

Democracy and National Integration in India

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Abstract

The success of democracy in any country determines by quality of its National Integration. The democracy regards as platform for national integration. The national integration is a multi- dimensional concept, which unites the population of a particular territory or nation under feeling of oneness. In a country like India engenderment of oneness is feasible only in the context and situation of tolerance and mutual respect, it has its genesis in equality of opportunity. The equality in opportunity provides an opportunity and platform for individual development and self-reliance. The population of our country is always subject to victim of poverty, exploitation, social degradation informs of caste base disparity, untouchability and social atrocity, the economic inequality due to unequal distribution of land and income by denying equality of opportunity in the sphere of economy, the regional imbalance with existence of regional base political parties which has made some portion of population as rich and also compelling to lead their life on cusp of economic destitute with alien feeling with in a country. The deep rooted religion base animosity which gave foment to communalism, terrorism and mutual genocide. The hegemony of few in the sphere of politics and determination of policies with family politics culture in the name of democracy. The ignorant civil society based on identity politics. These realities of Indian democracy made national integration just as myth.

Introduction:

The democracy in the realm of national integration considered as the levelling process by extensions of opportunities of participation by making availability of socio-economic and political equality, liberty and justice. The ensurment of equality, liberty and justice is the base of brother hood which helps the nation to keep its population in one thread of nationality. The Democratic form of government or political system rest on the principles of respect to public opinion, human rights, women rights, constitutionalism, existence of strong opposition party to control arbitrary action of ruling party which reflected in ideological dividation of nation, democratic decentralization, secularism, peaceful change in regime, fundamental rights and social security with social ownership society. Thus the democracy and National Integration both are complementary to each other in relationship.

Statement of problem: The achievement of national integration in country like India is a difficult task because it is the land of multi-culture with concert of more than seven religions with caste and religion

base animosity. The environment for progressive thought and attitudes with liberal base for youths is snatches by different deep rooted traditions. In form of casteism, untouchability, gender discrimination, honour killing. In sphere of politics, defection, criminalization of politics, family politics, existence of regional base political party's caste lobby in the politics, the violation of human rights of down trodden, religion and caste base minorities. In the realm of economy, the unequal distribution of national wealth, unemployment, concentration of means of production, acquisition of natural resources by influential politicians, inequality in income of people who living in different part of nation. These all realities of Indian democracy not have been let our youths to feel themselves as part nation.

Objectives of the study:

The present study under title "Democracy and National Integration in India" has been undertaken with following objectives.

1. To know what is democracy and National Integration.
2. How our Democracy is fail to implement real ethos of democracy which is the base of national integration.

- To analyze how caste, religion and criminalization of politics which harm the ethos of national integration.
- To suggests the measures to enhance the National integration.

Methodology:

This study is purely constructed on secondary data, collected from the literary sources written by different authors at different circumstances. Thus it is the mixture of Historical cum Analytical.

Review of related literature:

- Caste Isn't Just Confined to Rural India, It's Also an Urban Reality, written by Das Evita, this work of Evita Das, scientifically explained, the evil of caste system in India is not only confine to villages its implication also escalated even in urban areas.
- 'Mass poverty is back in India', written by Mahaparta Richard, which published in 2021, it narrates about the nature of economic disparities and its impact on national unity. The concentration of wealth at the hands few which led the insecurity over the employment, income and life which economically divides the India.
- 'Problems of National Integration' Dr. Prakash Shasi this work explained the problems of national integration in India. Here author briefly explains, social, political economic and religious issues which impaired the image of national unity.
- 'Ethno-Social Conflict and National Integration, this work of Rastogi critically examines, the social unrest in India based on caste, language, communal factors and racism divides Indians and analyses how their loyalty confined only to narrow sect.
- 'River 'Water sharing: Transboundary Conflict and Cooperation in India' N. Shantha Mohan, this work analyses how the problem of water sharing among states generates feelings of mutual distrust in India. This work also focuses on how legal mechanism and frame work for resolution of water sharing is still inadequate. The lack

of proper cooperation and regionalism which made all water sharing problem more traverse.

Hypothesis:

- If our democracy implements social equality in real sense which makes our population to think in terms nationality rather than caste.
- If it takes measures against the Mass- Media which analysis our political system basis on caste and religion.
- If it is takes the steps towards minimization of gap between rich and poor, it may engender feelings of nationhood rather than their poverty.
- If it is put ban on caste base and religion base organization, it may ensure the feelings of nationality rather than narrow nationality.
- The disputes among the states over boundaries and rive have push the national integration in peril.

No doubt we are legally united for sake to avail the benefits of governments rather than uniting emotionally forever. In this research paper made an attempt to disclose how our socio- economic and political system itself factors for threatening to national integration.

