

Apparent And Latent Aspects Of Welfare And Development Schemes In Telangana State: A Rational Analysis

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Abstract:

The struggle for separate state of Telangana was a long and complex process of people's movement that lasted for several decades against the social discrimination, cultural discrimination, economic discrimination and political discrimination. The then, UPA Government bestowed statehood to Telangana on 2nd June 2014, through constitutional procedure, realizing a long standing people's aspirations for autonomy in socio-economic and political matters. The People of Telangana elected and witnessed one decade governance of uddyama party in anticipation of enormous hopes of development with regard to water resources, education, employment, health and socio-economic prosperity.

The then, Telangana Government has implemented several Welfare Schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, Double Bed Room Housing Scheme, KCR Kit and Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak, to provide financial assistance to farmers, women, and poor families. Additionally, as a Community Schemes like Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, Haritha Haram and Sheep Distribution aiming to provide access to clean drinking water and promote afforestation respectively. The then government appear to have had claim that a significant impact on the lives of marginalized communities, helping to reduce poverty, improve access to education and healthcare, and enhancing the livelihoods of the rural population, but the existential reality after implementation reveals elusion. There are several challenges that need to be discussed and debated with a dialectical approach to manifest the latent effects of these schemes.

There is a huge gap between the budgeted and actual money spent on major welfare schemes such as Dalita Bandhu, Sheep rearing Scheme, Double Bed room houses, and other welfare programs aimed at the welfare of SC, ST, BC and minorities, So an effort has been made through this paper to put forth some of the latent aspects of these Welfare Schemes.

Keywords: Social Discrimination, Uddyama Party, Dialectical approach, Latent affects, Apparent affects.

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I. Introduction

The Telangana movement refers to a movement for creation of a separate state, from pre-existing state of Andhra Pradesh in India. The new state corresponds to Telugu-speaking sections of the former princely state of Hyderabad, which were merged with Andhra Pradesh in 1956, leading to the Mulki Agitations. Telangana was the largest of three regions of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state, covering 41.47% of total area, inhabited by 40.54% of the state's population.

The gross discriminations towards Telangana region:

Proponents of a separate Telangana state quote seeming injustices in the *distribution of water, budget allocations, and jobs*. In Andhra Pradesh state, catchment area of 68.5% of the Krishna River and 69% of the Godavari River are in the plateau region of Telangana. It was also perceived that 74.25% of irrigation water through the canal system under major irrigation projects goes to the Coastal Andhra region, while Telangana got only 18.20% and remaining 7.55% goes to the Rayalaseema region.

Education funding share for Telangana ranged from 9.86% in government-aided primary schools to 37.85% in government degree colleges, including the expenditure in Hyderabad. Generally less than 1/3 of the total Andhra Pradesh budget was allotted to Telangana. There were allegations that for most years, funds allocated to Telangana were never spent. Since 1956, Andhra Pradesh government established 11 new medical colleges in the state, 8 being in Seemandhra and only 3 in Telangana. Telangana was not compensated for lost opportunities because of inward migration of lot of students into Hyderabad from Seemandhra.

Professor Jayashankar professed that only 20% of the total Government employees i.e., around 10% of employees in the secretariat, and around 5% of department heads in the Andhra Pradesh government were from Telangana; those from other regions make up the bulk of employment. He also alleged that only for 6.5 years over a span of 50 years the state was represented by Telangana chief ministers, with none of them being in power continuously for more than 2.5 years. As per Srikrishna committee on Telangana, Telangana region CM held the position for 10.5 years while Seema-Andhra region held it for 42 years. According to the Backward Regions Grant Fund 2009–10, 13 backward districts were located in Andhra Pradesh of which 9 (all except Hyderabad) were from Telangana and the rest from other regions.

After decades of protests and agitations, the central government, under the United Progressive Alliance, decided to bifurcate the existing Andhra Pradesh state and on 2nd June 2014, the Union Cabinet unilaterally cleared the bill for the creation of Telangana. Lasting for almost 5 decades, it was one of the longest movements in India and probably vibrant contemporary people's movement in the world.

It is in this back drop, we need to analyze the various welfare and development schemes of the first (TRS/BRS) Government that ruled the state since its formation for the past 10 years. The paper is a thematic presentation, so the study envisaged is descriptive in nature with a dialectical approach based on the secondary data.

II. Methodological Review

The welfare state is a concept of government in which the state plays key role in the protection and promotion of economic and social well-being of its citizens. A welfare state is based on the principles of equality of opportunity and equitable distribution of wealth. It also focuses on the governmental responsibility for those who are unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions of a good life, welfare of the citizens is the responsibility of the state. A Welfare State regards itself as an agency of social service rather than an instrument of power.

