

## **Spatial Pattern of Micro-Political Analysis: A Study of MPTC Elections in Telangana State, India**

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**Abstract:** *The developmental articulations across the spaces tend to produce differential political processes. Though this happens at the spatial aggregate i.e. at the level of socio-economic strata, the political process undergoes rapid changes. The inequalities among socio-economic groups may give rise to contestations in the public space. The differentiation of social groups is largely dependent on the economic conditions of the people, resource accessibility and cultural modernization. It is a fact that developmental articulation across social groups has given rise to different levels of consciousness. In the geographical literature, we tend to come across the studies related to age groups, occupational mobility, gender based studies, religion, ethnicity, caste etc., All such categories are merged into hegemonic and subaltern groups. The essence of such articulations centre around access to resources such as land, water, forest, institutions and public spaces. The electoral exercise will advance the democratic process and that will facilitate the public space for marginalized groups. However, the electoral practices resist the radical social transformation in the name of party organizations and state functioning. Infact, electoral process offers space for various problems confronted by the masses. Thus, it tends to give rise to different ideological persuasions, for which geographical space assumes centrality.*

*The research paper explores into regional, sub-regional and local spaces of Telangana. It examines the regional variations of political participation in Mandal Parishad Teritorial Constituency (MPTC) elections in 2001, 2006 and 2014. In Telangana, there were 5,425 MPTCs in 2001. The total number of MPTCs increased to 6,179 in 2006 with a growth rate of 13.90% from the preceding elections, and these were further increased to 6,475 in 2014. The growth rate is 4.79 from the preceding election of 2006 and has an overall growth rate of 19.35% from 2001 to 2014.*

**Keywords:** *Developmental articulations, Political participation, Regional variations.*

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Three-tier structure of Panchayat Raj Elections, at the Village, Mandal are taken to study micro-political spaces. It ensures greater participation of people and more effective implementation of rural development programmes. There will be a Gram Panchayat for a village or group of villages, Mandal Panchayat at Mandal level and the Zilla Panchayat at the district level. The main aim of Panchayat Raj Institution is the 'de-centralization process where power and functions are distributed and structured between central, regional and local levels. The MPTC's [Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency] consists of a population of over 4,000. According to the Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, elections for the MPTCs should be held on party basis, as each Mandal Parishad consists of Members directly elected from the MPTCs and elected Mandal Parishad President from these elected MPTCs.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To examines the regional variations of political participation.
- 2) To extract mainstream parties performance at micro-political spaces.
- 3) To spatially examine the distribution of political participation of different socio-economic groups.

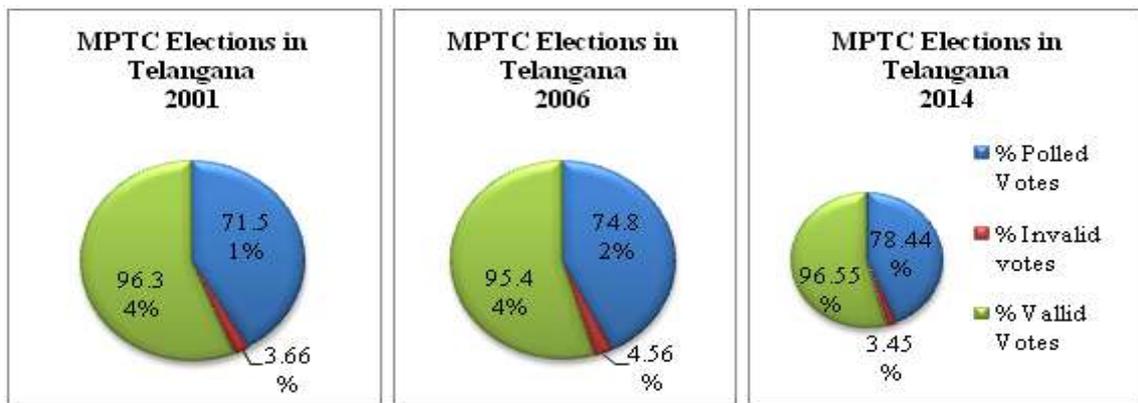
### **3. METHODOLOGY**

- 1) In order to examine the existing perspectives, detailed data needs to be generated.

