

DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION UNDER THE KAKATIYA SUBORDINATE CHIEFS IN TELANGANA REGION –A CASE STUDY ON PAKHALA LAKE

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ABSTRACT

Irrigation is the backbone of agriculture, past and present. This is evident from lot of sources. The Kakatiya period from A.D 1000 to 1323 forms an important phase in political as well as cultural and economic history of Andhradesa. The Kakatiya rulers and their sub-ordinate chiefs etc., greatly improved irrigation and supported agriculture on a large scale. The Kakatiyas were the first to realize that the red and sandy soils of Telangana were extremely fertile and eminently suitable for wet cultivation, its porous character demanded a plentiful supply of water to make it fruitful and yield sufficient grain to feed the people.

The Kakatiya period witnessed more dynamic activity in the construction of irrigational works than the earlier times. During this period, we come across number of epigraphical references to the construction of tanks. The Kakatiyas and their sub-ordinates engaged themselves in construction of tanks, as a result of which almost every village in Andhra including Telangana had at least one tank. The Kakatiyas who have built mighty irrigation projects have developed construction technology to suit to the medieval period. They have utilised the natural topographical features for the location of major irrigation projects. An attempt is made in this paper to study the role played by Malyala sub-ordinate chiefs for the development of agriculture through the construction of Pakhala lake during the Kakatiya period.

KEYWORDS: *Irrigation, Agriculture, Economic History, Soil, Yield, Tanks, Construction, Projects*

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