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Title: Attitude towards immigrants: A study among the native students of Chennai city.

Abstract

India is renowned for its unity in diversity as the people value and respect each others’ religion, language, culture etc. India is a ‘multicultural society’. Of late due to the process of globalization, there is a large scale internal migration – movement of people within the country. Such internal migration indirectly reflects the level of development and regional imbalance in economic and educational opportunities. On the one hand, the immigrants face various miseries in the places where they have migrated, and on the other hand the native population considers the immigrants as threat or competitors. As a result, there is a conflict between the natives and the immigrants. Such a situation questions the fundamental principle of ‘multiculturalism’ which is evident through the problems in the sphere of employment and education. A large number of students from other states, particularly from north–eastern states come to Chennai to pursue their studies. The native students consider the immigrant students as competitors while sharing the resources, employment opportunities etc. The native students also develop hatred and ill-feeling, which sometimes manifested in violent conflicts. This is a form of crisis for ‘multiculturalism’.

Against this background, a study has been carried out among the student community in Chennai city to examine their attitude towards immigrant students. A sample of 250 students studying various colleges in Chennai city have been selected for the purpose of the study. The attitude of such students has been measured using five–point Likert scale. It has been found that, by and large the respondents have developed hatred towards students from other states and the respondents consider them as threat.