I The social system, democracy and national integration in India

The hierarchical structure of Indian society basis on caste system:

It always keeps our Indians too much busy in thinking only towards their caste rather than nation. The deep rooted caste fried feeling among upper caste people while down trodden always subjects to social atrocity. The conversion of our society from verna system to caste system always gives us superior and inferior conflict. Psychological proved factor in India that is every individual want to become superior by degrading others basis on their caste. Even after 70 years of Independence and miracle achievement in the field of science and technology still our Indians practices untouchability. The people from down trodden still prohibited to enter in religious places in rural area where 70 percentages of our population is accommodated. Even also in urban area people from this category subject to discrimination. They are not allowed to

stay on rent in the houses of upper strata in the cities. A researcher like Sukhadev Thorat study on Urban Rental Housing Marketing his study finds that the Dalits and Muslims have to face lot of hardships to get house on rent. The Government itself develops the caste base housing projects for example in 2016 in Karnataka the department of Town and Country Planning approved a housing project it named as Vedic Village only for Brahmins to revive the lost traditions of Brahmins. It declared as exclusive area for Brahmins. In Azad Nagar Fatehwadi of Gujarat State Government itself construct separate gate for Dalits to maintain superiority of Brahmins. The state Government of Maharashtra approved Jain vegetarian enclave in Mumbai to prohibit to have accommodation by non – Jains and non –vegetarian in this enclave with in the nation. Every state of Indian territory is witnessed to this type of state sponsored social discrimination. This form of discrimination compelling our youths to think in terms of what our government does for social equality rather than Nationality and National Integration.

Closed Society:

Our democracy utterly failed to sustain open society because our society doesn't allow our youths to choose their life partner of out of caste whenever they want to marry from out of caste they are projected as social criminal and some time they have to lost their life in form of honor killing every year more than thousand five hundred honor killings are occurred. This stereotype society makes our youth thinks only in terms of Caste rather than National Integration because openness, equality absence of discrimination is the bedrock of Nation Integration.

Priest hood society: Even after the long run movement by numerous social reformer in different states at different stage of time by Periyar in Kerala, Tiruvalar in Tamil Nadu, Jyotibha Phule, Savitri bai Phule and Dalit Panthar in Maharastra. The social movement led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar against the priest hood society in form of Kalaram Temple entry and 'Chowdar Talab' watering movement. In spite of all these our society still stood on priest hood direction. This advocate the sanctity of our society lies in prohibition of down trodden to enter the religion places which is always cause to social animosity and atrocity which makes our society to

think only in terms of caste creed and retaliation against social exploitation.

II Indian Democracy, Economic system and National Integration:

Poverty:

Our democracy gravely failed to restore our economic system basis on equality. The 80% percentage of total population wealth is concentrated just at the hands of 1%population. Their ostentation conspicuously submerges their expenditure for luxurious life at the interests of poor. While poor struggling to have a square of meal in a day. As per the United Nation Organization estimation India accommodated 364 million populations this constitute 28% percentage of total population. The highest global poverty increase happened in India in 2020.

According Pew Research Center study based on World Bank Data, the numbers of poor with income of just \$2 per day or less in power purchasing parity has increased to 134 million from 60 million due to Covid- pandemic now it becomes country of mass poverty. This fact is contrast to the report of Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index which reported that India is past poverty reduction country by lifting 271 million populations from poverty but real face of poverty in India came out by this pandemic. This fact of India creates chasm between rich and poor it compels the poor to think only in terms 'how to have' and to rich 'how to double the income' that's India.

Unemployment, migration and caste biased in employment sector:

in the present context India is witnessed to 20.8% unemployment as per Labour Force Survey of the Ministry of Statics and Programme. There are myriad reasons for increase in unemployment. Rural economy is the base of our economic system which rest on agriculture now increase in the implementation of modern technology oriented machine which reduce the employment opportunity to our ruralities and the wage got by them (unskilled labours) is not adequate to led the life sufficiently. Our democracy is successfully failed to employment generation schemes and industries in an equitable manner which mange the balance in employment opportunity this marred the hopes to lead a standard life from land less and homeless labours in India amidst this

situation how can they think in terms of national integration.

III. Interstate disputes, Democracy and National Integration:

The interstate Border disputes in India is an unending territorial disputes. Which always been the root cause for the mutual distrust among the states though they are all ingredient part one nation. All north East Indian states such as Assam has the its border disputes with Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, this disputes sometimes led the violence which ends in loss public property, casualty and loss of life common civilians and arm forces. Among 703 districts of North East India 322 districts have been affected by the economic and social movement due to the border disputes their development works are awaiting court decision or agreements between states which traverse process in India. These factor breeds seeds of mutual hatredness among citizens of North East States. The bloody clashes often occurred between the forces of Assam and Mizoram.

