

## FEDERALISM IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

**ABDUL RASHID DAR\***

*\*Research Scholar, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Vikram University,  
Ujjain (M.P) 456010*

### **ABSTRACT:**

*In this research paper an effort has been made to study federal system of India its challenges and prospects. Democratization and decentralization are the interdependent processes. Dissemination of power from one centre helps in empowering the people and can also held the government accountable for exercising political power. In India, as the democratic institutions started maturing, the tendency towards centralization of power is being increasingly questioned and the efforts of decentralization and participation of the citizen in the management of their local area, is being encouraged. Paucity of funds, lack of planning, excessive state control, etc. are some of the intriguing problems which resulted in inefficient and substandard governance. From this point of view it describes the main aspects of federalism which influences the centre-state relations and the emerging challenges among the various federal units and centre.*

***Keywords:** Federalism, Centre-State, Regionalism, diversity etc.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Modernization and globalization affects man's life in various ways, such a shift from joint families to micro families. The affection decreases among the members of micro family likewise smaller states would affect the Indian Unity and Integrity. In my opinion Unity is the most powerful weapon which will keep the world peaceful. It is time to think about unity and integrity of India. India is great country as for as its rich heritage and culture is concerned. History shows that great kingdoms were subjected to downfall because of lack of unity and integrity. India is a symbol for unity in diversity. Hence Woodrow Wilson said that, "I have a great respect towards Indians as they have the quality of adjustment and cooperation". But now the demands for the smaller

states on the basis of various reasons due to power politics are diminishing India's fame at global level. Bifurcation not only increases the distances among the people but also destroy the feeling of coordination, nationalism, which would weaken the nation. If we continue to divide the country into smaller states, there will be no meaning for unity and integrity of India. Problems are common everywhere either at individual level, family level, state level, national level, or at global level. Ups and downs are common everywhere but what is important is that we should solve these problems and exactly what Indians showed at every stage in history from Delhi Sultanate rule to British rule and saved the great heritage, that was unity of India. We should learn from the lessons of the past and understand what happened to the Mughal Empire after the violation of Akbar's policy of tolerance. We should also make a note of what happened to the Germans for supporting the coercive nationalism during Second World War. The later Mughals did not follow Akbar's policy and which leads to the decline of the empire. Hitler did not respect the customs and traditions other than the Germans. He used to say that Germany is for only Germans. This policy of excessive nationalism leads to the unnatural death of Hitler and the final defeat of Germany in war.

But now in the name of backwardness, development, language, regional identity and other factors for which we are demanding for separate states which is not a good sign and this will make brotherhood irrelevant. May be regionalism is good for the development of people of a region but it is very dangerous for the nation's unity and integrity. As the desire for a smaller state emerges in the name of regionalism and vested political self-interests. One should always remember that National interest and autonomy is always greater than states' interest and regional autonomy. While respecting diversities, we should inculcate the idea of unity and tolerance among people. But in the recent times situation has been changing completely, in the name of regionalism, caste, religion dirty politics have dominated the political scenario.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To study of the Indian Federal system.
- 2) To discuss the challenges and prospects of Indian Federal system.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The present study has been descriptive; the data for this study were obtained from secondary sources. The secondary data has been collected from various references which already existed in published form; Part of the paper is based on literature review the method comprising of collecting all the available papers relating to the theme and selecting relevant papers/books for the review purpose.

## REGIONALISM:

Regionalism means love for a particular region or state in preference to the country as a whole, and in certain cases, in preference to the state of which region is a part. A region is a defined territorial unit including particular language or languages, castes, heathen groups or tribes, particular social setting and cultural pattern etc. What accurate factors must exist before a tract of territory could be called a region cannot be firmly predicted. In fact several factors such as geography, topography, language, religion, customs, and stages of political and economic development, common history etc. should come together tide by a sentiment of togetherness than a region can be formed. However, as Sanjib Baruah points out, a region cannot be objectively defined. As like nations, regions are not self-evident and prepolitical realities on ground. It is a contested, fluid identity constructed through political mobilizations. Regions are relatively flexible, socially constructed and politically mediated identities. Which one of the above mentioned factor will become important for the construction of a region varies from time to time and context. The example of flexible, changing identities of region can be seen in the case of Andhra Pradesh, which was initially demanding a separate statehood on the basis of the demand for separate statehood for Telangana. Another example of regional identity is the Bodo-Garo challenge to the earlier constructed Assam's identity.

