

ARTICLE 371J AND POLITICAL MOBILIZATION IN KALYANA KARNATAKA: A DECADE OF CHANGE

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Abstract:

Article 371J in the Indian Constitution passed in 2012 to address historical socio-economic disparities in what is called Kalyana Karnataka. Here we explore the effects of this provision on political mobilization in the region across the last decade. It claims that Article 371J has served as a spur for higher political awareness and participation, albeit its impact is complex. It responded by bringing the excluded purposefully in, fostering a new generation of political actors and civil servants, through the reservation of seats in educational institutions and jobs in government. This has increased demands for accountability and responsiveness from elected officials. The paper demonstrates the impact of article 371J on electoral dynamics, the emergence of regional political movements, and the expression of regional grievances. The provision has opened the door to marginalized voices, but that has also posed challenges. Focusing on specific groups of people could inadvertently widen the existing social divide. Most importantly, political mobilization will depend on factors that are not even covered under Article 371J, such as the availability of information and resources. This paper examines these complexities by utilizing empirical data and case studies to evaluate the multifarious consequences of Article 371J on political mobilization in Kalyana Karnataka. The paper concludes by highlighting the implications for democratic participation and regional development, and the importance of ensuring continued efforts towards inclusive and equitable political processes.

Keywords: Article 371J, Kalyana Karnataka, Political Mobilization, Regional Development, Socio-economic Disparity, Reservation, Empowerment, Governance.

Introduction

Under Indian Constitution, article 371J was introduced in 2012 in an effort to address the socio-economic injustices of the past in Kalyana Karnataka. This provision has played a pivotal role in the region over the past decade, impacting political mobilization, facilitating socio-economic development, and shaping regional identity and governance. One important effect had been the political engagement and empowerment of the populace. in educational institutions and government jobs, resulting in higher awareness and a greater sense of ownership among residents. And that has manifested itself in more active participation in the political process. While the clause has driven socio-economic development through higher investment in infrastructure, education and healthcare, the outcomes have been mixed. The progress in Kalyana Karnataka is habitual but still far behind the other part in major human development predictors. While educational attainment and access to economic opportunities

increased in the post-colonial era, challenges of equitable access to quality education and productive livelihoods continued¹. Article 371J has served as a tool for preserving regional identity and promoting good governance in the area. There is now a distinct identity, sense of self determination and even a separate development board for this region now. This body is in charge of developing and carrying out development projects. But it needs to address concerns about its effectiveness, transparency and accountability. While Article 371J did wonders, it hasn't been without a fight. These include bureaucratic hurdles that hinder project implementation, limited awareness among the general population, related to its availability and rights, and lack of monitoring and control over the impact of the provision. The government should issue notification which shall empower the system to well implement Article 371J in an efficient manner by reducing bureaucratic rigors and making people empower and vigilant about it and make the monitoring mechanism stronger. Diverting attention to ameliorate the functioning of the development board and holding it accountable to the people of Kalyana Karnataka, is also important. On the whole, Article 371J is a landmark move towards rectifying regional disparities in Karnataka. It has also inspired greater political mobilization, fostered socio-economic development, and influenced the narrative on regional identity and administrative governance in Kalyana Karnataka. But the full potential of this provision will not be realized without addressing existing gaps and challenges to secure a better future for the region.

Historical Context of Kalyana Karnataka

To appreciate the importance of Article 371J, it is important to understand the historical background of Kalyana Karnataka. Formerly called Hyderabad-Karnataka, this area includes the districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal and Bellary. The region was later augmented with Vijayanagara. These districts were originally part of the Hyderabad state ruled by the Nizams which were later merged with the Mysore state in 1956 during the reorganization of states on the basis of language. Despite being endowed with rich cultural heritage and resources, Chikkamagaluru was a neglected and relatively underdeveloped part of Karnataka. This historical neglect sparked feelings of marginalization and demands for a separate state. In conclusion, the Kalyana Karnataka region's early political movements paved the way for the region's identity and aspirations. This region was heavily involved and upset by the oppressive rule of the British and Nizam during the freedom struggle. Women actively participated in this struggle, which was part of a broader movement for independence and integration with Karnataka. These early movements set the stage for future political mobilization and calls for greater regional autonomy and development².

