

## THE POLITICS BEHIND STATEHOOD: INSIGHTS FROM THE TELANGANA SEPARATION MOVEMENT

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### **Abstract**

*This study examines the political, social, and economic factors driving the demand for statehood in Telangana, a region historically marked by underdevelopment and inequality since its merger with Andhra Pradesh in 1956. The study highlights the broader context of regional autonomy movements in India, following the creation of new states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal, which have inspired similar demands across the country. Utilizing a qualitative study approach, the study employs case study methodology, semi-structured interviews, and documentary analysis to gather insights from a diverse group of participants involved in the Telangana movement. The findings reveal that perceptions of socioeconomic inequity, regional identity, and local resource control are central to the push for statehood. The analysis also considers the implications of Telangana's statehood on regional development and identity, contributing to the understanding of statehood claims in India. The study methodology includes purposive sampling to ensure a representative viewpoint from various stakeholders, with data analyzed thematically to identify recurrent patterns and themes. The study ultimately sheds light on the complexities of regional autonomy movements and their impact on India's political landscape.*

**Keywords:** Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Telangana, statehood, regional autonomy, socioeconomic inequity, political dynamics, urbanization, Warangal District.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The creation of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal from the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh in the period of the NDA headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party makes further demands for smaller states possible. This political change has generated movements for independent states such as Bodoland, Telangana, Gorkhaland, Vidarbha, Bundelkhand, Harit Pradesh, Saurashtra, and Kosalanchal, which reflect a larger movement for regional autonomy and self-government all over India. Apart from this, the creation of new states has influenced the strategy of other federations all over the world to devise a plan for regional autonomy.

Growing social unrest has been driven by these expectations of higher growth and it has also led to secessionist movements and appeals for smaller countries based on perpetual feelings of injustice and neglect of the regions. Presently, India boasts 28 states and 7 Union Territories and the need to seek state reorganization is on the rise. These sometimes seem to be linked with latent factors such as inequality, extractive use of resources, political dominance, and backwardation of the less developed region.

These dynamics are well illustrated by the pursuit of statehood by the region of Telangana. Telangana has suffered under chronic underdevelopment, poverty, and unemployment since it was merged with Andhra Pradesh in 1956, aggravating inequality and social revolts. Regional identity, language preservation, and economic inequality are the main reasons why the 1946 demand for Telangana to become its own state is pursued. Mainly driving the Telangana movement is perceived socioeconomic inequity along with a desire for sovereignty over local resources. This study explores the regional ambitions for self-rule and looks at the elements that influence popular support for Telangana's statehood. It also takes into account the expectations and reaction of the general people once Telangana became a state. An understanding of the Telangana movement gives light to the larger picture of regional identity, development, and autonomy as well as the structural and political background of statehood claims in India.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Salmi (2019)** examined that urban restructuring, citizenship, and the state from the perspective of displaced slum households in Ahmedabad. It examines how the state uses world-class infrastructure, perceptions of the state, and paperwork create differentiated citizenship. The study, conducted over 10 months, reveals that citizenship was determined by factors like civility, cleanliness, economic success, property ownership, and non-Muslim identification. The study also highlights the importance of understanding citizenship as a dynamic, differentiated reality influenced by social, cultural, and material circumstances.

**Panchbhai et al. (2023)** evaluated the Indian Union's invincibility. The Parliament may unite sections of states or union territories to establish new ones and change or eliminate state identities. The Constituent Assembly rejected naming India the "Federation of States". Article 1 of the Indian Constitution calls India the "Union of States," and the First Schedule lists all states, territories, and border adjustments. Parliament might admit new states or change state boundaries under Articles 2, 3, and 4. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, leader of the Constitution Draughting Committee and Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution, defined "Federation of States". Indestructibility made India a Union since no state could quit. He claimed the country and its people may be separated into states for effective administration, but they were still one population under one leadership.

**Kaveri et al. (2023)** analyzed that The Rohingya community, one of the world's most oppressed, has been a hot topic since the 2017 military onslaught and UN claims of ethnic cleansing. Despite fleeing to neighboring countries and abroad, Rohingya refugees face lawlessness, undocumented status, and growing global security concerns. This study explores ethnographic study on stateless Rohingya refugees in semi-urban ghettos in Delhi, Mewat, Hyderabad, and Jammu, revealing historical and political exclusion, resistance, and counter-resilience. The study reveals inconsistent and disorganized national and international policies on care, protection, and assistance, aiming to develop the debate on statehood, rights, and humanitarianism.

