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## THE GEOGRAPHICAL, ARCHAEO-HISTORICAL, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS REFLECTED IN THE PLACE-NAMES OF NALGONDA DISTRICT

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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**M.DASU****ABSTRACT**

A Person is identified by his Name by the Family Members as well as by others. Man lives with his name in his life and even after death the name survives. There is a taboo about the secret name not to be disclosed or made known to others for fear of Sorcery. It may also be mentioned or black magic or ill effect that some people by the spirits and may give the names to which children quite thoughtful. It may be after a god, a hero, character from some fiction while others may imitate them without knowing or understanding any meaning or thought pregnant in the names.

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In this article put an effort to divide into various parts and denote the place-names based on their geographical, archaeo-historical socio-cultural meaning and structural classification vivid description was given in it, A clear cut participation of the place-names would help us in understanding their origin and cultural factors significance to a much extent. However, before going to work such an item it is imperative to hold in mind the fact that the classification of the place-names and their explanation are not as easy as they appear to be on a superficial look. According to H.D. Sankalia while doing a work on classification of place-names based on their meaning. The present section attempts to study the place-names with geographical perspective that might throw light on some of the factors that arc flora and fauna.

Flora was nothing but denoted the features are water sources, like rivers, tanks, canals, lakes, in this way. According to DrY. Balagangadhara Rao who has proved a word regarding the flora feature for instance parru, turru, pudi, padu, generics is majorely influences for the formation and certainty of place-names. Other features in the flora are mountains, hills, ranges, hillocks peaks, based on those indications arc the examples,  
eg.: Neel + giri, Deevara + konda.

There was a difference between the meaning words that were Konda and Giri.

According to Dr.Y. Balagangadhara Rao 'Konda' means a plant name. So that Konda was quite different from the word 'Giri'. Another features in the flora arc trees like pipal three palm tree, Nakkeru tree (in Telugu) Mango tree,  
eg.: Mamillaguda.

Another feature was fauna which was consisting of various animals. They are mentioned in the following section.

eg.: Yaddan+palle.

Gurram + pudi.

Those two pace-names are the examples of the Nalgonda district.

Another example also given in this section of the present work

eg: Ani + Marga

Ani a word means 'an elephant'. According to S.S. Ramachandra Murthy, it was an Administrative unit which mentioned in this article. Other section from this chapter was Achaeo-historical aspect. Archaeological sources are nothing but deals with the insertions.

My area of research was totally based on inscriptional sources. Inscriptions are mostly Temple-Oriented, giving great details about the geography of that Area. Especially location of the Temple and the land donation and also about the donars names of names of villages were simply mentioned but the description of the village has been elaborated. Actually inscriptions were laid by the Kings. On their special occasion like donated to the Brahmins for their worship to save the people in the society. Wherever the King conquers the other country he will lay an inscription as a symbol of triumph A King invaded over a Country then he occupied which was an opportunity. It was an auspicious occasion on me he wanted to laid an inscription symbol for his .winning over a country.

In my research I found a place-name, named after a place called 'Ganapavaram', King, Ganapathi deva was a famous ruler from the Kakatiyas who ruled over the place-called orugallu, 'Ganapavarn' which was place-name named after a great King Ganapathi deva. This place-name during the reign under the Ganapathi deva brought it under his control or it was the symbol for Kakatiyas King Ganapathi deva. Another point from the present chapter of research work dealt with the socio-cultural aspect reflected in the place-names of Nalgonda district from the Ancient times onwards. I gave a lot of description about the society because of that many place-names hold the socio-cultural aspects named alter the place-names.

Society which denoted the caste system and family setup example of the caste based place-names are, Mangalapalle, Annareddy gudem, Kosyapalle, Bhattuvariguda, etc. Other part of the present chapter attempts to study the structural classification of the place-names in Nalgonda district. The aim of this part of the chapter is part of the chapter is to be identify constituent of the place-names of Nalgonda district and to study their inter relationship. As a general rule, all place-names are nouns. A few of them contain a single element and are called simple nouns. But most of the place-names are phrases. They are endocentric constructions having a common noun like, uru, padu, nagaram etc. as the generic.

They generally indicate a habitation. This generic is the head and all other elements, nouns, adjectives etc. are subordinate and attributive to it. So these place-names are noun phrases or nominal compounds. Onomastics being the study of place -names, the inscriptional place - names have seen subjected to analytic exegesis in order to investigate their connotation and significance which can point out to a certain extent the nature and condition of the society. With the result, it has been noticed that every place - name has one or more than one implications which are related to religion history, geography, ethnography, society as well as to flora, fauna and natural resources; such a classification however Arbitrary and unwarranted it may appear will show to some extent the economic and social status of the region. The present chapter attempts to study the place - names with a geography perspective that might throw light on some of the factors that contributed to the geographical life of the Ancient Nalgonda district.

