

An Enquiry into the Occurrences of Racial Discrimination in the Delhi Conurbation

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Abstract: North-east India is one part of the country which has remained bereft of India's development story for a long time. Consequently, as basic infrastructure like transport improved in the region towards the end of the twentieth century, the region has experienced steady exodus of people for finding better livelihood, etc. opportunities. Delhi became a natural choice for migration both because it is the National Capital and because it offers better living standards, education facilities and livelihood opportunities. However, an emerging problem faced by the people of Northeast India upon their arrival and settlement in Delhi is that of racial discrimination or racism. While this seems surprising for a country known for its "Unity in Diversity", discrimination on the basis of religion, region and cultural beliefs has been rampant, and more pronounced in the Delhi NCR, particularly in the Delhi conurbation. This is often reflected in popular media, with jokes made on how people from certain regions speak, look or behave. Stereotyping has been a pressing issue in Delhi NCR. Its collusion with racism has made it into a major challenge and the people from North-east India residing in Delhi NCR often become victim to racial slurs thrown at them. The Government of India has responded by attempting to put corrective measures in place by instituting policies and practices for discouraging such discrimination. However, racial discrimination continues to exist and often rises to unfortunate proportions. The present research contribution is an attempt to analyse the status of racial discrimination in Delhi NCR in the present day through survey and analysis. The research attempts to bring forward insights into racism in Delhi, its psychosocial implications and suggests corrective measures for the eradication of this social menace.

Keywords: diversity, Delhi conurbation, North-east India racial discrimination, racism.