- 2) The study focuses both on primary and secondary sources of data.
- 3) The data pertaining to field based will be collected largely by employing a questionnaire to various households and political leaders by using stratified random sample method.
- 4) GIS is used in mapping the socio-economic, electoral and political phenomena.

**4. ANALYSIS**

In Telangana, there were 5,425 MPTCs in 2001. The total number of MPTCs increased to 6,179 in 2006 with a growth rate of 13.90% from the preceding elections, and these were further increased to 6,475 in 2014. The growth rate is 4.79 from the preceding election (i.e.) 2006 and has an overall growth rate of 19.35% from 2001 to 2014. Total number of voters in 2001 were 1,41,63,918, and polled votes in 2001 MPTC elections were 1,01,29,234 constituting poll percentage with 71.51%, among them the valid votes were 97,58,886 contributing to 96.34% of the polled votes and invalid votes were with 3,70,348 (3.66%). In 2006, the total number of votes increased 5.66% from 2001 with 1,49,65,910 votes and the polling percentage in MPTC election was 74.82% with 1,11,98,041 polled votes. Valid votes were 1,06,87,941 contributing to 95.44% and invalid votes are 5,10,100 votes with 4.56% in polled votes. Whereas in 2014, the total number of votes increased to 10.34% (15,47,485) from 2006 with 1,65,13,395 votes. The polled votes in MPTC elections were 1,28,83,139 contributing to 78.02%. It is interesting to find that even the number of votes increased year by year and invalid votes increased & decreased considerably to 3.65% (2001), 4.56% and 3.45% (4,43,929) respectively.



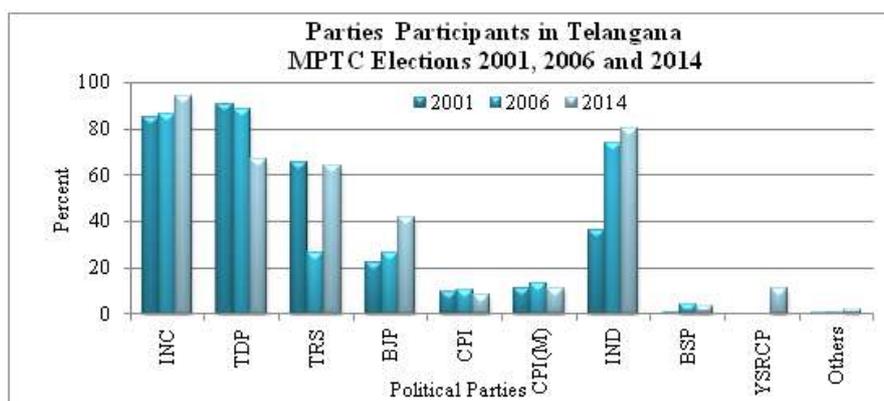
*Fig. 1*

*Fig. 2*

*Fig. 3*

**(i) Party Participants/Contestants in MPTC Elections**

In 2001, the total number of participants in MPTC Elections in Telangana is 17,403 for 5,425 MPTCs; it is almost the average three persons per each MPTC in Telangana. It is identified that two political parties i.e., Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Indian National Congress (INC) have the highest participants of 4,902 contributing to 90.36% and 4,608 which accounts for 84.94% respectively. The newly established party during 2001 is Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) occupied the third in order with 3,555 participants (65.53%). The remaining parties with their percentage to total MPTCs in Telangana were BJP 21.97%, CPI(M)-11.30%, CPI 9.49%, BSP 0.94% and others (AIMIM, JP) 0.72% and notably the Independent's participation was 36.28%.



*Fig. 4*

During 2006 MPTC elections, the TDP had participated in 88.32% making its party's position to the top only followed by INC with 86.52% which is marginally less than the rival TDP which is only 1.8% ahead. The third prominent party is BJP 26.36% and the TRS reached fourth position with 26.07%. CPI (M), CPI and BSP are the parties which follow the hierarchy with 13.45%, 10.18% and 4.27% respectively. The Independents put together participated in 73.85% and the other parties constituted to about 0.81 %.

