CHAPTER-I
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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Naming a place marks an important turning point in the history of human civilization. As is well known in the remote past man was nomadic and had no permanent dwelling places as such. "It is only with the appearance of settled agriculture as the economic basis of subsistence of group life that we can really start to think of village planning. The transition from hunting to domestication of animals and from food gathering to food production was, indeed a very big change in the process of civilization".

The Formation of villages offered man much more security, comforts, and a promise of abundant food with less risk, groups of families started living in villages. In the days of Panini, the village boundaries were marked by their natural forestification such as forests, thickets (Kathina) rivulets, hills, jungles, and prastara. The peasant cottages with their roofs made of reed and straws (chadishya trina) was the commonest type of house in the village.

Vasatic was the name of the entire settlement. As the villagers were mostly Agriculturists, the area surrounding the village settlement, consisted of arable land (Sitya), pasture (gochara), Plantation of bamboo thickets (Vamsa Kathina) etc. From the mention of reeds like Sara and forests of timber of simsupa, mango etc, It is clear that building materials were available locally and in plenty. It will be seen in the result that in the Andhra Country to the same factors, viz. village boundaries, house building materials etc, played significant role in the naming of places.

Another interesting point about the formation of villages, not only from the point of social history but also for the study of place names is that these were

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1 Amita Ray. Villages Towns And Secular Buildings In Ancient India, P.22
2 Amita Ray. Villages Towns And Secular Buildings In Ancient India, P.22
villages even in the very early period, dominated by people belonging to one or others specific community specializing in some kind or other of the various arts and crabts or trade, or industry, such Professional villages may presumably have grown out of the age old practice of tribes following a particulars profession or occupation forming into one unit and bounding settlement of their own. This is very well reflected in the place names, too, like Mangalapalli, Kosyapalle, Jalalapuaram, etc.

1.1 IMPORTANCE OF THE PLACE NAME STUDY:

A close study of the place names of any given area or place helps us in tracing out the Cultural, Commercial, Social, political, and economic history, and the otherwise unknown Linguistic features of the language of that area. It also guides us in tracing the migration, expansion, and contraction of the people and topographical features of area in study.

Further, the beliefs, superstitions, aesthete sense of the people and many other aspects of human life are, more often than not reflected in the place names.

❖ History ought to be the evolutionary flow of the Ecological world and progressive outlook.

❖ To acknowledge the present ness of the past, i.e., to feel the pulse of the past in the present, it is but natural for every one to dig into history and bring out the hidden truths.

❖ Whether place-names or homonyms are to be understood as functional units or identification marks, one can see an aura of mysterious reality and a hallo of sacredness surrounding them.

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1 Amita Ray. Villages Towns And Secular Buildings In Ancient India, PP.26 ff
“place-names are the fossils of the past and historical mines of nation” as they throw much light on the mental attitudes, the speech habits, the customs and manners of the people.

A great wealth of information lies embedded in the bosom of such name. Even from the point of view of national integration, the study of place-names become very necessary, for it discloses the bond of affinity prevalent among the people of various regions of India, bringing to light many points of cultural and religious contacts. It is possible, with the help of the study of place-names, to unearth the forgotten chapters of the cultural history of India, the reconstruction of which helps the fostering and strengthening of unity and cordiality among the various Ethnic and Linguistic groups. They have been the emblems of rise and fall, and decay of many a people. Some times, the mention of a name itself reveals a mass truth. A place-name is by and large, the voice of the eternal souls; the footprints of the civilization of bygone days; the inviolate record of human history and great inspirer of mankind.

When the original settlers identified topographical feature and settlements, and gave names to them, the world was young, man lived in harmony with nature and its conservation was parts of his ethos. Reverence for life and of every aspect of nature, both animate and inanimate, was also parts of the sacred lore of the man. Today, place-names remain but that which gave them meaning is gone. Gone are water, forest and topsoil. Wild life has declined. Names of places are no longer born out by the degraded state of environment, but remind us of what nature was like when man started reclaiming it.
❖ Ours is pluralistic society, imbued with a deep sense of cultural unity, where every community, no matter how small, has a right to exist with dignity. This right should include the right to retain one's place-names too.

❖ Place-names, as mentioned above reflect the settler's perception of their environment and their relationship to it. The gamut of belief, rituals and other practices is linked with the names, the changing pattern of which also reveals the process of social change.

❖ The study of place-names, which is tool for the understanding of our culture, should be enriched by the application of an inter-disciplinary approach which would help us in understanding the various facets of the culture of our people, their origin and migration routes; their habitants and settlements; their relationship with environment; formation of region and sub-region and the process of inquiry have been conducted, in relative isolation from one another, without ignoring the popular perception of place-names. Infact it appears that in the scramble for restoring places to their historical eminence or classical importance much harm is being done to the Folk Perception and practical use of place-name.

❖ Therefore there is a need for an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of place-names, which does not mean that each participating discipline will cease to exist, but that it will imbibe the insights offered by sister-disciplines to enrich its own perspective.

❖ This study should open up a new visits of research which will help generate a comprehensive profile of our people and their organization of space as also of the cultural linkages that bind our people.

❖ Since India came under the influence of various races in pre-historic times, every race and community carried its place-names wherever it had gone.
This can be seen at the international level. Indians have carried their place-names to south-east Asia. At the National Level, place-names have travelled from north to south as also from south to north. This process is still as work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

❖ The total cultural heritage of our country has to be taken into account in studying place-names, the Austro-Asiatic the Dravidian, the Sanskritic, the Arab-Persian and the colonial English. Layer upon layer have these structures existed; this can be ignored only at the costs of understanding the total fabric.

❖ The second problem at the methodological level, is the interpretation of names, which is based on the rudimentary knowledge of the local Languages and a willingness to free one- self from all biases, particularly the influence of Sanskrit language and also not having constant communion with people in their environment, because they alone can provide their own perspective on names touch it is not easy to get it.

❖ The south has also institutionalised its research experience in the place-names Society of India (Mysore) and plans (Trivendrum) in which we have to day an instrument to distribute, all over the country the impulse that has inspired its research endeavours.

