

THE MAGNETISM AND IMPORTANCE OF MULTICULTURALISM, IN INDIA, AND THE MODERN WORLD

Dr. Bhawna Chauhan
Diamond Mansion,
1272, Napier Town,
Jabalpur (M.P.)
482001

Abstract

The importance and relevance of multiculturalism in the present world and especially in India is absolutely undeniable. The world has become a global village and all ideas, opinions, news, views and analysis get transmitted quickly, from one corner of the world to another quickly. The world has become more multicultural in the last few decades. Multiculturalism is not a new concept, it is rather an ancient concept, and in its modern avatar it has become a very important factor, ideal, as well as reality to transform the world for the better and stop unnecessary greed driven wars over frivolous issues, created by unscrupulous, cruel and psychopathic persons, who feel entitled to create discord in the whole world, by unfortunately remaining in the positions of authority and power and misusing them to the hilt. This paper reveals the extent and growth of multiculturalism and its charm and importance in the present world where it is desperately required for progress and peace as well as to fail the villains who are always looking for creating discord in our world to fulfil their own petty profits and psychopathic ambitions.

Keywords:- multiculturalism, psychopathic ambitions.

The charisma and magnetism of multiculturalism is not only most significant but also undeniable and incontrovertible in the world today. Its precious and profound legacy is well-resolved in secular India and the entire globe. India has been home to some of the greatest, most ancient and breathtakingly beautiful, civilizations of the world like the Indus Valley civilization, which was way ahead of its times. All truly noble civilizations in the world have always integrated from the various diverse and unusual events that were destined to affect them, at some point of time or the other of their histories, and India is the best example of this fact. Likewise almost all world cultures and civilizations are unique as they have absorbed and assimilated cultural diversity at some point of their histories or the other and emerged much more powerful and rich.

Culture consists of the refined art, architecture, enlightenment, habitude, manners, acquirements, education, attitudes, etiquettes, rules of conduct of countries and communities as well as their way of life. It also refers to a heightened state of intellectual progress and the collective forces that impact the development of a society and an individual. Culture is the life source of a nation's customs, habits, beliefs and values, and evolves gradually over hundreds of centuries.

Multiculturalism originates from this concept of culture and how many unique cultures or ethnic groups in the world can co-exist equitably, peacefully and simultaneously. It could also be described as the doctrine that numerous different cultures instead of any one national or common culture, can co-exist simultaneously in absolute harmony in a specific society or state: as contrary to nationalism, or the principle that only and any singular culture and its interests are mightier to all others.

There are various concepts that are associated with multiculturalism, like 'hybridity', which refers in its most basic sense to a racial intermixing. The terms 'melting pot' and 'mimicry' refer to a process of assimilation in countries like Israel and the United States, and now the preferred term is 'salad bowl', which refers to maintaining the distinctiveness of all cultures and ethnicities which exist together in a particular country. Multiculturalism is the co-existence of cultures that people come across and experience in their day to day social, political, economic and cultural landscapes, in which globalization has also played an all-pervasive part. It has been understood to mean, that all the various cultures, in society deserve equal dignity and scholarly interest.

India for instance, has possibly the most exciting, challenging and all-embracing ancient traditions and consists of diverse religions, languages, customs and cultures that co-exist. Indian culture incorporates the ancient wisdom and civilization on one hand and modernity in knowledge, education, mode of existence, food, dress, manners, behaviour, actions, and relationship amongst human cultures of the world, on the other. It has genuine warmth and humanity which is lacking in even some of the most advanced industrialised countries, and continents of the world. Mark Twain in his book, *In following the Equator: A Journey Around the World* says while describing India:

"India has many names, and they are correctly descriptive. It is a land of contradictions, the land of subtlety and superstition, the land of wealth and poverty, the land of splendour and desolation, the land of plague and famine, the land of thug and the prisoner and the land of the meek and the patient, the land of the suttee, the land of the unreinstatable widow, the land where all life is holy, the land of cremation, the land where the vulture is a grave and a monument, the land of the multitudinous Gods and if the signs go for anything, it is the land of the private carriage."¹

These contrasting diversities since the ancient times were probably the beginning of multiculturalism in India.

