



Article 371(J) – A Boon to Hyderabad Karnataka's Development

KEYWORDS

Regionalism, Regional development, Disparities, Hyderabad Karnataka, North Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The issue of Regional Disparities in India have gained social, political, economic, cultural, attitudinal over tones and have implications on various policy decisions of the governments.

Due to uneven economic development regional disparities emerge and persist. The disparities arose due to the initial advantages enjoyed by some regions under kings and were compounded under the rule of the British. Thus, the disparities continued even after implementing several plans in different phases Regional imbalances involve non utilization of available resources to the optimum levels. Several agitations took place to correct the injustice caused by various political party governments right from the days of state reorganization in 1956. Looking to the gravity of the situation the Union Government took a historic step and approved the Special status to Hyderabad Karnataka Region as to develop the backward area.

In a vast and diversified nation like India, natural diversity and historical legacy have caused disparities in the process of development. The issue of Regional Disparities in India have gained social, political, economic, cultural, and attitudinal over tones and have implications on various policy decisions of the governments. Due to uneven economic development regional disparities emerge and persist. The disparities arose due to the initial advantages enjoyed by some regions under kings and were compounded under the rule of the British. Thus, the disparities continued even after implementing several plans in different phases Regional imbalances involve non utilization of available resources to the optimum levels. Regional disparity problem is a universal one. Even the developed countries like USA, UK and the under developed nations or the third world countries like Pakistan (East & West), Indonesia (Java & other islands) have faced this problem. Thus glaring differences exist between the levels of development and standards of living. Feelings of sub nationalism, injustice lead to regional imbalances. After independence, India lacked a balanced economic growth of all parts and regions. Instead of caring for the overall development the political leadership and the policy measures concentrated their attention towards the development of some regions. Thus one of the most critical problems facing India's economy is the sharp and growing regional imbalance or variations among India's different states and territories in terms of per capita income, poverty, availability of infrastructure and socio economic development.

This being the scenario of India and the world at large, Karnataka state is not an exceptional to this acute problem of Regional Disparity. It is noticed during the recent years that the development process is not at all percolated uniformly throughout the state. There are certain glaring differences in socio-economic, politico-cultural issues between the erstwhile princely state of Mysore and the North Karnataka. It is noticed during recent years that the North Karnataka is neglected by the policy makers since the reorganization of states in the year 1956. The development experiences of North Karnataka is one of the painful process. Modern Karnataka has a long and distinguished history. Prior to Unification people of Karnataka had been living under five separate jurisdiction: the Bombay province, the madras province, the chief Commissioner of province of Coorg, and the princely state of Mysore and Hyderabad. Under the States Reorganization Act of 1956, the new state of Mysore was born on 1st November 1956 with Bangalore as its capital.

The linguistic state of Mysore created in 1956 could not

satisfy the hopes and aspirations of people of Northern Karnataka. Although the state of Karnataka is considered to be the one whole unit of administration, since the days of reorganization of states in 1956, there are certain inherent problems that have been cropping up, pushing the notion of unified Karnataka to the mark of suspicion. The merger of Bombay Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka with the erstwhile princely state of Mysore failed to show the signs of harmonious fusion as these areas were considered as backward and had distinct history which is visibly different from the experiences of southern Karnataka. The regional imbalances have grown over the period, leading to unequal levels of development.

Northern parts of Karnataka were under constant neglect right from the monarchs to the present day. As a matter of fact, this region always remained as the far end from the capital places. Kings and Queens did not develop this region, during British rule this region was the southern most part of their domain, later as and when it was amalgamated with the princely state of Mysore it became the northern most area where in the development could not traverse uniformly. One can find the inter district disparities in terms of development variables such as Industries, Education, Health, Transport and Irrigation facilities etc. The continuous lopsided concentration of economic activities has further widened the degree of imbalances.

In the backdrop of this the people of Hyderabad Karnataka raised their voice against the state and went to the extent of demanding for a separate state. The shrill voices became strong. After nearly four decades of unification the people of North Karnataka have sensed that the pace of development is much slower and lower than that in the southern parts. By mid 80's the regional imbalance in development had become a major issue. Discontent in northern parts began to be expressed openly. Till 1980's the leaders of Hyderabad Karnataka did not demand a separate state due to some of the following factors namely 1. After the end of communal and oppressive rule of Nizam. People could feel the importance of free atmosphere. 2. They were to participate in the newly introduced democratic institutions and felt sense of their relevance in the political process. These initial happy memories disappeared with the passage of time. The people in general and leaders in particular became conscious of the development of their region. Regional movements were emerging in various parts of India- Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, Vidharbha in Maharashtra, Jharkhand in Bihar etc. Demand for separate state became vocal late in 1990's in

view of the decision taken by the union government to create three states i.e. Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh.