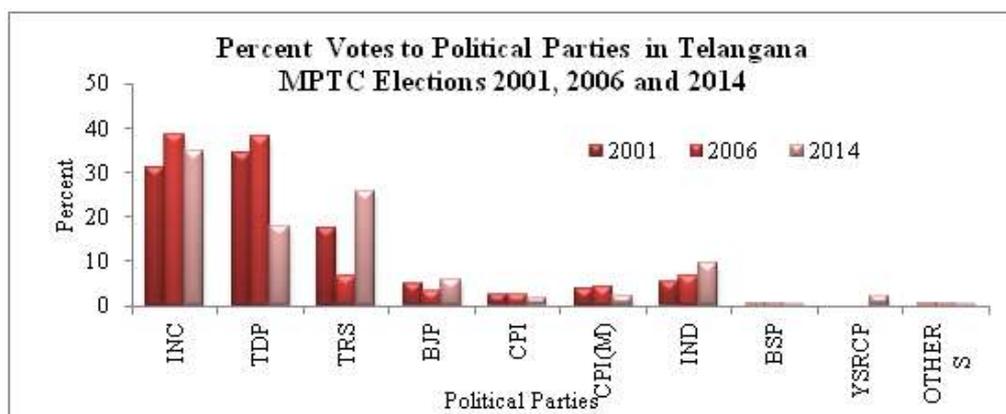
During 2014 elections, INC has fielded a maximum of 93.71% of candidates which is followed by the TDP 66.86%, TRS 63.95% and BJP 41.59%. The YSRCP which initiated in contesting the elections for the first time has participated in 11.20%, while the CPI (M) secured the sixth position with 11.04% followed by CPI 8.48% and BSP 3.60%. The Independents constitute to about 80.02 % and the other parties are 1.90%.

**(ii) Political Parties Votes in MPTC Elections (2001, 2006 And 2014)**

The votes secured by different parties in Telangana during the three elections is analyzed and are as follows. To begin with, in the 2001 elections, the TDP secured the highest of 34.53% of votes followed by its rival INC with 31.03% having a margin of about 3.47%. The TRS which initiated its election manifesto was sheltered with 17.56%. The other prominent parties which are in the hierarchy of descending order are BJP, CPI (M), CPI and BSP with 4.83%, 3.92%, 2.61% and 0.14% respectively. The percentage of votes secured by other parties is 0.09% and by the Independents is 5.29 per cent.

In 2006, the INC secured the highest of 38.45% of votes and TDP stood in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 37.97%. The margin of difference of these two parties has reduced to 0.48%. The TRS party's position has declined drastically from 17.56% to 6.61; a margin of 10.95% of decline from 2001 elections to 2006 elections. The other prominent parties are CPI (M), BJP, CPI and BSP with 4.20%, 3.19%, 2.56% and 0.25% respectively. The percentage of votes secured by other parties is 0.11 and by the Independents is 6.65 percentages.

In 2014 elections, the INC retained its supremacy with the highest per cent of party votes with 34.79% though less compared with the earlier elections. The TRS ascended to the second position with 25.66% from 6.61% (2006); an increase of 19.05% can be considered as a steep rise in terms party votes secured. TDP stepped to the third position with 17.68% as against 37.97% (2006); a decrease of 20.29% can be considered as a steep downfall. The other parties that fall in the hierarchy are; BJP, CPI (M), YSRCP and CPI with 5.89%, 2.31%, 2.08% and 1.51% respectively. It has to be mentioned here that YSRCP has opened its account for the first time by contesting on its own which was earlier in the INC. The other parties secured 0.25%, while the independents together secured 9.40%.



