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Yeddula Eswara Reddy-Transforming Local Governance In Kadapa District Of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT:

This research article aims to analyze the life, political philosophy, and public service perspective of Yeddula Eswara Reddy, a distinguished figure in the political history of Andhra Pradesh. Representing the Kadapa constituency of Kadapa district, he actively participated in the state's developmental programs. The study examines his contributions toward equality, social justice, and the preservation of democratic values through his political journey. His close connection with the people, commitment to rural development, and dedication to party principles established him as an ideal public leader. The article seeks to explore the influence of his political legacy on regional politics, the values of democratic leadership, and the inspiration he provided for contemporary political thought.

Key Words: Yeddula Eswara Reddy, Communist, Leadership, Governance, Democratic

Introduction

Yeddula Eswara Reddy born into a landlord family in 1915, he was the eldest son among four sons of Chinna Venkata subba Reddy in Peddapasapula Village Jammalamadugu taluka of Kadapa District. He completed his higher degree at D.C college Anantapur while he pursuing his higher education ,he influenced by the teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi, gradually he renounced feudalistic practices and adapted simple life and dedicated to the welfare of the common people. He formed the Mitra mandali¹ along with his contemporaries to promote social and political awareness among the youth of his village during this period the prominent Congress leaders invited him to participate in National movement, Yetukuri Balaramamurthy ,Y.V. Krishna Rao who came as Kadapa district organizers on orders of the State Communist Party also as by a Krishna Rao and MG Ranga recognized his commitment to rural development and invite him to join the Congress Party.

Several dynamic leaders from the Kadapa district actively participated in the national movement particularly the struggle of peasants; drawing inspiration from N.G. Ranga under the leadership of N.G.Ranga several challenges faced by the farmers were brought into fore front. N.G. Ranga played a key role in advocating for farmers rights and urged them to align with the program of the Indian National Congress. His efforts contributed significantly to the welfare of farmers and broader fight for countries freedom. N.G.Ranga chooses to collaborate with Congress lead to initiate under the Madras presidency. As a part of these efforts, he organized festivals in proddutur, Kamalapuram and Jammalamadugu in Kadapa district to encourage with local community especially the INC leaders of the Jammalamadugu participated very actively. Since 1934 Ranga had been conducted summer schools for farmers at Nidubrolu in Guntur district. These schools served as a flat form to discuss agricultural challenges and empower farmers with knowledge. Influential Kisan latest from Kadapa such as Ranga Reddy Pata Kadapa, P.R Sanjeeva Reddy of Peddapasapula and Bala Yalla Reddy of chennuru actively participated.

Under the leadership of N.G. Ranga along with R. Narayana Reddy from modemed Palli and P.S Sanjeeva Reddy from Peddapasapula significant progress was made in organizing farmers. These leaders played a crucial role in forming a farmer's association and strengthening the agrarian movement. Yeddula Eswara Reddy inspired by N.G. Ranga, who campaigned widely on the problems of peasants in those days and organized many conferences and political schools to solve the problems of peasants, with the inspiration of N.G.Ranga, in 1939 the first farmer's meeting was organized by Yeddula Eswara Reddy along with K. Ranga Reddy ,P.R Sanjeeva Reddy, S. Sanjeeva Reddy At pallur² in Jammalamadugu taluk, Bharathi Devi Ranga the wife of N.G Ranga addressed that meeting on many farmer and motivated the people of Kadapa district to actively participate in the movement for the rights and welfare of farmers.

In 1941 following Mahatma Gandhi's call the prominent Congress farmers association leaders from Kadapa district including Y. Adi Narayan Reddy, Tekuri Subbarao, Bala Narayana Reddy, Hussain Saheb and others took part in individual Satyagraha at chennur, they were arrested and sent to the Cuddalore jail and the introduction of communism through A.K. Gopalan a prominent communist leader to Yeddula Eswara Reddy³. This experience shaped his political look out further strengthened his commitment to fighting for the rights of farmers, labors and become the prominent leader in the Kadapa district Communist Party.

Malli Reddy Ramakrishna Reddy was assigned by the State party as organizer in Kadapa district, following these order's he travelled to Rajampeta where he met Dr. Ramachandra Murthy who was working as a doctor there. They organized political School at Ramakapalli near pullampet in 1944⁴, with the support of local leaders the training school lasted for 40 days, providing intensive political education. the prominent figures in the school were Puchallapalli Sundaraiah, Mukkamala Nagabhushana Rao were delivered lectures on topic such as Marxism, the Indian economy, the National Movement and zimmedari system during the time many individuals actively supported and sympathized

with the party movement, some of the notable members including Yeddula Eswara Reddy participated in that political training School, in that occasion he taken a party membership an instigation of Puchallapalli Sundaraiah one of the founder of the Andhra State Communist Party. Yeddula Eswara Reddy was attended the first conference of Kadapa district held at Pulivendula on 17th October 1947 and he elected one of the members of the first executive committee⁵.

Between 1948 and 52 the Communist Party of India faced significant challenges during this period at the party second National Conference held in Kolkata in February 1948 the communist party supported the Telangana armed struggle and called for anti-feudal struggle⁶ throughout India. The Indian government banned the Communist Party especially Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala were officially banned. This marked difficult time for the communist struggle particularly in Andhra.

The Communist leadership in Telangana spearheaded peasants struggles receiving weapons and financial support from Andhra region. However, the party's involvement in the armed peasant rebellion in Telangana led to its separation particularly in Andhra, the movement active between 1948- 1952 and also supported by coastal and Royal Seema areas for Gorilla forces were trained in armed resistance. This armed struggle led the government to intensity its crack down on the Communist Party

During Ban this period Many leaders were arrested at the district level in Andhra especially in Kadapa some of the prominent leaders arrested and sent to Cuddalore jail .In the villages the police force and landlords retaliatory attacks on communist activists and sympathizers, the crackdown was brutal nearly 400 party members were shoot dead by the police in Andhra districts during that time, one of the significant incidences of this violent repression took place in Kadapa district.