❖ Particularly, Andhra Pradesh pioneered the study of place-names. Dissertations have been written and a course on mastics has been introduced in Nagarjuna University.

❖ The work – hitherto done in this field in Eastern as well as in western countries is omitted in this present chapter, as it was already discussed by the pioneers.
1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON PLACE NAMES STUDY

Here an attempt is made to give a broad Review of literature dealing with the study of place names. Western scholars began making serious attempts to study the place names of their countries from 18th – 19th centuries itself. Work like,” the place names of the isle of Wight, place names of west Lothian by Angus Mecondald, In his works, discusses the etymology and interpretation of west Lothian names which he arranged topographically according to the parish. In the same work he had also included a discussion about the names of rivers streams hills, fields and also of persons. Henry Bradly In his learned Articles, stresses the importance of comparing the existing place name to interpret, our oldest known spelling or it possibly, the two or three earliest spellings to avoid the risk of being misled by some Ancient scribe blunders of course we have to make sure that the name in our early document is that of the right place a precaution often neglected with unfortunate results”.

He further observe that more interesting place names are those that contain traces of Ancient beliefs or superstitions and that many names that now belong to towns or village were originally not names of inhabited places but of some natural or artificial land mark.

Ekwell, In the Introduction to his work OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PLACE NAMES, also emphasizes the importance of comparing that existing place name with its earliest counterpart”. It is the first principle of place name etymology that these must be early name forms on which to found the explanation, “It is common experience that names now identical in born are often shows by that early forms to be totally different in origin”. He classifies place names in the following manner.

1. Folk names or tribal names
2. Habitation names proper i.e. place names which strictly denote the habitation.

3. Place names which denote a defined area of ground, a piece of flat land in a riverbed, an

4. Enclosure or an open place in wood.

5. Original natural names i.e. names denoting rivers streams, ponds bonds, lakes, etc.

6. He enumerates the value of the study, of place names as follows,

7. Place names embody important historical material,

8. They have something to tell about religion and belief,

9. They give important information on antiquities, early Architecture or building material.

10. They indicate early system of defence, look out place and the like

11. They give information on early institutions, social conditions and the like

12. They tell of early industry and they are great value for linguistic study because, they contain many old words not otherwise recorded and they often afford for cashier reference for words than those found in literature.

All scholars from England namely Walter William, Skeat, in his published work “The place names of Cambridgeshire” (1901), made a beginning on Local nomenclature. This Interest of the scholars also led to founding of “place name society by Skeat and Bradly with Sir Allen Mewar under the Patronage of British academy in 1923 A.D.

This example of British was followed by other countries like, Noreen in Sweden, Horseman in Germany, Rygh in Norway, Skeat in England, And longnon in Frames etc. In 1951 A.D American name society was started which published a quarterly magazine namely ‘Names’ publishing the tem current work
on place-name studies. It should be noted that these is difference between scholars of Europe and American when they study place names. While European Scholars study etymology, history and linguistics, America scholars stress on Modern place-names emphasizing current usages. The forgoing detailed account of the research work done bye foreign scholars in the field of the study of place names foreign scholars in the field of the study of place names unfolds the laborious task that they had taken up and how fully they were rewarded. Many of the conclusions, Such as about the classification of place names the way of naming the places in early times etc., have been arrived at after a careful study and hold even in the case of Indian place names. This is a clear pointer to the Commonness in the growth of human civilization.

The work done bye Indian Scholars in the field of Indian place name study will be received in the following pages. V.S Agrwwala in his learned article, Geographicale data in panini's Astadhyayi, gives an account of panini's approach to and analysis of the study of place names the most important contributions of the Astadhyayi to the history of ancient India is its geographical information.

The country its mountains and oceans, forests and rivers, natural and geographical discussions (Janapadas), towns and villages have their share of attention in the shape of the linguistic material dealt with by panini. It is here that the grammarian can be credited with having created his own Material in a very real sense by undertaking an original study of the place-names in the vast area of the country from North – Western Frontiers to Magadha.

Further, the author of the Article thus introduces the analysis of the place-names as made by panini to us, “The analysis which panini gives us of the undertaking meanings which relate place-names to human society, shows

1 Journal of united Provinces Historical Society, Vol.XVI (1943), pp.10 ff
2 Journal of united Provinces Historical Society, Vol.XVI (1943), pp.10 ff
conclusively that place-names do not originate by mere accident, but are the outcome of social and historical conditions with which a community is intimately connected.

These factors obtain occurrence in the language through the symbol of place-names an etymological approach to the place-names of a country therefore introduce us to a many forgotten things of history and ethnography, In any future survey of Indian place-names the most valuable things would be that contributed by panini and the principles of geographical nomenclature enunciate by him would offer reliable Scientific data. Then the author proceeds to show us the classification of place-names as attempted by panini “Besides the list of endings to place-names noted’ by panini the scheme of his geography conceived in relation to language based on some definite and clear principles For Example, most of the names of towns and villages result from one more feature enumerated in sutras VI 2.57-70, viz.,-that

This is found these

1. The place was founded by such and such a passion

2. The place was the abode of such a person or community and the place located in proximity to a know object ; these together being commonly know as Chaturartika. They these are the names of famous places derivative forms of which are adopted as part of personal names to indicate that the place had been the abode of ones ancestors (Abhijana, IV .3.89) .or ones own residence (Nivasa IV.3.89)

Besides above there may be a post of other relationship between a place and an object example a thing may be imported from a particular place

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and therefore named accordingly as the “Battavia Fruit” (big size orange fruit) of Battavia called battaikaya (in Telugu) A fruit of Battavia place knows Battaiakaya since these Verities of meanings were found to be too varied a character to determined individually panini has classified such cases under the general titled shaishika dealt with in sutra IV.2-92-145. The majority of instances of place name ending are found under this context.