It has been observed that the mainstay of geography was as it has always been Agriculture supplemented by animal husbandry. A large number of place-names denoting varieties of flora, fauna, and vicinity of water and forested, hills are indicative of the Agrarian nature of the society. The study of further reveals that there flourished in the region an industrial economy as well based on large and small scale industries such as fishing, weaving, leather works, ceramics, metallic works, production of salt and minerals etc. Both the agrarian and industrial economy paved way for the uplift of the society.

For the Agrarian economy the chief factor of course, was the flora of different species. Irrigation, forested hills, and domesticated faunal species were auxiliaries of Agriculture. Cultivation of cotton and sugarcane promoted textile and sugar industries respectively. Domestication of animals basically intended for food and forming, provide raw material for leather industry. The place-names denoting all these economic aspects have been dealt with in the sequel. Every place - name has a meaning which if studied scrupulously throws light on the geographical conditions, history and the socio - cultural aspects of the people. In this chapter total emphasize has been made to study the above aspects as reflected in the place - names of Nalgonda district.

### **Geographical Aspects**

A geographical description of the district has already been given in this article is devoted to the study of the influence of the geographical conditions on the place- names of the district. In naming the villages our Ancestors were sometimes guided by the water sources such as streams, tanks etc. The nature and fertility of the soil, the gradientation of the ground, direction (by compass) in which the village is located, location compared to a prominent village and the flora that was abundant in the Area.

**Indicant of water sources**

While dealing with Agrarian economy. The water facilities are also to be taken into on because they point out the volume of Agricultural activities. The inscriptional place - name generics indicating water facilities are:

- 1) Eru, eru, kodu or godu for rivers and rivulets; Parru or kara for river banks or shore<sup>1</sup>.
- 2) Cheruvu, cherala, dorru torru and katta for tanks, dams and embankments<sup>2</sup>.
- 3) Gunta, tataka, maduvu. Nuyu, dona, kolanu, kolli, kuli for ponds and wells and karti for bank of a pond or river or stream

Place – name which such generics were too numerous in Ancient Nalgonda District to mention a few, they are the following.

eg,

Chemvugutta <sup>3</sup>	=	Cheruvu + gutta
Cherlopalli <sup>4</sup>	=	Cheruvu+lo+palli
Gadichcruvu <sup>5</sup>	=	Gadi + cheruvu
Kodeni <sup>6</sup>	=	Kode + uru
Meddlaicheruvu <sup>7</sup>	=	Meddla+cheruvu
Motukuru <sup>8</sup>	=	Mota+kurru
Kohmupaka <sup>9</sup>	=	Kolanu+paka
Kolljpaka <sup>10</sup>	=	Koili+paka
Kahuvachedu <sup>11</sup>	=	Kaluva-i-chcclu

Water is essential for the survival of the human beings as well as the plants and animals. Early civilizations have sprung up besides river beds. People migrated to places where water was abundantly available. The early settlers built their villages in the vicinity or on the banks of streams and finks. The presence of a source of water near a village is reflected in its name in quite a few instances. The specifics of the following village names indicate the presence of tank or a stream in-or near by the village. They are,

eg.:	chera + da <sup>12</sup>	=	cherda
	cheruvu + gutta <sup>13</sup>	=	cheruvugutta
	kode + uru <sup>14</sup>	=	koderu
	utu+kurru <sup>15</sup>	=	utukuru
	Kandu + kurru <sup>16</sup>	=	Kandukuru

The generics of the following place-names indicate the presence of a stream nearby and also the ground level of the village as compared to the water level of the stream.

The genetics pudi

Padu

parru

Kurru are signifying the degrees of the ground level of the villages as compared to the level of the nearby streams. According to the Hypothesis put forth by Dr. Y. Balagangadhara rao. a village with the generic-'pudi' is placed almost on the same level of the stream running very close to the village. A- 'parru' is a little higher in level and Kurru still higher.

