

A B S T R A C T

The present study seeks to analyze federalism and regionalism but more on regionalism as a process of federation building through accommodating country's age long diversity along with their impact on Indian political process. Generally Regionalism has rooted out in India's amazing diversity and consequently the regional assertions have started out from simultaneous centripetal confinement of British colonialism and the centralized hegemony of newly independent India. The present study identified the cultural federalism since 1956 as the primary input of regionalism as an ongoing process of cultural accommodation and the formation of coalition government as the secondary input of regionalism as an ongoing process of political accommodation. Though we cannot ignore the capability aspect of cultural federalism for enhancing the civic qualities of the sub-national units along with increasing political participation and on the other hand it will not be an exaggeration, to say that, the greater diversity of contemporary India was properly represented by the federal coalitions which had its great impact on country's age old balance of power by the inclusions of regional power centre. The classical trend of one-party domination has been replaced by the multi-party domination which gave birth to the politics of bargaining through assertion of regional voices led by regional political formations. Gradually the politics of bargaining has captured the platform of Indian political process since 1989 in the environment of regionalization. But the ongoing trend of coalitional anarchy on the basis narrow power calculation may replaced by the comfort power sharing arrangement by passing the strains of coalition in general. The time has come for the calm solutions of ideological conflict in the political platform in order to defeat the negative appetite of ethnicity. Hence, federalism has appeared as one of the political instruments along with recognition of regional identities has been able to forge together the twin values of unity and diversity within the multicultural context of India.

Now the present study seeks to examine the nature of sub-regionalism as a long-term consequence of cultural federalism. However, it has been observed that since Independence the centre state relations in India are mainly motivated by the economic and cultural asymmetry in federal politics. However, it has been observed that since 1956 linguistic states reorganization has exerted two major problems for linguistic minorities. On the other hand a linguistic group which enjoyed several privileges in their own linguistic states but on the other hand the same linguistic group has faced lots of difficulties in

different linguistic states. Which ultimately led an ethnic confrontation and goes for another fragmentation which often denotes another readjustment of states boundaries. Again another problem is arrived when a same linguistic minority group has been treated differently in two different linguistic states. In this context, the linguistic groups often face a serious identity crisis which brings a separatist attitude resulting an urge for creation of a separate state. Hence, the linguistic integration often indulges the feeling of ethnic fragmentation in particular. Federal asymmetry may permit to continue a healthy federal atmosphere. But the policymakers should be aware at the time of asymmetric application that the asymmetrical provisions are works in according to the accepted nature of federalism adopted by other multi-cultural countries like Canada, Spain, and European Unions. More over it may not create an inter-regional as well as intra-regional asymmetry of the particular region on the one hand and the strategy of federal asymmetry may not appeared as a segregationist in nature on the other.

However, crucial observation has been made that, though the boundaries of the states have been re-organized on the basis of linguistic needs in 1956 but these states as a geographical unit is based on culture heterogeneity instead of cultural homogeneity. Hence a large number of ethno-regional minorities were comprises in different States and Union territories in India. Consequently the ethno-lingual needs were scattered in a new way identified as sub-regionalism which affected the state as well as the national politics in an extensive way. More over in the period of modernization which enhance the intra- group ethnic differences the matter is become complicated because we cannot suppress the diversity rather we are in the arena of diversity valorization adopted by the European Unions. It has been observed that when the federal process of India is dynamic in nature, the regionalism is fluid in nature on the other and federal self-rule alone cannot be treated as a stable form of conflict resolution which has been treated as a segregationist in nature. It has been argued that the challenge which Indian federalism has faces is more political instead cultural closely associated with desires of elite sections. Moreover as the ethno-national grievances is treated as a product of modernization hence the traditional identity is always in confrontation with the modern identity. The primordial values have suffering from identity crisis in the platform of modernization which is instrumentalized by the local elites on the other. Hence, in the contemporary age of power decentralization the autonomy demands is being treated as age friendly when it is directed towards developmental orientation. But when the phenomenon of Identity is associated with an autonomy demand the matter is complicated because the elite intervention may make these issues at the extent

of secession which creates an obstacle for nation building. On the other hand when an autonomy issues are intermixed with the development issues it is the local elites of a particular region has taken the issue of an imaginary economic deprivation without going the roots of original backwardness in order to get there illegitimate share of national resources by using the actual frustration of an ethnic community. More over handling the issue of perception deprivation the political authority of a state often involve in a narrow political games with a satisfactory political bargaining. Hence uneasy political compromises with regional minorities for maximizing the share of vote bypassing the original development led a legitimacy crisis in the ground of state politics. A remarkable gape of accountability between the rulers and the ruled in a state may noticed in a particular region for the absence of frequent monitoring, proper documentations regarding development as well as revenue expenditure of a state controlled autonomous or semi autonomous councils.

Whatever may be the paradox of India federation, when the cultural movement has been institutionalized once, the fate of a plural country has been written on that very moment. It has been observed that linguistic states reorganization 1956 has produced certain procedural dilemma for the linguistic minorities. A linguistic group which enjoyed several privileges in their own linguistic states on the one hand, but the same linguistic group has faced lots of difficulties in different linguistic states on the other. Which ultimately led an ethnic confrontation and goes for another fragmentation which often denotes another readjustment of states boundaries. Again another problem is arrived when a same linguistic minority group has been treated differently in two different linguistic states. In this context the linguistic groups often face a serious identity crisis which brings a separatist attitude resulting an urge for creation of a separate state. Often the feeling of dissatisfactions regarding “self rule” is converted in to the demand of “shared rule” due to the absence of flexible political strategy. Therefore again the phenomena of sub regionalism has produced the regional scarcity which compelled the political authority to think in term of political development which is necessary for federation building in the period of modernization. More over when the entire ethnic discourses of India have dominated by the phenomena of relative deprivation there was a need to adopt an accommodative path of power institutionalization under the limitations of country’s constitutional heritage. Hence the time has come when Indian democracy may prepare itself to face several newly emerging ethno-regional requirements by the trial and error principle on the basis of temperament of diversity.

It is also noticed that in a country like India where the cultural diversity has been propagated by the multilingualism unlike the other countries of the world, the role of the political authorities may judge in terms of their quality instead of a large quantity, who are aware about the changing nature of Indian regionalism and the delicate use of federal device as per circumstantial necessities. Moreover on the ground of relative success of Indian federalism throughout the world compelled us to believe that the centre as well as state`s sensitivity and responsiveness towards the local crisis may reducing the socio-economic unrest of the country. So far as the political culture of India is concerned a qualitative difference has been seen between the Nehruvian Congress and Modi led BJP regime in general. The political atmosphere of bargaining has loosened under the powerful one nation theory since 2014.