



RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE IN INDIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS OF RANCHI

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ABSTRACT The present study investigated Religious Difference in Indian National Identity among college Students of Ranchi. The research sample consisted of 320 Students of B.A final year students of Ranchi, 80 Hindu, 80 Muslim, 80 Sarna and 80 tribal Christian from Ranchi. Personal Data questionnaire was used to collect information about the respondents and Indian National Identity Scale (INIS) was used for the data collection. High scores on this scale indicate higher level of Indian National Identity. The result of the present study shows that tribal Christian has scored higher than other religious group on Indian National Identity.

KEYWORDS : Indian National Identity, Religious groups

INTRODUCTION

National identity is the form of social identity decided by birth or citizenship of a person in a country. Nationalism is the concept arising after the movement of national liberation as a result of colonial rule and reformations of nations in Asia and Africa (Salazaar, 1999). National identity is strengthened with the emergence of nationalism but is formed as a cognitive construct during the developmental phase. Nationality of a person determines the national identity, but nationality is dependent on citizenship of the country. Nation is considered as a deep, horizontal comradeship, in a form of „imagined community (Anderson, 1991).

Regional identity is somewhat a related concept to state-nation induced identity. In India, states divided on the basis of language and regions give an exclusive example of regional identity. Since the regional or territorial principle is drawn from a belief in ancient heritage, encapsulated in the notion of „sacred geography,, and figures in both imaginations, it has acquired political hegemony over time. Territory is a part of the national identity, but overpowering as an in group when it comes to preference (Vershney, 1993).

RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

Religion as identified in psychology is a set of beliefs and practices related to the divine, God or sacredness. Zinnbauer and Pargament (2005) defined religion as „system of belief in a divine or supernatural power, practices of worship and other rituals directed towards such a power . They also referred to „religion as a broad construct, which is not exclusively differentiated from spirituality. Positive effects of religion on group membership provide adolescents „a sense of membership and belongingness , social support, self-esteem and satisfaction (Loewenthal, 2000). Religion offers an orientation to life and channels an individual to facilitate the rationality of self.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In another study Shamsi (2005) had conducted her study on urban sample using almost similar research design and found that ethnicity does not seem to influence Indian National Identity. Both the tribal and non-tribal school students are alike on Indian National Identity. Hindu in comparison to Muslims, Sarnas and Christians in comparison to Muslims have significantly higher Indian National Identity. However, Sarnas and Christians have the same degree of Indian National Identity. Caste has significant impact on Indian National Identity. Low caste in both Hindu and Muslim religious groups are found to have higher Indian National Identity than high caste. The two Sarna groups that are Munda and Oraon and also Catholic and Protestant Christian do not differ significantly on Indian National Identity. Females have significantly higher Indian National Identity than males in non-tribal group but in tribal group though the tendency is same, significant differences are not found between male and female school students.

Kumar (2000) studied 720 VIII, IX, X grade (Age 12-13, 13-14, 14-15 years) school students selected from rural areas of Ranchi district. They were equally divided on the basis of religion (Hindu, Muslim, Sarna and Tribal Christian) caste (High and Low- Only for Hindu and

Muslim Sample), gender (Male and Female) and age grade as mentioned above the data revealed that Indian National Identity was widely prevalent in all the sample sub-groups, through it was higher in higher age groups. He found an interesting result related to the effect of gender on Indian National Identity. There was no effect of gender in non tribal groups but in tribal groups female students were found to have significantly higher Indian National Identity as compared to male students..

AIMS OF STUDY

To examine the differential extent of Indian National Identity in religious affiliation (Hindu, Muslim, Sarna and Tribal Christian),

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The problem of Indian National Identity is still unexplored and, therefore, it is very difficult to formulate any specific research hypothesis on the proposed research problem. Thus, in the absence of the previous researches, the researcher is compelled to formulate the following research question.

- What is the extent of Indian National Identity in different religious groups, that is, Hindu, Muslim, Sarna and Tribal Christian?
- **Sample**

The sample for the proposed research consisted of 320 college students of B.A final year. They were selected on a stratified random basis from different colleges of Ranchi. The stratification was based on religious affiliation (Hindu, Muslim, Sarna and tribal Christian), the sample design given below

Sample Design

Table 4.1

Hindu	Muslim	Sarna	Tribal Christian
80	80	80	80

Total = 320

Tools

Personal Data Questionnaire

This elicits information about respondents name, age, gender, religion, caste, college, class, parental income, education, etc.

The Indian National Identity Scale (INIS)

Indian National Identity Scale (INIS) developed by Dr (Mrs) Zeba was used for data collection in the proposed research. This scale has eight dimensions based on the fundamental rights and duties and the directive principles of the constitution of India. The eight dimensions of the scales are as follows:

- i. Fundamental Right Social (FRS)
- ii. Fundamental Right Economic (FRE)
- iii. Fundamental Right Political (FRP)
- iv. Fundamental Duty Social (FDS)
- v. Fundamental Duty Political (FDP)
- vi. Directive Principle Social (DPS)
- vii. Directive Principle Economic (DPE)

viii. Directive Principle Political (DPP)

In each dimension of INIS there are 15 items with five response alternatives, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The items are both positive and negative and the coding is made in such a way that higher scores indicate higher degree of Indian National Identity.

Test/Retest and split half reliability co-efficient of the scale were found to be .68 and .89 respectively. Validity of the scale was evidenced by item content and by the result of item analysis showing that each item discriminated between high and low scores at more than .01 level of confidence.

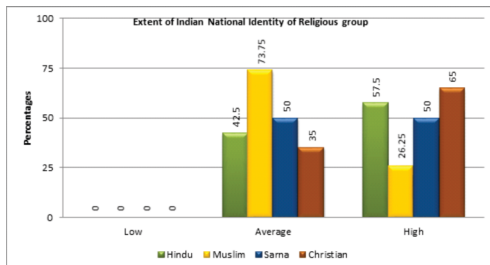
Result and Discussion

Extent of Indian National Identity in Sample groups by Religious Affiliation

Table 4.2

Groups	Low (120-280)		Average (281-440)		High (441-600)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hindu	0	0	34	42.5	46	57.5
Muslim	0	0	59	73.75	21	26.25
Sarna	0	0	40	50	42	50
Tribal Christian	0	0	28	35	52	65

Figure -4.1



The data on Extent of Indian National Identity in Sample groups by Religious Affiliation is presented table 4.2 and figure 4.1

- None of the Hindu, Muslim, Sarna as well as tribal Christian college students had low extent of Indian national identity.
- 42.5% Hindu college students had average Indian National Identity, 73.75% Muslim college students have average Indian National Identity, 50% Sarna college students have average Indian National Identity, and 35% Tribal Christian college students have average Indian National Identity. This indicated that most of the Muslim students have average level of Indian National Identity.
- 57.5% Hindu college students had high Indian National Identity, 26.25% Muslim college students have average Indian National Identity, 50% Sarna college students have high Indian National Identity, and 65% tribal Christian college students have high Indian National Identity. This indicated that most of the Christian students have high level of Indian National Identity.

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