Other type of geographical names is represented in the Astadyayi as regions or zones of population (Vishaya, IV.2-52-54) eg. The Area occupied by the sibi tribe, or more properly within the sphere of sibis was known as saiba and that of the apitas (Afridis) as Apitaka... This in short enumerates panini's Scientific classification of places names on the basis of the linguistic Principles under lying their formation. Name of rivers forest and Mountains are noticed not in connection with any social or historical significance but has examples of linguistic peculiarity, such as Vowel lengthening (IV.3.117-120) or Cerebralization (VIII.4.4-5)1. The above intensive quotation from Agrawala's Articles shows how systematically the problem of place names was dealt with by the father of Indian grammar. During the subsequent centuries no research work with regard to the Study of place names was taken up by Indian scholars. As early as in the end of the 19th Century it self some attempts were made to study Bengali Place names Sunith Kumar Chetterjee. Enlightens us about individual attempts made by scholars to interpret Bengali Place names he himself has discussed the origin and developments of Bengali Place names2.

Krishna pada Goswami has followed up this study in great defaid3 setupillai had discussed some aspects of the modern south Indian place names in the annals of oriental research.4 a linguistic study of Gujarati place names was

2 The Origin and development of Bengali Language, pp.64ff.179ff
3 Journal of Dept. of letters, Calcutta, 1943, PP-1-70.
attempted by two scholars in the years (1942-43). H.D. Sankalia dealt with Gujarati place names at length in his scholarly work, studies in the historical and cultural geography and ethnography of Gujarat (1949) he stresses the importance of comparing modern place names with their ancient counterparts by observing: “When a modern name is examined merely from a linguistic point of view, its real historical evolution cannot be satisfactorily traced, for we have no known ancient data to compare with. It is therefore, of prime importance that a given name must be identified with certainty, not merely on the ground of similarity of names, but with respect to its position as mentioned in an ancient record. After this identification is obtained, the names should be studied by a historian and a student of linguistics. There only full justice can be done to the subject.

R.C. Hirmath has attempted a study of linguistic and cultural aspects of about 200 place names in Karnataka covering the districts of Dharwar, Bijapur and Belgium a part from the above important works with regard to the study of place names in India, we come across occasional individual attempts too.

In 1879 A.D. Branfill. R.B. Studied the place names of Tanjore from etymological and linguistic angles and published a book namely “on the names of places in Tanjore”. the other important study is B.C. Law’s historical geography of ancient India. He was followed by Nandulal Dev and D.C. Sircar, and Prof. T.R. Sharma’s made a systematic study of personal and geographical names in the Gupta inscriptions in Maharashtra work on place names was done by scholars

2. H.D. Sankalia, op.cit, pp7ff
4. for example, Ind.Ant; Vol XLVIII, pp i-xi, Vol. IX,pp 194ff
5. R.B.Branfil,” on the names of places in Janjore,” in JLs, 1879 p 43-92
7. Nandulal Dey, GDAMI, Delhi, 1971
like sumatimulay, Mahendale Y.S.¹ etc. Masti Venkatesh Iyengar² studied place names from folk tradition⁸.

J.K. Joseph studied the place names of both Kerala and Karnataka³. Nachimuthu⁴ studied place names with regard to chronology words phonetic changes and subtires. T. Laxmana pillai Travencore⁵ suggests that in Kerala in early 19th century it self place names study started.

K.P. Padmanabam Menon⁶ Pisharody, P. Rama, K, Achutamenon were important scholars on place name studies in Kerala; K.M George studied south Indian Place names.

Coming to the studies made in the field of place names it may be observed that the importance of the study of place names in very well realised and a scholar has gone further ahead to plead for the formation of an Indian place name society. Kanduri Iswardatt, while pleading for starting such a society in 1945, itself, made the following observation.

"The study of place names is a neglected part of Indian History and our country has yet to cultivate its research except for an occasional mention of the derivation of the place names and their history in the course of their vast writings on this subject, Indian historians have not made any serious study on the subject like wise it is respectably urged that a place name society for India may be started under the auspices of the Indian history congress and the scholars from the

⁶ K.P. Padmanaba menon, Discursive notes on malabar and its place names, IA, Vol. Xxxi, 1902, 338-49
linguistic areas may be selected for making a study of the same. Best results will be obtained by the collaboration of those skilled in many branches of knowledge, languages in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, ancient Indian history, archaeology, Topography etc.¹

An attempt was made to study place names in 1937 itself when Chilkuri Narayana Rao discussed the etymology and interpretation of some of the Telugu place names in the Ananthapur district.¹ but many conclusions, especially regarding the etymology of the Telugu place names, arrived at by this author, are subject to verification. A serious attempt to study Telugu place names was made in the years 1944-1945 by A.S. Tyagaraju who rightly took inscriptions as the main source material.² Though he confessed that the study of Telugu place names is a considerable difficult task it must be admitted that he made welcome study of the subject he had taken up. In the paper he dealt with some of the important aspects of the place names such as sanskritization of Dravidian place names, the prefix and suffix parts of a place names and etymology and distribution of place name endings.

He noticed about 100 place name sub tribes and discussed a few of them individually Caldwell,² G.J. Somayaji,³ S. Ramakrishna Sastri,⁴ and Divakarla Venkatavadham,⁵ are among the scholars who had stressed upon the importance of the study of place names in general and of Telugu place names in particular. Nayani Krishna Krmari has tried to interpret some of the Telugu place names in her short article published in Bharati.⁶

² A Comparative grammar of the dravidain langagest (1875)
³ Andhra bhasha vikasamu (1947), Telugu pp 104.107
⁴ A complete history of telugu literature, Vol.1 (Telugu)(1957)
⁶ Bharati, 1957, February, 99 43ff
K. Mahadeva Sastri, in his work a historical grammar of Telugu discussed the various linguistic changes which occurred in the place names from time to time. B. Radha Krishna has merely given a list of 45 subtires of Telugu place names found in the early inscriptions without discussion the history of those subtixes.  

Ketu Viswantha Reddy classified Telugu place name sufficiency into eight types and tried to interpret some of the subtires. A monumental project of compiling and encyclopaedia of the history and geography of Andhra country has been taken up recently under the editorship of Khadavalli Lakshminiranjananam and two volumes in this series have already seen the light of day.  