The following are regarded as among the responsibilities of a government/country that claims to be a welfare state:

- To provide individual liberty and social security.
- To balance between individual freedom and social control.
- To ensure the basic amenities of life to all people: Food, Cloth and Shelter.
- To give education, employment and medical aid to all its citizens.

The Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 38 of the Constitution of India (Part IV) reads: "The state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice – social, economic and political – shall pervade all institutions of national life." This provision provides a broad framework for the establishment of the welfare state.

In this context it is note-worthy of considering following two view points :

Amartya Sen has stressed State-led social welfare schemes to tackle India's developmental issues, Sen believes that India should invest more in its social infrastructures like health and education to improve human capabilities that will push economic development. In his opinion, without such efforts, inequality widens which ultimately hampers the process of economic development.

Bhagwati argues that focusing on economic growth is important so that enough resources are available for social welfare programs. In his view, inequality may rise with economic growth initially, but sustained growth will eventually also sustain the social benefit programs to redistribute and mitigate the effects of the initial inequality.

After the bifurcation of the State, the first Telangana budget was presented in November 2014. The aspirations of 4 crore people of Telangana have become a reality, water, employment, and state finances were the key themes of the Telangana movement. It was expected that the state would be governed in a fiscally practical and responsible manner, to meet the aspirations of the people who have been deprived of their due share in the united Andhra Pradesh, with renewed focus on the economic development of the state while taking care of the needs of the poor and underprivileged.

In spite of all the uncertain and unsettled division of assets of the state and the corporations, Telangana started with a firm footing on the fiscal front, showing a revenue surplus during the first 5 years, along with adhering to the fiscal responsibility norms.

The situation of the state began to change quite drastically with the off budget borrowings mobilized in the name of mega projects like Kaaleshwaram, Palamuru Rangareddy, Sitarama, and Mission Bhagiratha. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) were created to mobilize the necessary resources for undertaking these mega capital-intensive projects. Large scale mobilization of the off-budget borrowings and lack of revenues to the SPVs meant a rapid increase in the debt servicing by the state. Therefore, the balance of fiscal space available for the welfare and development of the Telangana state began to come down year by year.

Actually, the Government's basic duty is to provide all with the basic needs like *education, medical and health, safe drinking water, good roads and homes to the economically weaker sections and employment opportunities that not only empower but also foster the capabilities of the people*. On contrary, Government implemented some unrealistic and impractical welfare schemes to ensure its vote bank. Due to this, Telangana Government is not in a position to pay salaries and pensions on 1st of every month. They are paid mostly either in the second or third week of every month. Now, Telangana Government is scrambling for funds to implement Welfare Schemes.

After 10 years of the previous government rule, the debt burden including the off-budget borrowings of the state has become enormous, creating a distress on the fiscal front. White paper presentation was given, to get a clear picture of current State finances position as of December 2023. After the formation of the state, in the last 10 years, the total debt of the state and the SPVs has gone up to Rs. 6,71,757 crore from Rs.72,658 crore in 2014-15.

Because of this increased fiscal stress, the state has to depend upon the ways and means advances from the RBI on a daily basis. From a situation where the state had positive balances for all the 100% of the days in 2014 to current situation of less than 10% of the days - shows the enormous fiscal stress. Thus, the state has not been able to spend enough money on critical sectors such as Education and Health where the budgeted amount as the proportion of the total expenditure is amongst the lowest in the country.

State Budget is the principal tool in the hands of the state government to manage the finance. A gap of almost 20% between the budgeted and the actual expenditure, the figure is high when compared to other states [Source: RBI State Finances Report, 2023-24]. This gap in expenditure means that there is an accumulation of committed expenditure in terms of payments made for the services rendered by the suppliers and contractors and also to the employees. Further, there is a huge gap between the budgeted and actual money spent on major welfare schemes like Dalita Bandhu, KCR kit, Sheep Rearing Scheme etc., and other welfare programs aimed at the welfare of ST, BC and minorities.

It is in this context an attempt has been made through this paper to rationally analyze the apparent and latent aspects of certain welfare and development schemes.

III. Welfare Schemes

Across the world, Direct Transfer Benefits schemes are employed to break the vicious circle of poverty and realize social equity and human capital enhancement. The whole mechanism is a thrust towards building structural stability in societies. Basically welfare schemes are classified into *Individual / family Centric* and *Community Centric*.

Individual / Family Centric Schemes

Rythu Bandhu Scheme

Rythu Bandhu literally means a relative to a farmer. Nearly 55% of population in Telangana make their living on agriculture, with a total farm land area of 1.43crore acres. It is a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme to land owning farmers, announced on 25th February 2018 and introduced from 2018-19 Kharif (Rainy) Season with a budget allocation of 12,000 crores.

