

# Political Background and Responsibility of Sri Ramalinga Reddy A Study

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## Abstract:

It is very rare for people to become leaders in the Indian democratic system. Democracy is essential to get a good position. It is natural to assume the need for a good leader to have a good system. It is common for people to feel the hope and expect confidence from a good leader in the democratic system. In the contemporary era, it is an achievement to continue in politics for a long time as a successful politician. For any politician, a person who possesses qualities like hard work, ability, loyalty, and desire to serve the people remains in the hearts of the common people as a continuous and successful politician. Sri Ramalinga Reddy has continued as a continuous and successful politician for many years. The reason for this is his hard work, loyalty, concern for the people and continuous service. He has been involved in political and social life by adopting ideal qualities like justice, ethics, and values throughout his life. He is successfully handling the responsibilities entrusted to him by the government and the party. Having a simple, gentlemanly and good personality, Sri Ramalinga Reddy's life, struggle, hard work and dedication are an example for others. The main objective of this research paper is to provide more reliable information to the public for the development of Karnataka. This essay discusses the life, background, personality, role, responsibilities and concern for the society, etc. of Sri Ramalinga Reddy. Ramalinga Reddy has given his valuable time for the development of Karnataka. He has worked a lot for the prosperity of the people. This paper shows that Ramalinga Reddy has been actively involved in social works, culture, infrastructure, education, employment, promotion of environmental activities, etc.

**Keywords:** Politics, Politician, Background, Personality, Concern, Development.

## INTRODUCTION:

Political leadership has been a talk of the era and sometimes gone out of vogue. The behavioral studies of the 1960s and 1970s proved to be less than compelling in their attempts to identify the essence of the concept. Indeed, it is perhaps telling that one of the most influential books of this era (Burns 1978) appears to have had a greater impact among students of management than within the political science community itself. Political leadership is central to some of the most basic puzzles of political science: the relationship between structure and agency, between individual and collective action, between free will and determinism. It is noted that seven such areas of leadership: agreement about the definition of leadership; classifications of types of leaders; studies of women leaders; refining the distinction between leaders and elites; studies of minority and third-world leaders; the nature of crisis leadership; and the determinants of leadership duration. More generally, though, there is perhaps an even

more urgent need to integrate the leadership factor into both rational choice analysis and the 'new' institutionalism. In these ways, the study of political leadership has the potential to continue to be at the heart of the political science project for the foreseeable future in this research study.

Leadership is an essential feature of all government and governance: Weak leadership contributes to government failures and strong leadership is indispensable if the government is to succeed wise leadership secures prosperity in the long run, leadership may bring about a catastrophe. The lack of leadership reutilizes governance. Political leadership and followership account for significant differences across and within individual nation states in responding to both newer global problems and traditional governance issues. Globalization creates the demand for new forms of international and supranational leadership: as a 'package of transnational flow of people, production, investment, information, ideas and authority'<sup>1</sup>. "Globalization elevates the significance of leadership of international organizations, regional groups of states, and global agencies"<sup>2</sup>. The need for political leadership is felt genuinely in the event of crises. Man, being a soul animal, living in a Soul group, needs guidance and such guidance come from a "leader becomes a leader is required to lead and guide persons from darkness to light and from ignorance to literacy"<sup>3</sup>. Ramalinga Reddy has been the pillar of Karnataka politics and has contributed to the state's progress forever 40 years. Having secured his eighth consecutive victory as an MLA, he stands as one of the most senior and experienced politician in southern India.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

**The study undertaken has the following objectives;**

1. To study and review the Political life of Ramalinga Reddy.
2. To assess the leadership quality of a brilliant Member of Karnataka Assembly Ramalinga Reddy.
3. To analyze the responsibility of Ramalinga Reddy as Member of Karnataka Assembly.

#### **HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:**

The following hypotheses are framed for the present Study;

- 1) Sri Ramalinga Reddy is simple and humble Indian politician.
- 2) He is not only a political leader, but also a true statesman and experienced leader.
- 3) Sri Ramalinga Reddy is a multi-faceted personality in Karnataka politics today.

#### **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:**

The present work is based mainly on secondary source such as records and documents including newspapers, legislative debates, proceedings and Government orders. The primary sources collected through personal interview with Sri Ramalinga Reddy himself as well as with many of his well wishers and other dignitaries familiar with the work and achievements. These sources were duly utilized in the study.

