

NATIONAL INTEGRATION IS THE PART OF EDUCATION: A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT:

National integration is a powerful felling of 'oneness' which should be sown like seeds in the hearts and minds of people to sprout and grow into "one nation", "one people" as branchless trees. In other words, though we are stratified by caste, creed, religion, region, language, politics, and other socio-economic aspects, we have to unite and blind ourselves together by a powerful felling of "we are one –Indians and live for India –our nation". India is a very vast democratic country with many sided diversities. Indian philosophers and saints recognized the blessing of this diversity and tried to unite Indians in one nation, keeping intact the character of diversity. Thus from the earliest times it has been recognized by all that the cultural tradition of our country is characterized by unity in diversity. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru remarked. "Like the ocean so received the tribute of thousand rivers, and though she was distributed often by storms ranged over the surface of her waters, the sea continued to be the sea .It is astonishing to note how India continued successfully this process and assimilation and adaptations. It could only have done so if the idea fundamental unity were so deep rooted as to be accepted even by the new corner and if her culture were flexible and adoptable to changing condition". National integration is one of the important tasks that India has after independent .In fact; our free democratic country depends on the unity and strength of our country. But India is still faced with many disintegrating forces and narrow loyalties which have posed a major threat to our national solidarity. Moreover, the foundation of national life is common citizen ship, unity in diversity, freedom of religion, secularism, equality, justice, and fraternity among all communities. This foundation can be laid only through education.

Key word: National integration, definition, objectives, role of education.

INTRODUCTION:

"Education is the manifestation of divine perfection which already exists in man". - **Swami Vivekananda** (1863 – 1902). Such manifestation is outcome of the development of the individual in all aspects namely physical,

intellectual-emotional and spiritual. The education, one receives, is the greatest input for advancing towards this objective since education helps total development of human personality. Education holds the key to human progress. Education plays an important role in bringing change.

The Education Commission (1964-66) has emphasized, 'Education is the one and the only instrument that can be used to bring about a change towards the social and economic betterment of India'. So, education must be used as a powerful instrument of social, economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of the national goals. Inculcating 'Social Responsibilities' and 'National Integration Values' are a few among the national goals. The teachers with good leadership traits are required in this regard.

1. MEANING OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

National integration means national unity that is unity in diversity. The expression "national integration" consists of two words –'national' and 'integration'. The word 'National' implies country. The word integration means unifying all the forces in the country so as to produce the idea of "one nation". It also implies social, political, economic, and cultural unity. It is the negation of all differences of caste, creed, religion, language, beliefs, provinces and traditions. National integration is also known as nationalism. In short, nationalism means full-hearted devotion to the nation, sense of duty together with obligation and unquestioning faith in its glorious future based on its present well being and prosperity. It touches almost all points of national life. It synthesizes the sentiments and values of different castes, linguistic, regional and religious communities emotionally into a compact whole. It checks narrow tendencies which are a great hindrance to national unity and national progress. National integration is the unity of heart and mind.

2. DEFINITION S OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

- i. **Brubachar:** "Nationalism ordinarily indicates a wider scope of loyalty than patriotism. In addition to ties of race; nationalism is evidenced by such other factor as race, language, history, culture, and traditions".
- ii. **Humayun kabir:** "Nationalism is that which depends on us feelings towards the nation".
- iii. **National integration conference 1961:** Nationalism or National Integration is a psychological and educational process involving the development of a feeling of unity, solidarity and cohesion in the hearts of the people, a sense of economic citizenship a feeling of loyalty to the nation".

- iv. **Dr. Bedi:** “National integration means bringing about economic, social, cultural, linguistic differences among various states in the country within tolerable range and imparting to the people a feeling of the oneness of India”.
- v. **Dorothy Thomason:** ‘National Integration’ ‘is a feeling that binds the citizens of a country’. For Perston, National integration is ‘the job to inculcate knowledge of our country, pride in it, and respect for the best in our national environment, aspiration and traditions and a wish to improve our country’.
- vi. **Dr. Radhakrishnan:** ‘National integration cannot be built by brick and mortar: it cannot be carved by chisel and hammer. It has to grow silently in the minds and hearts of men. The only process is the process of education’.
- vii. **Kothari Commission (1964 – 66):** ‘National integration is crucial to the creation of a strong united country which is an essential precondition for all progresses. Kothari commission explained that national integration is a blend of sentiments resulting in love for the country.

3. AIMS OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

National integration aims at unifying the people and not making them conform to one pattern, instead of aiming at lifeless uniformity in thought and action, it gives the progressive realization that there can be similarities among differences. It, in fact, is a harmonious and healthy blend of sentiments—resulting in love for the country, feeling of joy in its prosperity and feeling of resentment when danger threatens it.

