

Challenges to National Integration: Can we become one?

Outline

1 Introduction

2 What is National Integration?

3 Challenges faced by National Integration:

- Conflicts arising from country's diverse ethnic and linguistic groups
- Issues caused by religious sectarianism
- Unequal distribution of resources
- Weak democratic institutions
- Use of force to suppress ~~democracy~~ **Spelling mistake**
- Unaddressed legitimate grievances led to sub nationalist tendencies

4 How overcoming these challenges can help Pakistan become a Nationally Integrated Nation:

- Promoting unity in diversity
- Ensuring equal distribution of resources
- Applying non kinetic means to achieve National Integration.
- Strengthening role of law to promote equity
- Improving media's role in driving National Integration.
- Building consensus for a stronger democracy
- Engaging civil society to promote National Integration.

5 Conclusion

An old man, in his last breathing, called his ~~son~~ four sons. He handed each son a single stick and asked them to break it. They did it easily. Then, he tied the four sticks together and asked them to break the bundle. None was able to do so. The old man then said, "Individually, you are breakable but together you are not".

This simple lesson reflects the essence of national integration. Just as the sticks were unbreakable when united, similarly Pakistan's integration lies in its unity. National integration is the process of creating a sense of unity and cohesion among the diverse groups of the nation. However to achieve this unity, Pakistan is facing multiple challenges. Its ethnic and linguistic conflicts undermine national cohesion. Religious sectarianism also fuels the division. Not only this, its economic disparities exacerbate social inequality. And a host of other challenges are posing threat to achieve national integration. Take an example of people of Balochistan who are facing economic and political repression and being marginalized since decades. Now arises the question can Pakistan overcome these challenges?

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If yes then, how can these challenges will be addressed? What steps should be taken? So the answer of these questions will shape the future of national integration of the nation. Although Pakistan is facing challenges to achieve national integration, It can gain it through promoting unity in diversity, strengthening role of law, equitable resource distribution and engaging in civil society.

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