## CAUSES OF REGIONALISM IN INDIA:

- 1) Problem of economic and social development / economic factors
- 2) Increasing awareness of the people in then backward areas
- 3) Political factors
  - A) Rise of Regional Elites
  - B) Personal Motives
  - C) Rise of regional Parties
- 4) Identity based regionalism / Cultural factors

## DEMANDS FOR SMALLER STATES:

The advent of new millennium saw the creation of three new states-Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand (originally named Uttarakhnad) and Jharkhand, carved out from the parent states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. More recently, India has witnessed a renewed assertion from historically constituted regions for the creation of smaller states. A discernable shift in terms of federal thinking has accompanied this significantly; some of these regions have enormous populations comparable to countries of the global north in terms of territory and population. The

regions include Telangana in Andhra Pradesh; Gorkhaland and Kamtapur in West Bengal; Coorg in Karnataka; Mithilanchal in Bihar; Saurashtra in Gujarat; Vidarbha in Maharashtra; Harit Pradesh, Purvanchal, Braj Pradesh and Awadh Pradesh in Uttar Pradesh; Maru Pradesh in Rajasthan; Bhojpur comprising areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh; Bundelkhand comprising areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, a greater Cooch Behar state out of the parts of Assam and West Bengal.

### **TENSION AREAS OF CENTRE STATE RELATIONS:**

Appointment of governor, allocation of resources from centre to the states, deployment of Central Police Organizations and imposition of president's rule in the states are some of the main irritants in Centre- State Relations. Governors are increasingly becoming constitutional redundancies and are perceived as the whipping boys of the Union Government, doing a command performance whenever different parties are ruling at the Central and state levels. The major problem areas of contemporary politics are: (1) political instability; (2) proliferation of political parties; (3) criminalization of politics; and (4) rising number of persons with criminal background in legislature.

There are many instances when Union Government toppled the state governments in most partisan approaches in utter disregard to political impartiality. The present financial relations between the Union and the State rest on Central generosity and state beggary because the Union has inbuilt surplus revenue and the states are perpetually short of funds. Since economic development involves huge financial outlays, the control of Centre and servility of the state are all too pronounced. There is a persistent demand for greater political autonomy to states ever since the regional political parties stormed the political arena in the state. Even after the Sarkaria Commission, there has been no change and things did not improve much as regards the powers of the state are concerned. Jammu and Kashmir , Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal are some of the states constantly clamouring for more financial, economic and political autonomy .Certain amendments in the Constitution are necessary particularly in respect of Articles 268 to 281,249,356, 248, 200, 302, 360, 256,368 in order to enable the states to occupy a prestigious position in Indian federal polity.

### **PROSPECTS OF CREATING NEW STATES:**

After the shakeup of states in 1956, which were divided on lingual lines, since then 10 states have been formed. In the year 2000 three states Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh were formed by putting an end to all the years of struggle but not to all problems. 'Small is lovely' as it enables the state for proper administration and good governance. Easy allocation of funds and speedy recognition of blemishes and thereby finding a solution to them

will be a much accelerated process. But then, this is not happening effectively in the recently formed states because of political stain and internal problems. Though there may be a few advantages to the separated states where for example it has been observed that the per capita incomes of the newly formed states have been increased compared to the parent states. In 2010-11 the GDP of Uttarakhand surpassed its parent state Uttar Pradesh with 2.8%, not only in GDP but Uttarakhand performed well in reducing poverty in the state too. In 2011-12 poverty estimations in Uttar Pradesh showed 29.4% whereas in Uttarakhand it was only 11.3%. During the tenth five-year plan Chhattisgarh averaged 9.2 % growth per annum compared with 4.3 % by Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand Jharkhand showed slight improvement compared to Bihar in terms of economy. Uttarakhand can be a role model for the concept of 'small is beautiful'. Recently Uttarakhand was placed in the category of 'relatively developed states'; whereas its parent state Uttar Pradesh was listed in 'the most backward state'. New states though seem to emerge from chaos in the beginning but later perform well with a strong determination of the state's government. When Gujarat divided from Maharashtra in 1960, it was a less developed state. With strong political vision everything changed in Gujarat and it is competing with Maharashtra in development. Smaller spatial divisions having linguistic compatibility allow for better management and allocation of funds to the local bodies. States which have formed will have zeal to develop it as it enables easy communication and allows social groups to articulate and raise their voices. The prospect of creating new states happens only when there is a strong political force to guide the newly born state. It has happened in Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Punjab.

## CONCLUSION:

Federalism as an idea and a process enriches democracy in a multinational/cultural country like India, as it tends to promote democratic values and temperament by recognizing, accommodating and protecting diverse regional identities and rights. The creation of smaller states would contribute to the federal agenda of enhancing democratic development based on decentralized governance and greater autonomy for units. The idea 'small is beautiful' seems to be illusionary at least with the past experiences. It would be an intense mistake if it is presumed that the creation of new states will solve all problems. It is better to concentrate on the existing states rather than on creating of new states. Small or big what difference does it make? Citizens of India and political parties should concentrate on the betterment of their lives and not on the fulfilling of their aspirations. Development of a state leads to the development of the country.

United we stand Divided We fall.

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