Apparent aspects:

1. Rythu Bandhu scheme, also known as Farmer's Investment Support Scheme (FISS), is a welfare program to support farmer's investment for two crops a year by the Government of Telangana.
2. The government is providing 58.33 lakh (5.8 million) farmers Rs.5000 per acre per season to support the farm investment, i.e., twice a year, for rabi (winter) and kharif (rainy) seasons.
3. Every individual who is under possession of agricultural land is paid Rs 5,000 per acre for every farming season *without any upper limit on land*.

Latent Aspects:

Agricultural Land Holding (Agriculture Census 2015-16)

Land Extent	No. of farmers	Total Acres	Est. Cost	
under 1 acre	18 lakhs	18 lakhs	14.4 billion	30.8%
under 1-2 acres	24 lakhs	48 lakhs	38.4 billion	41.9%
under 3-5 acres	11 lakhs	44 lakhs (avg)	35.2 billion	18.8%
5-10 acres	4.4 lakhs	33 lakhs (avg)	26.4 billion	7.5%
> 10 acres	94,000	9.4 lakhs	7.52 billion	1.6%
> 25 acres	6488	1.62 lakhs	1.3 billion	0.1%

> 50 acres	298	14900	119 million	0.005%
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1. Small and marginal farmers with less than 5 acre comprises around 91.5% of farmers of the state, i.e., they are more in number and with less land. Contrast to this, big farmers just 1.7% with greater than 10 acres i.e., they are less in number and with more land. As there is no upper limit on the land to claim Rythu Bandhu, obviously more money is grabbed by big farmers. There are 298 farmers who receive 119 million rupees, whereas 53 lakh farmers together are receiving just 88 million rupees towards Rythu Bandhu every year. Evidently, this is a Welfare Scheme for Land lords not for farmers.
2. This is a *disproportionate distribution of state welfare*, with people in need receiving less money and a large-land-owning individual receiving extra money from the state exchequer. The scheme is also known to pay for lands that are not in cultivation such as *lands converted for real estate* or other *commercial purposes*.
3. Importantly, the *tenant farmers* are not Rythu Bandhu beneficiaries as the amount goes directly to landowners' accounts, who are neither farmers nor cultivators. This exclusion of cultivators is not only limited to Rythu Bandhu, but also extends across the *farming ecosystem*. The agriculture department undertakes a massive crop booking exercise every year to enumerate what crop is being sown in every parcel of land in Telangana, but the name of the actual cultivator and the crop they are cultivating is not recorded in this survey. The department is forced to record the landowner by default and in most cases the crops are also wrongly noted. This data is used by various departments like *Markfed* and *Civil supplies* to procure the crop. As the tenant farmers are excluded in this crop booking process, they cannot sell their crop officially and have to depend on the land owner as the amount gets deposited to land owners' accounts during procurement also.
4. According to a door-to-door survey conducted by *Rythu Swarajya Vedita (RSV)*, an independent farmers' organisation in Telangana, the total number of tenant farmers in the state 2.2 million, double the National Sample Survey Organisation's (NSSO) official, but seemingly conservative estimate. Despite their large numbers, the then Telangana government has refused to recognise them as farmers, denying them benefits from any of the state's farmer-related schemes, including the flagship Rythu Bandhu. *It is ground reality that majority of farmer suicides are by tenant farmers as per studies*.
5. While the land lords owning 200 to 300 acres are eligible to receive Rythu Bandhu, Adivasis with more than 10 acres of land do not receive the same. The government justifies this exclusion by citing the *Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006*, which limits Adivasis to owning no more than 10 acres of land.

IV. Woes Of Aadhar / Dharani Portal

- i) Aadhaar portal has enhanced the difficulties of illiterate farmers to leaps and bounds.
- ii) In Hajipur mandal of Mancherial district, in an Adivasi Gond village, a particular landowner had given away his land during the land struggle in Telangana to Adivasis, yet the Dharani portal recorded nearly 1,400 acres of land in 98 different survey numbers under his name with a particular status of "not signed – sold out".
This "not signed" indicates that digital records of land have not been digitally signed using e-Sign, a Aadhaar-backed digital signature mandated for purchase and sale of land, replacing physical fingerprints. The Adivasis have been trying to sort up but to in vain. Promises that land records can't be changed without biometrics under Aadhaar plus blockchain-powered Dharani portal ignore the reality on the ground.
- iii) In another Adivasi Gond village in the same Hajipur Mandal, one zamindar has his name under three survey numbers for 22 acres. He has been taking Rs 2,22,000 per year, while the Adivasis who actually are cultivating this land for decades left without any support from the state.
- iv) In Chennur mandal of Mancherial district, where the Koya tribes live, in an Adivasi village, around 66 acres is now under the name of older landowners. In one case, around 36 acres is under the name of the son of an older landowner. He would also be receiving Rythu Bandhu grants of Rs 3,60,000 per year given the land is noted in Dharani with even e-KYC and e-Sign updated. This amount should have ideally gone to the cultivating Koya Adivasis who otherwise get no other support from the government. There are several more such cases in the same village.
- v) In some cases, where the entry at the time of digitization of records wrongly enters the land owner name by the operators, though the original owner had registration document and old patta book with all relevant documents, unable to rectify the problem till date.