The Western society is also composed of many different cultures, ethnicities and races. There are complex issues and situations regarding race, immigration and the civil rights problems confronting these nations of the West. The most recent advocate and example of multiculturalism in the West is the United States President Barak Obama. In his speech in Turkey he announced that the United States is not and would never be in future, at war with Islam and hailed Turkey for being a successful and modern Islamic multicultural nation.

Multiculturalism has been greatly debated and written about in the West since many centuries. For instance in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, cultural diversity has been brilliantly portrayed in the form of a cultural clash on a deserted island between Man Friday (Poky) and Robinson Crusoe, where in the end Crusoe says that he is no longer sure if his way is the only way and his faith the only one.

Multiculturalism has also been officially incorporated in the government policy of many countries like Canada, where it originated and was adopted in 1971. The United States, Australia, Great Britain, The Netherlands, France, the Latin American countries. (Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico and Chile) Russia and Israel. As the various ethnic groups in these countries began to explore their own history and culture, while still retaining the identities of their adopted countries.

The important politico-government features of multiculturalism incorporate policies of dual citizenship, state aid to news papers, television and radio broadcasts in ethnic minority languages, participation and support in minority festivals, annual holidays and celebrations and so on, to lessen the feelings of cultural estrangement, ethnic profiling and racial prejudice and bias. The governments of these countries felt that it is also quite important to reconcile ethnic traditions of the minorities with local lifestyles and easing the resulting stress and strains between various ethnic groups and the majority, which is quite a complicated task in itself. In spite of all these sustained efforts, it is highly surprising that, in the West inter-racial dating and marriage is still looked down upon with doubt, even in the so-called liberal, modern and ethnically diverse and multicultural scenario.

Over the last few years and recently as well, there have been many incidents of violent racism towards the large Indian Diaspora in Australia, Russia, Germany, U.S.A., South Africa, Malaysia and Fiji Islands. It only goes to show that even now a lot of effort would be required to overcome this atmosphere and transcend the barriers of prejudice and racism.

Despite all these instances in the modern times, the countries in which multiculturalism has thrived have been more vibrant, peaceful and prosperous, for instance; Turkey, India, United States and England, in comparison to the countries where ethnic minorities are castrated, as strife and civil wars threaten their vary existence. Many countries of the African continent, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China could be regarded as examples of the latter.

The terms melting pot could be associated with countries like United Kingdom where the Angles, the Jutes, the Saxons, the Normans and the Romans, all have become natives of Britain. Later on migrants from Africa and Asia and the Commonwealth countries have made the British Society, multicultural.

London, for instance is renowned as the ultimate multicultural city in the whole world; as it represents diverse ethnicities, cultures, colours, creeds and religions and the manner in which it has assimilated diversity. India figures prominently when we think of London with Indian Culture which includes yoga and spirituality and also Indian food! There are many Indian

restaurants in London, where the Indian food has been taken to the next level, and it is no wonder that Robin Cook (the late labour Cabinet Minister of Britain) ordained the "Chicken Tikka Masala" (which is Indian) as the nation's favourite dish! and approximately three hundred languages are spoken in Britain. There is a distinguished democratic culture which makes it special. The most prominent symbol of this democratic tradition is the speaker's corner in Hyde Park where anyone can talk about anything that they feel strongly about. Similarly Miami is a new hub of multiculturalism in the United States, which is possibly the most vigorous melting-pot of the world and consists of the migrant populations from Europe, especially Britain, along with the population of the black, erstwhile bonded labourers who were brought from Africa, along with the new migrants like Jews, Chinese, Indians, Mexicans, and so on who are fuelling this multi-ethnic, melting pot of the modern American society.

Likewise, Dubai is also one of the most diverse and vibrant cities in the Middle East, with more than 150 nationalities and almost as many forms of culture. On the other hand, after years of making others' dreams come true this multicultural and cosmopolitan city has started arguing about the boundaries of multiculturalism. There is a fear that the expatriate foreigners will impose their culture on Dubai, which is essentially a city in the Islamic, United Arab Emirates. The economic boom and a tourist hub with luxury hotels and resorts and the whole economic scenario has brought chaos and big city problems like inflation, a rise in crime and divorce rates and even snarled traffic! But beyond that, it has taken a toll on local culture as many young Emirates have begun looking abroad, abandoning many traditions, and even marrying foreigners. The disrespect for Muslim customs during Ramadan, has set off a rare public debate about Dubai's multicultural identity, according to a report by Hassan. M. Fattah who writes for *The New York Times*.