This phenomenon is closely visible in the village names of Nalgonda district. Some villages surround a tank or exist close to it. As a matter of fact, almost all the villages have one or more tanks on which the villagers depend for water. Some of the tanks are Man-Made while a few are natural. In Telugu only the bund construction or built for preventing water from flowing away (Thus forming a reservoir) is called cheruvu. The presence of a tank is indicated only in the names of those villages that have come up paw around the natural tanks, the following village names indicate the establishment of the near villages near tanks. They are,

Eg.:

Jalala+puram <sup>17</sup>	=	Jalapuram
Murupu + nuthula <sup>18</sup>	=	Murupunuthula
Venka+revula <sup>19</sup>	=	Venkarevula
Gadi + cheruvu <sup>20</sup>	=	Gadicheruvu
Cherlo + palli <sup>21</sup>	=	Cherlopalli

It must be noted that 'Cherlo + palli' became depopulated and Ceruvu (Ceruvu-tank bund) has been converted into paddy fields. But as long as the place-name lingers in the memory of the people, it reminds the feature generations about the existence of a tank there in the past. A good number of Modern place- names are also of the same nature. A part from place-name indicating vicinity of water, inscriptions refer to irrigation tanks - Cheruvu as boundaries of villages. In these cases the tanks are not-named. Mention of large number of tanks a points to the fact that almost every village had at last one irrigation tank, as is the case today. The shopping land -scope facilitated the farmers to maintain sufficient number of just by erecting huge embankments to prevent the down flow of Monsoon waters. Digging was seldom necessary unless for the improvement of tanks.

**Indicant the nature of the soil and fertility:**

Where some place - names indicate the presence of water sources near the villages; some names indicate the scarcity of water and consequent bareness / of lands. The village name mentioned below indicates the above feature. They are.

eg.:

Dnpally <sup>22</sup>	=	Duwa + pally
Mattepally <sup>23</sup>	=	Malta + pally
Urugonda <sup>24</sup>	=	Uru + gonda
Utukuru <sup>25</sup>	=	Utu + kurru
Chityala <sup>26</sup>	=	Chiti + ala
Indnal <sup>27</sup>	=	Indna+ala
KLirella <sup>28</sup>	=	Kure + ala
Vollala <sup>29</sup>	=	Volla + ala

As some inscriptions reveal 'alamu', 'ali', 'ala', indicates an extent of land left waste and idle outside a village, perhaps for future expansion or for grazing of cattle. Through these alames have vanished the names of the villages tell us about the conditions – prevailing the past.

**Indicant the Gradation of the ground**

The following is a list of pna indicates the ground level of the village in comparison with the surrounding ground level.

Ex.:

Chcruvu + gutta <sup>30</sup>	=	Cehruvugutta
Cherlo + palli	=	Cherlopalli
Jalala + purani	=	Jalalpuram
Kandu + kurru	=	Kandukuru
Kolanu + paka	=	Kolanupaka
Kodu + uru	=	Koduru
Palarla + padu	=	Patarlapadu
Utu + kuru	=	Utukuru

Above noted pns consisting of two units first unit of the pns called specific which the nature of the area. Later unit of the same place name called as generic which explicits Adjectival meaning of the pns. This place-name found in inscription from the Nalgonda district. The specific 'cheruvu' means where water stored certain village the second unit of the place-name as generic 'gutta' means hank In general speak about the nature of the place -names in Indians or Andhra Pradesh place — names must hold a cheruvu for every village, we cannot villages without water sources like cheruvu, pholu, lake, thank etc. kakatiya kings who ruled the Telangana region where they had constructed several artificial lakes in Telugu or Tatak. For the he purpose of supple water to the agriculture fields as well as a drinking water of the people. They made lot of services Lo die people in this regard. During the 15<sup>th</sup> century Kakatiya kingdom yielding from crops was produced more to the state.

Another place- name called as cherlopalli which furnishes the location of the place names. This place-name named, after water sources as a chcruveu. Cherlopalle as an inscripational place-name found in Nalgonda district. Jalalapuram which was found in an inscription of Nalgonda district. Jalala+puram this place-consisted of two units first unit is a specific which denotes the actual meaning of the Area the second unit is a generic which means

where the actual location of the place - name in Nalgonda district generic influences More for the coin of die place-name in present situation in Nalgonda district.

Kandukuru is a place-name which appears to be in an inscription of Nalgonda district. This place name also derived from the joining of a pair words first word. First word explicit the original meaning of the place - name. The second word furnishes present location and change of the certain place - name. Specific and generic is made to expresses the formation roots in location. However this place - name specific meaning is ground level of the place-name. Kandukuru in Telugu means graditented land with stream flows by the Adjoining Pasts this place-name. So that this place - name came in to exist by the influences of water then the land level was very low. In this place-name hold a generic by name 'Uri' of which wil give vivid description under etymological dictionary of place-name generics.

