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"Political Mobilization and Regional Identity in the Telangana Movement: An Analysis of Adilabad District's Struggle for Statehood (1969-2014)"

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Abstract

The Telangana movement represents one of the significant regional political movements in post-independence India, shaped by concerns regarding political representation, economic inequalities, cultural identity, and regional development. This study examines the processes of political mobilization and the formation of regional identity in the Telangana movement, with particular emphasis on Adilabad district and its struggle for statehood between 1969 and 2014. Adilabad, characterized by its diverse social composition, tribal population, agrarian economy, and distinctive historical and cultural experiences, occupied an important position within the broader Telangana movement. The study explores how regional grievances concerning employment, irrigation, education, resource distribution, land rights, and political representation contributed to the development of collective consciousness among different sections of society. It also analyzes the roles played by political organizations, student groups, employees, civil society organizations, intellectuals, and local communities in sustaining political mobilization across different phases of the movement. Particular attention is given to the evolution of Telangana regional identity and the ways in which historical narratives, cultural symbols, language, and perceptions of socio-economic disadvantage were used to construct a shared political identity. The study adopts a historical and analytical approach to understand the continuity and transformation of the movement from the 1969 agitation to the formation of Telangana as a separate state in 2014. It argues that the Telangana movement in Adilabad cannot be understood solely as a demand for administrative reorganization; rather, it reflected a complex interaction of regional aspirations, social interests, political participation, and identity formation.

Keywords: Telangana Movement, Adilabad District, Regional Identity, Political Mobilization, Statehood, Regionalism, Socio-Economic Inequality, Telangana State, 1969–2014.

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