Nonetheless, multiculturalism is and will always remain one of the most significant, singular, vibrant, national and International issues of our times along with globalization, economic issues and a concept of peaceful co-existence and world progress.

From the perspective of multiculturalism, India is a unique country which is definitely diverse and mostly multicultural. It is cultural and religious on one hand and also modern and secular on the other. Few countries in the world have such a rich and interesting culture as India. Going back in an incessant sweep over 5000 years; its ancient culture has been enriched by successive waves of migration which were captivated and fused with the Indian way of life. It is this mosaic which is a special characteristic of India. Its substantial religious and racial variety is as vast as its linguistic diversity. This can be regarded as the origin of the 'Indian' culture.

India could be called the foremost melting pot of the world, because since the coming of the Aryans, it has received invaders, businessmen and refugees in an assortment of itinerant pattern. There have been Huns and Sakas, who converted to Hinduism; Greeks and Macedonians who came with Alexander The Great and afterwards the stretch of Islam saw the dislocation of the Parsi community from Persia to India, subsequently came the Arab traders followed by the Persians, the Afghans and the Turkish traders as well as attackers and invaders, and lastly came the Mughals. All these wandering communities went through a process of integration in the melting pot of India and became its true citizens. Even the colonial powers could not get away from this influence. The Anglo-Indian community in India is as Indian as everyone else. The second world war saw the migration of Jews to India, (a theme that Desai has explored in her novel *Baumgartner's Bombay*) the 1970's saw the influx of "hippies" or "flower Children" to India in large numbers, who lived in places like Haridwar, Rishikesh, Masoorie and other Himalayan retreats, for instance the Beatles, who were an extremely famous rock and pop band

from Liverpool, England during the 1960's and followers of Pandit Ravishankar and Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (this sub culture has been fabulously portrayed by Desai in her novel *Journey to Ithaca*). All this while there has been a steady exodus of traders and refugees, from India's neighbouring countries like China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma. These later groups are still in the course of absorption and incorporation.

Thus, it can be said that multiculturalism is deeply rooted in India as from the earliest and the most greatest civilizations of the indigenous Indus Valley to the rise of the Gangetic culture, the Mauryan empire, the Greeks, who brought with them their own distinct cultural essence, which after fusing with the local cultures has enriched the cultural philosophy of India.

The foreigners who came to India were the Bactrian Greeks (also called the Indo-Greeks). The Huns, The Kushans, The Sakas, The Parthians, and with the exception of the Greeks all of them came from Central Asia. This mutual give and take of ideas and cultures between the East and the West and the growth of unique regional cultures, the Islamic invasions, the rise and fall of the Mughal empire, the cultural impact of the British rule, affected the Indian culture very deeply which absorbed, assimilated and evolved the distinctive Indian multiculturalism most profoundly. Each of these historical adventures are also reflected in the folk art and folk songs of the Indian cultural heritage with its tolerant spirit in all its dimensions and multitudinous manifestations.

India in perspective of its so many different cultures is quite unique (for instance the cultures of North India, North-East India, Central, Western and Southern India, are absolutely awe-inspiring and quite diverse from each other) and the languages of India are so amazingly different and manifold, that their dialects, change after every few kilometres and it is a multiethnic, multicultural, multi-religious society because of its all-inclusiveness. There are Moslems, Christians, Parsees, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, Jains and a fascinating tribal culture in the country, which co-exists with a Hindu Majority, all of whom follow and celebrate their unique religious and cultural customs. The Constitution of India gives all religions equal importance and calls for a secular state that observes no particular state religion. This is the new globalized India, where past and future live just side by side, and several cultures and centuries exist simultaneously. Similarly, the country has to be vigilant about the envy for its multicultural fabric and the religious hatred which is propagated against it from across the borders by all its hostile neighbours and the fanatics who live disguised as friends on its soil and spread terrorism.