The next place -name is Kolanu + paka. This is also found in an inscription in Nalgonda district this place-name originated through the inscripational source which comes under primary sources. Here is this place-name specifically explicit the 'kolanu' which means in Telugu language lake, cheruvu which is very little amount of water hold in it. In English which means 'pond', which is also the same meaning having of the place - name. This kind of place names existed in Nalgonda district more than 10 place- names.

The place-name which exposes the influences by the water source had during the reign period Kakatiya kings provided a promision to digging the number of 'kolonulu' tatakas, ponds, and lakes for supplying water to the fields or agricultural land, those lakes or tanks erected for the purpose of rendering water supply to drink the people due to lines will led happily later release water to agricultural fields in this place -names holding the generic 'paka'. The discussion will go on the next place - name is 'kondu + Urn'. Konu which is a specific part of the place-name which found in an inscription of Nalgonda District. This place-name land under the reign of western chalukya kings kondu or koday place-name counted under the found category of Nalgonda district. This place name named after small bull by colour it is white these bulls are uses for tilling the agriculture land through that soil will automatically become fertile in other meaning, of this place-name is 'kodu' means a 'Stream' or a flow so that this location of the place-name occurred in low level of the surrounding land or place, After this another place - name called 'patarlapadu' which is also appear to be as two units first unit called as specific or prefix which denotes the nature of the place-name area second units shows is the when the place-name occurred or came up in vogue of present however this generic means the adjectival form of the place- name. 'Patarla' which means here the soil digged by the people or formed by water stream which flows the vicinity of the place-name by book or crook find conclusion come for understanding of the place-name come into existed or how this place name affected arid gave snaps of the land or place was local stream made it strongly as the form of 'Patarala'.

Later paragraph deals with another place - name called Uru+ Konda, which consisted of two units' first one denotes prefix or specific. In this place-names specific is 'Uru' which mentioned in later chapter i.e in etymological dictimory of place-name generics, this has a lot of sources material in different references in Andhra Pradesh as well as in India and abroad. This is inscription place-name in Nalgonda district during the deign period of Kakatiyas in Telengana region. This place - name first unit that is specific plays a crucial role for the indication of certain meaning to decide the correct location. This place-name named after water sources, such sources influences several place-name in Nalgonda district.

This specific 'Uru' occurs in generic place and decide the clear location of the place - name. This place- name research work depending upon the inscripational sources. The above mentioned place-names indicate the ground-level all the village names leaving the generics -pudi, parru, kurru and their variants also indicate the low level of the ground.

#### **Indicant of location**

Some village names indicate the direction by compass, in which the villages are located. In the case of some village names the direction does not refer to the actual direction.

The direction found in the place - name refers to the direction in which it is placed near a prominent town or village place - names indicating direction by compass are:

e.g.:

Anu+mula <sup>31</sup>	=	Anumula
Cherlo + palli <sup>32</sup>	=	Cherlopalli
Gundram+palli <sup>33</sup>	=	Gundrarnpalli



Maddiri + ala <sup>34</sup>	=	Maddiriyala
Matu + uru <sup>35</sup>	=	Maturu
Padamata + palli <sup>36</sup>	=	Padamatapalii

Padamathipalli is located to the West (Padamata = west) of Nalgonda and Anumula to the North – west (Mula : a corner) of Dcvarakonda Jaluq.

Place - names indicating the location compared to a prominent places are

e.g.:

Bhattu + vari + gudem <sup>37</sup>	=	Bhattuvarigudem
Aga + motu + kurru <sup>38</sup>	=	Agamotukurru
Anna + Reddy + gudem <sup>39</sup>	=	Annareddygudem
Bhammu + aliga <sup>40</sup>	=	Bhammerig
Chera + ada <sup>41</sup>	=	Cherda
Koppa + olu <sup>42</sup>	=	Koppolu
Konda + palli <sup>43</sup>	=	Kondapalli
Matte + palli <sup>44</sup>	=	Mattepalli
Mangala + palli <sup>45</sup>	=	Mangalapalli
Muna + godu <sup>46</sup>	=	Munagodu
Nadi + gudem <sup>47</sup>	=	Nadigudem
Patarla + padu <sup>48</sup>	=	Patarlapadu
Sandula + alu <sup>49</sup>	=	Sandulahalu
Tumma + ala + gudem <sup>50</sup>	=	Tummalagudem