#### **EARLY LIFE:**

Regarding his personal life Ramalinga Reddy was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1953 to B. Venkatarreddy and Pillamma in Bangalore. He is married to Chamundeshwari Reddy and they have a daughter named Sowmya Reddy and a son named Sreraj Reddy. His educational qualification is B.Sc degree from Government science college Bangalore in 1975<sup>4</sup>. He imbibed leadership qualities from his student days and began his political journey inspired by the public service of his father Pujoyashri B Venkata Reddy,

who was elected as the Corporator of Bangalore City Corporation from Ward No. 39, as well as by the public concern and activities of Smt. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, and Sri D. Devaraja Arasu, the former Chief Minister of Karnataka. Ramalinga Reddy began his political activity with the NSUI (National students union of India) student wing in 1973 while he was in Government Science College Bangalore. He was elected as a Corporator in the Bangalore Metropolitan Corporation in 1983. He has been elected as an MLA eight consecutive times – four times from Jayanagar Constituency (1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004). And has been continuously striving for the comprehensive development of the constituencies. He has actively served in many ministries as a minister and has brought about several revolutionary changes in the departments. He has dedicated major part of his life for the service of the people of Karnataka. He is an accessible simple, humble, trustworthy, accountable and experienced leader. His extensive knowledge of Bangalore's city strong/wide network and close ties with people from diverse backgrounds across Karnataka have played a vital role in his unchallenged political career.<sup>5</sup>

#### **POLITICAL BACKGROUND AND RESPONSIBILITY:**

Ramalinga Reddy started his political career in 1973 by serving as the secretary of the students union in Government Science College, Bangalore. He was also a member of the student council in Bangalore University. And during his college days, he actively participated in many organizational activities. In 1973, when he joined NSUI, he attended NSUI National convention in Trivandrum Kerala. In 1977 he became the student union president in Bangalore University. In 1980, he became a member of the senate and the finance committee at Bangalore University. From 1983 to 1988, he served as a corporator of the Bangalore Mahanagarapalike. In 1985, he became the president of the Jayanagara Block Congress Committee. In 1989, he was elected as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the Jayanagar Constituency. In 1990 he became a member of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and worked there till 2018. In 1992, he became the Karnataka Minister of Finance, major and medium scale industries and APMC.

In 1993 he was elected as the chairman of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee. In 1994 he was elected as the MLA from Jayanagar Constituency. From 1998 to 2008, he served as the president of the Bangalore City District congress committee. In 1999 he was re-elected as an MLA from the Jayanagar Constituency. In 2001, he became a member of the All India Congress Committee. In 2002, he became the minister of food and Civil Supplies in Karnataka. In 2004, he became the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education in Karnataka. In 2008, he was re-elected as an MLA from the BTM constituency. In 2013, he became the Minister of Transport in Karnataka; he also became the Chairman of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation and North East Karnataka Road Transport Corporation. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 he became the Minister of Home Affairs in Karnataka. In 2018, he won the Karnataka Assembly Elections from the BTM constituency for the seventh time. In 2021, he became the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee working president. In the 1994 Karnataka Assembly Elections, he was the only congress candidate who won from Bangalore.

He has dedicated himself to social causes promoting better maintenance and infrastructure across neighborhoods through active participation in Resident's Welfare Associations. He has worked ensuring proper street lighting on low-light roads for the safety and security of women and children, clearing the arterial roads, radial roads and junctions improving government school facilities including quality of

classrooms, sporting facilities, labs and upgradation of BWSSB lines to ensure proper and sufficient supply of water to all.

In an interview he emphasized the important of education in politics and said that “A certain handling capacity is important in politics, more than education, there should be an initiative and interest. One must know how to handle officers and how to mobilize funds. One must have the knack required to bring funds for the programs as well. Sometimes double graduates are total failures in politics and others who are not educated at all do well. One should be able to give anything certain amounts of time and work on it until the job is done. Education might help, but there are these things as well what I am telling you”?. In 2005, he worked on housing projects the JNNURM Scheme under which eight hundred houses were sanctioned for construction of Bangalore Neighborhoods such as houses in Rajendra Nagar, Koramangala, Chandrappa Nagara and S R Nagar for Rs.2 lakh per house. In an interview he said that he faced a lot of problems as an MLA but the main one being a lack of funds and the difficulty of managing funds from outside programs to solve various issues<sup>6</sup>.