The most beautiful example of the Indian pluralism and its multiculturalism can be witnessed in its armed forces. For instance, during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war the Indian army chief was General Sam Manekshaw, a Parsee. His commander on the western front was Lt General Candeth, a Christian, and his assistant was Lt General Aurora, a Sikh and Lt General Aurora's brilliant in charge of the Bangladesh liberation was Major General Jacob, a Jew!

Globalization has also been a very important factor in fostering multiculturalism and hybridity which refers in its most basic sense to a racial intermixing. There is a rising world culture with the important ideologies of human rights, environmentalism, feminism, with a modern, elite, intellectual culture, which help fostering multiculturalism in one way or another.

Multiculturalism is essential also because it is a perfect way of solving the often complex problems of the twenty-first century and bring peace, stability and prosperity in an otherwise volatile world. Deepak Chopra, the famous lifestyle and spiritual guru opines that if these urgent and recurring problems, of human relationship towards one-another and along with nature, are not solved with immediate seriousness, a day will come when nature will entirely dispense off with the human species ! This goes to show how important spirituality and peace are to the

human race, in this day and age, and how multiculturalism is one of the most urgent needs of our times, otherwise Samuel. P. Huntington's menacing theory of the clash of civilizations will come true, sooner rather than later. The most pervasive issues of today are a reconciliation between cultures and a mature and refined understanding of the same; as without properly understanding that every culture is of equal value, it would be a dangerously disastrous situation for the whole world, and will end in a lack of trust, harassment, violence and outrageous intimidation of some cultures at the behest of others.

According to Peter Kivisto, multiculturalism in a universal culture depicts five major world movement patterns in the modern times, from Asia to North America, from Central America to Canada, from Africa to Europe, from Asia to Europe, and from India and South East Asia to the Gulf States, which depicts that immigration has been as common as any other normal event in world history by and large, in the form of various historical journeys taken by our ancestors !

Likewise it also reflects in India's substantial religious and racial variety which is as vast as its linguistic diversity, and there are myriad languages that are spoken in India – Bengali, Kannada, Telgu, Tamil, Gujrati, Malayalee, Marathi, Punjabi and so on. Modern India presents a picture of unity in diversity, to which history provides no equivalent. Religions, festivals, rituals, arts and artefacts or monuments, costumes, music, dance, language and literature of India are enchanting. This co-existence of cultures could be traced back to almost a millennia and all the archaeological evidence shows their cultural consistency.

The partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, a new constitution for India was drafted and adopted on the 26th of January 1950, which is celebrated as the Republic day of India. All religions, castes, creeds and colours were given equal importance. Besides the multiple regional languages, Hindi and Urdu grew and English became a very important and a common connective language for India. Articles 29-31 of the Indian Constitution lay stress on Cultural and Educational Rights of the minorities to preserve their language, religion and culture, which give the minorities a sense of security and belonging, especially in the context of the communal violence that marked partition in 1947, as also the linguistic reorganisation of states in the mid-1950's.

According an article in *The Hindustan Times* the "Cheetah-Kathat-Mehrat" a community spread over the four districts of Ajmer, Pali, Bhilwara and Rajsamand in Rajasthan, are unique as they have a 'double' religious identity i.e. Muslim and Hindu because they are the descendants of the Chauhan rulers who took to Islam about 700 years ago; and adopted only the three practices of dafan, khatna and zabiha (burial, circumcision and eating halal) from that religion. The rest of their identity and lifestyle, names, marriage rituals, dressing styles, continue to be the same as Hindus and this change has brought along its share of problems. The once peaceful existence of the community is now disrupted by "sporadic accusations of 'forcible' religious conversions" and some violence as well.

The critics of multiculturalism argue that in recent times, there is a growing threat to the liberty and safety of nations, and according to them human rights, freedom of speech and civil liberties are wonderful idealistic principles but very difficult to follow when there are looming threats of mass destruction and annihilation of the human race. They opine that the only thing a tolerant society cannot tolerate is intolerance, and people who think otherwise can either accept it or go and settle in some extremist country! Voices of the critics of multiculturalism are finding more echo all over the world for instance the famous French actress, Brigitte Bardot, who was recently convicted for exciting religious intolerance as she wrote to President Nicolas Sarkozy

saying that Muslims were destroying France. It was her fourth criminal offence for saying intolerant things about Muslims and homosexuals. Other Western countries including Canada, Britain and India are also punishing religious critics, in order to safeguard their multicultural mosaic.