V. Digitization Woes

Dalit and Adivasi cultivating assigned lands given by the government are unable to get *electronic patta passbooks (e-PPB)* thereby forgoing all the welfare schemes i.e Rythu Bandhu, PM-Kisan, loan waiver, crop loans etc. Lack of corrections option in Dharni portal furthers the plight of these illiterate farmers in e-

sign, problems of Aadhaar corrections, getting PPB meaning no Rythu Bandhu. Due to transactional failures of Rythu Bandhu or errors in Dharani the farmers have to lose the amount and cannot claim it later.

6. It is note worthy that Telangana has been the only state which doesn't implement a crop insurance policy since 2020.

Dalit Bandhu Scheme

The Scheme aimed to cover 21 lakh SC families in the State, the government has allocated Rs. 1,000 crores for the implementation of the scheme in the first year, to be implemented in a phased manner, with eligible families being identified and selected based on a set of criteria : income level, educational qualification, and entrepreneurial skills etc.,. It is a Direct Benefit Scheme meant for the Dalit Community, launched on August 5, 2021, at Vasalamarri Village, Turkapalli Mandal , Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District , where 76 dalits were selected. The scheme was launched by releasing funds of Rs.7.60 crore.

Apparent Aspects:

1. This Scheme enables entrepreneurship among Dalits through a direct benefit transfer of Rs 10 lakh per family, towards income-generating activities, creating an opportunity to become self-reliant and improve their standard of living.
2. The main objective of the scheme: reduce poverty, promote entrepreneurship among the SC community, to promote inclusive growth and social development in the state.
3. The scheme is supplemented by the Dalit Protection Fund, a special corpus where the beneficiary makes a contribution of Rs 10,000/- matched by the government. This corpus will serve as an emergency fund from which the government will give financial support to beneficiaries whose investments are at risk.

Latent Aspects:

1. There is no online application process for the Dalit Bandhu scheme, and the application acceptance is limited to offline submissions only.
2. The authorities accepted applications endorsed by MLAs and BRS constituency in-charges, rather than directly from the beneficiaries. This practice has led to an influx of applications from ruling party sympathizers and activists at MLA offices.
3. It was alleged that most of the leaders demanded amount ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, from the beneficiaries for securing their selection. Ruling party MLAs openly said in meetings that they will give Dalit Bandhu Scheme's Rs. 10 lakhs only to those who vote to their party.
4. Extension of Dalit Bandhu Scheme to State Government employees and Retired persons evoked criticism, people said that this is nothing but purely a political motive to gain votes even though this is not possible to implement practically. This was evident from the various agitations made by the dalits, alleging irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries.
5. Forum For Good Governance(FGG) reported that, in Visalamarri Village (adopted by KCR) where the scheme was implemented in saturation mode and 75 people received benefits though there were only 52 families. 17 of these beneficiaries were given automobiles (tractors, goods, vehicles etc..), which they had to sell because they didn't have a driving license, hiring driver along with bearing fuel charges becomes a challenge, most of the beneficiaries were women.
6. The government knew that legislators were taking 'commissions' for the Dalit Bandhu scheme, but no action was taken against these legislators.
7. "The district administration should have conducted a market survey and assisted in setting up a unit accordingly. They should also conduct review inspections and help the unit operate. However, the administration desires to do a simple job," were the remarks made by M Padmanabha Reddy, secretary of FGG.
8. The government wanted to ensure vote bank , in the name of Dalit Bandhu much of the money was eaten away by the governing bodies which is evident from the fact that no records of number of Dalits who availed Dalit Bandhu. The corpus fund details not available in records, no unit saved with this fund.

"If the government was really concerned about the upliftment of the Dalits, then it should provide employment to the unemployed youth or provide them training in self-employment skills before launching the scheme". It is peoples hard core money which is paid to government as taxes for generating revenue. The government has spent nearly 27,700 crores of rupees with almost negligible result.

Double Bed Room Housing Scheme (Telangana Gruha Lakshmi)

To address the housing needs of the underprivileged sections of the society, the State government had announced the Telangana 2 BHK housing scheme, also known as 'Dignity Housing Scheme' in 2015. A total of 5.72 lakh 2 BHK residential units were proposed by the authority in October 2015 across 31 districts. Of this, 2 lakh units were planned in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) alone. The project was

planned in two phases. In Phase 1, around 2.72 lakh housing units were to be grounded and in Phase II the remaining units were scheduled for development. The development cost of the project has been estimated to be Rs 22,000 crore.

