ONE NATION ONE LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The place of Hindi in India since its overture has remained divisive and especially in the post freedom era. Earlier the large portion of people uses Hindi and there branches such as Avadhi, Bhojpuri etc. The Hindu saints like Tulasidas, Kabir, Surdas endeavored to restore and revitalize the Hindu culture, they therefore provided the use of the Hindi language as a means of representation of culture, and hence sanskritised Hindi got accepted widely, not only among the people of northern India, but also among the non-Hindi regions of non-south like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, Orissa, etc., thus Hindi became a connecting language. Through this research, researcher will try to analyze the various issues and challenges faced for one nation one language.

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”

- Rita Mae Brown

Introduction

India is a country which is famous for its diversity as it has number of languages as in upper half the languages are Hindi, Bhojpuri and in lower half the languages are Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, etc. Basically, there are many issues faced by the people of the country out of which one of the biggest issue which is related to the language, i.e., One Nation One Language where language acts vitally in the life of each and every people of the world. As it is the lifeline of tradition, culture and custom of people living in a particular region. If we talk about India, India is a land of diversity as earlier it includes there was 29 States and 8 Union Territories but after the parliament declared Article 370 of the Constitution of India unconstitutional (which gave the unique standing to Jammu and Kashmir) there are 28 States and 9 Union Territories. These states have their own culture, tradition as well as divergent languages and every language have its own implication such as in the state of Andhra Pradesh people speaks Telugu, in Kerala people speaks Malayalam but still in India mostly people speaks Hindi language as Part VII of the Constitution of India deals with the official language under which as per “Article 343 of the Constitution of India it is provided that Hindi (in Devanagari script) shall be the official language of the Union (India)” and also “it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule”

1Article 351 of the Constitution of India.
But, it is imperative to have one language that can arise to be distinctive identity of India in the world.

**History of National language in India**

**Pre-Independence**

The place of Hindi in India since its overture has remained divisive and especially in the post freedom era. Earlier the large portion of people uses Hindi and there branches such as Avadhi, Bhojpuri etc. The Hindu saints like Tulasidas, Kabir, Surdas endeavored to restore and revitalize the Hindu culture, they therefore provided the use of the Hindi language as a means of representation of culture, and hence sanskritised Hindi got accepted widely, not only among the people of northern India, but also among the non-Hindi regions of non-south like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, Orissa, etc., thus Hindi became a connecting language. But in the mid age the invasion of Islam over India led to the founding of Muslim rule in the most of the regions of northern India. So, Urdu arose as the new spoken language, which contained a vocabulary full of Persian and Hindi words. This language later also became the mode of communique. Because of Persian and Arabic words it was not successful in all parts of India.

During the period of influence of the British, the Persianised Hindi of Muslim rulers was displaced by English, as the language of Administration. But as the Britishers were unfamiliar people and because of its foreign origin was not accepted by even 2% of the people of India.

**Post-Independence**

In the early 20th century, freedom struggles of the people who mounted the spirit of patriotism among the people and resultingly, the national leaders decided to keep a common language as a mode of communication for most of the people of India. It is only because of this reason that Gandhi ji took a strong step and came forward with construction programme in which propagation of Hindi was an agenda and the motive was to make the language Hindi as a common language.

After independence from British when our country became free from the ruling of the Britishers in 1947, it was the main objected that English language would be appear out as the language of administration where Hindi is the most extensively spoken language and even each and every work in our country done in Hindi language but in 1963 there was violently protest by the people in Tamil Nadu against the obligation of Hindi language as a national language. So, the opinion retained alienated as in a country there are number of languages which are being spoken.

As per the report of Census of India 2011 around 43.63% of the total population has Hindi as their mother tongue. No single language other than Hindi has speakers more than 8.03% of the total population. And English Language which was connected with the British rule was established as an alternative for official use because the states which are non-Hindi especially Tamil Nadu, conflicted the use of Hindi officially.
**Article 343 of the Constitution of India** it is provided that Hindi (in Devanagari script) shall be the official language of the Union (India)”. The probability of changeover lead to alarming situation in the non-Hindi vocalizing areas or states of India, particularly in South India.

Resultingly in 1963, the Parliament enacted the Official Languages Act, 1963 for the continuous exploitation of English for the official utilization along with Hindi even after 1965.