4. FACTORS OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

There is no denying the fact that unity is a necessary condition for nationhood. India’s is a plural society suffering from feudal and colonial past. Besides geographical variation, there are several factors which weaken national integration.

They are as follows.

- (i) **Regionalism:** Indians are more attached to their regions or states than to country as a whole. They think in terms of Punjab, Bengal or Tamil Nadu, etc. In this way regionalism weakens national integration.
- (ii) **Linguism:** There are many languages spoken in India. This is another factor weakening national integration.
- (iii) **Religious differences:** There are people of different religions living in India like Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christian etc. having their own specific characteristics. This is another factor hindering national integration.

- (iv) **Casteism:** There are not only religious and linguistic differences. But within religion, there are many castes which do not see eye to eye with each other. It is another danger to national unity.
- (v) **Cultural differences:** There are cultural differences also which hamper unity and they need to be curtailed.
- (vi) **Social distinctions:** There are many distinctions of cast and creed in our society. Untouchability is still prevalent which a stumbling blocks in national integration.
- (vii) **Economic disparities:** There are vast economic disparities in business, trade, agriculture, industry, etc. There is a wide gap between the rich and the poor which is getting wider and wider year after year. Hence, in view of the above mentioned differences existing in the society, there is a great need to develop and strengthen national integration values.

5. DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATION VALUES

(i) Wishes for nation's better future

This dimension covers the spirit of patriotism and aims at assessing the attitudes of individuals in developing the nation to have a better future with respect to some of the aspects such as reducing brain drain, fanaticism and other national evils and promoting national solidarity, encouraging self employment, exchange of resources among the states for economic development.

(ii) Values, sense of duty and citizenship

This dimension describes some of the national values enshrined in the constitution. These include sovereignty, socialism, secularism, democracy, republic, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, dignity of the individual unity and integrity of the nation, international peace and international order.

Sense of duty means motivating awareness of ethical responsibility. In this study, it denotes the ethical responsibilities of the citizens to be aware of the fundamental duties such as to obey laws and respect authority, to be aware about the issues affecting the society and provide solutions to them, to vote intelligently, to pay taxes through proper means, care for public and other people's property and to do service for the welfare of the needy.

(iii) Equal treatment for all

Indian constitution envisages equality before law. Everyone must be treated equally before the law regardless of their race, gender, national origin, colour, ethnicity, religion, disability or other characteristics, without privilege,

discrimination or bias. This dimension includes statements which aim at assessing the individual's capacity to treat everybody equal without any discrimination on the basis of gender, social class, caste, religion and state.

(iv) Respect for culture, language and traditions

Culture is a term that defines the growth and development of a human being by the influence of the social and political situation. Though development and modernity has set in the people of India remain rooted in rich cultural heritage. It has an immense physical, religious, racial and linguistic variety. The uniqueness of Indian culture lies in its strong social system and family values. India has people from all religions and walks of life living together in harmony.

6. NEED FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

India is a land of diverse castes, religion, politics, languages, cultures, faiths, customs and tradition. As a result the integrity of our nation is in danger. The need for unity is not only at the time of wars but it is needed at all the times so that it makes the people to get knowledge of social and cultural situations of the country, to eradicate the evils prevalent in the country .in fact, the successes of a nation entirely depends on the extent of the development of a feeling of nationalism in its citizens. 'The essential function of education is to develop different physical, mental, emotional, social, national and spiritual aspects of the personality of the pupils by laying stress on the development of healthy habits, traits, right - attitudes, values, skills and national integration among the pupils'. – Dr. Rawat

Actually, National integration is a blend of sentiment resulting love for the country. For this emotional integration is basic necessity. National integration is a feeling that binds the people of country together. It means bringing about social, economical and cultural differences prevailing among people within a tolerable range. It is a cementing force that binds the citizens in a unity. This means, the development of mental climate that would help react in terms of oneness. National integration values have been emphasized at every stage of national development. National value has to be developed both inside and outside of educational institutions. Students should learn to love the nation, and this will pave the way to national integration and promoting national peace.

i. To developed national character:

The present society shifts from the spiritual to the material world where there is a lack of national character .Man mars his values in individual and social life. Corruption has become an integral part of people's life. We have sold our honesty for money. We are ready to engage in any evil deed in order to satisfy our needs and desires which

may work against freedom. Democratic values and national interests are sacrificed for the sake of a meal. In the absence of the feeling of nationalism or national integration, national character cannot be formed among the people.

