



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FORUM

(Voice of People)

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Social Democratic Forum

Policy Document

Sacrifices of the youth and unswerving struggle of people for the State of Telangana made everyone jubilant with the formation of the State of Telangana. Birth of Telangana State, kindled aspirations of the people for a democratic and participative governance. Given the available resources in the state, formation of Telangana state meant for everyone, some sort of self-rule and it ignited the ambitions of the youth and Dalits for a decent living, a transparent and speedy growth. But alas, that was not to be case. It was soon realized that the governance in the state and the Union is individualized, authoritarian, pro-rich and their policies are precipitating more and more poverty and unemployment. In the State of Telangana, corruption is rampant and resources are being exploited by the minority of rich class/castes pushing the majority sections of the population to the brink of poverty and marginalization. The core values of the of the Indian Constitution like equity and justice are thrown to the wind. The very pillars of democracy like Equality, Fraternity, justice are totally forgotten and all attempts by democratic forces to revive the principles are not only thwarted but such forces are targeted as enemies by the ruling elite. Atrocities on women and Scheduled Castes and Tribes is continuing unabated. Rapes and sexual exploitation of women by police, torture of suspects and lock up deaths, suicides by frustrated un-employed youth, students and women have turned out to be the order of the day. Begging due to extreme poverty, people without roof, deaths due to denial of medical help, dropouts from schools and colleges etc. is increasing at an alarming rate. There is a need for the democratic forces to gather under one umbrella to question the apathy of the Govts on these issues so that justice is met to the victims on time.

OBJECTIVE OF THE FORUM:

To give voice to the poor and marginalized and protest against the apathy of the Governments on various issues that impacts the lives and dignity of the poor.

Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/sdf4thepeople?s=21> Website link: <https://socialdemocraticfo.wixsite.com/sdf4people>

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MISSION OF THE FORUM:

To ensure that all citizens of the state of Telangana enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution so that they can live with dignity and access all basic necessities of life.

The people of the State of Telangana shall be able to:

- Access free and quality education from KG to PG.
- Access free and quality medical services.
- Realize the right to livelihood and employment.
- Access transparent and corrupt free services from all government departments.
- To ensure that the core constitution values of equity and justice are adhered to in the entire development process and utilization of resources.

FRAME WORK:

Indian Constitution and its values shall be foundational principle to guide the functioning of the forum. All the activities of the forum shall be geared up to see that the Government enforces the core values of the constitution, including the directive principles in its policies, legislation, budget allocation, utilization of resources and ensures the promote socio, economic and political democracy, equality, justice, quality education, quality health and medical services.

IMPORTANT ISSUES BEFORE THE FORUM:

The forum shall address the following issues with a special focus on SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Women and children
4. Violence on SC, ST and Minorities
5. Lands and agriculture issues of the poor and marginalized farmers and farm laborers
6. Livelihoods, unemployment and unorganized workers.
7. Corruption of Politicians and Govt officials.

ORGANIZATION:

- At State level the forum shall have core committee with 20 active members.
- The core committee shall give direction to the forum from time to time.
- The forum shall have a general body with maximum 250 representatives from all 33 districts of the state.
- The core committee shall have Convener and eight co-conveners. These conveners and co-conveners shall be from SC, ST, BC, OC, Minorities.
- The core committee shall collectively take decisions on organizational issues.
- The general body at state level shall have one WhatsApp group for effective communication among the general body. Similarly, the state core committee shall have one WhatsApp group for its effective communication and decision making.
- The forum ensures that it includes active intellectuals, activists from all communities.
- The Convener shall appoint one of the state core committee members as district in-charge for each of the 10 old districts.

- The Convener of the SDF shall be the administrator of the WhatsApp group of the state core committee.
- The forum ensures gender equality and representation by having at least 50% participation.

AT DISTRICT LEVEL:

Each district shall have a general body with five representatives from each mandal. The District general body shall have one active WhatsApp group for effective communication. The state core committee shall designate the district core committee of each of the 10 old districts with one convener and four co-conveners (SC, ST, BC, OC, Minorities). The district core committee shall take directions and advices from the state core committee. Each of the new district shall have at least one representative in the district core committee. The district in-charge shall guide and supervise the activities of all the new districts which are part of the old district. The district in-charge shall be the group administrator of the district SDF WhatsApp group.

MEETINGS:

- Convener of SDF shall designate one of the district conveners after discussing with State Core Committee.
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- The core committees at all levels shall have one web meeting at least once in a fortnight.
- Core committee shall meet online once a week on Friday evening and an offline meeting once a month.
- Core committee shall call for a meeting in case of emergencies.
- General body meetings shall be conducted at least once in six months. The Conveners shall call for web meetings as and when required after taking an opinion from core committee.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. The forum at all levels is expected to function with high democratic values. Decision making shall take place only after discussion and consultation with the entire core committee either through WhatsApp group or in direct meeting. Any decision should be taken after acceptance by at least by 66 % i.e. 2/3 of the committee members.

2. At no level should money be collected for any purpose. This will avoid the selfish elements creeping into the organizational frame work. Any justification for collection of money either in cash or kind will not be/ cannot be entertained. This is non-negotiable.

3. No member shall canvass any of their political interests in SDF's WhatsApp groups and web meetings.

4. No member of the SDF shall use the name of the SDF for the purpose of influencing the Govt officials towards personal work or towards getting some benefits to his/her friends.

5. The state committee and district committees only shall have printed letter pads.