K Rama Chandra Reddy worked on place names of Nellore. S.S. Rama Chandramurthy studied the Telugu place names from 3rd century B.C. to 13th century A.D. taking inscriptions as the main source. Prasada Bhupaludu extensively studied the suffers of Telugu place names. a lot of research work has been under taken by many students in this field. We can look forward to have extensive standard literature on place names with in a few years.

In the Nagarjuna University there are a number of works carried out under the supervision of Dr. Y. Balaganagdhara Rao in this field like onamastics. They worked in the linguistically angle some works are as follows:

1. Dr. D. Krishna, Place names of Divitaluk (Krishna District) Detective 1986, for Ph.D.

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1 Early Telugu inscriptions (1971) p. C.III
2 Sri Venkateswara university oriental journal, Vol ix, pts 1 & 2 (1966)
4 S.S. Rama Chandra Murthy, STPN, Delhi, 1985.
2. Dr. P Rajyasree, Gudivada Taluk place names, (Krishna District) 1987, for Ph.D.

3. Dr. P Nagamallesvara rao, Ongole Taluk place names (Prakasam district) in 1988 for Ph.D.

4. Dr. J. Balaganagadharam, Vijayanagaram district place names in 1989 for Ph.D.

5. Sri. R. Paparao, Mangalagiri taluk place names in 1984, for M.Phil.

6. Sri. A. Lovaraju, Jallarevu mandalam place names in 1987, (East Godavari district) for M.Phil Degree.

7. Sri. C. Tirupathaiah, Chilakaluripeta mandal place names, in Guntur district, 1989, for M.Phil.

8. Dr. B.V. Leela Rani, Vijayawada taluk place names (Krishna District), for Ph.D


Dr. Y. Balagangadha Rao has also guided scholars in the field of family names, which is a branch of ‘onomastics’ they include:

1. Dr. Ch. Dasaiah Chowdary, the family names in Santamaguluru samithi for Ph.D.

2. Mrs. B. V. Leela Rani, family names of Brahnuins in Gannavaram Taluk, for M.Phil.
3. Mrs. J. Suseela, Family names of Kamman in Gannavaram mandal for M.Phil.

Place name society of India was started in Mysore in 1978 under the presidency of Devagonda and Devaregonda was the vice-president. Its services to the study of place names are commendable. It publishes a monthly magazine “ONOMA” which contains articles in place name study, its nature and scope. The place name study received the attention of UNESCO which setup an international committee of onomastic studies” whose center is located at Lovian in Belgium. The purpose of this center is to help exchange of news among the scholars of the subject. One of the achievements of the centre is the publication of bulletin giving details of work done in different countries in the world.

1.3 NEED FOR THE STUDY :

Study of place – names is an important area of research in social sciences. It is essential to know the past territories or regions. From the beginning of settled life, many villages came into assistance under different files. Hence studying of place names of the past assumed importance, many works have been attempted on this aspect. As far as the place – names in Nalgonda district. Are concerned, no serious study has been done in Nalgonda district. In this study, an attempt will be made to look into deep historicity of the periods. Of course some studies have been based on language and its grammatical mechanism but historicity was not mentioned up to the extent of memorization. Like that personal – name just mentioned but not gave detailed and how far influences to form the place – names have not worked in anywhere in the world. Actually personal – names helps to form the place – names in common. So that those two are inter dependable will not separable. For that purpose must work on top on my as well as Anthroponomy.
1.4 AREA OF STUDY:

The present study purports to explore the process of attribution and change of place names over a period of time in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh. The study of place names is an essential link in reconstructing history of any place. Since the study of place names in Nalgonda district, is relatively in explored, the present study attempts to fill in the gap.

The district derived its name from Nalgonda its head quarters town which was formerly known as Neelgiri (Blue hill). It was called Nalgonda after its conquest by Ala-Udin-Bahmanshah (A.D.1347-1358) towards the close of his reign it is bonded on the north by Medak and Warangal districts. On the South by Guntur and partly by Mahabubnagar districts, on the east by Khammam and Krishna Districts, and on the west by Hyderabad and Mahabubnagar districts. According to the censuses of 2001, the district with the population of 35,74,946 ranks fourteenth in the state accounting for 12.38 percent of total population in the state in respect of area. It takes the fifteenth place with an area of 18,223 square K.Ms. which accounts for 10.18% of the total area, of the state. The district at present comprises seven taluks, namely, Nalgonda, Bhongir, Deverakonda, Huzurnagar, Miryalaguda, Ramannapet and Suryapet. Among these, the taluk of Deverakonda is the largest, while the taluk of Bhongir is the smallest. The taluk of Nalgonda, however is the most populations while that of Ramannapet is the least peopled.

Nalgonda district was not a homogenous administrative unit in the past and its component parts were under the control of various dynastic at different periods of time, namely, the Satavahanas, Ikshvakus, Pallavas, Vishnukundins,
Eastern Chalukyas, Rastrakutas, Chalukyas of Kalyani Yadavas of Devairi, Kakatiyas, Musumuri chiefs of Warangal, Recherla of Rachakonda and Deverakonda, Bahman's, Qutoshah's Mughals and Asaf jains.