ii. To bring unity in diversity

Every country requires national integration to bring about unity in diversity but, India needs it most. National unity is essential for any country at any time .it is doubly so far India in view of varied composition of her population the vast distances that separate her different parts, the vastly varying climate, and physical features that condition the daily life and occupations of the people and above all, because of the period of rapid change through which she is passing to discover her bearings in the modern world”.

iii. To control narrow tendencies

National integration is a must to check the unprecedented growth of narrow tendencies like casteism, linguism, religions, politicalism and provincialism. All these factors retard the very vitals of our nation. So, if we fail to control them, we will have to lose our freedom.

iv. To develop Indian culture

We all are one, though we live in different patterns and we speak different languages. We have our own literature. National integrity is essential to develop national culture, language and literature and promote them to the next generation through education. This type of cultural development and transformation is possible in the country only if there is national integration.

v. To develop our economic progress

The rise and fall of a nation depends on the extent of the development of a feeling of national integration in its citizen. National integration foster of in the people of India the sense of duty the sense of service to the nation and the sense of sacrifice for the sake of the country. It also helps in the development of trade and industry which brings economic efficiency among the people. Inter peace creates an atmosphere for saving, investment, and employment which are the backbone of economic progress.

vi. To establish world peace

India is to contribute to the establishment of world peace through its idea of “unity in diversity”. Establishment of world peace is impossible unless a country enjoys the fruit of national integration .national integration is necessary for a country to contribute its role in the establishment of world peace.

7. EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

The unity of our nation is passing through a crisis due to the disintegrating factors such as casteism, communalism, classism, religionism, economic and social disparities and unemployment. The rise or fall of a nation depends on the extant of the development of a felling of nationalism in its citizens. Hence the felling of nationalism should be developed and strengthened in every individual by all possible ways and means. Education is the most powerful and effective means to carry out the great task successfully. Education for national integration means using education as a powerful instrument to inspire a sense of love and devotion in the hearts of young boys and girls towards their country.

8. OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

1. To foster the emotionally integrated personality of the child.
2. To develop the sprite of sacrifice and tolerance among the students.
3. To make the students realize the importance of unity in diversity.
4. To make the students realize that they have duties and responsibility for the progress of the country.
5. To develop patriotisms and nationalism by teaching about our great leader.
6. To develop democratic citizenship and leadership qualities in the students.
7. To inspire the sense of love and devotion towards one’s country.

9. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Each nation formulates its aim of education and organizes its educational structure according to its own needs and requirements and with the definite goal of developing the feeling of national integration in its citizens .education plays a very significant role in India to bring about unity in diversity.

i. National system of education

We must have a national system of education to bring educational uniformity which plays an important role in establishing integration in the country. Unfortunately, unreasonable diversities exist in the system of education in different states. This is because education is a state subject. Effective coordination between the centre and the state is needed to evolve an effective national policy of education. The uniform educational system can solve the problems concerning admission, recognition of institutions, scholarships and other problems.

ii. Re-designing curriculum

Curriculum is the means to achieve the aims of our nation. It includes all those knowledge, experiences and activities which a child acquires in school, classroom, library, laboratory, and playground and study tour. Therefore, curriculum should be redesigned in such a way that it should include various subjects and activities to promote national integration. The school and college curriculum should be reoriented to suit the needs of a secular state which aims at national integration.

iii. Primary level:

At the primary stage, stories, poems folklores, social studies, national anthem and other national songs should be taught to develop a sense of love and devotion towards the country.

iv. Secondary level:

At the secondary stage, language and literature, social studies, moral and co curricular activities are included in the curriculum.

v. University level:

At the university level social science, language and literature, culture and art and the exchange of teachers and students have been emphasized to develop national integration.

vi. Re-designing textbook

Text books should be re-designing at the national level. Text books on important subjects like history, geography, social studies, civics and language should lead students to appreciate the historical, social, economic, cultural,

religious of the people of this land of scholars and poets, saints, and seers, warriors and benevolent rulers, scientific, artists, leader and peace lover. All text books should be nationalized.

vii. Teaching of social science

Social sciences include the study of geography, history, civics, and economic. The subject should be reorganized and reoriented in such a way that the facts included in it should foster national integration. Special importance should be given to the histories of Ashoka, Akbar, Guru Nanak, Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda as they worked for the welfare of the humanity at large. Teaching of civics inculcates a sense of duty and responsibility to the nation by which national integration is strengthened. Teaching of economic makes the students to realize that the economic development of the nation depends on her states independence and cooperation.

viii. Teaching of mathematics and science

The study of mathematic leads to exactitude of mind, which is vital for national integration. This is because no person with a sane mind will think of disruption, diversion and disintegration. Similarly the study of science takes us away from narrow mindless which disintegrates the unity of the nation. Knowledge of science opens our inner eyes and broadens our intellectual thinning which will not stands against national integration.

