



LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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ABSTRACT :

Madras Presidency was a important province of British India.. Madras Presidency officially known as Presidency of Fort St. George. Madras Presidency included much of southern India, including the present-day Indian State of Tamil Nadu, the Malabar region of North Kerala, Lakshadweep Islands, the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh, Brahmapur and Ganjam districts of Orissa and the Bellary, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi districts of Karnataka. The presidency had its capital at Madras. In Madras, Telgu, Tamil, Malyalam, Kannada Odia and Tulu these languages were spoken. In 19th century, different social reformers had launched movements in Madras Presidency. Dr. T.M. Nair had established the Justice Party in 1916. E.V.R. Naikar had formed Dravidian Khazgum. There are two phases of language problem in Madras.



KEYWORDS : Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh , Madras Presidency.

INTRODUCTION:

The first phase was Tamil Telgu conflict, demand of formation of separate Andhra State and Andhra's claim over Madras City. This problem was solved by formation of Andhra state in 1953 and creation of Tamil speaking state of Madras in 1956. In the second phase, there was a problem of Anti-Hindi movement. Both D.K. and D.M.K. launched Anti-Hindi movement. This culminated in anti-Hindi agitation of 1965, which forced the central Government to amend the constitution. The amendment made it clear that Hindi would not be imposed on Non-Hindi states without their consent.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

Madraspatanam was one Small village at before 16th Century. But the village developed by European countries like a Portuguese, Dutch, and British etc. In In 1639, the English East India Company purchased the village of Madraspatnam and one year later it established the Agency of Fort St George, precursor of the Madras Presidency, although there had been Company factories at Machilipatnam and Armagon since the very early 1600s. The agency was upgraded to a Presidency in 1652 before once more reverting to its previous status in 1655. In 1684, it was re-elevated to a Presidency and Elihu Yale was appointed as president. In 1785, under the provisions of Pitt's India Act, Madras became one of three provinces established by the East India Company. And until 1858, Madras

was a part of British India and was ruled by the British East India Company. In 1858, following Queen Victoria's Proclamation, the Madras Presidency, along with the rest of British India, came under the direct governance of the British crown. The Victorian era marked a time of relative peace and prosperity. Key legislative changes such as the Indian Councils Act of 1861 and the Indian Councils Act of 1909 allowed Indians to participate in provincial administration. This period saw a notable rise in the educated class, many of whom qualified for the Indian and Provincial Civil Service, with the legal profession being particularly esteemed among this emerging group. In 1877, T. Muthuswamy Iyer overcame significant opposition to become the first Indian judge of the Madras High Court. A number of roads, railways, dams and canals were constructed during this time. A strong sense of national awakening emerged in the Madras Presidency in the later half of the 19th century. The first political organization in the province, the Madras Native Association, was established by Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty on 26 February 1852.

However, the organization did not last long. The Madras Native Association was followed by the Madras Mahajana Sabha which was started on 16 May 1884. Of the 72 delegates who participated in the first session of the Indian National Congress at Bombay in December 1885, 22 hailed from the Madras Presidency. Most of the delegates were members of the Madras Mahajana Sabha. The third session of the Indian National Congress was held in Madras in December 1887 and was a huge success attended by 362 delegates from the province. Subsequent sessions of the Indian National Congress took place in Madras in 1894, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1914 and 1927.

Madam Blavatsky and Colonel H. S. Olcott moved the headquarters of the Theosophical Society to Adyar in 1882. The society's most prominent figure was Annie Besant, who founded the Home Rule League in 1916. The Home Rule Movement was organised from Madras and found extensive support in the Province. Nationalistic newspapers like *The Hindu*, *Swadesamitran*, and *Mathrubhumi* played an active role in supporting the campaign for India's independence. In 1918, India's first trade union was formed in Madras, spearheaded by V. Kalyanasundaram and B. P. Wadia.

The non-Brahmin movement was initiated by Theagaroya Chetty, who established the Justice Party in 1916. Following the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, a diarchy was introduced in the Madras Presidency in 1920, which included provisions for holding elections in the region.

IDENTITY POLITICS OF LANGUAGE

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Madras presidency was one of the most extensive of all the British territories in India. In Madras Presidency spoke one of five Dravidian Languages, the most important of which were Tamil and Telugu. Telugu was spoken in all the northern districts of the province as well as in the area known as Rayalseema, to the north and west of Madras city; the Tamil-Telugu dividing line lay just north of the city of Madras. In 19th century different social reformers had launched movements in Madras presidency like as Home Rule movement, Brahmin-Non-Brahmin Movement etc. In 1920 decade, Dr. T.M. Nair was Published Two Journal one is a Dravidian and second is Justice. E.V.R. Ramaswamy has launched self-Respect movement. All these movements had created the identity of self culture and language in the Madras presidency and the conflict started between Telugu and Tamil.

MOVEMENT OF SEPARATION THE ANDHRA AND MADRAS

In an effort to protect the interests of the Telugu people of Madras state, Potti Sriramulu attempted to force the Madras state government to listen to public demands for the separation of Telugu speaking districts (Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra) from Madras state to form the Andhra state. He went on a lengthy fast, and only stopped when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru promised to form Andhra state. However, there was no movement on the issue for a long time. He started fasting again for attaining statehood for Andhra in Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurti's house in Madras on 19 October 1952. It started off without fanfare but steadily caught people's attention despite the disavowal

of the fast by the Andhra Congress committee. The government of the day however did not make a clear statement about the formation of a new state despite several strikes and demonstrations by Telugu people. On the midnight of 15 December (i.e. early 16 December 1952), Potti Sreeramulu died and laid down his life trying to achieve his objective.^[3]

