

## Regionalism in India

Regionalism is the expression of a common sense of <sup>"I", "It", "X"</sup> Identity and purpose by people within a specific geographical region, united by its unique language, culture, etc. It is in a positive sense, it encourages people to develop a sense of brotherhood and oneness which ~~seek~~ seeks to protect the interests of a particular region and promotes the welfare and development of the state and its people. In the negative sense, it implies excessive attachment to one's region which is a great threat to the unity and integrity of the country. In the Indian context generally, the term regionalism has been used in the negative sense.

### Definition of Regionalism:

Marshall E. Dimcock considers regionalism as a clustering of environmental, economic, social and governmental factors to such an extent that a distinct consciousness of separate identity within the whole, a need for autonomous planning, a manifestation of cultural peculiarities and a desire for

administrative freedom are recognized and actually put into effect.

### Causes of regionalism in India:

(i) Geographical factor: The territorial orientation based on geographical boundaries relate to the inhabitants of a particular region which are symbolic, at least in the Indian context. This is more so because of the linguistic distribution along geographical boundaries. The topographic and climatic variations along with differences in the settlement pattern induce in the people the concept of regionalism.

(ii) Historical and cultural factors: In the Indian scenario, the historical and cultural factors have a greater significance. The historical and cultural components interpret regionalism by way of cultural heritage, folklore, myths, symbolism and historical traditions.

(ii) Caste and Religion: When caste is combined with language conflicts or religious fundamentalism, it breeds regional feeling. It leads to ~~the~~ orthodoxy.

(iv) Economic factor: Uneven development in many parts of the country may be ~~considered~~ <sup>formed</sup> as a prime reason of regionalism. There are certain regions in the country where industries and factories have been concentrated, educational and health facilities are adequately provided, communication network has been developed, rapid ~~and~~ agricultural has been possible. But there are also certain areas where the work of independence is yet to be realized in terms of socio-economic development.

(v) Politico-administrative factors:

Political parties, especially the ~~the~~ regional political parties as well as local leaders, exploit the regional sentiments, regional deprivation and convert them to solidify their factional

support bases. They give place to the regional problems in their election manifestos and promise for political and regional development.

### Characteristics of regionalism

- (i) Regionalism is conditioned by economic, social, political and cultural disparities.
- (ii) Regionalism at times is a psychic phenomenon.
- (iii) Regionalism is built around as an expression of group identity as well as loyalty to the region.
- (iv) Regionalism presupposes the concept of development of one's own region without taking into consideration the ~~interest~~ interest of other regions.
- (v) Regionalism prohibits people from other regions to be benefited by a particular region.

## Types of Regionalism

- (i) Supra-state regionalism: It is an expression of group identity of several states. In this type of regionalism, the group of states joins hand to hand take common stand on the issue of mutual interest with another group of states or at time against union, this group identity sometimes stands as negative in character based on specific issues. Northeastern states in India may be said to have possessed the supra-state regionalism.
- (ii) Inter-state regionalism: It is the identity of one or more state ~~with another~~ against another. It is also issue-specific. Disputes between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the distribution of Kaveri water may be construed as inter-state regionalism.
- (iii) Intra-state regionalism: It indicates that a part of the state strives for self-identity and self-development and therefore, it is taken in positive sense. In negative sense, it militates against the collective interest of the state as well as the nation.