ix. Teaching of language

Students should be taught and encouraged to learn as many languages as possible. This will strengthen the unity of our nation. Learning of many languages keeps the students above narrow mindness. Therefore every Indian language should be given adequate freedom to develop in order to avoid misconception and to promote national integration.

x. Teaching of moral education

No religion in the world teaches violence and hatred. But our history stands testimony to the fact that more blood has been shed in the religion than anything else. So, appropriate religious and moral education should be provided to the students to inculcate moral character like tolerance, honesty and truthfulness. Religious harmony is especially necessary for multi religious countries like India. Moral education should be included in the curriculum to develop national character, which is a must for national integration.

xi. Adult education

Illiteracy and ignorance are the important forces in underdeveloped countries like India which weaken the unity of the nation. It is not possible to develop national integration when the adult are illiterate and ignorant. So, every adult should be given education. In fact, there should be cent per cent literacy among the adults to enable them to understand the need of national integration.

xii. Medium of instruction

English should not be encouraged as a medium of instruction, because it widens the gap between the educated and the uneducated people. This is not good for national integration. So, religion language should be made medium of instruction at all stages of education. Our culture can effectively be transmitted through religion languages, which promote the feeling of national integration.

10. MERITS OF EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Education is a powerful and effective means which are fully helpful to develop the felling of national integration in the real sense among the citizens of the nation let us discuss various merits of education for national integration

i. Political unity:

Education for nationalism develops political unity among the people. Such an education inspires the people with higher ideals of national unity, so that they will be above the differences of casteism, communalism, politicalism, and other social disintegration factors. This sense of unity and bestows the nation great strength.

ii. Social progress:

Education for nationalism removes bad traditions, blind beliefs and evil ways of living, which carry the nation to decay and destruction. On the other hand, it carries the nation towards the heights of greatness and prosperity. Such a national progress and prosperity is positively correlated with the progress and development of the society.

iii. Development of culture:

Education for national integration preserves, develops, and transmits the cultural heritage of the nation from one generation to another. Such activities display the glory of the country and exalt its fame at the international level.

iv. Powerful nation:

Education for nationalism develops a feeling of oneness in various cultured people. Such a feeling of oneness makes the nation powerful and it protects the nation from external factor.

v. Development of leadership:

Education for nationalism develops leadership qualities in the citizens of the country. Such an education produces broad minded people, who can have efficient leadership qualities which is essential for a democratic country.

11. DEMERITS OF EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Education for national integration plays a vital role in bringing about national unity and national development. Though this type of education is a must for countries like India, it has some limitations and drawbacks which are common when it emphasizes too much on nationalism.

i. Develops narrowism:

Education for nationalism stresses to develop the feeling of “My country, right or wrong”. This type of narrowism leads to feuds and conflicts in the international sphere. Bertrand Russell is of the opinion that this type of education teaches children to believe that their first devotion and duty is to obey the dictates to their government. The state teaches them false and cooked up history, politics and economics, which enable them to criticize the blind beliefs and blind obedience to government politics and programmes.

ii. Ignores individual freedom:

This type of education may achieve unity among the diversities of caste, colour, creed, sex, region and other factors, but it neglects the individual freedom and development, which is unpsychological and militates the idea of democracy.

iii. War psychology:

When education insists on nationalism, it leads to the narrow die-hard nationalistic attitudes, which makes the individual intolerant and hateful to others. Citizens of a despotic country become self –conceited. They regard all others as inferior to them. This attitude leads to widespread miseries, war and destruction.

iv. Develops the spirit of isolations:

The emphasis on education for nationalism develops the spirit of isolation in the citizens against the condition of citizens belonging to other nation. Such an education makes them conceited and egotistic. So, they never mind about the people of all other countries of the world.

CONCLUSION

National integration is nothing but achievement of unity in diversity. It includes political, economic, social, cultural, emotional integration. Therefore the citizens of an integration nation should have mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for the culture, traditions and ways of life of the different sections of people in the country. In fact we should have common national ideas, common objects, common interest and above all a prideful confidence in the future of the nation. As national integration is vital for India's survival the country must mobilize all its resources to evolve a concrete national programme involving every significant section of our society in purposeful action to combat every town, village and street the dark forces which seek to disintegrate the very fabric of our social, political and economic existence. We have to fight all that leads to injustice, inequality and discrimination. In this way; we should not degrade the very name of Indian citizenship. If we join our hands, heads, and hearts to build up national integration, which fulfills our dreams of making a stronger nation.

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