Apparent Aspects:

1. To provide dignity living to the poor by providing 100% subsidized housing. Only the families below the poverty line (BPL) residing in the kuccha houses/huts or rented properties are eligible for cost-free homes under the Telangana 2 BHK housing scheme.
2. The units would be issued only in the name of the female member of the house. The step has been initiated to encourage the home ownership trend among women. The units with 430 sq ft of carpet area would incorporate two rooms, two bathrooms, one hall and a kitchen, along with two lofts for storage.
3. Target Groups:
Rural: SC/ST: 50%, Minorities: 7% and balance 43% for others.
Urban: SC:17%, ST: 6%, Minorities: 12% and balance 65% for others.

Latent Aspects:

1. Until June 2019, only 22,520 housing units had been constructed across 31 districts as against the scheduled 2.72 lakh homes by March 2019. The shortage of funds with the State government and issues with the project contractors led to substantial delays. The remaining 1.79 lakh units of Phase I were expected to be completed by 2020. However, the slow speed of work is worrisome as there are additional three lakh units to be constructed by 2024.
2. There is no announcement regarding the Telangana Double Bedroom housing scheme results and winner list yet. People in several areas tried to occupy these houses by breaking the locks due to inordinate delay to allot to the beneficiaries.
3. There is a wide spread criticism that lot of corruption took place in the construction quality and also in the allotment of houses to the beneficiaries. The *Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)* has found fault with the Telangana government for inordinate delays in constructing the two-bedroom houses and identifying the beneficiaries. "The Compliance Audit revealed several shortcomings in the implementation of the 2BHK Housing Scheme (two-bedroom scheme) in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area. The financial management of the scheme had shortfalls," the CAG said. In a report submitted to the Assembly, the CAG also found diversion of funds to other schemes.
4. Over 96 per cent of the completed houses (46,442) remained unoccupied for a period ranging from less than 6 to more than 36 months, as the State government failed to identify beneficiaries for the scheme, rendering the expenditure of Rs.3,984 crore incurred on these houses so far wasteful.

KCR KIT:

The state government has launched KCR Kit Scheme with effect from 4th June 2017 for pregnant women. Nutritious food through Arogya Lakshmi; safe institutional delivery with Rs. 12,000 financial assistance and 1000 rupees more if the newborn is a girl. KCR Kit contains 16 essential items namely Baby oil, Soaps useful for mother and child, Mosquito net, Dresses, Handbag, Toys for child, Diapers, Powder, Shampoo, Sarees, Towel and Napkins, Baby bed.

Apparent Aspects:

1. Pregnant women can utilize this scheme for maximum 2 deliveries. Women who give birth at a government hospital can utilize this scheme.

Latent Aspects:

More than 5,000 auxiliary nurse midwives tracking pregnant women, childbirth and immunization schedules in Telangana have not been paid their dues by the Telangana government for last four years.

1. These ANMs are now assisting in the KCR kit scheme and claim that they are the backbone of the system but are not being regularized or given their dues.
2. There are 4,268 ANMs and 738 European ANMs who are employed under the National Health Mission to work towards ensuring safe childbirth in institutions to bring down maternal and infant mortality rates.
3. ANMs stated that 15 members have died, their dues were still pending and the government was not releasing them. They have approached the health department and also had a meeting with then Health Minister, Dr Laxma Reddy, but there have been only assurances but no action, alleged the angry women.

VI. Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak Scheme:

The Kalyana Lakshmi scheme is a one-time money transfer scheme of the Telangana government, aimed at lending financial assistance to any family whose annual income does not exceed Rs 2 lakh. The Kalyana Lakshmi scheme was introduced on October 2, 2014, initially promising beneficiaries a sum of Rs 75,116/-. In March 2018, KCR increased the amount to Rs 1,00,116/-.

Apparent Aspect:

1. reduced financial pressure on poor families and reduce child marriages.
2. Beneficiaries of the scheme are hailing from SC, ST, BC and minority unmarried girls. Later to all poor families in the state. The scheme also covers Muslims girls from poor families called as "Shaadi Mubarak".
3. The government has claimed on multiple occasions that the scheme is designed to prevent misuse, as the amount is deposited into the bride's mother's account.

Latent affects:

1. Scheme is being misused to harass women's families for dowry. Telangana recorded the highest cases of dowry-related deaths (175) among the south Indian states, 25% rise in dowry cases in 2021, reveals NCRB data.
2. The scheme also tends to be misused to marry off minor daughters with falsified government documents. "To avail benefits from the scheme and to do away with an assumed responsibility, parents tamper with the age of their daughters on Aadhaar cards and make them seem older than they are," Devi, an activist said.
3. Delays in handing out the amount to beneficiaries (weeks to months to years).
4. The blame does not entirely lie on officials in the Revenue department, who are tasked with scrutinising an application. Elected representatives, who simply have to distribute the cheques to beneficiaries in their constituencies, also delay the process. Applicants are running from pillar to post for Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak amounts.

