UNIT 5: EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

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5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- define the meaning of national integration
- explain the needs and importance of national Integration
- identify the obstacles or hurdles in the way of national integration
- explain the role of education to strengthen national integration

5.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit will familiarise us with the National Integration. We often use the terms 'Integration' and 'Understanding' to mean that these two words stand for peace and harmony in the whole world. Just imagine, that without understanding and integration among the members of a family, we cannot think of a peaceful situation at home. Without unity, ultimately, the family will break up and there will be no welfare and progress of the family. All members of a family must have some common objectives, some feelings of love and respect for one another. Only then will the family prosper and live happily. Similarly, there should be a spirit of integration and understanding

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."



LET US KNOW

EMOTIONAL INTEGRATION: Emotional Integration is the unity, identify or similarity of emotions. If it exists, we will definitely feel unhappy when one is in distress and we will smile when others are happy. In other words, we emotionally share one another's sorrows and happiness, while national integration is the end and emotional Integration is the means to achieve that end.

Now, in order to understand National Integration more clearly we can pin point its meaning as follows:

- National Integration is the feeling of oneness among its members.
- It synthesises the different religious, caste, cultural and linguistic communities into a compact whole.
- It inculcates certain qualities like mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for other religions and cultures.
- It ensures overall progress and prosperity and welfare of the nation as a whole.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What do you mean by National Integration?

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ACTIVITY 5.1

Identify some of the qualities of the members of our society or community which can promote National Integration.

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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 –

- It brings peace and prosperity and also ensures welfare of the nation.
- It develops certain qualities like mutual understanding, tolerance, respect for other religions and cultures.
- Good and impartial administration is possible only in an integrated nation.
- It promotes continuous rise in the standard of living of the general masses as they are not involved in communalism, racism etc. but involved in productivity.



ACTIVITY 5.2

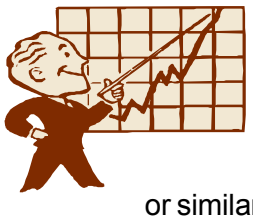
Why do you think that national integration is essential for promoting a Nation? Describe your own feelings towards the opinion within 50 words.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 2: Fill in the blanks –

a) Emotional Integration is the unity, identity or similarity of .....

b) Feeling of oneness of the members of a nation leads to .....

c) National Integration inculcates qualities like .....

d) ..... administration is possible only in an integrated nation.

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

do not believe in cultural integration but say that the Indian cultural unity is a myth. At present, it is very much evident that there is some sort of cultural oneness in this land. One of the most urgent needs is to strengthen the unity further and to create in the minds of all the citizens, a sense of belongingness to one culture.

Provincialism: Another danger to national integration is provincialism. Provincialism springs from the same sentiments which work behind communalism. We think ourselves as Assamese, Gujrati, Bengali, Marathi etc. This feeling may tend to disintegrate us. There are some states which do not even admit students from other states in their institutions of higher learning. Provincialism works in every walk of our national life- services, business, education etc. It is a great hindrance in our way to national progress.

Regionalism: Regionalism is another hindering force in the way of National Integration. The creation of the States in India was based on language. There is now a growing regional feeling among the states of India and this regionalism is another cause for lack of national integration.

Economic Condition: Economic factors are also responsible for the absence of a sound feeling of nationalism. The gap between the rich and the poor class, the peasant and the big land holders, the industrialist and the workers is increasing. Lack of employment opportunities has become a cause of acute frustration among the youth, who take to violence and even to anti-social and anti-national activities, affecting the integration of the nation.

Social Differences: In India, social conditions of the people have always been responsible for national integration. The national unity cannot be achieved, if there is hatred between higher and lower castes. This caste struggle is a serious impediment to the growth of national sentiment and it must be eliminated from the minds of younger generation.

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."



ACTIVITY 5.3

"Religious feelings are aroused and exploited in elections" – Identify some incidents that have a place in your state which are the obstacles in the way of National Integration.

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5.3.3 Education for National Integration

By now, we are well acquainted with the importance of National Integration and its various obstacles. India is a country well known for its diversity of language, custom, tradition, religion etc. It is quite natural to have conflicts among the people due to these diversities. But, only education can materialise their hopes and aspirations. In order to arouse the sense of nationalism in the minds of the new generation, educational plan and programme need to be undertaken very carefully. Education for national integration implies that education which inspires a sense of love and devotion towards one's country, in the hearts of young boys and girls. In this regard, the following educational steps may be considered effective –

Plea for a National System of Education: If education is to justify its role in establishing integration in the country, we must have a national system of education. At present, unfortunately, the pattern of education varies from state to state. Effective coordination between the Centre and the States is an essential condition for evolving an effective programme of national System of Education.

Revision of Curriculum: Certain elements of new knowledge relating to folktale, folk literature, folk songs, biography of the national heroes, human geography of the different regions of the country,

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.

The teaching of languages: We all know that India is a country with variety of languages. Different states are using different languages as medium of instruction. But quicker and permanent integration of the different communities living in different states will be possible, only if one common language is studied compulsorily by every student at the secondary stage throughout India.

Educational tours and trips: Through this, students come to know about how the people in different parts of the country live their lifestyle, attitudes, culture etc. Emphasis should be given to include the hill areas and the distant place in the educational tours in order to enable them to have first hand knowledge about these countries.

Exchange Programme: Under this programme, some teachers and students from one state should go and study in another state and vice-versa. It will help both the teachers and students in developing unity and integrity among their counterparts in different institutions of the country.

LET US KNOW



The conference of state Education Secretaries held in October, 1968 recommended exchange of students, teachers, educational administrators at the secondary and university level to promote National Integration.

Organising National Integration Camps: The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has been organising National Integration Camps in the country. The main aim of such camps should be to enable the students to understand and appreciate the social and cultural life of the people in different states of India. Even the participants may give lecturers on contributions of their respective states to the national life and economy.



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.

- For an advanced developed and peaceful world, where all people, irrespective of caste and class can live unitedly, the first and foremost necessity is to promote NATIONAL INTEGRATION.



5.6 FURTHER READINGS

1) K.K. Bhatia : *Principles and theories of education.*
2) R.N. Sharma : *Principles and techniques of education*.
3) Safaya & Shaida : *Modern theory and principles of education.*
4) Chaube & Chaube : *Philosophical and sociological foundations of education.*



5.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: National Integration means is the feeling of oneness where all citizens are integrated by sharing their joys, sorrow, smiles, tears and a common interest with one another for the welfare of the nation as a whole.

Ans to Q No 2:

a) Emotions.

b) National integration

c) Mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for religion and culture.

d) Good and impartial administration.

Ans to Q No 3: Certain elements of new knowledge relating to folktale, folk literature, folk songs, biography of the national heroes, human geography of the different regions of the country, their art, culture and literature etc. may be eventually included in the curriculum for the development of mental horizon of the students.



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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