On the contrary, Jonathan Turley opines that free speech is not limited to non-offensive subjects. The purpose of free speech is to be able to challenge widely held views. In May 2008, Dutch Prosecutors arrested cartoonist Gregorius Nckschot for insulting Christians and Muslims with a cartoon that caricatured a Christian fundamentalist and a Muslim fundamentalist as zombies who meet at an anti-gay rally and want to marry! Other advocates of free speech, like Jonathan Turley also criticise government control on free speech because it has started a new trend in the West of prosecuting more individuals for criticising religions. The free world, might be losing its confidence in free speech. Turley says that there is no blasphemy among free nations, only orthodoxy and those who seek to challenge it. After years of international scorn, the United States can claim the high ground by supporting the right of all to speak openly about religion. Multiculturalism according to its critics is an ideal state of affairs, which is very difficult to put in to practice, and a policy of appeasement as well which ignores and avoids condemning the wrong doings of any culture and religion, that can be dangerous and destroy the whole world; ultimately.

Multiculturalism in America has also been criticised as exploitative, by John Kenneth Galbraith, a friend and supporter of India and a renowned Canadian – American economist and was also appointed by President J. Kennedy as United States Ambassador to India, in 1961. Who opines: "Once the visitor was told rather repetitively that this city was the melting pot; never before in history had so many people of such varied languages, customs, colours and culinary habits lived so amicably together. Although New York remains peaceful by most standards this self-congratulation is now less often heard, since it was discovered some years ago that racial harmony depended unduly on the willingness of the blacks (and latterly the Puerto Ricans) to do for the other races the meanest jobs at the lowest wages and then to return to live by themselves in the worst slums.

Maybe multiculturalism has been victimized by its own success. According to its critics it has made ethnic minorities seem more accepted and powerful, and racism less prevalent, than they actually are, as its rationale was always on the visible inclusion of minorities in sports teams, advertising, television dramas or political posters and religious celebrations in schools, according to Mike Marquises.

According to Commission for Racial Equality (C.R.E.) studies, 95 percent of white Britons do not have a Black or Asian friend and one in four would not want to live near them. After the mind-numbing and horrific events of 9/11, 11/7, 26/11 the only change that has been witnessed is that people tend to assert their religion and its rituals and practices to intensify their identity and difference instead of observing their religions as their separate spiritual and vivid personal journeys.

In the light of increasing attacks on the Indian students in Australia, a survey has revealed that 85 percent Australians feel that racial discrimination is common in their country with verbal abuse and violent incidents. A 11-year study by a collaboration of Australian universities has found that a large number of the Australians surveyed, feel that cultural differences may stop everyone from coming along together, they also feel that cultural differences pose a threat to social harmony. The study also said that 6.5 percent Australians are against multiculturalism. Kevin Dunn from the University of Western Sydney School of Social Science said that, the

Cronulla riots and the recent attacks on people of Indian descent show that 85 Percent of Australia acknowledge that there is racial prejudice in their country.

Racism is an all pervasive universal phenomenon along with sexism, and when the two combine they negatively take a new form. As both of these are about breaking the spirit of people so that they do not fight back. Similarly, India has some of its own problems in the form of casteism and communalism, a comparison of the plight of Dalits in India and African Americans of U.S.A. makes it crystal clear, that how difficult it is to accept multiculturalism and make it work in real life situations without any inherent prejudices.

Notwithstanding the aforesaid criticism of multiculturalism, it has to be accepted that, India is the world's largest secular democracy, and multiculturalism has been an established and accepted fact of life which is taken for granted here. The right wing nationalists in our country that consist the various The Hindu groups, have been wanting and waiting to establish a purely Hindu culture in India but it is indeed a tough task because of our traditions of simultaneous co-existence with so many different cultures and ways of lives. We gave shelter to the Parsees, when they escaped to India from Persia, and later on to the Dalai Lama, when he arrived in Dharamshala, during Jawaharlal Nehru's Prime-Ministership, when he was escaping a brutal persecution by the Chinese. The Dalai Lama would be celebrating his 74th Birthday shortly, in India and everywhere in the world.