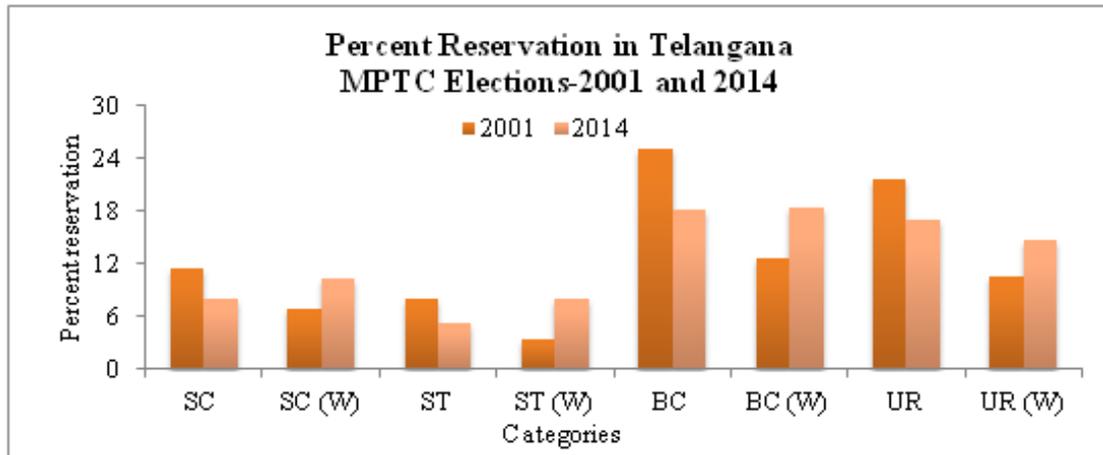
*Fig. 5*

**(iii) Reservation in MPTC Elections (2001, 2006 And 2014)**

Reservation is essential to represent the various reserved categories and women representatives in the political arena. The MPTC election is also included in the reservation policy. The reservation are of the order like SC, ST, BC, UR and these reservations are allocated for women also in all the categories like; SC (W), ST (W), BC (W) and UR (W). In 2001 MPTC elections, out of the total 5,425 constituencies, backward class has been allotted the highest percentage of 25.09, followed by the unreserved category with 21.71%, SC with 11.56%, SC (W) with 6.97%, ST with 8.11%, BC (W)

with 12.68% and Unreserved (W) with 10.47% respectively. The least percentage of 3.41% is allocated among ST (W).

However, in 2014 the number of MPTCs increased to 6,497 with a growth rate of about 16.5% from 2001 to 2014. The BC (W) is allotted with the highest percentage of reservation as against BC in 2001 and BCs are allotted with the second highest percentage of 18.07% as against the unreserved in 2001; thus indicating that the policy of reservation is dynamic in nature as against static in assembly or parliament elections. The least percentage of reservation is allocated in ST with 5.22% as against SC (W) in 2001. The other categories of reservations are unreserved – 16.98%, unreserved (W) – 14.65%, SC (W) – 10.42%, SC – 8.14% and ST (W) – 8.00% respectively.

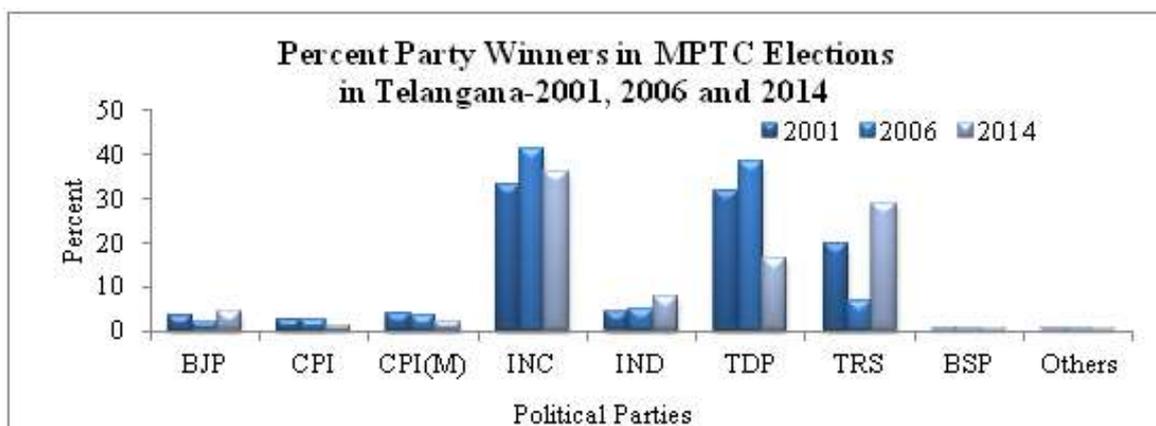


*Fig. 6*

**(iv) Winners in MPTC Elections (2001, 2006 And 2014)**

The percentage of winners by party data have been analyzed during the three times election viz. 2001, 2006 and 2014. During 2001 MPTC elections, the majority percentage of the winners are from INC with 33.14% and the second position was held by the TDP 32.15%; while the TRS had only 19.61 percent. The least percentage of winners are from BSP with 0.11%. In 2006 elections, the INC again secured a good position with the highest of 41.19% as against 33.14% with an improvement of 8.05% crudely. The TDP also improved its position with 38.57% as against 32.15% in 2001 with an improvement of 6.42%. The TRS has again declined its percentage of winners to 6.73% as against 19.61 percent with a decline of about 12.88%. The least percentage of winners is again from the BSP with 0.19%.

