

NATION

The term “Nation” refers to an organized people, which are united by emotional ties. It is a community found together by the common ties of territory where they live, language they speak, history they share and culture they are proud of. A nation denotes a sentimental unity that brings people together. It is a feeling that the people share the same sorrows, enjoy the same laurels and inherit the same heritage and tradition.

NATION STATE

Nation is a state, which has definite geographical boundary, a national language and a distinct ways of life, governed by a uniform code of laws. A nation la state is bases on democratic principles. In such a state there is no problem of minorities and thus the state becomes more powerful.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION

It means forging a bond of unity among people of a nation. National integration is very important in a country like India, which has a people of diverse religions, castes, languages etc. national integration is most necessary both for internal peace and property and external security.

National integration can be promoted by making the people to honour the national emblems and symbols like the national flag and national anthem. Political parties based on caste or religion should be banned. National integration can be promoted by participation in common festivals by attending and enjoying common things in literature of different languages. A healthy public opinion in favour of national integration should be created through the media of press, radio and television.

PROBLEMS IN THE WAY OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION OR PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIAN SOCIETY:

The main hindrances in the way of national integration in India are:-

- i) **Vastness of the country:-** India is a vast country. People living in different parts of the country do not have close contacts. As such people living in different parts begin to think of their own regions. This give to regionalism. This makes national unity difficult.
- ii) **Different religions:-** India is a country where people of all faiths and relations reside. The customs, rituals and festivals differed from man to man. This multiplicity of religions also gives rise to regionalism, which poses a hindrance to national unity.
- iii) **Multiplicity of languages:-** A huge country as India is there are many personal contact and exchange of ideas among the people quite difficult. This again gives rise to regionalism and hinders national unity.

- iv) **Communalism:-** India is a country where people of many religions reside. Sometimes the people of different religions clash with each other, giving rise of hatred and violence. This creates distrust and hinders progress.
- v) **Casteism:-** The India society is divided into many castes. The people of one caste do not mix with the other. This mentality gives rise to regionalism, which proves a great hindrance in the way of national unity.

ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS OF INDIA

India is an economically backward country in spite of its huge natural and human resources. The economic backwardness of India is because of the following reasons:-

i) **Backward agriculture:-** India is a huge agricultural country with almost 70% of the population engaged in agriculture. But India lacks the modern tools and sophisticated agricultural appliances and implements. So they fail to get good yield in spite of putting in hard labour. The distribution of land is uneven. There are rich farmers owning big farms. There are also landless laborers who earn a living by working on these farms. Bonded labour is still in vogue in some areas. This leads to economic inequality.

ii) **Backward Industry:-** Indian industry is not adequate. The goods produced are not upto the mark and many sophisticated goods have to be imported from other countries. India still depends on other countries for heavy machinery. This causes economic backwardness.

iii) **Illiteracy:-** A huge population of India is illiterate. They are blind to blind faiths and superstitious. They lack the knowledge to take to modernization. They believe less in work and more in fate. The people also fall prey to cunning moneylenders and land lords.

iv) **Unemployment:-** Unemployment is one of the major causes of economic backwardness in India. There are limited options of unemployment in India. The ever-increasing population has added to the problem. There is inadequate provision for general, technical and industrial education.

v) **Over-population:-** The population of India is increasing rapidly. The rise in population nullifies all the progress made in different fields. The rising population thus cripples the entire economic progress.

POLITICAL EQUALITY

Political equality means that in a democratic country everybody has equal political rights. All the citizens have the right to vote the right to contest election, the right to hold public office and the right to criticize the government irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or sex. All the citizens are considered equal before law.

Q. What were the political effects of British colonialism?

The British came to India purely as traders. But in course of time, they established their rule over India. The British rule had its impact on the political scenario of India. Despotic rulers were ruling India till then. The British gave to India much needed political unity. All Indians came to live under the same laws, the same system governance. It unified India and nationalism began to grow. As a result of the British colonialism, the Indians learnt great European and western values of liberty, equality, rule of law and the like. Many princely states came under one domain and India began to grow as a nation. The worst fall out of the political effect of British colonialism was her formation of the state of Pakistan.

Q. In what ways did the national movement contribute to the feeling of unity to the Indian people?

The national movement contributed immensely to the feeling of unity in the Indian people in numerous ways.

- i. The National movement kept to national integration
- ii. The object of the national movement was to obtain freedom for the Indians; mobilization of the people became the aim of the leaders. It led to unity among them.
- iii. The national movement took in its ranks men and women belonging to all religions and this leads to communal harmony.
- iv. The national movement led the people to revive the cultural heritage and it gave them a sense of unity.
- v. The national movement created sense of belongingness among the people, which led to unity.
- vi. The national leaders set an example of unity before the people despite the fact that they belonged to different religions, they stood for unity.

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