Nalgonda district originally formed part of Warangal Subah and was transferred in 1905 to Medak Subah with 5 tanks, namely Nalgonda, Bhongir, Suryapet, Devulapalle and Devarakonda. In the same year the district gained two taluks of cherial and Kodad from Warangal district but the name of Kodad taluk changed to Pochemcherla. With the addition of these two taluks in 1905, the district witnessed many changes in its territorial composition, a number of villages were added to cherial from Wardhanpet taluk of Warangal district and the head quarters of the taluk was shifted to Jangoan. The name of the taluk of Devulapalle was changed to Miryalaguda a new taluk named Huzurnagar was formed out of Khammam, Suryapet and Miryalaguda taluks. Till 1950 the district did not undergo any further changes except the creation of a new taluk named Ramannapet by the transfer of 120 villages from Bhongir taluk. In the same year, Bhongir taluk lost 9 villages to Medchal taluk of Hyderabad district and 5 villages to Gajwel taluk of Medak district. But it gained only village from Siddipet taluk. 3 villages from Ibrahimpatnam taluk of Hyderabad district 14 villages from Medchel taluk and 16 villages from Hyderabad east taluk. During the decade 1951 to 1961 the district underwent certain territorial changes. It lost the taluk of Jangam to Warangal district in 1953 on the eve of the formation of Khammam district and in 1958 the (un inhabited) village of Hafeezpuram was transferred from Ramannapet taluk in the district to Ibrahimpatnam of Hyderabad district. Against this loss in territory, the district gained in 1958, Madnapur village in Kalvakurthi taluk of Mahabubnagar district as well as the Munagala Paragana comprising 23 villages from Krishna District on account of its transfer to Huzurnagar taluk in 1959. The district also gained in the same year, an area of 5 square K.Ms. from planed taluk which on account of its continuity was added
to Miryalaguda taluk mainly for use in connection with the construction of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project.
PEOPLE AND LANGUAGES:

This major chunk of population in this district are Hindus, followed distantly by Muslims and Christians. Nalgonda is eminently anilingual with 905 of its people speaking Telugu in its own dialect. Other languages are Urdu, Lambada, Yerukula, Hindi, Netakani Gondi and Vaddari.

The district holds out much attraction to immigrants owing to the construction of the mighty Nagarjuna Sagar Project which provides employment to a huge labour force. According to the 2001 census 215,914 persons representing 14.36% of the total population of the district who were born in other districts of the state had immigrated into this district. 24,393 persons form other states and 669 persons from outside India have also immigrated into this district. The indigenous character of the population is demonstrated by the fact that 20,86,369 people representing 96.45% of the population of the district were born in the very places of their enumeration, while 6,99,989 representing 50.40% were born outside the places of their enumeration but within the district. Even in the Meagre residual immigrant population (1,15,914) women.

THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT:

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CLIMATE:

The Climate of the district is characterised by a hot summer and general dryness except during the South-West. Monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to mid-Feb is followed by the summer season which continues up to about the first week of June. June to September is the South-West Monsoon season. October and November constitute the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

RAINFALL:

Records of rainfall in the district are available for only four stations for periods ranging from 30 to 85 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district. The average annual rainfall in the district is 711.3 mm. (28.00"). The rainfall in the district in general increases from South-West monsoon monthly i.e., June to September, constitutes about 71 percent of the annual rainfall. September is the rainiest month.

There is some rainfall during the summer and post monsoon months and it is mainly in the form of Thunder showers. The variation in the annual rainfall in the district from year to year is large. During the 50 years period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall in the district amounting to 211 percent of the normal of the normal in 5 years none of them being consecutive. Considering the rainfall at the individual stations, stow consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred twice at Nalgonda during the same 50 years period. On an average
there are 46 rainy days (i.e., days with rainfall of 25 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number is more or less uniform over the district, varying from 45 at Nagaram and Suryapet to 49 at Bhongir. The heaviest rainfall 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 204.7 mm. at Nalgonda on the 27th of August, 1949.

**TEMPERATURE:**

There is no Meteorological observatory in the district. The account which follows is based on the records of the observatories in the neighbouring districts where similar Meteorological conditions prevail, after being both day and night temperatures increase rapidly may is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 40°C (104°F).

And the mean daily minimum at about 28°C (82.4°F). The day temperature may occasionally exceed 45°C (113.0°F) during may or June prior to the onset of the monsoon. The heat during summer is oppressive. Afternoon thunder showers which occur on some days bring welcome, though passing relief. With the onset of the South-West monsoon by about the second week of June the day Temperature drops appreciably.

After the withdrawal of the monsoon by about the beginning of October there is a slight increase in day temperature. But the night temperatures decrease rapidly. December is the coldest month, with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 30°C (86°F) on some days in the cold season, night temperature may drop down to about 10°C (50.0°F).
HUMIDITY:

During the South-West monsoon season, the relative humidity is generally high. Humidity decreases from the post-monsoon period. The driest part of the year is the summer season when relative humidities in the afternoons are of the order of 35 percent.

CLOUDINESS:

During the South-West monsoon season, the skies are mostly heavily clouded in the rest of the year.

GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES:

The rock formations in the district comprise the peninsular granite complex with inliers of hornblende and epidiorite schists that occupy a major portion of the district. Basic dolerites and epidiorite dytes and quartz veins occur in crowded groups in the granites terrain. In the Southern part of the district along with the Krishna, sedimentary rocks of the Purana group consisting of quartzites, Shales and lime stones are exposed.

The geological succession from the oldest to the youngest group of rocks is as follows:

1. Dharwass: Hornblende schists, banded haematite, quartzites and ferruginous schists.
3. Dolerite dykes
4. Purana sediments
5. Recent and soil
Nalgonda district was geologically surveyed on half inch maps by Dr. Heron, S.K. Mukherjee and Syed Kazim of the erstwhile Hyderabad Government in different areas during the faslis from 1346 to 1348 (1936-38).

Ore note worthy feature of Nalgonda Plateau is that there are two aspects in its topography and sceneries depending on the granitic or sedimentary routine of the rocks. In the granitic region, the country is practically barren of vegetation and only shrub growth is noticed. In contrast, the sedimentary region which has a gradual slope to the south towards the Krishna that separates the district from Guntur district supports long stretches a jungle. The Krishna forms many sharp loops but has a general eastward flow. The belt of country along the river composed of sedimentary formation of Shales and limestones forms a plateau with an elevation of 61 metres. Beyond this the peninsular granites form underlaying plains traversed by ranges with a general North-West to South East trend. The sandy plains in between are interspersed by smaller, smooth, dome shaped knolls or isolated hills. Sometimes the granites weather into boulders forming tors.

Several large dytes traverse country often forming long ridges with a North-South or East-West trend. The topography is of the relict type and is naturally controlled by the hardness and resistance to weathering of the different rock types Flora, Forests and fauna.

