

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

' Reflections on Federalism in Indian Constitution ' is a study of the evolution of Federal features. India, as a nation launched itself as an independent country in 1947. The Constitution of India, (1950) can be considered to be a cluster of ideas and experiences which most of the constitutional framers had as leaders of the freedom movement in India.

The British Rule in India, had left a legacy on the growth of constitutional government in India. The various Acts introduced from time to time came in as reforms to suit the need of Indian polity. These Acts known as 1909, 1919 and 1935 Acts laid down the basic features of Indian Constitution. Though the British experience was to suit the British interest, nevertheless the Indian polity though unsatisfied could realise the need of decentralisation.

From these experiences, 'federal constitution', was the only way out for the future of Indian Constitution. India a land with different cultures and languages, castes, creeds and religious groups show the diversities of the Indian polity. The territory covered by India demands a federal structure. When the constitution of 1950 was introduced, all these factors had to be taken into consideration.

Nevertheless, the constitutional framers had their experiences coupled with divergent Indian histories had to safeguard the Constitution from future threats. Hence having a strong Central Government had to be accepted under the grasp of federal theory. Indian Federalism is a model of its own which is certainly different from the true definition of Federal theory.

The study has been mainly based on the available material from various books, journals, news papers, research articles and Acts on Indian Federalism. It may suffer from certain limits as the work had to be completed in specific time limit. It is an aggregate analysis of existing material. The work is divided in six chapters with a conclusion.

First Chapter, deals with ' Factors influencing Indian Federalism '. In this chapter an assessment is made to assess different factors influencing Indian Federalism. Factors like geographical, religious, cultural, language, etc., are the main factors dominant which influence Indian federalism.

Second Chapter deals with a critical assessment of the origin of the federalism under British Rule. In this chapter aspects of evolution of 'Federal' features had been examined in detail.

The Third Chapter, deals with the features of 'Federalism' introduced by the British, namely by means of 1909, 1919 and

1935 Acts. These Acts have become the cornerstone of the Indian Constitution 1950.

Chapter Four, examines the working of 'federalism' under the 'Indian Constitution'. Examination of the salient features prescribed by the Indian Constitution had been assessed.

Chapter Five, is mainly devoted to theory and practice of Federalism, in which 'Federalism' in practice is assessed. The Constitutional features under the light of various criticisms on Indian Federalism has also been done.

In the conclusion, the Federal Theory itself in Indian context has been examined. Extra-constitutional features like Planning Commission, National Development Council and the role of dominant Political Party rule in Indian federal working has not affected the working of Co-operative Federalism in India. Though India is a federal state with a strong centre it has not impaired nor hampered the regional progress.

The work does not claim that it has contributed to any fresh grounds or theories but it is a mere effort in its own way to assess the past, present and future of Federal System in India.