The recently concluded 2014 elections indicate that the INC retained its position with 36.22% with the marginal decline; while TDP with 16.36% lost its second position and stood in the third position by giving way to the TRS which gained 28.71% of winners. The BSP retained its last position of 0.43% consecutively for the third time. The newly formed YSRCP gained winning percentage of MPTC is 1.88% which was initiated during this election when it moved away from the INC.



*Fig. 7*

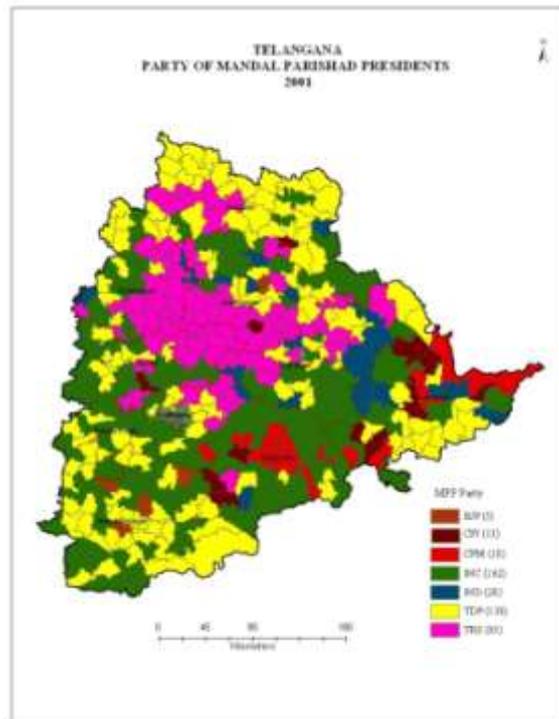


Fig. 8

The INC party achieved the highest per cent of Mandal Parishad Presidents with 36.73% to the total of 441 in Telangana in 2001. The second position was achieved by TDP with 31.29%, followed by TRS with 19.27% and CPI (M) with 4.08%. The least per cent of MPP was from BJP with 1.13%, followed by CPI with 2.95%. The remaining percentage 4.54% was gained by Independents.

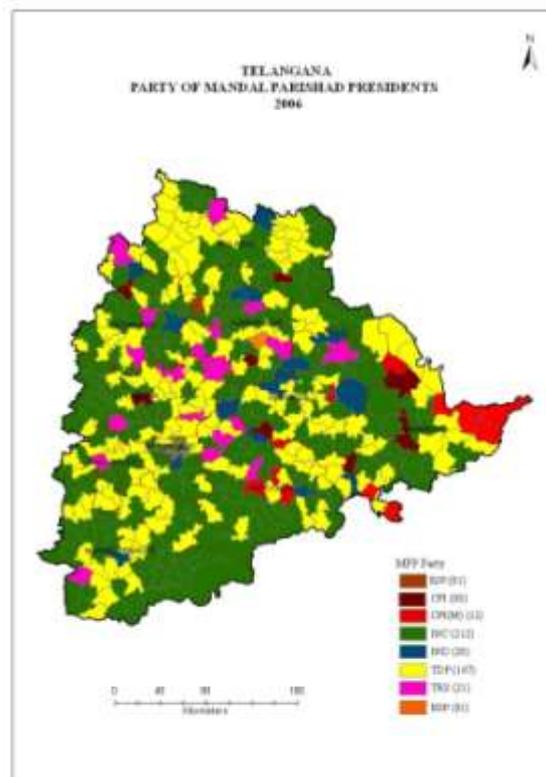


Fig. 9

In 2006, the number of Mandal Parishad Presidents were the highest from INC party with 47.86% to the total 443 Mandal Parishads in Telangana, followed by TDP with 34.7% and TRS with 4.74%. The least per cent of MPPs were from BSP & BJP parties with 0.23%, followed by CPI (1.81%) and CPI (M) (2.93%) respectively. The remaining was from Independents (i.e.) 4.51%.