**FLORA:**

The Flora of Nalgonda district is very poor when compared to other districts in the State. The forests, which in other regions are the great repository of flora, have been persistently cut back to the bare and bouldery outcrops of rocks by man and his agencies. the inhospitable sites with little or no top-soil afford for the most part and extremely precarious hold to the more hardly species which can withstand the depredations of man, cattle and extremely dry climate.
The main hill ranges that enter the district from the adjoining districts of Mahabubnagar and Hyderabad March in a South-Eastern direction in a series of low granitic and boundary hills that gradually come to a half way through the area. These hills for the most part consist of huge granite boulders placed one above the other which is a typical and common sight of the Deccan landscape. Occasionally, huge boulders like those of Bhongir are found scattered here and there sheet rock is a common sight of the feature of these hills which contribute all the building materials and fence posts of the district to a great extent. Such outcrops do not support anything bigger than algae (which stain rocks green) or byophyte etc., which come up with the rains and then dry off with the ensuing dry season. Wherever some soil still clings to the sheet rock, grasses notably cynodrom dactylon cling to it and help to keep the soil from being washed away completely.

Even these patches are sometimes not spared by the depredations of the ubiquitous goat wherever it can manage to negotiate the awesome slopes. Cleavages and crevices in these monolithic rocks are filled up by Ficus repans and other epiphytic species which help in the process of breaking up the rocks and their eventual disintegration. In between the granitic hills one comes across outcrops of basalt boulders tumbling, as it were, one after another in small thin ridges that stand out in sharp contrast to the pink and grey dull granites that dominate the general landscape. A midst these basaltic boulders, little or no vegetation is to be found perhaps due to lack of soil consequent on the slow disintegration of the rock itself. The only flora that can be expected are some hardy fungi and moulds.

The rest of the country side outside a dry underrating landscape with sudden small outcrops of granite or basalt, which is for the most part bereft of tree growth and supports a more Xerophytes flora. It is divided into fields of dry crops on the uplands like Jowar (Sorghum Vulgaris), Bajra (Pennisetum...
Typholdes), groundnut (Arachis hypogea) Castor (Ricinus communis) and some pulses. In between the uplands one comes across depressions caused by numerous Nalas that drain the areas into the main tributaries of the river Krishna, like the Musi, Dindi and Hallia. Often, these streams are bunded to form small tanks, under the anacut of which wet crops like paddy (Oryzas activa) is sown. Along these wet fields and depressions. One comes across green patches of mesophytic type of flora like typha angustata and cyperus of rotundus in the swamps caused by the stagnant water and large trees of mango (Mangifera indica), which are often planted, and phonetic sylvestris and a number of grasses along water courses. The large seized solitary trees Mohwa (Madhuca latifolia), tanarind (Tamarindus Indica) and Mango that stand isolated and scattered in the fields bear silent witness to the capacity of the land, it left to itself.

Besides the physical features of the district, the climate plays a major rote in its floristic composition and distribution of the floral types. The rainfall of the district can be described as meagre, not exceeding 712 mm. per annum on the average. Further the precipitation is from the South West monsoon. Little or no rain falls during the North-East monsoon. The mean annual temperature ranges between 28°C. thus the climate of the district can be described as hot and dry. As a consequence, the Horistic pattern is Xerophytic supporting only dry species like Salvadora, Euphorbia, thorny scrubs and dry grasses over the major part of the district. The tree growth is also not very high or luxuriant even in the forests except in isolated pockets and valleys wherever edaphic factors are suitable.

Another drawback from which the district suffers is the lack of systematic study and published accounts of the flora of the district. No doubt, as far as the forests are concerned this has been thoroughly covered in the working plans prepared by the Forest Department, but it does not suffice where Flora outside the reserved forests are concerned.
Forests:

The forests of Nalgonda district comprise more or less the administrative forest division of Nalgonda. The total area of the legally constituted forest blocks (138 in number) in the division is 1,04,806 hectares which is about seven percent of the total area of the revenue district. When compared to the minimum percentage of forests, i.e., 33.1/3 percent prescribed by the National Forest Policy of 1952, the forests of the district fall far short of the target. The district lags behind the other districts in the state, the state average being 24 percent. The area under forests in the district is divided into 38 blocks which vary from a mere 17.80 hectares to 30,736.30 hectares. A large number is in the small block category and surrounded by cultivation and habitations. This feature posed problems of not only scientific and economic management but also of their preservation itself. The existence of such small units in isolated pockets may ultimately lead to barrenness in course of time. Most of the forests in the district worth the name are left in two or three taluks, namely, Devarakonda, Miryalaguda and Romannapet. In the other taluks, i.e., Huzurnagar, Suryapet, Nalgonda and Bhongir, they are either absent or negligible. This imbalance is also a contributing factor to the general common. The works of the pioneers in the field of Toponymy in western countries, viz., western countries were given birth to many new sciences. Those sciences are fulfilled the needs of people who were living in entire world. In the same way onomastics was Louvain university as a centre for establishment of permanent place name society of Belgium in 1949 Century A.D. It publishes a monthly Magazine called 'ONOMA'.

On onomastics 16th international conference held in Canada in which Dr. Y. Balagangadhara Rao presented a paper entitled, "the Krishna river influence on naming places." It reflects on western scholars works of place name studies in this area. Those were inspired alot regarding place name research. Another international conference was also conducted in same place there. It was
17th one session in which Dr. Y. Balgandadhara Rao submitted a paper entitled 'Surnames of Telugu people.' That paper exhibit two things first one is to understand ancient Indian society along with the understanding of history was how hidden in surnames.

Besides the studies made by eminent scholars in the field throughout India, some important studies are made in this field in the form of dissertations and theses submitted to various universities. Nagarjuna University has been a pioneer in this field. Under the able and scholarly direction of Dr. Y. Balagangadhara Rao, a number of works are being produced in the field of toponymy in this University.