Inter – State Border Dispute among South Indian States:

The South India states are also not free from interstate disputes which are majority prevails among Karnatak, Maharastra, Kerala, Tamilnadu, The Karnataka state has its border disputes with all its neighbor states like Maharastra over Solapur and Belgavi District, with Kerala over Kasrgodu, these disputes provides the plat form to engender some outfit association in these state which harm peace and tranquility among the people of three state recently the Marathi speaking people forced the Karnataka government to merge Belgavi with Maharastra. This demand ended in violence, destroy of public property and defamation of portrait of freedom fighters. The Mahajan report already sub, its its report and fixed the territory however states are not ready to accept it.

Inter- State Disputes in North Indian States:

In north major state like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar both have border disputes the occurrence of flood in every year which change course of flow of river which is cause to fluctuation in border between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar every year. This creates the issues revenue administration over the few districts.

Uttarapradash has also have the boundary disputes with Haryna state.

Orissa and Andhrapradash: The Boundary disputes between these two state creates row over 63 villages which now fall in Orissa. Orissa and Jharkhand: these two state have border row over 7 villages of Mayurbang ang and Keonjhar. Orissa trying to claim two places of Jharkhand these are Seraikela and Kharsuan based princely state map. Orissa has border disputes even with Chattisgarh over the villages of Naupad districts. West Bengal has its ire with Orissa over some portion of Mayurbanj district which presently falls in Orissa's territorial jurisdiction, Orissa didn't want to return to West Bengal.

n north west both Punjab and Haryana are having the distrust overt the transformation of capital city Chndigrah. Haryyana wants to retain Chadigrah as its capital city based on language by rejection to transfer to Punjab.

Inter - state water disputes among states and National Integration:

No state in India freedom the controversy of either border dispute or river water sharing among themselves. However, in 1956 Inter-State Water Dispute Act was framed, according this act if state government is request to central government to adjudicate then it has its opinion but it cannot be resolved by negotiation with central government via central government when a Water Dispute Tribunal is constituting to adjudicate.

In 2002 Inter-State Water Dispute Act amended to include Sarkaria Commission recommendation which mandated to central government to constitute Water Dispute Tribunal within the framework of one year and its decision within three years. In spite this water dispute solvation mechanism since 1956, still every state in India had mutual feud with its neighbor state over the issue of water sharing which majorly threat the integration of nation.

These are the following major disputes among the states over the river water sharing in India

1. Godhavari Water Dispute: The major six states of India had the issue ove the sharing of Godhavari water, Karnataka, Maharastra, Orissa, Telangana Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. In 1969 Godhviri water

Tribunal was set up under justice Bhawat by consolidating all agreement it gave its decision in 1980, however after partition of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana once again it breeds the dispute. This river is the major source of irrigation projects and multipurpose projects in these six states thus it creates political and regional feud among states.

2. **Krishna Water Dispute:** The Krishna river has its tributary in Mahabaleshwar of Maharashtra its 33% portion covered by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and newly formed Telangana state out of Andhra Pradesh. In 1969 Krishna Water Tribunal was set up to adjudicate disputes between the Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, and between Maharashtra and Karnataka, it submits its report in 1973 and shared the water 560,700, and 800 TMC Between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively. But Maharashtra still demanding more share of water and Maharashtra and Karnataka compels the Andhra Pradesh to share Krishna water with Telangana out of its share rather than total amount of water of river.
3. **Kaveri Water Dispute:** As far as water documentary resources are concerned, around 53% of Kaveri water resources fall within the geographic boundaries of Karnataka, whereas only 30% of water resources fall within the geographical borders of Tamil Nadu. On the other hand, 54% of river basin area or the portion of land drained by the river which lies in Tamil Nadu, while 42% of its portion of basin area is in state of Karnataka. This river is the source to cultural, political, agriculture to both states. Tamil Nadu claiming that Karnataka always demanding more water than its legal entitlement over the 125 years. This dispute creates several hurdles in the way of initiation of several multipurpose projects between these two (Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) states.

As per the facts provided above, Karnataka claims more rights over Cauvery water as the river

originates in the state and they hold 53% of water resources fall within their state.

From the above facts we came to know that the narrow creeds which mainly generated by issues like economic disparities, social and cultural discrimination, border and water disputes among the states. The problems of these issues not lies in the absence of proper mechanism for resolution these issues but it lies in the politicisation of issues for political benefit and personal cult. Our centrifugal federation and linguistic ethos which are the base cause for escalation of the issues.

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