

Performing Region in Poems and Songs: The Telangana Case

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Abstract

The demand for Telangana from the historically conscious communities invoked the linguistically rich and imaginative community like *Visbalandbra* (United Andhra Pradesh), that also not for the geographically defined Telangana but for a democratically established Telangana as imagined by poets and performers like Gaddar. It also included the slogan of Komaram Bheem's '*jal, jungle, jameen*' (water, forest, and land) which used to be displayed quite prominently during the regional movement. Poets coming from marginalized background localise the monuments and symbolic scenes and images creating new meanings and discourse around them. In parallel to globalization and nationalism, the local region has emerged as an important site of study. Scholars like Aloysius and Kannabiran have made attempts to understand the question of a region largely from the perspective of the social science. Culture is one important factor which has for some strange reason remained ignored in the regional studies discourse. This paper analyses Telangana through poets like Gaddar who has developed the idea of the region on the basis of his popular songs on Telangana. From the way poets move with the region, the way they speak, their musical utterances and poetic expressions, an image of the region could be constructed. When the bifurcation issue emerged with regard to the discriminatory practice of water distribution, poets and singers of Telangana imagined and depicted the rivers in total contrast to the earlier Telugu poets' imagination of its beauty and glory, as Gaddar has depicted the arid landscape of Telangana as a widow without water. Redefinition of the regional space implied in the singers' performance is linguistically reproduced and through cultural forms generated in the process it is disseminated among people who share the same sensibilities.

Keywords: Telangana; Song; Region; Sensuality; Performing arts; Experienced communities.