All the above mentioned scholars have received either Doctoral or M.Phil Degrees. Some more scholars under his guidance working on the other areas are in different stages of research. Besides Mrs. G. Ravina was awarded M.Phil., for her research on the place names of Guntur Town.

A study of place names of Warangal District is being carried out in the Kakatiya University by Sri T. Someswara Sarma. It is learnt that a study of the place names of Adilabad, Khammam, Medak and West Godavari Districts is in progress indifferent universities. Theses on the place names Cuddapah and Chittoor have been published. The place-names Society of India under the inspiring guidance of its former President Prof. D. Javare Gowda and the present President Dr. K.V. Ramesh has produced a number of scholarly papers on the subject.

Inspite of all the studies made so far in this field of toponymy, there is still much to be done. Every place name in India is to be scientifically studied in a multi-disciplinary perspective.
The problems faced by the researcher are many and varied. The list of problems start right from preparing a comprehensive list of place-names of the area under study. The lists available with the revenue authorities are not up-to-date. Since a number of factors like geographical, historical, social, cultural, etc., contribute in naming a place, the scholar has to visit each and every place for ascertaining the reasons that contributed to the naming of the place. This involves a lot of money and time. The people of the place from whom a lot of information can be elicited are not always very co-operative. The scholar should have much patience and tact to extract the information from them. With all the above and many more problems not withstanding, the satisfaction one derives after the complication of the job is boundless.

In the present thesis, a modest attempt is made to study the place names of Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh.

1.5 METHOD OF PLACE-NAME STUDY

In this research "On place names in the Nalgonda District", mainly two kinds of sources are followed they are primary sources which include inscriptive and numismatics sources, along with the material collected by oral sources during my field work. 2. Secondary sources – which contain basically literary works based on the factual information. The above said primary sources collected in different ways along this field work will go a long way to produce an authentic information on particular event or aspect. Inscriptional sources play a major role as we can find the place names in the inscriptions and also changes taking place form time to time. In the same way, historical coins also reveal many place names. On the basis of the information on the coins, we can know the place names and ensuring changes.
During the field study our primary objective remained to find out on the spot the correct vernacular form of all the names of places, through personal enquiry.

All proper names were originally derived from words or sounds having a meaning. But of time and the long continued wear and tear of familiar use have rubbed off the corners that were rough to the tongue and have run together the liquid parts that most easily coalesced. With the original form the meaning has also been lost, and it is generally very difficult, often impossible, to discover them. Still local circumstances and traditions occasionally point to the true etymology when the original form may be approximately reconstructed or fairly guessed at. But there is an impression that the tradition itself has often been invented to account for the names. Hence it cannot be assumed that the names given here and their etymology and traditional explanation as given by the village elders to the questions asked. Their answers were some times contradictory, some declaring that name had not root meaning, whatever, nor even forefathers had used from the very beginning, whilst others were quick in giving a ready-made derivation or explanation of which several were frequently forthcoming for the same name. Only a few here and there offered a reasonable origin, explaining the gradual corruptions and contradictions that the name in question had undergone, and appealing to the authority of existing or well-known facts, or to history that could be consulted for confirmation. These were perhaps the modern instances upon which also further light has to be shed from the Sanskrit name of the village, Temple or name of the local deity to whom its chief shrine was dedicated, as told in the Sthalapurana – or local histories written by scholars.
1.6 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1. The objective of study is to the place names of Nalgonda district.

2. To study and bring out the factor that included in naming the place names

3. To clarify the place names of Nalgonda district into different generics.

4. To try and see whether the names have undergone transformation from one stage to another and what factors responsible for such a change.

5. To try and see by identifying the place names formed based on persons of various status groups and in the processes how different professional groups either improved by the naming place names of certain menial classes is based on segregation.

6. Whether by the naming place names of certain menial classes is based on segregation.

7. To try and see whether the religions movements cultural expressions have any role to play in naming of the place names.

8. To find out if this micro study made on Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh has any variation in respective the general pattern noticed with other places of other districts, other states, and other countries.

1.7 NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT:

In this work, emphasis is laid on the study of names which in itself sets an altogether different view of the history. In other words, we can say that this is nothing but taking away history from kings and capitals to common men and villages. Through this we come to know how men named themselves and their
settlements marks a distinction in the improvement of culture. This analysis of the gotra names, caste indicatives etc. goes a long way in providing the gist of beliefs, cultural inclinations and social instincts of the common man of the age in question. Knowing the influence of natural resources or religion in naming a place is like knowing the main idea and reasons for settlements in certain areas in the remote past. In the past water resources were considered to be one of the essentials of a settlement either to for farming or for sustenance.

The study relating to names in almost all their stages is called "Onamastics". Since it is very broad area of study, comfortable divisions are made like, "Anthroponomastics" the study, of personal and "Toponomatics" or "Toponomy". The study of geographical names vice versa in Toponomy, divisions are many as given below. The study of border lands, forests and agricultural fields is called "Microtoponomy". The study of names of streets subways etc. is called "hodonomy", the study of names related to water is called Hydronomy and the study of names of hills is called "Oronomy".

As discussed in the proceeding pages place names are words having special historical, linguistic, anthropological and ethnological values.

There was a turning point in the lite of ancient man when he gave up the nomadic lite and settled at one place in the groups, when the settlements grew and became bigger there was a need of the names for the settlements. When we find some of the place names, we feel that they are too old to understand the meaning as this meaning disappeared in course of time. However, even now they persist as place names, as remnants or fossils past culture. They have first appeared in the beginning of the languages but man improved the language. So, it made possible to name the thing and settlements which came into existence. Many historians have tried to trace the settlements pattern named in the past. F.R. Allctin traced the evidence of the naming pattern of the reallthic age in South
India. Kautilya states that they were self-sustained and containing at least more than 100 families. Further, he tried to explain the distance and proximity of village.

Place names consist of historical, linguistic, ethnographic vestiges in them and we can say that they were mute witnesses to the famous cultures, kingdoms etc. In course of time, with the change of rulers some places became absolute and other emerged as new. The study of place names provide huge amount of information unavailable from any other source. The disciplines like linguistics and history would be incomplete without the information from the study of place names.