Understanding Article 371J

The separate Article 371J was introduced with specific reference to the Kalyana Karnataka background. It provides for special responsibility of the Governor of Karnataka for setting up

¹ High Power Committee on Regional Imbalances. (2002). Report of the High-Power Committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalances. Government of Karnataka.

² Government of Karnataka. (1982). Karnataka State gazetteer.

a separate development board for the region. The main board that is responsible for planning and executing development projects. It also calls for a fair share of development funds for the region. Article 371J, among other things, provides reservation for admission in educational and vocational training institutions and appointment to posts in the state government for persons from the region either by birth or domicile³.

Development Board

One of the main aspects of Article 371J is the setting up of a separate development board. It is the board, which identifies regional development needs, plans how to address them and implements different projects. The board oversees spending and makes sure development projects meet the region's priorities.

Equitable Allocation of Funds

Though Article 371J provides for equitable distribution of funds for Kalyana Karnataka's development. It guarantees that the area will receive its rightful share of resources from the state government to redress its historical underdevelopment and encourage economic growth.

Reservations

One of the most essential tools of Article 371J are the reservations in education and employment. These reservations are for the education and government job opportunities of the Kalyana Karnataka people. This provision is crucial to increasing access to both higher education and employment for the region's residents.

Effect on Political Organization

The insertion of Article 371J led to deep political mobilization in Kalyana Karnataka. It served as a stage for regional identity and aspirations to be expressed, which, in turn, raised political consciousness and engaged the political life of the people. The need for special status under Article 371J was born out of decades of political mobilization by diverse groups and leaders in the region. Political parties have engaged with the issue, making it a part of their political discourses and electoral campaigns, recognizing the importance which this provision holds. A trend to note is the entry of Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP) in the political milieu of Kalyana Karnataka in 2022. Founded by G. Janardhan Reddy, KRPP later became influential in districts such as Ballari, Koppal and Vijayanagara. With a keen focus on regional development, Puttarangaiah became a harbinger for the party that bagged a seat in the 2023 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election. Subsequently in 2024 KRPP was dissolved and merged into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Here, we can refer to the post of the article Zurich and the repeated Mention of Outyinomato, in the frame of Sunset, however, how long was the Guevara in File, the fusion of parties⁴.

³ <https://www.constitutionofindia.net/articles/371j-special-provisions-with-respect-to-the-state-of-karnataka/>

⁴ <https://www.civillawjournal.com/article/49/3-2-3-348.pdf>

Socio-Economic Development

Article 371J was aimed at achieving socio-economic development of Kalyana Karnataka. It did so with the new provision leading to more investment being directed at infrastructure, education, and health. Over the past 10 years, the state government has earmarked Rs 19,778 crore for the region, of which Rs 11,174 crore has been spent through the Kalyana-Karnataka Region Development Board. The reservation policy has increased opportunities for professional colleges and government jobs in a substantial way for local students. The Karnataka Educational Institutions Order 2013, which derives its authority from Article 371J, allows for a 70% reservation for students from Kalyana Karnataka in professional colleges located in the area while enabling 8% reservation outside the area. As a result, there has been considerable rise in the number of students from Kalyana Karnataka getting seats in medical, engineering and other professional courses. Similarly, 80% to 85% of Group C and D posts and 70% of Group A and B is reserved for locals in government job recruitments." It has helped hundreds to secure government jobs, with the state government identifying around 1.1 lakh posts in various departments for local candidates.

However, despite some progress, the region still lags in human development indicators.

Indicator	Kalyana Karnataka	Karnataka State Average
Literacy Rate	63.71%	75.36%
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education	15%	32%
Per Capita Income	Ranks lower than the state average	-

All the while, critics say, the emphasis on physical infrastructure has overshadowed even bigger investments that the country really needs: quality human resources. The region lacks teachers and doctors, and access to education and healthcare has not improved. Now, on the development front, the region also has consistently lower performance on several development indices as documented by the NITI Aayog indices and the Multidimensional Poverty indices as well. The government has constituted a committee headed by Govind Rao to study the effect of past initiatives and the implementation of Article 371J. It will also assess these initiatives in tackling regional imbalances and advise on additional initiatives for the development of Kalyana Karnataka.

