that have been done to the people of Telangana during the entire period of struggle. The suppression of Telangana began since the formation of Andhra Pradesh. Before the independence on 15 August 1947, people of Telangana had undergone atrocities in the hands of Nizam and after the establishment of Andhra on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956 they were again suppressed under the people of Andhra and its political rulers' unsocial agendas.

Telangana had no powers for decisions primarily because of the obstacles posed by the political set up of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The political arrangement among the noted leaders was to let Telangana also have an equal say over every matter of governance that was important of the state. But this agreement was never paid



any heed to and all the decisions of development were solely decided in favor of the areas of Andhra but never had any effects on areas of Telangana. The agreement of the trusted leaders with the workers never stood a stand or else the scenarios would have been different.

As Kaloji said the 2 and half districts constituting the 2 and half percent of the area had the dominance of the whole state. But the history of Telangana was different. This place had a long stride of struggle as the facilities of education arrived very late. The setting right of unhealthy migration and movements had not arrived yet. In spite of the introduction of the commercial crops, they were not widespread and did not succeed. The reforms in the fields of business and trade that the government took up after 1930 made the rich even richer. After the division of Pakistan many moved away to that country and after the division of states others immigrated to other states. The instigator of the revolution in Telangana was the abundance of crops and growth in the areas of Andhra after the introduction of green revolution. The wealth that was seen in the areas of Andhra after the green revolution was put to use in the form of establishing companies, and as investment in many businesses. The areas also saw constructions of colleges and hospitals. Transportation and real estate also saw a boom eventually with the wealth that came out of green revolution.

All these developments and reforms were majorly undertaken by the NTR government with a lot of investments. This further went to hiring private buses for R.T.C and into the introduction of private hospitals and private colleges. Private businesses boom

also took place under the ruling of NTR government. The primary reason was that Chandrababu invested a lot in providing the opportunities for the private companies to establish and thrive. Not only it ended this, he further diverted the funds away from Telangana to bring a boom to areas of Andhra. Eventually the government colleges were so bad that people had but no choice to go corporate colleges and since the government hospitals saw the funds being taken away from them, people had to approach costlier private hospitals for their conditions. The press had no way of opposing the ruling government and it had no way of showing evidence of any backward areas because all Andhra areas were in abundance of crops and wealth. The rest of the journalist tried to show the contrast of Telangana's plight for almost half a century.

#### **TELANGANA THAT BECAME AN EMIGRANT FROM ANDHRA PRADESH**

To begin with, the faizal ali khan commission had proposed to make Telangana a separate state. It felt that the people of Telangana were against forming a united state with Andhra Pradesh. The people of Telangana needed protection which was not possible without the intervention of central government it felt. It recommended that it was not possible to protect people of Telangana in this case if a united state of Andhra was formed as the majority of natural resources would be under them. They said Telangana will end up in a fix in united state as the land uniting also would cause problems. All along the history the language and slang of Telangana had been ridiculed and it can be said that they used the language also as a source of exploitation in the



historical years of being together. The primary problem the then Andhra had was solved by forming united Andhra as revenue of Andhra was very less and was not even sufficient for provision of salaries. But, excise department of Telangana brought huge amounts of wealth and money and the other reason was the fund from budget that was left over because of not spending it over Telangana.

The other reason of not forming a separate state was the lack of a capital city and by forming the united state Hyderabad could be won over as their capital and that would solve their problems of the capital felt the rulers of Andhra. With the formation of united Andhra rights over Krishna and Godavari can also be established which would solve their water problem felt the rulers. Though the establishment of united Andhra had all selfish purposes Nehru felt the united Andhra would help keep India the unity that a democratic country that just got freedom should have. This was further solidified by the powers the central government got because of division of powers between centre and state had left the boundaries of state with the centre and for the purpose of establishment of trade and commerce centre and because of the relations centre had with Andhra rulers that established during the freedom movement centre formed a united state of Andhra. Thus, in every aspect Telangana had injustice to its corner.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since Andhra had a stronghold on literature as well as written media of communication, the history and economic situation of the state was always glorified and Telangana ended up being forgotten

into the background. Textbooks had no mention about Telangana and the political history saw the omission of Telangana movement. There was a widespread opinion that Telangana people's language was not Telugu but there was no effort from any side to understand Telangana. Democratic leaders who could raise any issue and talk about anything from Kashmir to Cambodia also never made any efforts to bring up Telangana. In this scenario, the language of coastal Andhra was considered the standard Telugu and their history was pictured as the history of the whole state. Neither the history of Telangana nor the language of Telangana was given any recognition as well as the Telangana's history and culture was totally suppressed. The original agreement among the then great leaders declared an equal right to use of the natural resources for all the areas but that understanding was never brought to use. Had it been put to use, the scenario for Telangana would have been bright.

Since the understanding of having equal rights to all areas was totally ignored, the governance, dominance had totally gone into the elite sections of coastal Andhra. The executive powers of Telangana in governance were lost over Andhra. Thus, for the last 50 years Telangana and Andhra had a wide divide in resources, wealth, governance, existence and as a united state Telangana was suppressed and outcaste. Telangana became a captive in the jail called Andhra and to remove the bondage of that jail the movement of Telangana rose again. The present shape of Andhra in its economic, social, and existence has only been built at the cost of suppressing Telangana. In its ruling of almost half of a century, Andhra exploited Telangana socially,



economically and in many ways. Thus, the movement of Telangana which started in 1969 was brought to fruition in 2014 by establishing it as a separate state. The prolonged history that the special state of Telangana has can never be forgotten. It can be marked as the longest history of struggle of a state in the world history scenario.

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