Shootout at Peddapasapula:

The anticommunist a named Ashwarthmma informed the police about Yeddula Eswara Reddy who was living incognito in Peddapasapula village on 28 September 1949, the police attempted to arrest him. As the news spread quickly through the village, hundreds of villages gathered to prevent his arrest. During the police firing that followed, a man named Venkata Konda Reddy was shot dead⁷. Despite the government's efforts to suppress the communist movement with an iron hand, the deep sympathy and support of masses for their leaders reminded evident. Many villages sacrificed their lives, reflecting the strong bond between communist leaders and the people.

In 1951 a significant shift in the Communist Party strategy took place during discussions with Raavi Narayana Reddy a key leader of Telangana armed struggle the prominent communist leaders Ajay Ghosh, S.A. Dange and S.V Ghate put forward a document criticizing the central committee policy, the committee led by general Secretary Chandra Rajeshwara Rao supported the continuation of Telangana army struggle, however Ajay Ghosh, Dange and Ghate argued that the armed struggle should be abandoned. Later that year, the Soviet party invited them for discussion in Moscow for confidential meeting there the held extensive discussions with Stalin, upon their return to India Ajay Ghosh S.A. Dange, S.V Ghate, Chanda Rajeshwara Rao and Makeni Basava Punnaiya introduced new policy

document known as 3P's signaling a change into the party's approach. According to the new policy, the central committee decided abandoned Telangana armed struggle, the political line shifted when the government announced the general election schedule for 1952. Around this time both official and unofficial reports suggested that the Communist Party would take part in upcoming elections

. When the Government of India introduced constitutional democracy and called for general elections the Communist Party choose to participate believing that political change could be achieved through democratic means Yeddula Eswara Reddy representing the Communist Party of India contesting the first general elections from the Kadapa parliamentary constituency in 1952. His victory marked a turning point in the political history of Kadapa district sympathizing the growing in influence of leftist ideology in the region.

Yeddula Eswara Reddy success did not end there he was re-elected consecutively in 1957, 1962 and again in 1967⁸ demonstrating the deep trust and respect he had earned from the people. These victories become milestones, often describe as being "written in golden letters" in the history of Communist Movement in Kadapa.

By the late 1970s, Yeddula Eswara Reddy had become a prominent figure in advocating for the fight of farmers labors and socially marginalized under his leadership the Communist Party work to bring out fundamental social and economic reforms lower and weaker sections of the society. Even as the political landscape shifted with the rise of Congress and Janata governments at the state and the central levels, Yeddula Eswara Reddy remained steadfast in his mission. he works helped shape local governance in ways that prioritized fairness, equality, and development for all. The movement he nurtured not only transformed lives but also left a lasting imprint on the political and social fabric of Kadapa district.

Commitment to development and welfare of the people:

The 1977 parliamentary elections, Yeddula Eswara Reddy once again contested from the Kadapa constituency as the representative of the Communist Party. It was the period of intense political competition, with the Congress and Janata Parties dominating the national scene. Although he did not win that election, his campaign a champion reflected his unwavering decision to the people's causes. His sincerity integrated and lifelong commitment to social justice continued to inspire many, even as a political dynamic shifted around him.

As a member of parliament, Yeddula Eswara Reddy worked tirelessly worked for the development of Kadapa district, particularly the drought-prone region of Rayalaseema. Under his initiative, Kadapa was included in the list of backward districts eligible for special Central assistance and industrial development programs ⁹. He persistently raised issues in parliament concerning irrigation and water scarcity, advocating for long term solutions to improve the living staff those suffering from drought.

Yeddula Eswara Reddy was instrumental in promoting projects aimed at security lifesaving water resources for Rayalaseema. His speeches in parliamentary sessions frequently emphasized the urgent need to address the region's chronic water shortage and to implement sustainable development initiative .Through his efforts many local communities benefited from improved infra and agricultural support.

As a part of his vision for rural progress, he collaborated closely with the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) working to strengthen peasant moments and uplift small farmers. He also supported the activities of youth and student federation in Kadapa district to nurture future leaders committed to social welfare. One of his most notable contributions was his involvement in the Gandikota Project, designed to provide irrigation facilities to drought-affected villages in the district. In recognition of his dedication the project was later named after him the Yeddula Eswara Reddy project¹⁰.

Yeddula Eswara Reddy lifelong struggle for justice, equality and rural development earned him enduring respect and admiration. The Red Star Yeddula Eswara Reddy passed away on 3rd August 1986 living behind the legacy of selfless service and an indelible mark on history of Kadapa district and Rayalaseema region.

Conclusion

Yeddula Eswara Reddy emerges as a key local leader whose contributions provided both symbolic and material impetus for more responsive, localized governance in Kadapa. From donating land to the poor and aligning with grassroots welfare efforts, he exemplified a model of public-service oriented leadership. Simultaneously, the broader governance ecosystem in Kadapa had begun evolving: the introduction of the village/ward secretariat model across the district (633 village secretariats and 256 ward secretariats) speaks to the shift toward bringing government closer to the people. These institutional innovations resonate with the kind of local leadership and community trust that Reddy's efforts helped build. In conclusion, while Yeddula Eswara Reddy may not alone have engineered the full system of local governance reform in Kadapa, his contributions created social capital, philanthropic momentum and a local-leadership narrative that paved the way for more formalized governance reforms. His legacy thus underscores the importance of integrating local agency, land-and-community donations, and grassroots leadership alongside technical institutional mechanisms for real transformation.

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