IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN INDIA

India is a sovereign, democratic, secular country. It is a secular country where the people of all religions worship without any hindrance according to their religious practices, through subject to law and order. Geographically and linguistically India has a variety, it is our unity in diversity. Indian people in different states and regions eat different kinds of food. They wear different clothes, they speak different languages, they have different castes and observe different religious practices, still, they are Indian.

National integration is the awareness of a common identity among citizens of the country, this means that although we belong to different religions and speak different languages, we recognise the fact that we are all one. National Integration arises through the behaviour and determination of citizens. It is the duty of every person as a citizen to oppose the forces and ideas that weaken national unity and integration. National Integration makes the sense of the essential oneness of the nation. It is the sense of identity and solidarity among all citizens of the nation. National Integration is the cementing force that binds the citizens of the country into a unified entity.

When it comes to the factors that hindering national integration there are many. Linguism, Regionalism, Communalism, Casteism are some of them. In India, there are many languages spoken in different parts of the country. This develops a sort of regional patriotism which threaten the unity of India. The division of the country into different states and union territories has caused a great change in the feeling of the Indian people.
Mutual jealousies and rivalries among the people of different regions grown up so much that they went to achieve the progress and development of their regions only. Religion is found one of the major factors that hinder national integration.

A bond of togetherness between people irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and gender is national integration. This is a feeling of oneness and brotherhood in a country where diversity is the main ethos. National Integration keeps the entire country strong, despite the differences in culture, language and main livelihood. A country like India has people from different cultures, languages and races. National Integration helps in keeping the stability of the country and helps in the development. It nourishes communal harmony and fights casteism, regionalism and linguistic differences. It enhances the feeling of loyalty towards the nation and aims at unifying people.

The then Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, convened National Integration Conference in September-October, 1961 to find ways and means to combat the evils of communalism, casteism, regionalism, linguism and narrow-mindedness, and to formulate definite conclusions in order to give a lead to the country. This Conference decided to set up a National Integration Council (NIC) to review all matters pertaining to national integration and to make recommendations thereon. The NIC was constituted accordingly and held its first meeting in 1962.

National Integration is a way of synthesizing divisive people and culture into unionised. It is a process of compatibility, common identity and national consciousness as well. National Integration unifies all
diverse loyalties into one national unity. National Integration is defined as a psychological and educational process of developing a common feeling of unity, harmony and cohesion in the hearts of people, a feeling of oneness and loyalty toward the country. There is a need to preserve the national integrity of our country. The feeling of togetherness among all citizens is important for the development of the country. Common man, politicians, religious leaders should be gathered in a commonplace to solve their problem.

National Integration plays a dynamic role in making the country one. This happens only by uniting every section of society. It provides equal opportunity for each citizen. It also offers equal platforming terms of social-cultural and economic development. National Integration also helps to unite the minorities as well as give them the freedom to live their life.

**Role of NCC in National Integration**

National Integration Camps and Special National Integration Camps are conducted to make cadets understand and value the rich heritage of cultures that forge unity despite the diverse languages, traditions and regions of our country. These camps are conducted on all India basis and help bridge the cultural gap among the various state of India. NIC aims to propagate national integration among cadets and society. Various activities that are conducted to promote National Integration among cadets are: state awareness programme, debates, quiz competitions, demonstrations, cultural presentations etc which help the cadets in understanding the nation of it's rich diversity.
NCC is the premier organisation which nurtures the youth of our nation. Unity and discipline is the motto of NCC. A large number of camps are conducted by NCC where cadets from different parts of the country get together. Republic Day Camp is the most important one that promotes national integration. Direct interaction among the cadets from different parts of the country helps in forming a better understanding on India. The role of NCC in this regard is incomparable because of it's great contribution towards the process of national integration.

National Integration is very significant for the country because it is seen many times in the history of mankind that the integrity of the nation in danger. It had confronted major challenges from within and also become a victim of foreign assaults. Hence, national integration plays a significant role in the making of a nation. It keeps the history of the country sustained with development.

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