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Topic of Research: Politics, Identity and Multiculturalism in Central Asia: A study of Post Soviet Kazakhstan

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FINDINGS

The research theme Politics, Identity and Multiculturalism in Central Asia: A Study of Post-Soviet Kazakhstan is primarily trying to understand the phenomenon of multiculturalism in Central Asia with a special focus on the post-Soviet Kazakhstan. This study aims to locate the issues of identity in a multicultural theoretical framework. To understand Politics of Multiculturalism in Central Asia with special reference to Kazakhstan, to reflect upon 'multicultural dilemmas' and the predicament of minorities in the culturally diverse state of Kazakhstan, to examine the issues of recognition and representation in Kazakhstan and compare it with other multicultural states such as Canada and India.

Multiculturalism is the view that a state which is culturally diverse and where there are a number of groups who are in minority and at the same time historically marginalised. The differences shall be acknowledged in the mainstream or dominant political culture. A culturally diverse society based on the principle of equality is regarded as a Multicultural society wherein the democracy has been accepted as a model of governance. Multiculturalism is a phenomenon that emerged in Europe in 1970s and early 1980s. And now, most modern democracies comprise citizens of different cultural backgrounds; and claim to recognise these differences. Many of the cultural minorities have faced discrimination in the past and even in the contemporary time and the state is an institution that can protect the vulnerable from such discrimination, through

affirmative action policies. Multiculturalism plays a significant role for combating and resisting the dominance of one cultural identity over the others, and the exclusion of minorities from the mainstream.

The study is discussed under six major chapters such as Chapter-I **Introduction**, Chapter-II **Politics, Identity and Multiculturalism: Theoretical framework**. It deals with the theoretical part of the research and explains meanings of Multiculturalism and Identity Politics. It further differentiates Multiculturalism from Communitarianism, Pluralism and Interculturalism. It focuses on Multiculturalism is playing a fundamental role for the successful functioning of Modern Liberal Democracies. Chapter III, **Identity and Nation Building in Central Asia**. This chapter has discussed the nation building and state building processes in Central Asia and the role of language, culture and religion in the formation of national Identity. It has further analyzed the role of state in Central Asia to accommodate different identities. And to what extent state is successful in accommodating the differences based on identity. Chapter IV is **Rights of Minorities in Kazakhstan**. This chapter has dealt with the rights of the different groups particularly minorities in Kazakhstan under the 1995 constitution of the Republic, and their demands for representation and recognition. It has explained the policy of integration of different groups in Kazakhstan, Policy of Oralman, Intercultural Dialogues and Interfaith conferences. Chapter V- is **Kazakhstan in Comparison with Other Multicultural States**. This chapter has dealt with the issues of Multiculturalism in different multicultural states. It further discusses the failure as well as success of these states to solve the issues related to minorities, disadvantaged and distinct section of the society in various states that claim to be multicultural. And further leads to the comparison of Kazakhstan with these multicultural states Canada and India suggests a way forward to a young democratic state of Kazakhstan to integrate the differences based on ethnicity, language, religion etc. Chapter VI is **Conclusion**