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## **Problem of National Integration in Pre-Independence & Post-Independence with Special reference to Language Issue**

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There are many serious problems and challenges before the Indian state today. Some problems are the result of its colonial past whereas some other problems are basically due to the backwardness of the Indian economy. The social configuration of India itself leads to some challenges and threats. But when we take a holistic view it becomes obvious that the problems and the challenges that exist before the Indian state today cannot be studied in isolation. Every problem, challenge and threat is the outcome of various factors though one factor might be playing a dominant role in its origin and sustenance. In this article we shall confine ourselves to main challenge that the Indian state is facing today is the challenge of national integration.

National Integration is the unity of People of a nation. India is a vast country. It is a Union of nearly thirty states. Here people speak different languages, Profess several religions and practice various customs. But there is unity in diversity. People are united by a common bond of culture, tradition and civilization. There is always a feeling of unity and owners, Love & harmony, Co-operation and coordination among the people of India.

Our unity has cemented the people of India to a one big nation; our spirit of unity has brought about peace, prosperity and progress of the country. For the political unity we have adapted secular democracy in our country. Unfortunately our unity is threatened by some unholy elements. They promote terrorism in some parts of the country. We must keep in mind that united we stand, divided we fall. We must maintain the tradition of our tolerance and love for peace. And all the people living in this land must feel that they are one nation - one people - the Indians.

National integration has been a very serious and prominent challenge in all the developing countries including India. For a proper analysis of the concept of national integration it is necessary to know

the meaning of certain concepts. The first and foremost concept is the term integration itself which may be defined as "a process of becoming whole."<sup>1</sup> In other words, "an integrated whole is one in which all structural aspects and parts, fit together with at least some minimal amount of unity or mutual compatibility."<sup>2</sup>

The minimum requisite for nationhood is considered to be the people living in a compact geographical area with general cultural unity. They form a nation by accepting a particular political order and forming a state. Language, race, religion and history are additional factors which generally strengthen the bond of nationhood. According to J.P. Narayan<sup>3</sup> nationhood is made up of tangible and intangible elements, the latter constituting much the larger part of it.

The development of India as a nation is the result of a combination of several other factors and forces during the British period. The exploitation of India by a common enemy was the most dominant factor which gave the nationalist forces in India a common identity and programme. The commercial interests of Britishers made it imperative for them to have a uniform administration as well as link the important parts of India through rail, road, post and telegraph systems.

The very presence of foreign rule in India gave birth to the nationalist forces. Initially, as mentioned above, efforts were made by the social and religious reformers to correct the ills of our own society in the light of Western thought and knowledge. The early nationalists and reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy also advocated the introduction of English as a medium of instruction in the schools and colleges because they knew well the role this language was going to play in future for the growth of nationalism.

India is a multi-linguistic nation with several well developed languages which are rich in grammar, expression and literature and have their own distinct script. Multi-linguism is, therefore, one of the primordial facts of the Indian polity. There are four major linguistic families covering the major languages of India<sup>4</sup> i.e. i. The Austric family, ii. The Dravidian family, iii. The Sino-Tibetan family, iv. The Indo-European family.

In multi-linguistic India the issue of language played a very important role during the national movement. By the time of British got their stronghold in India, Persian continued to be the language of administration and courts. Around 1830 Urdu was substituted for Persian as the languages of courts and administration in Bihar, North-