But if the Central Government tries to impose Hindi as One Nation One Language, there is too much language based politics as well as conflicts takes place in non-Hindi states on the issue of “One Nation One Language”. Also, to condemnation of obligation of Hindi on its people the state government of different states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka declared the state language compulsory in the educational institutions.

Additionally, by the exceptional provisions announced for the development of Hindi as provided under Article 351 of the Constitution of India the situation is also complicated.

**About Protests by many States against Hindi Language**

Recently, there were many State protests against the imposition of Hindi language in India. Because these State are non-speaking Hindi speaking States. So, they showed anger by protesting against the proposal of Union Home Minister for “One Nation One Language”. Also many of the pro-Kannada organizations came forward in Bengaluru and Karnataka to dissent.

**Why protest?**

The question which arises here is why people are protesting against making Hindi a common language of India the reason is that India is the home for multilingual people and there are different languages which are being spoken in India and even Article 29 of the Constitution of India states that fortification of interests of minorities which has given the right to a different language, script and culture to the citizen of India, and if there will be imposition of a common language it will be violation of Article 29 of the Constitution of India.

It will also separate the and even can break the unity of the country and the beauty of our country as there are number of languages which are being spoken in India and still they have unity and there are number of culture and religion which people follow and number of festival people of India celebrate, people are different there tongue is different but there heart is same but if the language will imposed as to make a common language all over the nation then it will divide the people of India and it will lead to protest and even worst situation than that.

**Need for a Common Language**

1. **Making Unique Identity**: - It is very important to have a common language of the whole nation which should become the unique individuality of India in the world. For example if in India there is Hindi as common language then Indi have its own unique identity globally that Hindi language belongs to India only.

2. **Influence of Foreign Language**: - There is a need of common language because today there is a huge influence of English language on the citizens of India. Due to which in India mostly people preferring English language
only as compared to Hindi language even though it is also provided by the Constitution of India under Article 351, that it shall be the responsibility to promote the spread of Hindi language.

3. Impact on Indian Linguistic Culture: - Another main reason is that because due to the influence of foreign language most of the Indian language losing their inherent culture of communication or talking common tongue, which cause negative impact on Indian linguistic culture.

Pros and Cons of the concept of One Nation One Language

Everything has two sides like a coin. Similarly, there are both pros and cons of implementation of “One nation One Language” which are as following: -

Pros of “One Nation One Language”: -

1. For Effective Administration: - The people who are employed under the Central Government always face the issue of language when they shifted to the other regions in India. Therefore, if the language becomes a barrier in understanding the people’s aspiration and need then the administrative machinery will not be able deliver efficiently.

2. Common Identity for India: - It is very important that there is one language to represent one nation in the world. It gives us great advantage at global level as India have huge population so, due to its large number of users, forcing people of other nation to learn that particular language in order to engage with India in trade, education and business etc.

3. National Language: - In India people can accept foreign language as the language of nation. As Hindi language has been already accepted as the official language as provided under Article 243 of the Constitution of India and its imposition can provide its national status.

4. Unity among the people of India: - As in India around 43.63% of the total population speaks Hindi. So, if the Hindi language becomes the national language then it will unite people belongs to different parts of India. Because India includes different States where the people speaks their own regional language such as in the state of Andhra Pradesh people speaks Telugu, in Kerala people speaks Malayalam, in Tamil Nadu people speaks Tamil and in West Bengal people speaks Bengali etc.

5. Creation of Knowledge and creating public sphere: - As we see that the mostly students evading to move towards other places for their studies and other research work due to deficient understanding of different local languages spoken within the nation. It is very difficult to unite various ideas in different spheres such as uncertainty to relocate in other parts of India and non-participation in national affairs due to the absence of a national language. Therefore, a uniform language which will be spoken and understood by everyone will be the best language to become the lingua franca of the nation.

Cons of “One Nation One Language”: -

1. Breaking the diversity and beauty of the Tongues: - If one language for one nation is implemented then as India is a country of diversity with many languages but if Hindi is imposed as national language then the beauty of diversity in languages will be broken.
2. **Separating language from cultural identity:** - Mostly, it is argued that a national language is considered as a language which represents the Indian culture. However, we can definitely maintain or preserve our culture not by adopting any other language as one language for whole nation but by learning one more language in addition to the regional language so, that our regional language would not destroy or ruin us or our culture. Therefore, changing the medium of expression would not change our identity which can be understood even by a common or ordinary man.