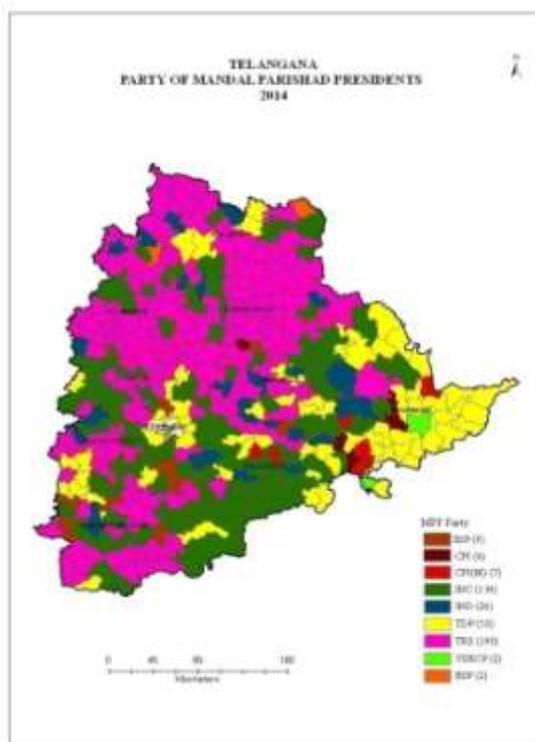


Fig. 10

The in-depth analysis indicates that the TRS party got 42.66% in total MPPs in Telangana, followed by INC with 30.25% and TDP with 13.09%. The least percent of MPPs got by BSP, YSRCP with 0.45% each, followed by CPI (0.9%) and CPI (M) (1.58%). The Independents recorded 5.87% MPPs and the other parties secured 0.45%.

**(v) Winner Votes in MPTC Elections (2001, 2006 And 2014)**

The percentage of winner votes secured by various parties throughout Telangana is analyzed and it has been found that in 2001 elections of MPTCs, INC secured highest winner per cent of 17.27% followed by TDP with 16.40%; while TRS could secure only 9.77% and the least percentage of winner votes was secured by BSP with 0.06%. And in 2006 elections, the INC retained its position of supremacy with 22.39% as against 17.27% which indicates a gain of about 5.12%. The TDP also improved its percentage to 4.21 % making 20.61% during 2001elections. The BSP also retained its position of the least percentage of winner votes with 0.07% with a marginal increase of 0.01%. During the recently concluded MPTC elections (2014) the INC retained its top position with 16.89% for the consecutive 3 elections though the decreased margin was -5.5%. The TDP lost its second position and settled at the third position with 7.40% in these elections. The TRS which was in the third position jumped to second position with 13.50%, steeply increasing the margin of 10.5%. The BSP retained its least position with 0.18% all through these elections. The recently initiated YSRCP settled with 0.86%.

