



# Nationalism, Concept, Indian Nationalism & Development

S. Kumar Meshram

Ph.D. Scholor, Bharatiya Mahavidyalaya, Amravati (Maharashtra)

Research Guide - Dr. Dharmendra Telgote, Principal, Babasaheb Deshmukh Parvekar Mahavidyalay, Parva (Yavatmal Dist. Maharashtra)

## ABSTRACT

In the mediaeval period churches & their authorities were quite powerful and their orders were operative all over the World. That time injustice and unjust rules were loaded by the monarchy. Due to this, political consciousness and national spirit arose in the common public. Nationalism infact emerged from cultural as well as political policies of feudial system in early years. The nationalism movement was started with the sole moto of encountering socio-economic diversity. Emergence of nationalism was from Europe. Subsequently it's spread over was all over the world. Nationalism is sentiment, loyalty and sympathy which binds a group of people together with common institutions and culture that creates unity among them.

Nationalism concept emerged in 18th century. There was struggle between catholics and protestants. This Struggle was for empire and was a part of nationalism. During 19th century, nationalism emerged, had an impact on several changes in political sphere of Europe. The result of these changes were emergence of nation-state. Another outcome of nationalism was rising up of middle class, the industrial revolution, French revolution and spread of awareness of people about their rights.

This paper will throw light on nationalism in earlier stage and it's present scenario and its impact on overall situation of socio-economic and political area in India.

Key words - Nationalism, Imperialism, Emergence, Democracy

Methodology - The sources of this paper are the different articles, published in news papers, EPW, websites and other sources.

## Introduction

Nationalism concept, its emergence and development has been discussed in this paper. While understanding the concept of nationalism, it is necessary to know the definition of nationalism. Nation and the State are different things. Nationalism refers to the feeling of oneness that emerges when people living in common region, share the same historical, political, cultural background, speak the same language, have the same cultural Values and consider themselves as one nation.

## What is nationalism

Nationalism is a feeling about the nation. It's a feeling of love, pride about the nation. It's a feeling about your country that it's far better than any other country. It's a desire of a group of people who belongs to the same race, culture, language etc. to form an independent country. It's movement which tends to promote interest of a particular nation and with the aim of presenting sovereignty.

## Concept of nationalism

Nationalism is basically European concept. Gradually it spread over in entire world. Nationalism is strong attachment to the soil where one is born and brought up. Subsequently during the course of development it took different forms. Hence it is difficult to define in exact words. However its meaning and analysis has been made by various historians. Prof. Hans Kohn a well known authority on nationalism defines that 'it's a State of mind in which supreme loyalty of the individual is felt to be due to the nation State' He further says 'it is a living and active corporate will.'

It is therefore a state of mind which inspires majority of people in the state. The supreme loyalty of a man is with nation as if his own life. Scholars opined that Nationalism began in late 18th century or early 19th century with American industrial revolution or with French revolution.

## Emergence of nationalism in India

In India the rise of nationalism is connected to independent movement during colonial period. In this period movement like Dandi March, Satyagraha, Civil disobedience, Non-cooperation movement against the British was led under the Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Oppression and injustice by Britishers paved the way to rise of nationalism consciousness. The whole movement was to liberate India from the clutches of colonial rule. Entire public were united against British rule to get the freedom.

## Indian Nationalism

Indian nationalism has separate identity and unanimity despite the fact that there is ethnic, linguistic, religious diversity. However in the year 1980 religious conflicts arose. Year 2014 onwards after the BJP Govt. sworn in power with a new trend of nationalism i.e., religious nationalism (Hindu Nationalism) came into force and slowly Indian Nationalism lost its historic image of Secular State.

Due to this turnaround politics under Hindu Nationalism, conflicts between intra religions increased, threats in to the minority people, political bifurcation amongst religious national nomenclatures, multiple assassinations, increasing trend of quarrel in the group of people in the name of nationalism (Hindu) changed the whole face of democracy. Indian democracy is thus threatened by conflicting religio - national interests. Before independence these groups were involved unitedly to divest the British Power in order to achieve self rule i.e, independence. But 2019 onwards this sort of atmosphere creates the hostility in religio-group thereby disintegrating the public at large which induces violence and blood shed to acquire and retain power.

## Nationalism Development

In India nationalism developed as a part of any anticolonial struggle and also due to people were united. Thus it was inclusive nationalism. At that time everybody was a part of nationalism to oppose enemy within. According to Dr. Ambedkar 'Nationalism is a feeling of consciousness of kind which is on the one hand binds together those who have it so strongly that it over-rides all differences arising out of economic conflicts or social gradations and on the other hand serves them from those who are not of their kind. '

## Nationalism in present situation

In the last 5 to 10 years Hindu Nationalism is on the front and to create Hindu Rastra. All sorts of efforts are being initiated through events, propaganda and ideologies. Under this program old era and Hindu traditions and teachings are being saddled on minorities and down trodden people. People opposing to accept this are branded as anti nationals and legal actions are taken against them through Govt. fonctionnaires. Due to this filthy atmosphere is created which promotes revolts between two groups. This hampers to the national integrity and public tranquillity. This also hits to socioeconomic development and public harmony. Infact article 25 of Indian Constitution provides and guarantees the freedom of profess, practise & propagate religion to all citizens. So how can one pressurise other to follow one's religious culture and faith. This creates outbreaks, conflicts & quarrels amongst the people which hampers the national peace. It is much needed to maintain national harmony and to avoid practising of such things which creates hostile relations in the people.

## Nationalism in true spirit.

Gundaism & mob lynching has been increased now a days which is backed by politicians. This way threat, coersive methods are used by gangsterism which sabotages the overall development of the nation. Another hurdle is increasing Communalism in the country. This promotes to robbery and ruins the nation. According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, communalism is against the spirit of Nationalism. It weekend India socially & nationally. Communal feelings are a menace to National integration and hamper the the way of liberty, equality and fraternity. Nationalism to Dr. Ambedkar is spiritual phenomenon rooted in humanism.

Dr. Ambedkar always believes in only one Nationalism i.e, The Indian Nationalism. He does not hold any religions view of Nationalism such as Hindu Nationalism or Muslim Nationalism. Dr. Ambedkar never allows his Nationalistic spirit to submit to such type of irrationalism. He further says that monopoly of the power & prestige by certain religious or political groups in majority is not nationalism. This attitude if rightly considered is itself antinational. He accepts secularism for future existence of all religions, in India. All men cannot come under the banner of one religion. There will be always diversity of religions in India.

## Conclusion

In India for the real sense of Nationalism we have to consider the view of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. For him nationalism was to revitalize the Indian society. Nationalism to him is more than political freedom. According to Dr. Ambedkar his mission was to see people free and happy, socially, politically and economically without- any coercion always and everywhere, Nationalism is not mere display of patriotism & political manoeuvre but to build up real inner strength and solidarity among the people. This is the essence of Ambedkar Concept- of nation & nationalism.

## Suggestions

1. Rationalism attitude should be there while governing the state.
2. More thrust is to be given on public welfare irrespective of caste, colour and culture.
3. Devaluation of Indian Constitution be stopped.
4. Constitutional provisions be implemented precisely.
5. Constitutional Morality be followed which is need of an hour.

## Referances

1. Ambedkar Dr. B.R, Pakistan Partition of India.
2. What The Nation Really Needs to know, The JNU Nationalism Lectures.
3. Ambedkar Dr. B.R., Writing & Speeches Vol. 1
4. Wikipedia