3. **Lack of acceptance (consensus):** - There is a lack of consensus because if there is an imposition of one language over the other regional languages among the population within that particular nation then the people who didn’t understand that particular language start opposing the imposition of that particular language as national language. Therefore, any such efforts of imposing one language on the unwilling people is hardly become united, rather it could turn out to be trouble making.

For example: - Recently, linguistic conflict took place in Tamil Nadu against the implementation of Hindi as sole official language of India.

4. **Diverse Structure:** - This idea goes against the diverse and federal structure of the nation, as India is a land of diversity where such common language may not be acceptable or desirable. It also runs contrary to the spirit our country’s linguistic diversity as well as the Constitution.

As all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India are national languages and must be treated equally. Also, if the government tries to impose any one language then it will lead to the disruption of country’s unity and integrity.

**Ways to bring One Language for One Nation**

As everything is unique about the national identity such as national flag, emblem, animal, bird and song etc. but still there is a failure in implementation of a national language. So, if the government decides to consider Hindi just as a qualification language for selection in each and every government job without bearing in mind it for merit, then nobody will hoist any opposition as it is already spoken by around 43.63% of total population.

**Case study of Indonesia**

Indonesia’s national language policy is called and considered as a “miraculous success”, “a great success” and “perhaps even the most spectacular linguistic phenomenon of our age”. There are a noteworthy number of different tribal groups which are speaking predictably around six hundred languages. The mass and multiplicity of the country Indonesia were population has offered challenges for bringing them together and budding a national language as even our country India is also a country with huge population and still it is difficult to bring them together for having a national language. The requirement for this kind of choice in Indonesia became so much clear in their vision that in the first decades of the twentieth century, as the sagacity of nationalism grew and even the whole country and every single citizen of this was favoring this vision of having a national language. Languages which appeared to be the probable official languages for the novel nation were attributed to the language of the biggest cultural group which was the language which has been spoken the most in the country and even some other groups also spoke this language which is Javanese; and the momentous lingua franca of the
archipelago, Malay. This language was local, which was spoken by less than 5% of the inhabitants at the time of independence. After two years, Malay was the language at the second congress, not only the language, rather it was the original name of the language to which the Indonesians were introduced and the question was about the selection of language to be the national use and it was completed with no arguments. Then the Dutch colonial administrators saw that there was a growing nationalism and they considered it as a threat and also they responded by removal of the language Malay as a standard course from the institutions and schools in Java in 1930, rather throughout the country Indonesia in 1932.

One of the crucial factor which helped in the receival of Indonesian as a language of nation was that it functions as a language of union and also giving Indonesians a sagacity of distinctiveness and drawing them in the progression of building of a better nation.

The potential jeopardy or the threat of ethnic divisions and conflicts arising in such an outsized and diverse country which has made it critical to bring the country mutually through a feeling of brotherhood where everyone treats each other equally and respectfully and the Indonesian language served as both, as the symbol as well as the medium of unity.

Dardjowidjojo (1998) compared the success of Indonesia in bringing the national language and it’s setting up to the other post-colonial countries such as the Philippines, India, Singapore and Malaysia. It was also observed that when compared to these countries, Indonesian is the only language that has successfully achieved the position of a national language in its right sense.

The objective behind the policy of national language was to generate a national uniqueness and to smooth the progress of national integration and to bring the country together through the use of the national language.

Garvin defines that: “the standard language serves to unify a larger speech community in spite of dialect differences; it serves to separate it from another language; it bestows prestige upon the speech community that has been able to develop one.” Indonesia’s language policy has been efficient in uniting the nation bringing them together with the sense of equality and brotherhood, creating a sturdy national distinctiveness and encouraging education and literacy throughout the nation.

Conclusion
At last it is concluded that firstly we have to change our mindset that we all are Indians irrespective of the state we live in and should not divided by the culture or language etc. The different language as discussed above is a hurdle for development of this nation and what is the objective of one nation if the people are divided on the basis of different language or culture etc. It is astounding to be acquainted with the fact that people are acting

http://censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/C-16_25062018_NEW.pdf
https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/75679/6/06_chapter%201.pdf
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without knowingly to anti-national policies and if they analysis themselves they figure out how incorrect they stand towards the issues created only for political benefit. Thus we should make efforts for imposition of *One Nation One Language*. But unfortunately in real, the present circumstances of India represents “*Diversity in Unity instead of Unity in Diversity*”.