

National Integration

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
25	National Integration	List out population of various religious communities and regional languages based on Census 2001 and 2011

Summary

Our nation is not only a geographical entity, it is a body of people sharing the sentiments of belongingness, that India is our nation and our nationality is Indian. Our Constitution, our flag and national anthem make the whole country one. sometimes our national integration is facing challenging national integration in the form of regionalism, communalism, religious fanaticism and linguism.

Concept of National Integration

- ✚ A Nation is a country with a unified social and political structure. A Nation denotes a body of people who have a feeling of oneness. This feeling of oneness is built on the basis of common history, society, common values and culture. Above all, the feeling of oneness among the people bind them together into a nation.
- ✚ India is a nation. It is a land inhabited by people of different communities. They live in different regions and speak different languages. They practice different religions and have different life styles. Underlying all these diversities the feeling of oneness is strengthened by economic and political interdependence.
- ✚ National integration is a positive aspect. It reduces socio-cultural and economic differences or inequalities and strengthens national unity and solidarity, which is not imposed by any authority. People share ideas, values and emotional bonds. It is feeling of unity within diversity. National identity is supreme cultural unity, Constitutional continuity, common economic problems, art, literature, national flag, national anthem and national emblem etc. that promote National Integration.

Communalism

Communalism means placing one's own community above others, even above the nation. you might have seen temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches where Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians visit to offer prayers and worship.

In India, Hindus celebrate Durga puja, Diwali, Holi and Ramanavami. Muslims are celebrating Id, Bakrid and observing Ramjan. Sikhs celebrate Guru Purnima as Gurparab and Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter. These indicate clearly that the people of different religions live in our country. Our government has declared these festivals as national festivals.

Linguism

- ✚ Linguism is excessive love and bias in favour of people who speak a particular language. Different people speak different languages (Hindi, English, Bengali, Kannad, Telugu, Gujrati, Malayalam, Odia etc.) which clearly shows that India is a multi-lingual nation.
- ✚ The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists as many as 22 languages which are referred to as “*scheduled*” languages and are given recognition and official status. Hindi and English are our official languages.
- ✚ In addition to states and union territories, India has autonomous administrative regions which may be permitted to select their own official language for example; the **Bodoland Territorial Council** in Assam which has declared the **Bodo language** as official for the region along with Assamese and English. and **Bengali** in the **Barak Valley** is seen as official .
- ✚ In addition, the Government of India recognizes-Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia as classical languages.
- ✚ Like communalism, the term linguism is used in a negative connotation. There are conflicts over linguistic rights in India-Anti-Hindi agitations of Tamil Nādu in 1964(against the implementation of Hindi as the official language of India.). The government of Maharashtra and Karnataka made the state languages as mandatory in educational institutions

Regionalism

- ✚ Regionalism is a feeling of pride and loyalty that people belonging to a region have. It is sometimes associated with a feeling of superiority of belonging to one region as compared to those belonging to other regions.
- ✚ Region is an area the inhabitants of which have a sense of unity on the basis of language, culture and economic interests. Regionalism is regional loyalty above all. Regionalism gives a negative feeling among the people of a region towards the people of other regions. Regionalism encourages the demand of regional autonomy. It also leads to the demand for the creation of new state. It favours the “son of soil” theory.
- ✚ In India each state and union territory have its own geographical boundary, own natural and Human resources. India has 29 states and 7 union territories. But within the state, demands for the creation of separate small states are being raised India has always been a multi-lingual country.
- ✚ In November 2000, three new states viz, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand were created. The creation of these states was based on strong regional feeling and loyalty of these regions.
- ✚ The regional parties and leaders associated with the creation of these new regional states are organizing movements, dharnas and protests etc. In support of their demands.

Challenges to National integration

- ✚ Communalism, Linguism and regionalism are the main challenges to national integration in our country. It is unfortunate that the feeling of oneness is hurt by religious, lingual and regional loyalties. On many occasions, communal outlook, lingual favor and regional loyalties.
- ✚ In our country, the feeling of oneness between challenged on many occasions. In communal riots, people forget that they are Indians. Religious Fundamentalists and fanatics guide them.
- ✚ Linguism also poses a threat to national integration. Lingual loyalty is against the feeling of oneness among the people of a nation. In Linguism, people attach more and more importance to their lingual identity. For the relative status of individual languages, they come in conflict and behave like enemy. They develop jealousy and hatred towards the people speaking other languages.
- ✚ Regionalism is also a challenge to national Integration. The regional aspirations and loyalty hurt the feeling of national integration. It has sponsored the demand of regional autonomy. It has created new states and is working for the creation of more states. pose a serious threat to national integration.

Evaluate Yourself

1. What is communalism? Why is it a threat to national integration?
2. Explain different kinds of factors that promote national integration.
3. What is linguism? In what context it is harmful to national integration.
4. Explain the role of regional parties in regionalism?

Evaluate Yourself

1. Highlight the salient features of Hinduism,
2. Discuss the three basic concepts of Islam
3. Explain the three constituents of Christians' religious life
4. What you mean by Community Kitchen in Sikhism?