**Binder (2019)** assessed how the current Telangana federal state movement in South India discursively re-configured state-popular religion relations. I claimed here that growing political

importance as well as investment in contested notoriety of "popular progressiveness" by movements that insist on their identity were, in fact, also leading to a discourse that sustains post-secularity—a division between the progressive and its other that had always been defined and decided by political and social activists contesting each other under its banner based on very conflictive interpretations of Bathukamma, a local festivity. This kind of popular progressiveness was read as simultaneously pre-religious and post-secular, therefore undermining the hitherto dominating intertwined logic of Indian secularism and religious nationalism.

**Holt (2022)** studied that the MNF started a separatist war against India in 1966. This essay claimed that flawed state- and nation-building activities in the Mizo Hills in the early 1960s fostered separatist insurrection. First, there was no effective state-building movement to solve colonial-era issues. Second, regional and national identity conflicts persisted. This thesis explained the MNF's civil war transition between 1961 and 1966, filling a study gap. However, the systemic elements that fostered separatist struggle remained unknown. This essay used archive-led historical analysis to fill that gap. It expanded our understanding of conflict dynamics in India's northeast and posed important concerns concerning multidisciplinary intrastate conflict study.

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**3.1. Research Design:** This study will be based on a qualitative research approach that emphasizes understanding the nuances and intricacies of the Telangana separation movement. Case study methodology will be used to investigate the political, social, and economic factors that influenced the call for statehood. This approach will allow for a detailed examination of historical events, political strategies, and stakeholder opinions.

**3.2. Research Method** The research will majorly use semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis. Documentary analysis will consist of an investigation into the relevant literature, official reports, media pieces, and policy papers that may be deemed necessary for gaining contextual information. Semi-structured interviews will help engage in meaningful conversations with influential people like political leaders, activists, and intellectuals familiar with the Telangana movement.

**3.3.Sample Size:** Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a sample size of 20-30 participants. This would be enough to achieve the saturation point at which an additional interview will provide "minimally new" information. To ensure that we have a good spread of viewpoints, we will vary the selection based on one's experience and engagement with the Telangana secession movement.

**3.4.Sample Collection** This sampling technique for choosing participants is known as purposive sampling. The central goal of this technique is the selection of very informed ones or those who are even part of the Telangana movement. Researchers will take participants that are the representative of all the sections from political parties, civil society organizations, and educational institutions so that they may reflect the entire scenario of the movement.

### **3.5.Tools and Data Collection,**

#### **1. Documentary Evaluation:**

- **Data Sources:** Books, government papers, news stories, and scholarly publications.
- Thematic analysis was used as the analytical method in order to identify recurrent themes and patterns pertaining to the political dynamics of the separation movement.

#### **2. Semi-structured interviews**

- **Guide to Interviews:** a set of open-ended questions that will lead to conversation on the opinions of the participants regarding the Telangana movement, political effects, and personal experiences.
- **Data Gathering Method:** Interviews will be conducted either in person or through video conferencing based on the availability of the respondents. If permission is granted, they will be recorded and then transcribed for analysis.

#### **4. DATA & ANALYSIS**

Information gathered through interviews and documentary analysis shall be subjected to thematic analysis. This would mean coding the data to identify important themes and patterns from the participant replies and the documentary evidence. Results shall then be assessed in light of the Telangana secession movement and the wider political environment.

