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Necessity of Promoting Unity in Diversity in India

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ABSTRACT: As we all know India is a country of unity in diversity. The mountain ranges, river-irrigated areas, rivers, and streams, forest, and desert all have beautified India with their outstanding diversity amongst people various races, castes, creed, religion, and languages each state and region has its uniqueness International local travellers or visitors love this variety colours, culture, and the climate, etc. Dance & music, colourful festivals and beautiful handiworks a spell on the visitors both National and international. Beaches of Goa, backwaters of Kerala, and snow-clad mountains of Himachal, and sands, & lakes of Rajasthan, world culture sights of Delhi etc are the symbol of the diversity of our nation. This colourful variety of a country makes our country a major attraction of tourists that is beneficial for the Economy, and prosperity of the country.

KEYWORDS-unity,diversity, india, culture, economy, religion

INTRODUCTION

Advantages of Unity in Diversity

- Individuals' morale in the workplace, company, and community improves when united in diversity
- It aids in expanding collaboration, partnerships, and interpersonal interactions, boosting performance, work quality, productivity, and lifestyle
- This allows communication to thrive even in the most challenging situations
- It is easier to control conflicts when people are kept away from social evils
- It encourages good human connections and safeguards everyone's equal rights
- India benefits from tourism because of its unity in diversity
- Tourists from all over the world are attracted to people from diverse walks of life, cultures, beliefs, and clothes[1,2]
- This results in the practice of national unity among the world's peoples, even though they are so different from one another
- It strengthens and enhances the country's rich heritage and India's cultural heritage

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Disadvantages of Unity in Diversity

- This can lead to various social tensions among states and people of different linguistic backgrounds
- In many parts of the country, it breeds corruption and illiteracy
- It may cause a bad lifestyle in many pastoral areas due to undeveloped foundations, electricity shortages, and roads, among other factors[2,3]

Factors Influencing Unity in Diversity

- Unity in Geography: Rivers, mountains, plateaus, deserts, and other landforms
- The Racial Unity: There are many races in India, such as Aryas, Dravidas, Northeast tribal race, and others
- The unity in language: Around 1600 languages in India mainly originated from the ancient language Sanskrit
- The Religion and caste Unity: India has many religions and caste
- Example: Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, and others

Unity in Diversity in the Context of Indian Society

People of various religions and cultural origins live here. Because India is a secular country, they practise whichever faith they want. People here appreciate one another and live in an atmosphere of love and fraternity despite their diverse cultures, languages, and beliefs. India, a 5000-year-old civilisation, is rich in diversity, whether in religion, race, caste, culture, or tongue. There are approximately 29 countries, each with its own culture and language. More than



30 new festivals are held for the country's numerous communities every year. Despite these disparities, the Indian people exhibit a true sense of togetherness, reflecting India's unique philosophy of unity in diversity that challenges global Society. This is due to ancient Indian culture, which instilled a sense of national identity.[3,4]

Unity in diversity teaches us that, despite our differences in caste, creed, or race, these differences cannot keep us apart, and we must remain eternally united to better our country. This is the most unusual occurrence that has occurred in our country. It not only keeps the nation unified and strengthened, but it also keeps the belief in coexistence with love, peace, and respect alive in us. The country's particular culture, traditions, festivals, music, and dance make it an energising and incredible country in the world.

II. DISCUSSION

Unity in diversity consists of two different words that are "unity" and "diversity". Any difference between two or more people is called diversity. In simple words, diversity is in which the people are not the same, there are some differences that can be related to religion, caste, language, culture etc. Unity means to make a group of people maintain a relationship with people. So if we mix these two words with each other, it creates the beautiful meaning of unity in diversity that is a group of people in which different types of people stay together.

The unity in diversity is defined as the spirit of brotherhood without any discrimination. The term "Unity in diversity" implies the feeling of oneness or togetherness even after having a lot of diversity. Its spirit unites the people together and this bond shows the path of righteousness. This Diversity can be in the form of religion, colour, caste, creed, cultural practices, etc. In our country, these diversified traits are not seen as a conflict, but they are the varieties that enrich our society and the nation. It is used as a symbol of harmony and unity among people belonging to different religions or cultural backgrounds.