Community Centric Schemes

Mission Bhagiratha

The project was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at Komatibanda village, Medak district in Gajwel constituency on 6 August 2016. The project comprises of 26 segments covering 32 districts, for Rs. 2.72 Crore people , with a pipe line network of 1.50 lakh kms, with a tentative project outlay of Rs 46,123 crores.

Apparent Aspects:

1. To ensure safe and sustainable PIPED drinking water supply at:
 - a. 100 LPCD (litres per capita per day) for rural areas,
 - b. 135 LPCD for Municipalities
 - c. 150 LPCD for Municipal Corporations
 - d. 10% Quantity allocated to Industrial requirements
2. To provide tap connection to every household of the habitation.
3. 10% of water in all Irrigation sources reserved for Drinking Water.

Latent Aspects:

1. Failed to repair damaged pipelines and give tap connections in many rural and tribal areas where the people are still depending on wells. There is no consistency in bhagiratha tap water on one day 8 to 9 pots water, the next day only 1 or 2 pots water which is insufficient, before they used to get water for 30 minutes on every 3 or 4th day, were the claims made by local people.
2. Many of the Tribal hamlets no water, no bhagiratha mission only steel taps present with no water. Bhagiratha pipe connections were given in many urban and rural areas where there was already a tap connection instead of prioritizing areas which totally lack drinking water facilities like tribal hamlets who were in need of it and fluoride effected villages.
3. Many pipe lines on the road side are left over for years just dumped, in the name of bhagiratha many trees were cut, roads were dug time and again leading to the waste of public money a lot of inconvenience to common people with negligible result.
4. In the name of Mission Bhagiratha much of the money was eaten away both by contractors and local leaders. It was also alleged that much of these material like pipes and taps were purchased from the relatives of Party leaders only.
5. The government has claimed openly that the work of the project was completed and many people were enjoying benefit of Mission Bhagiratha. These lies of the government were exposed in the meeting "Har Ghar Jal Yojana"

in Delhi, where the Telangana Government submitted a report stating that only 33% of the project works are completed, on which the Union water resource minister Shekawat expressed anger on TS for claiming 20,000 crores for just 33% work, he also took on the TS government saying that just laying pipes would not amount to providing water to every household and telling lies on Mission Bhagiratha.

ii. Mission Kakatiya

The Program was inaugurated on 12th March 2015 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Sadashiva Nagar Village. The name 'Mission Kakatiya' is given in the remembrance and tribute to the Kakatiya rulers who developed a large number of the irrigation tanks. A flagship programme of the government aimed at restoring 46,300 tanks in five years spending Rs 20,000 crore.

Apparent Aspects:

1. The objective of Mission Kakatiya is to enhance the development of agriculture based income for small and marginal farmers, by accelerating the development of minor irrigation infrastructure, strengthening community based irrigation management and adopting a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks.
2. The Government is planned to restore 9,306 Tanks every year (20% of total tanks) with an eventual target of restoring all 46,531 tanks in 5 years, spending Rs 20,000 Crore in a phased manner to bring this gap ayacut of 10 lakh acres into command which requires no further allocation of water and also land acquisition.
3. This gap ayacut of 10 lakh acres under Minor Irrigation tanks can be brought to Irrigation.
 - o By de-silting the tank beds to restore original water storage capacity of tanks.
 - o By repairing dilapidated sluices, weirs etc.,
 - o By strengthening the tank bunds to its original standards.
 - o By repairing the feeder channels to standards for getting water freely into tanks.(Part of chain of tanks)
4. All citizens being the beneficiaries.
5. The initiative will improve the ground water table, reduce the power consumption by farm sector, get higher yields, spur the growth of livestock and rejuvenate rural economy on the whole.

Latent Aspects:

1. Telangana government failed in its ambitious Kakatiya mission to clear local water bodies: CAG 28 % of the tanks targeted. According to the observations of CAG, the target for phase-1 was unrealistic. There were delays in completion of phase-1 works ranging from 20 to 549 days. Consequently, progress in phase-2 and phase-3 of the Mission Kakatiya was low with 14 % and 0% respectively.
2. There was no mention of the details of gap ayacut in the estimates of individual works. Claiming false bills is the main intentions of Mission Kakatiya. No maintenance of these tanks once done left over, lack of strategy, planning just haste executions plundering crores of public money to contractors who are the benamies of these leaders.
3. The scheme has only helped local ruling party leaders to make big money by grabbing contracts in the name of restoring tanks. No quality works were taken up, but monies were distributed to contractors in the name of mobilisation advances and finally only shoddy work was done.

