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Role of National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) in National Integration

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Abstract

National integration is an important factor to build togetherness in a nation. It means though we belong to different castes, religions, and regions and speak different languages, we recognize this fact that we all are one. India is a land of widespread diversities in terms of religion, language, caste , tribe, race , region and so on. Hence , the achievement of national integration becomes very essential for all around development and prosperity of the country.

Present research paper is based on the study of National Service Scheme and its role in building National Integration. NSS activities , mostly includes youth , and youths are the strength and base of strong nation. These activities includes empowerment programmes that encourage the youths towards National Integration.

The paper focuses on Introduction to National Integration, N.S.S – Objectives and goals and their role in building our nation.

Introduction to National Integration

The first National Integration Council of India in 1961, while declaring its objectives has expressed the scope of National Integration as a psychological and educational process involving the development of a feeling of unity, solidarity and cohesion in the hearts of the people and also a sense of common citizenship and a feeling of loyalty to the Nation.

According to Myron Weiner, "National integration implies avoidance of divisive movements that would balkanise the nation and presence of attitudes throughout the society that give presence to national and public interest as distinct parochial interests."

According to Dr. S. Radhakrishna, "National integration is not a house which could be built by mortar and bricks. It is not an industrial plan too, which could be discussed and implemented by experts. Integration, on the contrary , is a thought which must go into the heads of the people. It is the consciousness which must awaken the people at large."

National Integration in India

National integration is highly important in a country like India due to her multi-religious, multi-lingual, multi-caste and multi regional set up. Integration cannot be possible through absorption and assimilation; rather attempts should be made to promote unity in diversity. A harmonious and willing integration of the people is desirable through which the evils of communalism, casteism, racialism, linguism and tribalism can be subordinated to the over-all interest of the nation as a whole.

For India's plural socio-political order and multi-culturalism, some authors like John Strachery pointed out that India has never been a country in any European standard. But this was contested by a group of eminent Indian scholars like Shri Aurobindo, Vivekananda etc. The fact has been analysed by Vincent Smith in a compromising tone that India maintains "unity in diversity". The British Government helped in making India as a nation with territorial unification, common administration with uniform civil and criminal laws and introduction of modern means of communication.

The makers of the Indian constitution were well aware of India's cultural diversities and were shocked with the communal tensions of the immediate past of independent India. They have put emphasis on "Unity and Integrity of the Nation" and highlighted this principle in the preamble of the constitution. But India has been victimized of communal violence, intra-regional conflict, religious fanaticism, militant organisations and linguistic hysteria.

Introduction to National Service Scheme (NSS)

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year in 1969. Aimed at developing student's personality through community service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people in Colleges, Universities and at +2 level working for a campus-community (esp. Villages) linkage.