internally within the country and externally among the countries of the world. National understanding means the spirit of unity and fellowship among the constituents within a nation.

5.3 MEANING OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

We use the term “Integration” to mean the combination of different parts into a whole. But what is the actual meaning of National Integration? National Integration is much more than a combination or unity among its members. It includes the feelings and sentiments of its citizens which govern their political and public behaviour. National Integration is the feeling of oneness where all its citizens are integrated through sharing with one another, their joys, sorrows, smiles, tears and a common interest in the welfare of the nation as a whole. The citizens of an integrated nation have mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for the culture, traditions and ways of life of the different sections of people of their country. They have common national ideals, common objectives, common interests and above all, a profound confidence in the future of the nation. Are we not worried, when a member of our family is sick? Yes, because we are concerned about one another’s welfare and problems and, above all, we are emotionally attached to each other despite external differences. So, in short, it is the National Integration which keeps members of a nation united through the sharing of an emotional attachment. It is through Emotional Integration only that National Integration can be achieved.

In the words of Humayun Kabir, “National Integration does not depend on race or language or religion or geography, singly or collectively, though they help, but on the feeling of belonging to one nation”

According to Pandit Nehru, “Let us, the citizens of the Republic of India stand up with straight backs and look up at the skies, keeping our feet firmly planted on the ground and bring about this synthesis, this integration of the Indian people. Political integration has already taken place, but what I am after is something deeper than that, an emotional integration of the Indian people so that we may be welded into one strong national unit, maintaining at the same time all our wonderful diversity.”

5.3.1 Needs for National Integration

It is hoped that now we have developed a fair concept about the National and Emotional Integration. So, let us find out why this integration is needed.

India being a land of many faiths, castes, creeds, languages and religions, it is very essential that people should think in terms of oneness to bring peace, progress and happiness among its inhabitants. The greatest need of the hour is the building of a national outlook by curbing the religious, linguistic and communal conflicts which tend to disunite us.

In terms of national integration, Hans Kohn rightly opined "national is an idea- an idea force which feels man's brain and heart with new thoughts and sentiments and drives him to translates his consciousness into the deed of organised action".

According to J.N.Nehru -"In India the first essential is the maintenance of unity of the country not merely a political unity but a unity of mind and heart".

Now-a-days, we are much aware about what is happening in the society. Religions communities and communities with racial distinction have come into violent conflicts with one another and even leading to bloodshed on a large scale. Thereby, they are causing considerable damage to public and private property and to the social fabric. . Briefly, it can be summed-up that regionalism, linguism, communalism, casteism, racialism etc. are the main disruptive and disorganizing forces which have divided the Indian society into various groups besides spreading hatred among people. It is impossible to hope for a solution of these problems in the absence of national integration. Our democracy will also remain a dream in the absence of the social harmony which can be ensured only by national integration. So, is it not essential to remove the emotional divorce between one section and another among the people? From the above discussion, we have understood that National Integration is needed because –

5.3.2 Obstacles to National Integration

Till now, we have discussed the meaning as well as needs of National Integration. But still, we have seen that there is a visible lack of the feeling of oneness, unity and fellow feeling among us. Why? Don't you want to find out the causes? Yes, we have answers to these questions. Even after different endeavors from various sources to unite our nation, we have failed to achieve this objective. So, let us look in to the following obstacles or hurdles which stand in the way of National Integration –

Communalism: The greatest menace to the national solidarity of a country is communalism. There are many communities in India. The problem of Communalism in India is an old problem. The British by their policy of "DIVIDE & RULE" caused the problem to grow leading to the partition of the country. Communalism has been identified as one of the main obstacles in the way of National Integration.

Casteism: In the achievement of unity of the country, casteism causes bitterness among the people. The different castes look only at the benefit of their own castes. They do not bother for national benefit. This system widens the gulf between the people of different castes and prevents them from getting closer to one another. The accident of birth confers a caste identity on them. That is how casteism grows which hampers the spirit of integration.