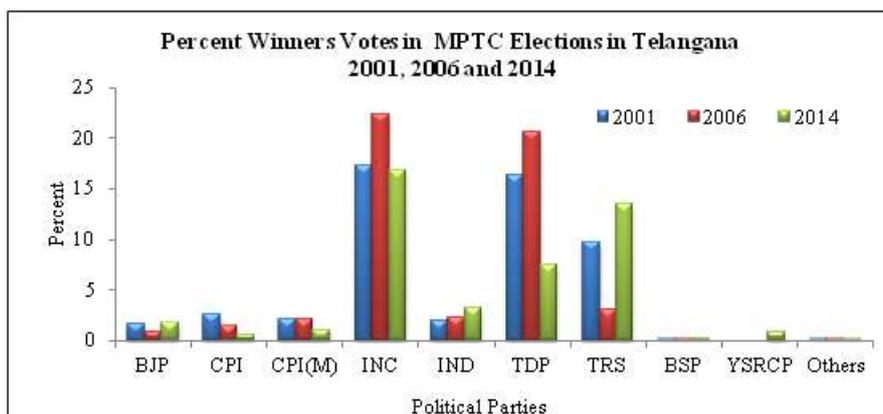
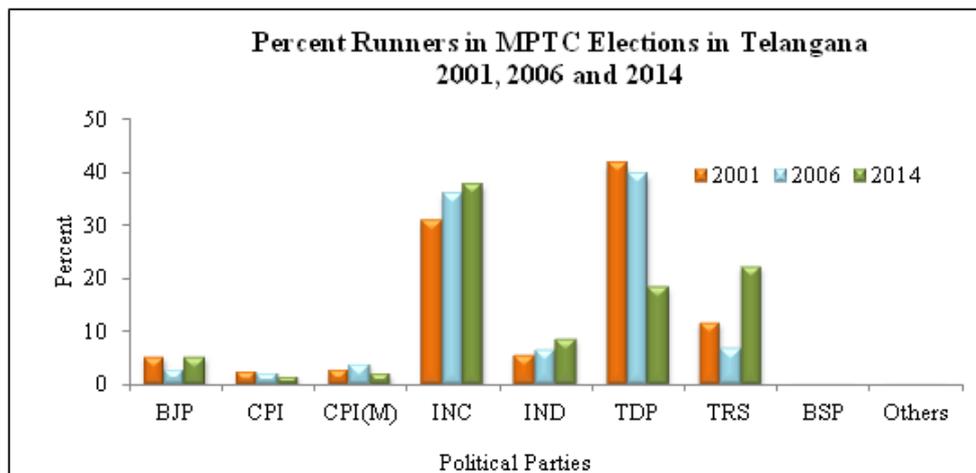


Fig. 11

**(vi) Party Runners in MPTC Elections (2001, 2006 And 2014)**

The percentage of party runners in the years 2001, 2006 and 2014 has shown that the Telugu Desam Party attained the highest percentage of success with 41.68% during 2001 elections and also with 39.68% and during the recently concluded 2014 elections, it is the Indian National Congress which gained the highest per cent of runners with 37.71%. The second highest position is secured by INC during the election years 2001 and 2006 with 28.9% and 35.93% and the TRS in 2014 secured 22.15%. The least per cent of runners are found with the Bahujan Samajwadi Party during all the election years was 0.06, 0.16 & 0.29% having a gradual increase from 2001 to 2014 election years. The other parties put together scored 0.04% in 2001, 0.08% in 2006 and 0.20% in 2014 elections. YSRCP, the newly separated party from the INC during 2014 elections could settle with 1.94 percent of party runners. Likewise the other prominent parties like BJP, CPI and CPI (M) were sheltered with very less percent.

TDP with 7 districts and INC with 2 districts shared the highest and the second highest percent party runner positions in the 2006 elections. It is the same repeated from 2001 elections but with a small variation of declining in one district for TDP and increased one district for INC. Here the TDP's range of minimum of percent party runners is 37.14% in Nalgonda district to the maximum of 44.73% in Medak district, while INC secured the highest of 48.20% in Rangareddy district and 33.83% in Khammam district. Vice-versa is the position for INC and TDP for the the second highest role of percent party runner position. The least per cent of party runners are found mainly in BJP with as many as 5 districts, followed by 3 districts for BSP, 2 districts for CPI and one district for CPI (M). The zero percent is predominantly found in BSP party having 6 districts, followed by CPI (M) in 2 districts and one district in CPI party. Other parties put together also have zero percent in about 6 districts.



*Fig. 12*

**(vii) Spatial Pattern of Socio-Political Participation.**

A Total of 312 samples are collected from selected villages, based on the proportionality of the communities in those villages. The ratio of the samples vary from one community to another and from one village to another and likewise from mandal to mandal. The Mandal is selected as spatial unit for primary data analysis, 133 samples has been collected from Miryalaguda mandal constituting 42.63% to total samples, followed by Nalgonda mandal with 91 (29.17%) and 88 samples from Choutuppal mandal contributing to 28.20%.