Origin Of Unity In Diversity In India[4,5]

The term "Unity in Diversity" was coined in China and North America around 500 BC. It signifies the unity and oneness among people, despite belonging to different caste, religions, cultures, and social backgrounds. At the time of independence, this term was widely used by our freedom fighters to induce a feeling of patriotism in the people. It was depicted that we all Indians are the son/daughter of the holy "Bharatmata" and it is our prime duty to protect its soul from foreign invaders.

Canada is following multiculturalism in the country. Joseph-Adelard Godbout was the 15th premier of Quebec, Canada, who used the phrase of unity in diversity in Canada. After the use of this phrase by Joseph-Adelard Godbout, Canada has become the best example of unity in diversity. Canadians are very friendly in nature and they welcome all the foreigners who went to Canada. Due to the unity in diversity in Canada, there is very low racism and almost no incidents of hate speech. Staying friendly with everyone makes the country financially strong because it attracts tourism.

In 2000, the Europeans adopted unity in diversity in Europe as the official motto of the country. Before the adoption of unity in diversity in Europe, there were many states in Europe which had different cultures. But after the adoption of unity in diversity, all the Europeans came together to make the unity irrespective of their culture and other differences. When we talk about the unity in diversity, we cannot forget about our nation. Undoubtedly, India is one of the biggest countries which has set the example of unity in diversity. There are lots of differences related to caste, culture, religion, colour, etc in India. But fortunately, irrespective of differences, the people of India have been living together since many centuries. Every person in the nation respects each other without checking their differences. This best practice is being continued in India which perfectly demonstrates the unity in diversity in India. [5,6]

Given our widely diverse country, the "unity in diversity model" set by us is an inspiration for the entire global world. There are mainly 4 types of diversity in India that is evident in India:

- 1). Geographical Diversity in India
- 2). Cultural Diversity in India
- 3). Religious Diversity in India
- 4). Language Diversity in India



Despite all these diversities, we find that there is unity among them which is as follows –

Unity In Geographical Diversity In India

The diverse geographical area is a matter of dispute among various countries like Nepal and China which are separated by the Himalayas. However, in our country, we accept this diversity with an open heart that further strengthens our unity.[4,5,6]

The geographical area of our country is very vast. There is Himalaya on the top and the most fertile northern plains and the plateau of Central India. There is a lot of diversity in terms of rivers and natural wildlife. But, this diversity has nowhere impacted our unity. From the very beginning, the entire geographical part was known as Bharat Varsha. This name is also present in our sacred Vedas and Puranas.

Unity In Cultural Diversity In India

So let's try to give the answer for what is cultural diversity? From time immemorial, there is a large number of diverse cultural and ethnic groups prevalent in our country. Broadly, the people of India shall be divided into four major groups on ethnic grounds. The first group is of the Neolithic and Paleolithic men who are living in this country from the remote past. The second group of people belongs to the Mongoloid type and they are found in the area of Sikkim and Nepal. The third group of people belongs to the Dravidians group, which are living in the Southern part of the country. The fourth group includes the Indo-Aryans group living in the Northern part of India.

Despite having different cultural groups, there is a lot of unity in terms of ideas, philosophy, literature, etc. and it is the beauty of India that there is unity in cultural diversity in India. Being the country of festivals, it is observed that people from all cultural backgrounds come together and celebrate all the festivals. The manner of performance of social ceremonies is usually the same in all parts of the country. Further, each and every achievement of our country is celebrated by all the cultural and ethnic groups. Thus, there is a feeling of Unity in cultural diversity in India.