In spite of all these pervasive problems, there is no doubt that India has an amazing and mysterious capacity to resurrect like a phoenix. It is firmly believed that it will survive and transcend all its weaknesses to attain its ever-glorious multicultural heritage to perfection.

The first recipient of the *Oprah Winfrey Chutzpah Award* for "audacity, nerve, boldness and conviction" Irshaad Manji, the director of Moral Courage project in the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at the New York University, says that cultural relativism has to be avoided as it is dangerously and systematically making multiculturalism decay and loose its intellectual vigour.

The Times has called Irshaad Manji "Osama Bin Laden's worst nightmare"! because "She campaigns for Human Rights and challenges to it, political persecution, intellectual conformity and self censorship; and in the best spirit of liberal education, her Moral Courage Project teaches that rights come with responsibilities, and we are citizens rather than members of our tribes, as meaningful diversity embraces different ideas and not just identities" and "the future of free expression in a fragile world". Manji opines that globalization and economic interdependence of countries on each other after their economic liberalization have also made a huge difference in the attitudes of people. They have become more open minded and understand the value of peace and prosperity in a much better way.

She says that there are still many serious issues; like the reality of interdependence in a complicated world, the politics of identity, global citizenship and integrity free conscience and moral courage in a vulnerable world along with religious, ideological, and cultural correctness which with all their dilemmas produce a 'dishonest diversity' being an Islamic reformer, who advocates pursuit of common good more so because essentially we are one and of the same species and the alliance of interdependence has to overcome, the alliance of hegemony and hatred in the entire world.

Our multicultural world could be better understood by the overwhelming response and mourning for the 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson's untimely and sudden demise. It simply goes on to prove that no matter which culture people come from the culture of music is necessarily universal. Jackson was not just an incredible icon of pop music, but also the symbol of progress,

harmony, love and cultural co-existence. All over the world; from Harlem (New York) to London, Los Angeles, Paris and Perth to Tokyo, Tehran and Mumbai to Mexico City, proves that global sentiments and culture are all pervasive. He was one of the most famous human beings that the world has ever known and the most celebrated superstar, there was an overwhelming outpouring of affection for Michael Jackson from all cultures and countries was an amazing and awesome tribute to a truly universal superstar whose music transcended all artificial and man-made boundaries. Jackson's music transcended race, culture and even national identity as he was the symbol of a universal world culture.

It certainly proved that geographical boundaries of a nation or dictatorship in a country can hardly control popular culture's might and popularity amongst the youth and multiculturalism prevails all over the world. It's hardly a surprise that mostly the youth of any nation are the harbingers of a cultural revolution, as many of them believe in progress and not unnecessary violence and bloodshed unlike in the past.

Political uncertainty, religious fundamentalism and economic turbulence have an overwhelming presence in today's troubled world and as such a plural society must keep in mind the cultural sensitivities and accept some reservation in free speech, which is a better option than war that only destructs and ravishes instead construct and create.

Every reader and writer of literature, society, politics, culture, and that of life in general is also an avid socio-political observer. Their writings prove that the personal and the political are intensely interwoven. Bhabha also criticises how the colonised and the subaltern have often internalised the images fed by the powerful socio-political forces.

Similarly, both these influential writers also tell about the racial and ethnic profiling that Blacks, Arabs, Hispanics and Asians have to face in the West. The routine identity checks are more common for these races than for white people, which is still a glaring and shocking reality of the Western world. In a truly and completely multicultural country like India, there is no standard or model, in a fashion that there are French, Dutch or German models, of uncultured nationhood. Multiculturalism of Western nations is a recent phenomenon, whereas the Indian multiculturalism consists of an ancient wisdom that is time tested and in existence since a very long time.

India has no common or one religion, language, race colour and creed. These factors were the vary bases, on which many European nations were created; unlike India which is a mosaic of languages, communities, religions, cultures and customs along with an incredible ancient civilization.

The cross-cultural film-making, like the phenomenal Oscar winning film and phenomenal *Slumdog Millionaire* has taken off in a big way in recent times. Earlier also Hollywood has been fascinated by the Indian film-makers like Satyajit Ray, who was also awarded on Oscar, as a tribute to his contribution to world cinema.

