

1. Discuss the role and participation of women in the 1969 Telangana Movement.**Introduction:**

The **1969 Telangana Movement**, which arose in response to the violation of the Gentlemen's Agreement and systemic neglect of the Telangana region, saw **significant participation from women across social strata**. Far from being peripheral participants, women emerged as **leaders, organizers, advocates, and symbols of resilience**, making their role both impactful and transformative.

I. Leadership and Frontline Participation:

- **T.N. Sadalakshmi:**

A Dalit woman leader from Kamareddy, she led the movement after Dr. Chenna Reddy's arrest, facing imprisonment in **Chanchalguda Jail**. Her prior political experience as **Endowments Minister** and **first woman Deputy Speaker** lent credibility and strength to the agitation.

- **Sangem Laxmibai:**

A veteran of the **Salt Satyagraha** and **anti-Simon Commission protests**, Laxmibai contributed to the Telangana cause through activism and social reform. Her memoir *"Na Jailu Jnapakalu – Anubhavalu"* inspired many, and she also founded **Indira Seva Sadan** to empower women and girls.

- **Kanakaratnam (Warangal):**

Played a crucial role in **mobilizing women at the grassroots**, organizing protests and community meetings that sustained the momentum of the agitation.

II. Organizational and Grassroots Contributions:

- **Community Mobilization:**

Women were pivotal in organizing **local meetings**, managing communication between protest groups, and handling logistics such as distribution of pamphlets, supplies, and food for protesters.

- **Support Networks:**

During police crackdowns and arrests, women maintained **moral and logistical support systems**, ensuring continuity of the agitation and care for the families of detainees.

III. Advocacy and Intellectual Engagement:

- **Eeswareebai J.:**

A Dalit leader influenced by **Ambedkarite ideology**, she helped establish the **Republican Party of India in Andhra Pradesh**. Her advocacy brought Dalit concerns into the mainstream of Telangana's regional struggle.

- **Cultural Contributions:**

Women used **songs, poetry, and traditional art forms** to spread the message of Telangana pride and identity, reinforcing the emotional and cultural unity of the movement.

IV. Symbol of Resilience and Intersectional Agency:

- **Sumithra Devi:**

A freedom fighter who had earlier participated in the **Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements**, she carried forward her activism into the Telangana movement, serving later as an **MLA and municipal representative**.

- **Intersectional Lens:**

Women's participation also foregrounded issues of **gender, caste, and economic exploitation**, ensuring that the movement addressed broader social justice concerns.

Conclusion:

The role of women in the 1969 Telangana Movement was **not auxiliary but central**. Through their leadership, grassroots mobilization, cultural expression, and ideological contributions, women enriched the movement's depth and legitimacy. Their involvement **set a precedent for inclusive regional movements** and reflected the **power of intersectional activism** in shaping socio-political change in Telangana and beyond.

2. Assess the developmental trajectory of Telangana after 1970. To what extent did disparities in irrigation, education, power, employment, and industry reinforce demands for statehood?

Introduction

The formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1956, merging Telangana with Andhra and Rayalaseema, was based on the Gentlemen's Agreement, which promised safeguards for Telangana. However, **post-1970 development in Telangana** was marked by **regional disparities** across key sectors such as **irrigation, education, power, employment, and industry**. These disparities played a pivotal role in **deepening alienation** and **reviving the demand for a separate Telangana state**.

1. Irrigation: Unequal Water Distribution

- **Godavari and Krishna Rivers:** Despite **79% of Godavari's catchment area** lying in Telangana, major projects like **Ichchampally** and **Devanur** were neglected. **Pochampadu's capacity** was reduced from 330 TMC to 145 TMC.
- **Krishna waters** were diverted to coastal areas. **Nagarjuna Sagar** benefited **15 lakh acres in Andhra** but only **5 lakh acres in Telangana**.
- **Result: Net irrigated area declined** from **3.5 lakh hectares (1991)** to **2.4 lakh hectares (2002)**.
Impact: Farmers dependent on dryland agriculture were marginalized, triggering rural distress and migration.

2. Education: Skewed Investments and Neglect

- **Primary Education:** Telangana received only **32% of state spending**; dropout rates remained high.
- **Higher Education:** Key universities and colleges were concentrated in coastal Andhra. Telangana got **only 24.07% of private aided college grants**.
- **Staffing Gaps:** Only **9.43%** of aided teachers and **limited faculty representation** from Telangana in major universities.
Impact: Poor educational infrastructure led to **low literacy**, curbing social mobility and fueling resentment.

3. Power Sector: Resource-Rich, Yet Underserved

- Telangana contributed **coal and thermal resources**, yet received only **31% of electricity connections**.
- By 1971, **only 29.3% of its villages were electrified**, and industries in Andhra received **preferential power supply**.
Impact: Industrial stagnation and limited rural electrification amplified developmental disparities.

4. Employment: Systematic Displacement

- **Public Sector Bias:** Seemandhra employees dominated Telangana jobs, violating **Mulki rules**.
- **Industrial Destruction:** Historic industries in Warangal and Nizamabad declined. Employment in new industrial zones often went to **non-local settlers**.
- **Girglani Commission** exposed large-scale violations in public recruitment favoring Seemandhra youth.
Impact: Rising unemployment among locals exacerbated regional discontent and gave legitimacy to pro-statehood demands.

5. Industrial Development: Discriminatory Capital Flow

- Despite Hyderabad being the capital, **industrial capital and ownership** remained in Seemandhra hands.
- New industries offered **limited jobs to locals**. Construction and IT sectors were dominated by settlers.

Impact: Telangana's **industrial growth** remained **extractive, not inclusive**, deepening perceptions of internal colonization.

Conclusion

The **developmental trajectory of Telangana post-1970** was marred by **structural neglect and institutional discrimination**. Disparities in irrigation, education, power, and employment were **not isolated events** but formed a **pattern of exclusion**. These sustained inequities laid the socio-economic and emotional foundation for the **Telangana statehood movement**, culminating in its formation in 2014.