Unity Among Religious Diversity In India

India is a union of all the diverse religions in the world. All the religions ranging from Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam to Christianity can be found here. They also have their sects and sub-divisions. The Hindu religion itself is divided into countless creeds namely the Vedic religion, the Sanatan Dharma, the Brahmo Samaj, the Arya Samaj.[6]

III. RESULTS

Factors affecting Unity in Diversity

There are a number of factors that affects unity in diversity based upon forms of diversity there are Racial diversity, Linguistic diversity, Caste diversity, and Religious diversity, and based on bonds of unity there are geo-political unity and the institution of Pilgrimage. Here is a detailed description of factors affecting below:

Racial Diversity

Racial diversity means diversity based on race. A race is a group of people having distinct physical features such as skin color, type of nose, the form of hair, etc. Herbert Risley had classified the people of India into. These are, Turko-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Scytho-Dravidian, Aryo-Dravidian, Mongols-Dravidian, Mongoloid, Dravidian. These racial types above can be reduced to three basic types-the Indo-Aryan, Mongolian and Dravidian. Herbert Risley is the supervisor of census 1891. As Herbert Risley's classification was based upon languages he was criticized for his work. The latest classification was given by B.S. Guha(1931 census). He has identified six racial types, the Negrito, the Proto Australoid, the Mongoloid, the Mediterranean, the Western Brachycephaly, and the Nordic.

Linguistic Diversity

In India, language is not just a means of communication, rather it is a representation of rich culture, heritage, and tradition. The famous linguist Grierson has noted 179 languages and 544 dialects, further, the 1971 census on the other hand reported 1652 languages in India which are spoken as the mother tongue. Not all these languages are, however, equally widespread some are tribal languages too which are spoken by less than one percent of the total population. Our Indian constitution mentions 22 languages mentioned under the VIII schedule, these are, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Nepali, Santhali, Maithili, Dogri.



Even UNESCO has recognized India as one of the most linguistically diverse Countries in the world.[3,4,5]

Religious Diversity

Indian civilization values multiculturalism and gives a unique character to Indian culture. We have people who belong to a variety of ethnicities and religions. While 94% of the world's Hindus live in India, there are also considerable populations of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and adherents of folk religions. The Indian constitution also guarantees the Right to freedom of religion under Article 25-28 making India a Secular state that is, Respect for all religions.

Caste Diversity

India is a country of castes. The term caste is generally used in two senses: sometimes it is based upon Varna and sometimes it is based upon Jati.

1. VARNAs refers to a segment of the four-fold division of Hindu society based upon functional criteria. During the Vedic period, the caste system was well recognized, this caste was based upon varnas. The Four principal categories were, Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra
2. JATI refers to a hereditary endogamous status group that practices a specific traditional occupation. There are 3000 and more jatis in India. There are bonds of unity underlying all this diversity. These bonds of unity lie in a certain underlying uniformity of life as well as in certain mechanisms of integration. These are geo-political unity, and the institution of pilgrimage.

Geo-Political Unity

The first bond of unity of India is its geopolitical integration. India is known for its geographical unity ranging from the Himalayas in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and the oceans on the other side. Politically India is a Sovereign State. The same political culture is shared by the norms of democracy, secularism, and socialism

Institution of Pilgrimage[1,2,3]

Another source of unity in India is temple culture which is reflected in the network of shrines and holy places. From Badrinath and Kedarnath in the north region to Rameshwaram in the south region, Jagannath Puri in the east region, and Dwaraka in the west region. The religious shrines and sacred rivers are spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. Closely related to them is the age-old culture of pilgrimage, which has always moved people to various parts of the country and promoted in them a sense of geo-cultural unity.

IV. CONCLUSION

Unity in diversity is an ancient phrase that has been used in some societies for several centuries. The phrase has been used in North America and China since 500 BC.

Unity in diversity refers to a concept of unity without “uniformity and diversity without fragmentation”.

It is used as an expression of unity and harmony between individuals or groups belonging to different backgrounds or following different practices.

The phrase shifts the focus from unity based on the tolerance of linguistic, cultural, physical, political, social, ideological, or physiological differences of individuals or social units to unity based on appreciation and acceptance.

India is the best example to prove the concept of diversity and unity in diversity. Being a 5000 years old civilization, it is a land of rich diversities.

People, despite belonging to different backgrounds, respect each other and live with the feeling of harmony and brotherhood.

The country homes almost all the religions of the world and is the birthplace of a few of them. It also has linguistic diversity.

The 29 states of India have their culture, tradition, and language. The people of the country celebrate more than 30 major festivals of various religions, cultures, and communities.

Therefore, it is said “United we stand, divided we fall” because the country falls when the people are not united.[6]

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