Some regions have place names with similar suffixes and prefixes and they were all mapped out. So this type of study will be of a great help for examining the cultural and ethnographical features of the area in question. There are many place many ending like Kurru, Parru, Pudi, Turru etc. in the Krishna and Guntur districts. All these results from the influence of the migrants and immigrants.

There were settlements named after the sources and resources like water hills, trees etc. Those named after animals occur very rarely. There are different opinions as far as the origin of words are concerned. Simeon Potter expressed the following opinion in his book, our language.

In the early stages of language the first words were names and all names were primarily proper names. Generic names like animals and trees evolve later and abstractions like courage, terosity and greenes later still".

It seems to be right on the first instance, between when we attempt a deeper is very analysis, it does not seem to be tenable. It is very difficult to
accept that men called themselves with personal names before denoting themselves as a separate category as "men", this is applied to men as well as animal world. But for the personal names it may not be accepted.

Yaska, the famous and the foremost grammarian and etymologist, who wrote Nirukta deacling with words of vedas felt that all the words originate from verbs. After that panins elaborated the sources of words and said that geographical names also contribute words to the language. His famous work, Astadhyyi provides us with a good deal of material on geographical names.

1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Introduction chapter deals with the why study of place-names and personal names as research work in the school of social sciences along with the school of Humanities. In this chapter focuses the Importance of Place-name study in Nalgonda district, Review of literature, in world, India and in Andhra Pradesh point out the pioneers of this place-name research. In this chapter mainly exposes about need for study, objectives of study, area of study.

Next, chapter a brief historical sketch of Nalgonda district is presented essentially in relation to Political history of the dynasties that ruled over the Nalgonda district is being narrated here As is widely known inscriptions form the basis source. Material for the reconstruction of the history for any part of this Nalgonda and so is the case with Andhra also.

The earliest epigraphs discovered as yet in the region in study are of the great emperor Asoka (3rd B.C.) However, they are not of any help to the present study. After the Decline of the Maurya an empire the Satavahanas ruled over extensive part of the Deccan for a few counties. The Satavahanas for the sake of Administrative
Convenience, divided the Kingdom into various provinces, rasthras. They were kept either under the control of princes of royal blood or feudatory chiefs. The satarahanas were followed by the Ikshavakas in the Nalgonda district and their inscriptions, conched in Prakrit, dating from the 3rd century onwards have been discovered in Andhra region. After the downfall of the Ikshvakas, the kings of the Vishnukundirs family held their sway over the Nalgonda district. The names of places and administrative divisions mentioned in their records, such as Ravi-reva and Palak-Vsihaya illustrate the independent states enjoyed by Telugu at that time. It is interesting to note that some of the epithets of the Chola Monarch were given as second names to the towns in chased in the Vengi Country. After the decline of the Chalukyas, Pallavas Rasthra kutas and the Kakatiyas Kingdom held sway over the Nalgonda district. The founder of the Kakatiy royal house was a certain Durjana of the Chaturthanvaya. The earliest known king of this time was Beta I (C.1000-1030 A.D.) who ruled the Koravi Country which included at least a part of Modern Nalgonda district.

Beta II took advantage of the political situation following death of his overlord western chaluyas Vikramaditya VI and declared independence and started on a military Campaign.

Example An undated inscription from Hanumakonda belonging to Kakatiya Rudra I states that his minister Gangadharara Gave away the village ‘Rudrapura’ probably named after the King, to a number of Brahmins. The Kakatiya rulers are known to have cleared of forests and established villages. Hence it is not improbable that at least some of the villages (such as Ganapavaram, Rudravaram, Bethapudi which is located near Modern Mangalagiri in Guntur District etc.,) might have been called so after the Kakatiya rulers Ganapati, his daughter Rudramma and her grand son Prataparudra. Bethapudi place-name being named after a Kakatiya King Beta I & II, another place-name Kakatani which being named after a name dynasty (kakatiya) came into existed.
These are a few epigraphically references to the villages named after Kakatiya Ganapati or his epithet Chalkmartiganda.

Further chapter deals with the geographical features are flora and fauna along with physical features like Rivers, hills, ranges, Mountains etc., influences more for the origin and evaluation of place names.

In this chapter an attempt is made to classify and explain the place names according their meaning and etymology. A detailed classification of the place-names would help in understanding their origin and cultural significance to a great extent. However, before making such a venture, it is the imperative to bear 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 super official look.

Inscriptions are mostly Temple-Oriented, giving great details about the geography of that area. Place names of the Nalgonda district found in inscriptions which are considered as under primary sources. Next, in this chapter denotes a place name normally consists of two units specific and generic, the specific stands for the proper name of the place while the generic may be taken, in very lose way, to suggest the type of settlement which the place referred to happens to be.

Further in this chapter deals with the structural classification of the place names in Nalgonda district. The aim of this chapter to identify the continent of the place name 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 simplexes. But most of the place- names are phrases. They endo centric constructions having a common noun, like uru, padu, Nagaram, etc., as the generic.

In this chapter excises on personal names. The personal names are examined with regard to time, place and society. Even after the change of place the society may not after its naming process. By the change of a particular name in a particular
region, we can acknowledge the life or people of a certain region concerning of their religion, culture and philosophy.

Further, this chapter furnishes in Government exclusively those features which appears characteristic of this region are considered. This chapter which exposes the administrative divisions are help to form the place names. This society passed through many changes in terms of political, economical and religious aspects.

Further in this chapter deals with the language and paleography. The art of writing is a recent discovery and it is a land mark in the history of man kind. In the beginning, ancient people got the idea of art of writing, learning the system from the pictography of the Egyptians.

Next, this conclusion chapter furnishes the overall information regarding thesis. From the present study it can be observed that the Nalgonda district has bequeathed to is a vast treasure of place-names occurring in an Inscriptions right from the early centuries of the Christian era, representing many aspects of human life. As the centuries rolled by the frequency of their occurrence steadily increased and by this variety and variations they are found to embrace almost all field of human civilization.