Haritha Haram

Haritha Haram means "green garland" in Telugu. The program was launched on 3rd July 2015. It is one of the Telangana Flagship programmes to rejuvenate degraded forests, protecting these forests from threats such as smuggling, encroachment, fire and grazing.

Apparent Aspects:

1. To increase the green cover of the state from the existing 24% to 33% by planting and nurturing millions of saplings every year. To create awareness among the public about the importance of preserving and protecting the environment. It adopted intensive soil and moisture conservation measures based on a watershed approach.

Latent Aspects:

1. The primary concern is maintenance and survival. The success rate for plantation survival is only 5-10% after a year. "Issues such as animals damaging the plants as there is no fencing and electricity board chopping the trees are making it difficult for the plants to survive, Every year, there is nearly 50% gap between the funds available and the funds needed to complete the plantation. We have written to the relevant authorities and officers, but to no avail." As per Deccan Chronicle report. According to the data, the overall survival rates these sapling in the state is less than 20 %, said D. Narsimha Reddy, a notable city environmentalist.

2. The government amended the Panchayat Raj Act in 2018 and the Municipality Act in 2019, including a provision that any elected representative who fails to carry out the plantation programme will be suspended. So the representatives spent funds from their own pockets for the plantation and maintenance. Many saplings have been removed within 2-3 years because of developmental works.
3. The Telangana State has permitted record deforestation by way of clearances for various government and non-government projects since the formation of the separate State. Notwithstanding its afforestation claims under the Haritha Haram programme, the State Forest department has earned the dubious distinction of allowing the felling of more than 12 lakh trees -12,12,753 trees — which was the highest in the country — in just over five years into the State formation. It was admitted by none other than the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) R. Sobha in an affidavit submitted to the High Court, in response to a Public Interest Litigation in 2020.
4. Organised loot has allegedly been going on in the name of Telanganaku Haritha Haram; Fake bills are allegedly being produced indicating 10 times the saplings' price as per the forest scheduled rates (FSR). Higher officials are informed that the procurement is through floating tenders. A top source said roughly 30 % funds of total Rs. 5,900 crore spent on Haritha Haram ever since its launch have been swindled.
5. Despite the companies openly forming cartels to bag the contracts for higher prices, the committees have turned a blind eye to check this menace and save public money. There is no record of number of saplings planted, survived and the amount spent which clearly points towards the range of scam. The project attracted severe criticism from social and tribal activists who alleged that it aimed at displacing tribals in the name of afforestation.

Telangana Sheep Distribution Scheme

The scheme was launched on 20th June 2017 by the government of Telangana. Of the Rs.1.25 lakhs cost per unit, the government provides 75% of the cost and 25% is borne by the beneficiary. The sheep population in Telangana is supposed to duplicate to multiple times in two years. The traditional shepherd families will be supported with the supply of (20+1) sheep (as a unit) on 75% subsidy with a total project outlay of Rs. 5,000 crores.

Apparent Aspect:

1. Scheme designed to give a quantum jump to the upliftment of Yadava/Golla/Kuruma families who are approximately 4 lakhs in the state. Every person aged above 18 years from shepherd community eligible for the scheme and is given a unit of sheep, which has 20 sheep and a ram.
2. Provision of financial support to these skilled families for rearing sheep on a large scale will facilitate not only their economic development but also facilitate the production of sufficient meat in the state. It is also targeted to make Telangana a hub for meat export in the near future. For providing fodder, government is giving 75% subsidy on grass seeds. The shepherd Farmer receives insurance in case of a death by the government; Rs. 5,000/- for a sheep and Rs.7,000 for a ram.
3. According to the officials of Animal Husbandry department, over 3.65 lakh beneficiaries were given sheep units (each with 20 female sheep and one male sheep) and comes about 76 lakh sheep in the past one and half years. These sheep were procured from other states like Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and distributed to the beneficiaries. While the phase I of this scheme had incurred about Rs 3,500 crore, the government is proposing the second phase to distribute sheep to another three lakh beneficiaries.
4. By March 2018, 1 crore 28 lakh sheep were distributed, to over two lakh members of 7.61 lakh eligible persons submitted their applications for the sheep units.

Latent Aspects:

1. Telangana government's flagship schemes, sheep rearing (sheep distribution) appears to be a money minting scheme for some officials and middlemen.
2. Despite several irregularities being exposed, such as sheep units not distributed to the beneficiaries in various districts. Selling of the sheep by the beneficiaries, no effort was being made to curb malpractices in the scheme.
3. Special chief secretary of Animal Husbandry department, Suresh Chanda issued a GO for a third-party evaluation on implementation of sheep rearing scheme including assessment of quality of sheep being distributed to the beneficiaries. The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) had been asked to study the implementation. But the state government kept the GO on hold and then the special chief secretary was transferred to another department.
4. While the Anti Corruption Bureau has launched a probe into the then governments' sheep rearing scheme, the Comptroller and Auditor General has uncovered a Rs 253 crore fraud in seven districts of Telangana.