The interest in Politics is found the highest in Choutuppal mandal with 99.9%, followed by Miryalaguda mandal 97.74% and Nalgonda mandal 87.91%. But the desire for contesting elections is more in Miryalaguda mandal with 36.09%, followed by Choutuppal mandal 22.48% and the least is in Nalognda mandal 19.78%. The membership in party is the strongest point that makes a person participate in direct politics. Choutuppal mandal has the highest party membership with 45.45%, followed by Miryalaguda manda 39.1% and the least is in Nalgonda mandal 25.27%. The effective political participation parameters is mobilising voters which is the highest in Miryalaguda mandal with 37.59%, followed by Choutuppal mandal 28.72% and the least is in Nalgonda mandal 25.27%. Poster sticking is an effective political participation indicator. Miryalaguda mandal recorded the

highest of 35.34% who are engaged in this actively, followed by Choutuppal mandal 24.98% and the least is in Nalgonda mandal 21.98%

**Table1:** *Percentage of Political Participation in Selected Mandals of Telangana*

<b>Political Participation</b>	<b>Miryalaguda (133 Samples)</b>	<b>Nalgonda (91 Samples)</b>	<b>Choutuppal (88 Samples)</b>
Interest in Politics	97.74	87.91	99.90
Desire for contesting elections	36.09	19.78	22.48
Membership in Parties	39.10	25.27	45.45
Mobilizing Voters	37.59	25.27	28.72
Posters Sticking	35.34	21.98	24.98
Distribution of flags	34.59	18.68	21.23
Distribution of Cassettes	25.56	18.68	21.23
Attending Meetings Rallies	32.33	18.68	21.23
Technology interface (Use of sms,email etc)	27.07	18.68	21.23
Perception of Political Scenario in Telangana	99.25	100.00	100.00
Any other	3.01	1.10	1.25
No as answer	2.26	12.09	13.74
No response	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Source:** *Data compilation from field survey, 2014*

The distribution of Flags and Cassettes is also more in Miryalaguda mandal with 34.59% and 25.56% respectively, followed by Choutuppal mandal 21.23% in both the activities and the least is in Nalgonda mandal. The effective participator must attend meetings and rallies, which is the highest in Miryalaguda mandal with 32.33%, followed by Choutuppal mandal 21.23% and least 18.66% is in Nalgonda mandal. The technology interface means the use of technology like sms, email for motivating and mobilizing voters. The Miryalaguda occupies the first rank with 27.07% using technology interface, followed by Choutuppal with 21.23% and the least is in Nalgonda (18.68%). The perception of present political scenario has almost 100% in all the three mandals. Apart from all these methods, there are other methods like group discussions, voting etc. They all are grouped into the category of any other and people of this category are around 3 per cent in Miryalagudem, around 1 percent each in Nalgonda and Choutuppal mandals respectively. The category of ‘no interest’ in political participation is found with 13.74% of households in Choutuppal mandal, followed by 12.09% in Nalgonda mandal and the least of 2.26% is in Miryalaguda mandal.

The number of times of casting votes to different parties indicates the voting behavior of the households. The voting pattern is analysed on the basis of the number of times of casting votes in their life time. It is noted that the Panchayat Raj elections introduced in 1995 continued in 2001, 2006 and 2014. In MPTC elctions, the INC party secured 49.61% of total 1028 votes, followed by TRS (19.79%), TDP (18.03%), CPI(M) (9.36%), BJP (1.95%), CPI (0.97%) and Other parties achieved 0.29%. In ZPTC elections, INC party got 50.3% out of total 1,016 votes, followed by TRS (19.49%), TDP (17.62%), CPI (M) (9.35%), BJP (1.97%), CPI (0.98%) and others with 0.3% respectively.

**5. CONCLUSION**

The INC and TDP parties’ participation is steadily maintained their contestants in three periods of MPTC elections, but the TRS party participation was more in 2001 and decreased in 2006 because TRS had coalition with INC party. However they rose in participation during 2014 election period. The spatial distribution of MPP’s reveals that, the TRS party achieved maximum number of MPP’s 2014 elections and the INC MPP’s occupied first place in 2006 and TDP was the highest in 2001. The primary data also reveals that, the interest of political participation maximum in Telangana people but it is limited in active political participation. The people from Telangana casted their vote’s maximum time for INC party, followed by TDP and TRS. The shifting voting pattern has been observed in recent MPTC elections, where the maximum percentage of votes achieved by TRS party. Hence the regime of TRS MPP’s has come into exist in recent elections. So that, the mood and temper of micro-political analysis expresses that the same tempo will maintain in higher level elections like MLA and MP.

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