**Table 1:** Distribution of Respondents by Gender and Caste

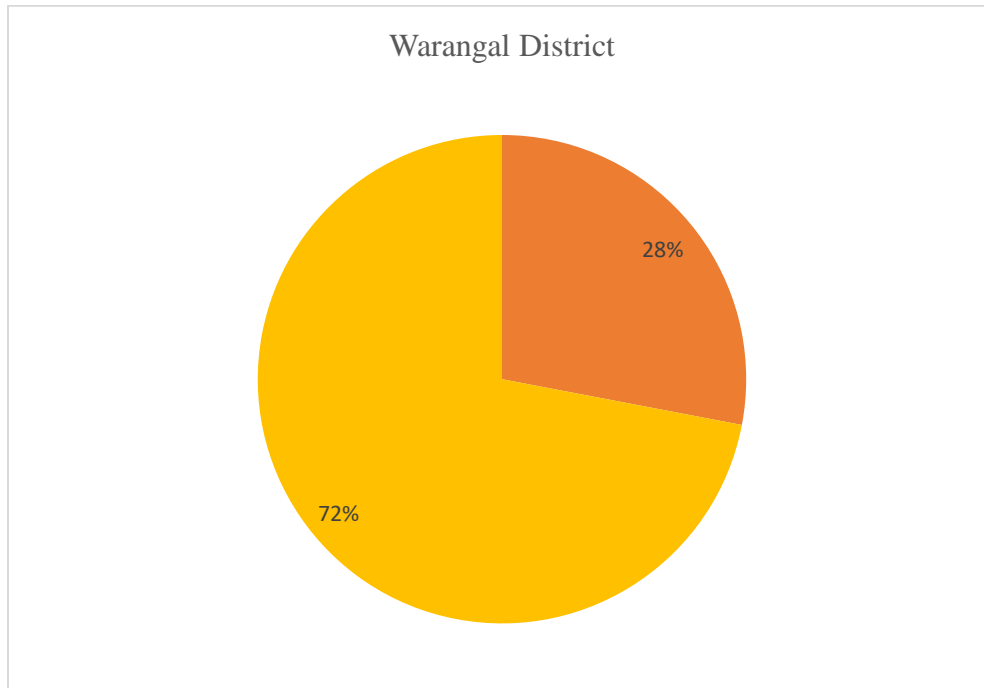
S. No	Caste	Gender wise distribution of Respondents					
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1	SC	106	67.5%	51	32.5%	157	31.4%
2	ST	39	62.9%	23	37.1%	62	12.4%
3	OBC	135	67.5%	65	32.5%	200	40%
4	OC	25	62.6%	15	37.5%	40	8%
5	Minorities	26	63.5%	15	36.5%	41	8.2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>331</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>33.8%</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

This table is showing the gender distribution of respondents divided by caste, scheduled casts, scheduled tribes, and other backward classes or sometimes termed as other groups, open category and so on. OBC holds the majority of all, 500 participants and was 40% participants amounting to 200 while respondents were males to 32.5% with respect to females. The gender-preference of this sample of SC is similar-67.5% were males and 32.5% females. Sample ST constituted 12.4%, with 62.9% males and 37.1% female. Minorities constitute 8.2%, males are 63.5%, and females are 36.5%, while the OC group constitutes 8%, with males at 62.6% and females at 37.5%. The sample as a whole depicts gender imbalance in all caste groups; males dominate at 66.2% and females are 33.8%.

**Table 2:** Warangal District's Population Distribution

Warangal District	Population	Frequency
Rural Population	2,520,243	28%

Urban Population	992,333	72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,512,576</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Figure 1:** Warangal District's Population Distribution

This graph represents the population split of Warangal District between rural and urban divisions. Urban: 992,333 persons. Rural: 2,520,243 persons, that is, 28% of the total. From this data, one indicates dominance by urban populations; growing urbanization or increased development in urban areas was being observed. This will also have a bearing on regional planning, resource distribution, and infrastructure development because these people live in metropolitan areas.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study of the Telangana movement highlights the complex interplay of regional identity, socioeconomic disparities, and the quest for autonomy within India. The emergence of demands for smaller states, such as Telangana, reflects broader trends of regionalism and the desire

for self-governance, driven by historical grievances and perceived injustices. The study methodology, which includes qualitative approaches like semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis, aims to capture the diverse perspectives surrounding the movement and its implications for statehood. The findings underscore the significance of understanding the political, social, and economic factors that fuel such movements, as well as the demographic dynamics at play, particularly in regions like Warangal District. Ultimately, the Telangana case serves as a microcosm of the larger narrative of regional aspirations in India, shedding light on the ongoing challenges and opportunities for governance and development in a diverse and rapidly changing society.

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