5. The statutory auditor CAG found that invoices with fake vehicle registration numbers, showing transportation of higher number of sheep units than that was possible or permitted and recycling of sheep. CAG found that an ambulance was used for transportation of 84 sheep in a single trip in Khammam district. Worse still, scammers quoted in records that they transported 126 sheep in a single trip in Sangareddy district on a two-wheeler and in another instance, they used a cab to transport 168 sheep in a single trip in Mahbubnagar district, while an auto was used in Nalgonda district to ferry 126 sheep. CAG reported that, the audit findings indicate lack of transparency including suspected fraud involving a financial implication of Rs.254 crore in the implementation of the scheme.
6. The sheep rearing scheme being implemented in the state is worth a whopping Rs 3,500 crore, which is equal to the annual budget of departments like public health or equal to the property tax collection of all civic bodies in the state or annual income of stamps and registration department. But no mechanism or third party evaluation has been evolved to look into the scheme implementation and curb malpractices.

VII. Conclusions

The following conclusions may drawn out after careful examination of all flagship welfare schemes within 10 yrs governance since its inception from 2nd June 2014. Across the world, Direct Transfer Benefits schemes are employed to break the vicious circle of poverty and realize social equity and human capital enhancement. The whole mechanism is a thrust towards building structural stability in societies. The welfare schemes should be capacity building enhancers, should transform the beneficiaries to become charitable, but not to rely on charities.

1. Rythu Bandhu is a unique Welfare Scheme that is meant for the furthering the economic prosperity of big land lords it is not meant for a farmer. Rythu Bandhu is a welfare Scheme for Big Farmers only.
2. Through all these schemes the government tried to give an impression of being philanthropist but the welfare is the duty of government and a fundamental right of the marginalized sections, and the money spent is people's money. All these schemes were to secure the vote bank by fooling the people, crores of rupees were grabbed by the leaders, and contractors. Only contractors flourished in this governance. Almost all schemes ended with crores of monetary scam.
3. Government never had an intention of empowering the people through education, because it increases the questioning capacity and reasoning ability of the people, government wants illiteracy for to perpetuating their governance.
4. Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Telangana appeared to make significant progress in addressing the needs of marginalized communities , but all ended up with failures and scams , nothing much was achieved in spite of spending lakhs of crores of rupees.
5. The institutional deliveries have declined from 69% in 2013-14 to 42% in 2016-17 in public health facilities as compared to deliveries in private health facilities - which registered an increase from 31% to 58% during the same period.

Manpower	Sanctioned posts	In Position of work	Vacancy	Vacancy %
Nursing Staff at PHCs & CHCs	2208	2027	181	1%
Laboratory Technicians at PHCs & CHCs	749	597	152	20%
Radiographers at PHCs & CHCs	87	57	30	34%
General Duty Medical Officers at CHCs	184	145	39	20.8%
Total Specials at CHCs (Surgeons, Obstetricians, Gynaecologists, Physicists and Paediatricians)	320	112	208	65%

The table above represents the current status of health manpower in Telangana's rural areas, as per data from National Health Mission.

6. The then government made a debt of rupees 6,71,757 crores with a miniscule growth, which is a burden not only on the present government but also on the people of the state. The governments have to be made

accountable for such mindless expenditures & looting because it is peoples hard earned money not their personal money from their pocket.

VIII. Suggestions:

1. Education is a must for a state/nation to develop, it empowers the people in multiple spheres, helps in bringing progress, maintaining order and stability which are the perquisites of development. It should also guarantee employment. Employment plays a very crucial role in the economic development of the State, skill development for Youth in multiple spheres is very much possible if the government wishes, building hope among the youth is the very much needed. Every legislator has to stand in the position of an unemployed youth before making a policy.
2. Agrarian Sector is the back bone of the Indian Economy in general and Telangana economy in particular, Soil health and soil revitalization through Agroecology is to be implemented by encouraging farmers through proper extension services. The state has ample human resource at its disposal, the policies should be so planned to make use of this resource to maximize the state economy.
3. It is not the IT Sector alone that needs to be enlarged, production-based industries should be encouraged to bring holistic development.
4. Proper Guidance and skill development for the establishments is essential. Production based establishments increase employment, helps in earning through dignity. Not just verbal or theoretical but should be practical in nature in a true sense.
5. Youth should be encouraged in Agriculture and Agro based industries. Welfare and Development Schemes should empower the beneficiary from being charitable to a position to make charity.
6. Health, education, employment, Agriculture and production are very much essential for the holistic development of a nation or a state.

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