INTRODUCTION

National integration is a powerful feeling of ‘oneness’ which should be sown like seeds in the hearts and minds of people to sprout and grow into ‘one nation’, ‘one people’ as branchless trees. In other words, though we are stratified by caste, creed, religion, region, language, politics and other socio-economic aspects, we have to unite and bind ourselves together by a powerful feeling of “We are One-Indians and live for India-Our Nation.”

Meaning of National Integration

National Integration means national unity, that is unity in diversity. “The expression national integration” consists of two words- ‘national’ and’ integration. ‘The word ‘national’ implies a country. The word integration means the fusion of the people into one. These national integration means unifying all the forces in the country so as to produce the idea of “ONE NATION.” It also implies social, political, economic, linguistic and cultural unity. National integration is also known as nationalism.

DEFINITIONS OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

“Nationalism is that which depends on we feelings towards the nation”

HUMAYUN KABIR

National integration conference 1961
“Nationalism or National integration is a psychological and educational process involving the development of a feeling of unity. Solidarity and cohesion in the hearts of the people, a sense of economic citizenship a feeling of loyalty to the nation.”

The following ideas come to our mind whenever we talk of national integration or nationalism

1. A feeling of brotherhood in the minds of the people
2. A feeling of oneness.
3. A feeling of cohesion.
4. A feeling of harmony in thought and action.
5. A feeling of loyalty to the country.
6. A feeling of solidarity.
7. A feeling of patriotism.
8. A feeling of unity of the country.
9. A feeling of tolerance with others ideas and beliefs.
10. A feeling of ‘We’ and ‘I.’

**NEED FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION**

India is a land of diverse castes, races, religions, politics, language, cultures, faiths, customs and traditions. As a result the integrity of our nation is in danger. **According to Dr.**
Kannugo, “Every country at every time needs national integration but India needs it most.”

- To Develop national character
- To protect from foreign aggression
- To bring unity in diversity.
- To hold democracy
- To face present challenges
- To control narrow tendencies
- To develop India culture
- For our economic progress
- To establish world peace
- To achieve scientific and technical progress
- To achieve social progress
- To create internal peace

**OBSTACLES TO NATIONAL INTEGRATION**

India is facing a number of problems after her independence. Attainment of national integration is one of the most important problem for which she has been struggling with a number of obstacles that tend to undermine national unity and hamper national progress.

- **Provincialism**
For the purpose of effective and smooth administration our country has been decided into certain regions on the basis of language. It leads to the problem of interstate demarcation of boundaries, particularly in nearly created provinces.

- Linguism
- Casteism
- Communalism
- Classism
- Inequality
- Political parties
- Unemployment
- Lack of Leadership
- Defective education system

**EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL INTERGRATION**

Education for national integration means using educations as a powerful instrument inspire a sense of love and devotion in the hearts of young boys and girls towards the country. In the words of Dr. Radhakrishnan “National Integration cannot be built by bricks and mortar, it cannot be built by Chisel and hammer, it has to grow silently in the minds and heart of men. The only process of Education”

**Role of Educational Institution in National Integration**
The school performs the following function to shape the destiny of our nation and national integration.

- Co-Curricular activities
- Special stress in social studies
- Textbooks on history
- Uniforms
- National days
- Birthday of greatment
- National antheme
- National and patriotic song
- Organizing camps etc.

**STEPS FOR PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEGRATIONS**

Kothari Education commission has mentioned four steps for promoting National Integration.

1. Common school system
2. Social and National services
3. Development of appropriate language policy.
4. Promotion of National consciousness

**CONCLUSION**

National Integration is nothing but achievement of unity in diversity. It includes political, economic, social, cultural and emotional integration. In short, nationalism means full-hearted devotion to the nation, sense of duty together with obligation and unquestioning faith in it glorious future based on
its present well being and prosperity.” National Integration is a psychological and emotional process including the development of a feeling of unity, solidarity and cohesion in the hearts of the people, a sense of common citizenship and a feeling of loyalty to the nation. It includes social, political economic, linguistic and cultural unity.

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