Religious Prejudices: Religious prejudices are related to communalism and casteism. Religious prejudice and communal narrow-mindedness have caused the partition of our country and they are still prevalent in one shape or the other. The different ideologies of different religions sometimes inspire the followers to translate these differences into action and enmity among them is created.

Different Culture: Some people say that in India, as there are different cultures so there are no chances of achieving unity. They

Linguism: The diversity of languages is one of the formidable obstacles in the path of national integration. When we meet a person of our own language outside our region, we feel very happy. Language is always considered to be a great uniting force, but in our country it has become a disruptive factor. Our constitution has given us the right to get education in our own language. But sometimes, this love of one's own language becomes a disintegrating force when it is mixed up with political matter. The nation definitely needs a national language. Psychologist, sociologist and the experts in human behaviour are all of this opinion that one national language brings greater national cohesion and integration than the multiplicity of the languages.

Foreign language as a medium of Instruction: India has adopted a three (3) language formula consisting of English, Hindi and a regional language. In some educational institutions, English is the medium of instruction. It separates a section of the people from the vast majority who do not know English and a wide gap is created**.**

Defective Education System: Our education system is also to some extent responsible for our not attaining the desired level of national integration. We have identified the barriers of national integration but nothing has been done to remove these barriers. Our present educational system is also responsible for the divisive tendencies.

LET US KNOW



Regarding the defects in the education system of our country Kothari Education Commission (1964-66) has stated: "Instead of promoting social and national integration and making an active effort to promote national consciousness, several features of the educational system promote divisive tendencies."

their art, culture and literature etc. may be eventually included in the curriculum for acquainting the students with our cultural heritage and geographical and other diversities.

Effective use of co-curricular activities: Some programmes like display of educational films, radio talk for children of different regions, organizing their visits to different places of historical importance for understanding the past as well as the people and their cultural participation in feasts and festivals of other communities, organisation of prayer for all religions etc. may be undertaken. Apart from this, there should be provision for training in Scout and Guide, Red Cross, first aid and other similar programme.



LET US KNOW

According to the Sampurnanand Committee of Education, to ensure National Integration there should be daily assembly in schools and colleges. There should be a few minutes talk on moral and religious value or on social issue by the Head of the institution.

Moral and religious teaching: Here, the teacher should play a responsible role. He should bear an attitude of secularism and maintain the ideal "SARBA DHARMA SAMA BHAVA". The teacher can help the students to have respectful attitude towards other religions as well as tolerance, faith and spirit of goodwill to other faiths. Students should be taught to distinguish between good and bad, virtue and vice, so that they can develop a strong moral character.

Methods of teaching: The method of teaching should also aim at inculcating desirable values and proper attitudes in the students. Through the correct methods of teaching, those qualities can be developed in the students for promoting a healthy and corporate life.



ACTIVITY 5.4

Identify some of the barriers to achieving unity and integrity among the people of your locality. [point out/ find out other than above mentioned barriers.]

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: Mention some elements/topics to be included in the curriculum for promotion of National Integration.

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5.5 LET US SUM UP

- We have understood the meaning and importance of National Integration.
- Besides, we are also able to identify the various hurdles and obstacles of National Integration and International Understanding.
- Communalism, Casteism, Religious prejudices, Provincialism, Regionalism, Economic condition, defective education system, Foreign language as a medium of instruction are some of the hurdles in the way of National Integration.
- Only through educative means, we can remove these obstacles and promote National Integration.
- Besides, the course designer should also stress on certain principles of education for promotion of both.



5.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What is the meaning of National Integration?

Q 2: What do you mean by emotional integration?

Q3: What programmes would you start in your school in promoting national integration?

B) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the needs and importance of national and emotional integration.

Q2: Why is national integration important for us? How far can we achieve it through education?

Q 3: What contributions can the various educational institutions make towards awakening a nationalistic feeling in the students?

Q 4: Write a note on: Education for Nationalism.

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