

Society Class 10

18th August, 2024 at 1:00 PM

REGIONAL DIVERSITY (12:32 PM)

- **CONCEPT OF REGION**
- A region is a homogeneous unit, physically and culturally distinct from the neighboring areas.
- People have the awareness that they are similar but distinct from others.
- Examples:
 - 1) South Indian states are characterized by the Dravidian language which brings them under one fold.
 - 2) North Eastern state is home to numerous tribes and ethnic groups but they share historical experiences and ethnic ties due to geographical proximity and shared practices.
- There could be multiple regions within a state for example UP, Awadh, Braj, Bundelkhand, Purvanchal, etc.
- Similarly Rajasthan, Mewad, Marwad, Shekhawati etc.
- Religious and pilgrimage circuits. For example, Religious practices define cultural units that cut across states for example: Char Dham Yatra links regions across the states of Uttarakhand, Odisha, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu into a shared religious cultural unit.
- Linguistic and cultural zones -The cultural unit of Bengal encompasses the state of West Bengal and also Bangladesh. They share a common Bengali language, festivals, and literature which binds people together despite political boundaries.
- The Tamil cultural identity spans the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and parts of Sri Lanka.
- Tamil language literature and the celebration of festivals illustrate this cultural heritage.
- Question: In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the region forms a cultural unit rather than a state? Give reasons with examples.

REGIONALISM (12:59 PM)

- Regionalism is rooted in India's diversity with respect to language, caste, religion, ethnicity, etc.
- When all these factors get geographically concentrated and there is a feeling of relative deprivation then regionalism is bound to happen.

POSITIVE

- If to concretize our regional identities we resort to regionalism.
Example:
Linguistic reorganization of states.
- If for the purpose of administrative convenience, we resort to regionalism.
Example:
Uttarakhand.
- If for socio-economic development, people demand then it is a positive aspect of regionalism.
Example:
Telangana.

NEGATIVE

- If you resort to violence.
- If demand is communal in nature.
- Any demand which is secessionist in nature.
- The concept of Regionalism is deeply based on the son of the soil doctrine.

Son of the soil doctrine:-

- It is also referred to as the politics of nativism. It is defined as an ideology according to which the natives of the land exercise their rights over the resources of the land to the extent of exclusion of outsiders.

- It underlines the view that the state specifically belongs to the main linguistic group and it constitutes an exclusive homeland for its main language speakers. For example Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Meghalaya, etc.

Causes of Son of Soil:

- Lack of culture of outmigration due to strong attachment to the land.
- Son of soil often happens when there is a struggle for middle-class jobs
- Applying the zero-sum game theory of power in the context of natives or migrants.
- Discrepancy in demand and supply with respect to resources and opportunities.
- Failure of state administration in both source and destination areas.
- Due to rising aspirations, one has high expectations and anything short of expectation will lead to disenchantment.

Basis of Regionalism:

1) Historical :

- Demand for regionalism is supported by myth, folklore, historical experiences, etc.
- For example: With respect to demand for Dravidistan, It was perceived that the Indo-Aryan invasion that non-stratified polity and society were disrupted, and efforts were made to establish Brahmanical hegemony.
- The movements against outsiders in Assam due to the history of immigration of Bengalis which altered their demography and impacted their culture and livelihood.

2) Geographical

- Presence of Natural resources, climatic conditions, and topography.
- Geographical location such as strategic location.
- Certain regions are vulnerable to crime due to their geographical location for example: The drug problem in Punjab and Northeast.
- The northeastern crisis can also be attributed to international borders and narrow connectivity with the rest of India.

3) Socio-cultural factors

- Language being the integral component of our identity is also the basis of regionalism.
- Issue of official language, linguistic reorganization of states, bifurcation of greater Assam, recent demand of Gorkhaland, etc.
- With respect to caste and religion even if the demands are raised they are not accepted as they threaten the secular fabric of India. Therefore it is presented in the garb of language or developmental issues.

4) Politico administrative factor (01:45 PM)

- Politics never creates regionalism, politics only accentuates it by fanning the sentiments of the masses to fulfill their own personal interest.

5) Economic Basis

- It is the most important factor.
- It forms the crust of regional politics and it is based on the fact that resources are limited and demands are disproportionate.
- Even the policies of the government since independence have not been able to address regional disparity in fact in many cases it has aggravated regional imbalance and economic differences.

TYPES OF REGIONALISM (02:02 PM)

a) Interstate regionalism.

- Inter-state river water dispute.
- Conflict between states over territories.

b) Intra state regionalism.

- Sub regionalism
- West Bengal-Gorkhaland.
- Assam-Bodoland
- Maharashtra-Vidarbha.

c) Supra state regionalism.

- Groups of states are pitted against each other.
- Example: North India vs South Indian states with an official language.

d) Demand for secession.

- Demanding Seaparte nation. Example: Khalistan.

Impact of Regionalism:-

- Positive:
- It plays an important role in nation-building as it accommodates federal sentiments.
- It helps in keeping political extremism at bay.
- It gives people the right to self-determination.
- It helps in realizing the essence of the salad bowl theory of multiculturalism.
- Not always regional interest against the national interest in fact accommodating the aspirations will reduce conflict.

- Moderate regionalism may enhance the competitive spirit of the people which can help in overall growth and development.
- Negative:
- It's a tool for voting bank politics.
- Unequal distribution of resources due to the presence of strong regional leaders may result in feelings of relative deprivation.
- Regionalism can be seen as a threat to the overall development and unity of the nation especially when it has a violent connotation.
- It may hinder international diplomacy.

The topic for the next class: Racial intolerance, unity in diversity.