Professor Noam Chomsky who is a well known American linguist, philosopher, political activist, author and academic and the emeritus Institute Professor of linguistics and philosophy at M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, widely regarded as the author of an intellectual revolution in linguistics; according to him, languages can be analyzed outside of social constraints and it is important, to keep in mind that the decent survival of the human species is by no means an obvious thing. There are very severe threats to our survival: the threat of destruction to environment, terminal nuclear disasters and catastrophes, the wrong policies of governments, which threaten even our decent survival. He further says, that all over the place from the popular culture to the propaganda system, there is a constant pressure to make people

feel that they are helpless, that the only role they can have is to ratify decisions and to consume. All this and more has severe implications on our social and linguistic development and their survival. This could be termed as another chapter in the evolution of multiculturalism that is complicated as well as controversial according to Chomsky.

Chomsky has also expressed his concerns regarding multiculturalism connecting it to the deceptive and destructive foreign policy of the successive United States Governments, which has affected multiculturalism negatively. He says that, if there is unity in a democracy, it will be less volatile and ensure collective functioning in a unique way. A cross-cultural healing and an interrelated culture that will work socially, politically, culturally as it will be a community bound together not by ethnicity, but by common ideals; and progressive ones at that, with a culture of support and creativity. He has expressed his views on power, dissent, racism and pressing questions of war and of the struggles within the domestic culture. He criticizes the American government for interfering too much in its citizens' cultural rights, justice, multiculturalism, control of natural resources, really basic things which Chomsky has also expressed the motivations behind the 9/11 attacks on the United States and its consequences on the international system, and how racism has been on the rise recently in the United States. And since then the Arabs and Muslims are in a constant fear and dilemma, over their well-being and safety in America. He shows how international terrorism, global politics, culture and racism are mutually interwoven and the weakening of multiculturalism is the ultimate consequence as a result.

When we compare the Indian democracy and survival of multiculturalism in India, to the failure of less diverse countries or other multicultural, post-colonial, socialist, rogue countries, and failed nations. Its stability and record seem quite good. The Indian constitution has evolved as the most wonderful document which is supportive of multiculturalism, which exists in our country. India has survived brilliantly the various cyclic ups and downs, that challenged its vary survival in the face of almost all kinds of challenges.

In spite of this, there are still many more barriers to be crossed before reaching those great principles that will take this largest democracy on earth, forward in the coming decades. Some critics also say that the Indians are considered the most racist persons in the world ! and given our genetic diversity, there is an atavistic urge that makes them suspicious of one another. We must cut across different social hurdles and transcend the cultural and ethnic prejudices that are a great obstacle to India's well-being. More than anything we need a religion of humanity and mutual understanding to achieve our collective destinies, as a nation. There must be an end to the demeaning petty politics of state, region, caste and community, because religion has to be a manifestation of our inherent goodness and respect for all religions and cultures.

The ancient Indian, philosophical traditions that are based on the concept of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* which means that "the whole world is one family", should never be forgotten, and India's strength lies in its unique culture and multicultural legacy. Its crystal clear that we can be a strong economy and one unique humanity; if we cast away our narrow identities and closed tribal mindsets.

The whole world needs to revive the ancient traditions of wisdom, peace, and humanism to fight the demons of caste, religion, class, ethnicity, race and intolerance. It needs to work on cross-cultural understanding, practically putting it in its everyday behaviour instead of letting greedy and selfish politicians create misleading controversies. Similarly the expectations from India are endless, but only peace and mutual respect for each other's diverse way of life and beliefs could fulfil them in a meaningful manner. There is no better way to conclude, than by

quoting Jimmy Carter, the Ex-president of the United States who rightly said, "We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams" and one common aim of peace, progress, prosperity and social justice for one and all.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bhabha, Homi. *The Location of Culture*. London: Routledge, 1994. Print
Kachru, Brij B. *The Speaking Tree*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 1994. Print
Hefner, Robert. *The Politics of Multiculturalism*. Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2001. Print
Kymlicka, Will. *Politics in the Vernacular*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. Print
Povinelli, Elizabeth. *The Cunning of Recognition*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002. Print