He joined the cabinet for the first time in the cabinet of Sri Veerappa Moily, who was the Chief Minister of Karnataka from 1992-94, and served as the Minister of State for Finance, Large and Medium Scale Industries and Agricultural Marketing. During this period, he gave priority to the highest accumulation of small savings and investments. As the Chairman of the High Power Committee for Private Investment in the Industrial Sector and Industrial Reforms, several major projects were approved. The ITPL project was one of them.

During 2002-04, he served as the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and the Minister of Bangalore Development in the Cabinet of Sri SM Krishna, who was the Chief Minister of Karnataka. During his terms efforts were made to more than 500 cases of about 20 years old were settled in a single year, including the distribution of BPL ration cards to the urban poor, the Quasi-Judicial jurisdiction of the Minister. Under the guidance of Hon'ble chief minister Sri SM Krishna, underpasses, flyovers, modern model roads construction, development of parks, playgrounds, Swachh Bangalore campaign, Self-Assessment Scheme, full cooperation at every stage to make our Bangalore city a Silicon City, approval was given for drinking water and sewage system in the limits of City Municipal Council and Town Municipal Council Kengeri and Yelahanka.

He served as the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education in the cabinet of Shri N. Dharmasinh, the Chief Minister of Karnataka from 2004-06. During this period, he successfully implemented programs such as the closure of unofficial schools that had been in existence for decades, timely distribution of uniforms and textbooks to children, provision of hot meals up to 6th and 7th standard, several literacy programmes for adults, restriction of children from participating in public functions, sanctioning of new primary schools, high schools and pre-university colleges to address regional imbalance, permission for more than 700 CBSC and state curriculum schools, measures to start learning English from the first standard itself, appointment of 15667 school teachers in 2004-05 and 2005-06, construction of 20000 school rooms, opening of two hundred libraries and 600 reading rooms in literacy centres in Bengaluru, formulation of a new policy for selection of public library books and measures for establishment of new libraries, promotion process for all staff of the Education Department from time to time, disposal of files as per the regular schedule and education adalats across the state.

in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly Elections he has re-elected from the BTM layout Constituency, securing 50.7% of the votes. Reddy is also the former Minister of Home Affairs, Transport, Primary and Secondary Education (including The Sakala Program) and Food and Civil Supplies in Karnataka<sup>7</sup>.

**POSITION HOLDS:**

- 1985 : President in Jayanagar Block Congress Committee (1985-1990)
- 1989: Elected as an MLA from Jayanagar Constituency.
- 1990-2006: Member of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.
- 1992-1994: State Minister at Finance, Major and Medium Scale Industries and APMC In Sri VeerappaMouly's Government.
- 1993-1994: The Chairman Agricultural Produce Market Committee.
- 1994: Elected as MLA from Jayanagar Constituency.
- 1999: Elected as an MLA from Jayanagar Constituency.
- 2001-2016: Member of All India Congress Committee.
- 2002-2004: Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and Bangalore City Development in Sri S.M Krishna's Government.
- 2004-2006: Minister of primary and Secondary Education in Sri N. Dharma Singh's Government.
- 2008: Elected as an MLA from BTM Constituency.
- 2013: Minister as Transport Department in Sri Siddaramaiah's Government.
- 2017: Ramalinga Reddy became Home Minister.
- 2018: Won the Karnataka Assembly Elections 7 Times in various Constituency.
- 2021: Ramalinga Reddy became KPCC working president.
- 2023: Won the Karnataka Assembly Elections 8 time MLA of BTM Constituency<sup>8</sup>.

**CONCLUSION:**

The life of Sri Ramalinga Reddy is an inspiration to others. He has seen many kinds of politics ups and downs from his student days to the present. He has experienced the many ups and downs of politics and continuously dedicated himself to political and social causes. Through his hard work and commitment, he has successfully hold numerous political positions and carried out all responsibilities entrusted to him with honesty and loyalty. In his political career, he has been working well for the welfare of the people and the people as a minister in the Karnataka government's cabinet, holding various portfolios. A good example of this is that he is still doing stable politics today. He continues to be a good, valuable and respected politician according to his hard work and ability.

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