To begin with in 1997 the Department of Political Science of Karnataka University organized a symposium on North Karnatak Disparity. And subsequently the congress party opposition leader Shri. H. K. Patil and a host of others took the lead and it may be recalled that Shri. H.K. Patil brought out a book *Chaluva Kannada Nadu* and had analyzed the discrepancies as far as development works were concerned. These led to the further debates and later some organizations like Uttar Karnataka Horata Vedike were created to fight the regional imbalance. Noted Journalist and literary figure Dr.Patil Puttappa became its president. Demonstrations over neglect of North Karnataka were held. A white paper on development of North Karnataka was demanded. The apathy of the government in fulfilling the basic needs of the neglected region led to a growing sense of intolerance. Hyderabad Karnataka consisted of three districts Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar which were under Nizam's rule for more than 174 years (1794-1948).The Nizam's state consisted of three Telugu speaking linguistic territories i.e. Telangana region, Maratha wada and Hyderabad regions respectively. Later on after 1956 Telangana region was amalgamated with Andhra Pradesh : Hyderabad Karnataka was merged with New Mysore and Marathawada was merged with Maharashtra. The princely state of Hyderabad was one of the backward princely states before independence. There were no irrigation facilities while the princely state of Mysore had already provided irrigation facilities through K.R.S.

People began to protest against the governments to correct the injustice caused to them by the subsequent governments. An action committee called Hyderabad Karnatak Abhivridhdhi Kriya Samiti which gave a call for black day on the 1st November 2000. (Which is celebrated as Rajyosthava Day- i.e. the Unification of Karnataka Day). From 2000 onwards people of Hyderabad Karnatak are observing this day as black day and have also hoisted separate state flag. The President of Hyderabad Karnataka Abhivradhi Horata Samiti (HKAHS)unveiled the map of the new state comprising Gulbarga, Bidar, Bellary Raichur and Koppal. But the response to bandh was mixed. The agitations took place continuously demanding for correcting the injustice. Several leaders supported the cause for this but it is also to be noted here that the eminent veteran leaders like Shri Mallikarjun Khage who held several important positions in the state and union government also played significant role in getting the Special Status to Hyderabad Karnataka. People had hopes on him and he responded positively as soon as he became the union minister and consolidated the support across the party line and was successful. The local aspirations were well represented. This is how a strong political will amongst the leaders will definitely bring about enormous change which in turn will benefit the larger population.

A three-decade struggle to seek special status for six Karnataka districts ended when Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (118th Amendment) Bill, 2012.A special status was granted to "the Karnataka-Hyderabad region comprising Bidar, Bellary, Gulbarga, Koppal, Raichur, Koppal and Yadgir districts. The seven districts in the north-east region of the state were part of the erstwhile Hyderabad state under the Nizams till 1948 and were subsequently merged with the then Mysore state in 1956 under the reorganisation of states

on linguistic basis.

The bill enables the President to empower the governor to establish a separate development board for the Hyderabad-Karnatak region with the provision that a report on its working would be placed each year before the provincial assembly. Article 371 will help in development of HK region.

Major benefits under Article include Direct recruitment to posts in any local cadre under the state government for candidates of these regions. Regarding admission to any university or other educational institutions, preference will be given to local candidates, who have resided or studied in those regions for a specific period under Article 371J of the Constitution. President Pranab Mukherjee on 23 October 2013 issued an order, allowing the Karnataka Governor to establish a separate **development board for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region** under Article 371 J of the Constitution. The region comprises Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal, Yadgir and Bellary districts.

The cabinet sub-committee is constituted under the chairmanship of Present Rural Development and Panchayat raj (RDPR) minister H K Patil who fought for the regional development right from early 1990's has already held two meetings last week in this regard and has held marathon discussions with legislators and MPs representing six backward districts that will benefit by the special status -- Bidar, Gulbarga, Koppal, Yadgir, Raichur and Bellary. Karnataka had been lobbying with the Centre for special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region (northeast part of the state), the second largest arid region in the country, for more than four decades. Fulfilling the long demand of the people of the region, the Bill to amend the Constitution to provide a special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, under a new Article 371(J), was introduced in the Parliament in 2012 and was also passed by both the Houses.

Benefits of the status: Once notified by the Centre, the region will get more central funds for development and will be on par with the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. Besides, there will be reservation in jobs and education for the locals.

The objective is to provide special provisions aiming to establish an institutional mechanism for equitable allocation of funds to meet development needs of this region and to enhance human resources and promote employment by providing for local cadres in service and reservation in educational and vocational training institutions. There is also a provision to establish a regional council under the special status.

Karnataka is the third state to have a special status in the country after Maharashtra (Marathwada and Vidarbha) and AP (Telangana). The districts of Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary and Bidar are among the most backward regions of the country with Human Development Indices (HDI) below the sub-Saharan levels. The soil fertility in the region is extremely poor when compared with other districts of the state and consequently, agricultural productivity is less. In fact the peoples' movement for regional development has really brought happiness amongst the people of Hyderabad Karnataka. The peoples movement has really strengthened the democratic set up.

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