In his death procession, people shouted slogans praising his sacrifice. When the procession reached Mount Road, thousands of people joined and raised slogans hailing Sriramulu. Following the events, chaos ensued as individuals turned to widespread destruction of public property. News of these incidents spread rapidly, sparking outrage among people in distant areas such as Chirala, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Guntur, Tenali, Ongole, and Nellore. Tragically, police gunfire claimed the lives of seven individuals in Anakapalle and Vijayawada. The popular agitation persisted for three to four days, seriously disrupting daily life across both the Madras and Andhra regions. On 19 December 1952, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced the formation of a separate state for Telugu-speaking people from Madras State. To address the complexities surrounding the creation of Andhra State, the Central Government formed the Wanchoo Committee. By September 1953, Parliament had officially passed the Andhra State Act, paving the way for its establishment. In the early years of the Andhra Movement, the considered view of almost all its protagonists was that Madras, not being a Telugu city, had no place in the future Andhra Province. Even maps of Andhra Province published at that time excluded Madras. The articles in the press argued that the Andhra backwardness was due, among other things, to the situation of the capital in a far-off corner dominated by Tamils. The remedy, the Andhras felt, lay in having a separate Province with the capital in its midst.

The first suggestion that Madras could be the Andhra capital and some other place the Capital for the residuary Madras Province was made at the Nellore Conference of Andhra Maha Sabha by O.V. Rangayya Pantulu, the Chairman of the Reception Committee.

Madras developed owing to the efforts of all the linguistic groups in the city, particularly the Tamils and the Telugus, the largest groups. Since the founding of the Fort St. George, it was the headquarters of the Presidency and so a number of Government buildings were located in the city. It was a centre of business, had the port, aerodrome and other facilities. It was the educational centre of the Presidency. The post-graduate and Professional colleges were almost concentrated there. Giving up the city would mean giving up these educational advantages.

The inclusion of the city was demanded on financial grounds too. Excluding the city, the Telugu districts had, on the basis of 1948-49 accounts, a deficit of Rs. 201.01 lakhs, and the non-Telugu districts a deficit of Rs. 179.44 lakhs. The Madras city had a surplus of Rs. 208.96 lakhs.

In view of these claims and counter-claims over the city, various suggestions were made, mostly by the Andhras, as to the status of the city in the event of the formation of linguistic provinces. The suggestions were:

- 1) To make it the common capital for both the Andhra and Tamil provinces
- 2) To make the city itself or with the inclusion of some surrounding areas into a separate province
- 3) To divide the city into North Madras and South Madras with river Colum as the boundary and making North Madras the capital of Andhra and South Madras the capital of Tamil Province.

ANTI-HINDI AGITATIONS OF TAMIL NADU

The Anti-Hindi agitations of Tamil Nadu were a series of agitations that happened in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu (formerly Madras State and part of Madras Presidency) during both pre- and post-Independence periods. The agitations involved several mass protests, riots, student and political movements in Tamil Nadu, and concerned the official status of Hindi in the state and in the Indian Republic.

The first anti-Hindi agitation was launched in 1937, in opposition to the introduction of compulsory teaching of Hindi in the schools of Madras Presidency by the first Indian National Congress government led by C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji). This move was immediately opposed by E. V.

Ramaswamy (Periyar) and the opposition Justice Party (Later Dravida Kazhagam). The agitation, which lasted three years, was multifaceted and involved fasts, conferences, marches, picketing and protests. The government responded with a crackdown resulting in the death of two protesters and the arrest of 1,198 persons including women and children. The mandatory Hindi education was later withdrawn by the British Governor of Madras Lord Erskine in February 1940 after the resignation of the Congress Government in 1939.

Adoption of an official language for the Indian Republic was a hotly debated issue during the framing of the Indian Constitution after India's independence from Britain. After an exhaustive and divisive debate, Hindi was adopted as the official language of India with English continuing as an associate official language for a period of fifteen years, after which Hindi would become the sole official language. The new Constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950. Efforts by the Indian Government to make Hindi the sole official language after 1965 were not acceptable to many non-Hindi Indian states, who wanted the continued use of English. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a descendant of Dravida Kazhagam, led the opposition to Hindi. To allay their fears, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru enacted the Official Languages Act in 1963 to ensure the continuing use of English beyond 1965. In 1965, the DMK led massive anti-Hindi agitation in the state against the Centre's move to introduce Hindi after the expiry of 15 years. Many people were killed. As a result in 1967, DMK came to power with Annadurai as the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. The demand for constitutional guarantee of non imposition of Hindi was fulfilled in 1969.

CONCLUSION

The DMK, its ideology changed from non Brahminism to the promotion of Tamil Interests. This phase was led by Annadurai. He started the agitation for assertion of Tamil cultural nationalism mobilized Tamil speaking people in opposition to Hindi. Therefore, when Annadurai came to power Dravidian nationalism was converted into Tamil identity at that time, he was amended the constitution. In 1968 he supported two language formula of English and Tamil. The party opposed imposition of Hindi on Tamils, saying that Hindi, being language of North, it's imposition is Aryan imposition on Dravidians. The third phase of the Dravidian politics was dominated by the DMK led by Annadurai. The DMK gradually effected shift from Anti Brahminism to Tamil nationalism. The DMK contested elections in 1957 and decided to drop the demand establishment of independent state of Dravidistan. It accepted to work within the Indian Constitution it opposed imposition of Hindi on Tamil speaking people it decided to undertake development of Tamil language and culture (All Tamilians irrespective of Caste) and it demanded greater powers for states in the Indian Union. Thus instead of pleading for establishment separate nations state for Tamilians, the DMK advocated more powers to the states in the Indian federal structure. Thus the growth of the language politics in Tamil Nadu gradually underwent change from Tamil separatism to genuine federalism.

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