Views From the Political Talk Show World

The political dynamics in Kalyana Karnataka have been acutely shaped by Article 371J. Today it is a meeting point for debates on local identity, development, and governance. Political parties and leaders have different opinions on how Article 371J has worked out to the Kakathiya States of India. With some praising the strides made within India in infrastructure, education, etc, others argue that its implementation has created even more socio-economic disparity and that it has not been well practiced enough. A significant discussion around Article 371J has been how far the reach of the provisions should extend towards institutions like the

National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru. On one hand, the call to expand Article 371J reservations to NLSIU is seen as a necessary step towards greater representation and access for students from Kalyana Karnataka, but on the other hand, critics argue that it could damage the overall quality and diversity of the institution. This debate is part of larger perennial conversations about how to serve regional interests without sacrificing national educational priorities⁵.

How Civil Society Organizations can help

The political mobilization and advocacy in connection with Article 371J, has been actively carried out by the Civil Society Organizations. Through the timely dissemination of information, community mobilization and advocacy, they have actively promoted awareness around the provision and its effective implementation. For example, the Kalyana Karnataka Horata Samiti played a major role in the region's demand for special status, and this group continues to scrutinise the fulfilment of Article 371J. The forum, a collective of organizations and personas, has already been active in following and engaging with the political parties and the policy changes that they need to be advocated in order to ensure that the needs and aspirations of Kalyana Karnataka are met. The Institute USA and the Center for America have played crucial roles in discussing the issues and concerns affecting the region, ensuring that the people of the region are not left out of political discussions.

Ongoing Movements and Demands

It continued its efforts for achieving further autonomy and development even after the Article 371J was implemented. Some, such as the Kalyana Karnataka Pratyeka Raja Horata Samiti, still call for a separate state for the region. They contend that a separate state would be more resourceful and solutions-oriented given that a greater share of control can help in focused development that takes into account the region's differential needs. As time progressed, however, people from different regions continued to migrate for further exploration and even utilize their skills in agriculture and cooperative farming to contribute towards development in Kalyana Karnataka.

Comparative Studies

Other areas of India with similar provisions in the Constitution are closely monitored and their functioning studied. These studies show that the magic words -- political will, implementation and buy-in -- are crucial for the measures to bring about the island-red-green benefits. They also highlight the importance of ongoing monitoring and reviewer to be certain that these mechanisms are functioning as intended.”

Although Article 371J is reminiscent of the provisions for Telangana (Article 371(D)) and for Vidarbha and Marathwada (Article 371(2)) in Maharashtra Protection of Kalyana Karnataka cannot solely be understood as mirroring the parallels of the aforementioned provisions. This lays the backdrop to the political landscape and the path to development of the region as it experiences a merger with Karnataka post the Nizam's rule. Through comparative case studies we have identified the pressing need to address the need of different cultural context for the

⁵ <https://www.civillawjournal.com/article/49/3-2-3-348.pdf>

implementation of constitutional provisions of such nature across different countries and regions.

Conclusion

A decade since its introduction, Article 371J has made a huge difference in Kalyana Karnataka. Its role has affected political mobilization, socio-economic development, and political discourse in the region. Therefore, as much as great strides have been made in infrastructure and education, there are still several challenges that need to be overcome in order to meet human development indicators and develop in a sustainable and equitable way. The successful implementation of Article 371J would depend on the commitment and engagement of the state government, political parties, civil society organizations, and the people of Kalyana Karnataka to work towards the region's development and prosperity. Despite increased spending, human development indicators have lagged behind and this raises questions around the effectiveness of current approaches to development. While there is a great need for investment in physical infrastructure, there is also an urgent socio-economic challenge, which must be addressed in a more integrated manner through investment in quality education, health care and skill development. These developments reinforce the need for awareness about the aspirations and sentiments of the people of Kalyana Karnataka. Article 371: What Kalyana Karnataka taught the rest of us This emphasizes the need for contextualized strategies, efficient execution, and regular assessment to ascertain that these measures serve their goal of reducing regional disparities and fostering balanced growth.

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