#### **Indicant of forest lands**

Names of some places indicate the existence of the village near a forest and that the lands on which the village is constructed were once forests. They are

e.g.:

Tandi + pamu + lanka	=	Tandipamulanka
Tummala + gudem	=	Tummalagudem
Chinta+palli	=	chintapalli
Chikati + Mamidi	=	Chikatimamidi
Maddiri + ala	=	Maddiriyala

Forests and forested hills favour a good Monsoon to which even today the agrarian economy by and large depends. The entire Nalgonda District is noticed interspersed with hills and hill range which about a millennium ago must have been vested with dense forests causing thee by better monsoon. This part, forests also supply timber, fruits, nuts, Medicinal plants. Honey, etc, Inscriptural place -name generics' mat denote Mountains, and hills are

giri	kuru
gonad	Kuruvu
gonrarn	Mala
Konda	Pavata and parvathi
Konra	eg.: tor instance
Konta	Bhongir + Bhoti + giri
Kurraki	Ananlhagiri = Ananlha + giri
Kurru	Dcvarakonda = Devara + kontla
Kurti	Kondapalli = konda + palli
Motakuru	= Motu + kurru
Nadigallu	= Nadi + gallu or kallu gallu
Panugallu	= pannu + gallu
Peddamungal	= Pedda + munu + gallu
Ramadurga	= Rama + durga
Sirikonda	= Siri + konda
Utugonda	= Uru+ gonda or konda

Utukuru = utu + kurru etc

Similarly the gentries<sup>1</sup> that denote forests and wooded region arc

arana,

dadamgotta

Kadu, or kalu

Mranu,

padra,

pula, lottam, and vana or vani

eg.: For in stance

Kaneal = Kan + gal

Maddiriyala = Maddi + rala

Nakerakallu = Nakera + kallu

The above four factors, namely flora, fauna, irrigation or water sources and forests are aureiliary to each other to contribute a substantial agrarian economy.

**Indicants of flora:** The flora of an area depends on the geographical and chinatic conditions of that particular are. It has an important bearing on the economy of the people. There are 15 village names in Nalgonda district that indicate the abundance of a particular species of flora in and around the village. The names of floristic species of economic value that can be adduced from the place-names of Nalgonda district during the period under study are those of

cereals,

legumes,

oilseeds,

species,

sugar cane<sup>51</sup>.

Varieties of vegetables of daily use and trees are plants such as-silk-cotton.

Tamarind

Mango trees

Palmyra trees

date trees

and Jamul<sup>52</sup>

Besides these cultivated varieties, there were also uncultivated trees and plants which had served the purpose of timber,

fire wood,

medicine,

perfume etc.

Only a few examples are given below. They are,

eg:

Chinta+pulli = Chintapalli

Chikati + mamidi = Chikatimamidi

Dosa+padu = Dosapadu

Gogilla + puram = Gogillapuram

Donda + padu = Dondapadu

Malle+palli = Mallepalli

Marnella+guda = Mamellaguda

Maddi+rala = Maddiriyala

Miriyala+guda = Miriyalaguda

Nakeru+kallu = Nakerakallu

Pillala+marri = Pillalamarri

Tangedu+palli = Tangedupalli

Tummala+gudem = Tummalagudem

Tunga+padu = Tungapadu



Tunga+turthi = Tungaturthi

**Indicants of Cereal**<sup>53</sup>

The daily commodities of cereals such as paddy, Maize or Indian corn and Millet are implied in the following - place - names. In certain rural areas of Andhra Pradesh Paddy - seedling is simply called 'AKULU' - (from vari-Akula), if this meaning was relevant in Ancient times 'AKU-ARAM'. May be taken to denote places of Paddy cultivation.

eg.: AKAKAM<sup>54</sup> = AKU+ARAM

**Indicants of Legumes:** Of the leguminous crops the inscriptional place - names testify to Black-gram, and green-gram.

Black-grain (Telugu = Masa)

eg.: Masa +pet = Masapet<sup>55</sup>

**Indicants of spices**<sup>56</sup>: A few names of spices that can be adduced from the place-names are ginger, turmeric, black pepper, and Mustard.

Black pepper Means in Telugu Miriyala Botanical name: Piper nigrum linn.

Miriyala = Miriyalu

Miriva + ala + guda = Miriyalaguda

Black pepper is not a current crop in Andhra Pradesh area. It is unlikely that it was cultivated at any time due to unsuitable weather and soil it is not known how Miriyalaguda got their names after black pepper. Possibly these places must have been connected with pepper trade.

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