

‘Racial Discrimination in Times of Covid-19 in India: An Evaluative Study’

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be one the greatest challenges the world have faced since the World War-II. Besides the death of millions of people across the globe, what is even more alarming is the crushing down of the world’s economy and the loss of jobs by millions of people. In such unimaginable challenging times like this, what is even more unthinkable is the manner in which the people of the North East of India are made to face racial discriminations across India just because their physical features resemble the Chinese. For people of the North East having mongoloid features, it is unusual not to experience racial discrimination even many decades before the outbreak of the Covid-19. What is worrisome is the manner in which Covid-19 pandemic is acting like a reinforcing agent of racial discrimination against them. Keeping in view of these hard realities, the article intends to explore and analyze the racial attacks on North East people in times of covid-19 pandemic by highlighting the racially intended attacks covering from February to June 2020. The study will find out the different issues and concerns of racism in India and will analyze the incidents happened during covid-19 in India. It will also analyze how racial discrimination creates negative impact on performance at workplace be it in library or any other workplace environment. The main objective of the study is to find a way forward to the issue of racism face by the people of the North East people India.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has been putting a huge challenge to people cutting across colours, castes, races, cultures, and nationalities. The pandemic has put millions of people faced with loss of business, jobs, death of loved ones, starvations and many other incomprehensible miseries. In such terrible pandemic situation, the people of the North East India are made to face racial discriminations at different metropolitan cities across India. There are several reports of denial of entry inside malls or grocery shops, people calling them coronavirus, people spitting at them etc. For a nation that takes pride in proclaiming India’s diversity or unity in diversity at global arena, the constant racial discrimination faced by the people of North East is nothing short of hypocrisy where some sections of citizens are made to feel like strangers in their own land. In such hard pressed realities of endless racial attacks on North East people it triggers the minds of the conscious people to introspect whether India has truly understood the meaning of unity in diversity.

With such incidents happening endlessly across India, we can even consider India as a living example of the paradoxes of the anti racist movements. The discrimination against the North East people based on their physical features is practiced inspite of the fact that the Indian Government regularly takes a stand against racism especially in international forums like the UN. In that respect these paradoxes are similar to the one practiced by South African government which was formed on the basis of anti-racist movement and now supports Turkey’s armed racist campaigns against the Kurds. These paradoxes will have to be addressed if a meaningful solution has to be found against racism.

The racial discrimination that is unceasingly reporting in the recent times actually mirrors the Indian society. It reflects the ill-informed citizens about the diversity of this nation. It also seems to be unfolding the deep rooted mindset of racial discrimination attitude towards the North East people who are mostly having a Mongoloid features. The situation is also putting the people of North East into a real war like situation where the enemies are not none other than their own country’s citizens. The racial discriminating face by the North East people are mostly associated with their physical features which do not have similarities with the rest of India. Hence, keeping in view of these hard realities, the article intends to have deeper understanding on the issue and do some data analysis on the recent on racial attacks on North East people. The study will also address the impact of racism on the North East people by highlighting the reports during covid pandemic. However, the main purpose of the study is to find a way in addressing the issue and put a way forward.

II. UNDERSTANDING RACISM:

Webster ([merriam-webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com)) define racism as a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial difference produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. Wikipedia also define racism as the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioural traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. Racism is also defined as the hatred of one person by another or the belief that another person is less than human because of skin colour, language, customs, place of birth or any factor that supposedly reveals the basic nature of that person ([adl.org/racism](https://www.adl.org/racism)). Even looking at the different definitions of racism given in dictionaries, we come across the usage of the words like belief, skin colour, language, oppression, attitude, prejudice and discrimination directed against someone who is or are not from the same race.

Racism has existed throughout human history. One of the most well known notorious examples of racism is the slavery, particularly the enslavement of Africans in the New World. This enslavement was well accomplished because of the racist belief that black Africans were less fully human than white Europeans and their descendants (www.adl.org/racism). The word racism was commonly known in the 20th century. However, despite its common usage, the meaning of racism in international law remains elusive. In fact, there is no single universally accepted meaning of racism. The origins of the word racism in English dates back to at least 1902 and, by 1950, it was defined in a UNESCO publication ([merriam-webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com)). This report provides that racism is particularly vicious and mean expression of the caste spirit which means exclusiveness. It also came up with a revelation that the act of racial discrimination is because of innate belief of an absolute superiority of a particular human group. It is also said ([wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)) racism by its nature has aggressiveness behaviour mostly because of the belief of viewing others as different or lesser.

Anna Spain Bradly (2019) offers a profound perspective on why racism occurs and how to combat it by giving an approach from understanding how human neuroscience works, which is the study of brain and the nervous system and the relationship between brain activity and our behaviour. Hence understanding neuroscience is crucial as it provides evidence about brain activity including choices, risk-taking, and other cognitive functions at the neural level. It is said what we choose or decide are the activity of our neurobiology and our choices are all invoked by our past experiences, memories, emotions etc, meaning that their influence on our behaviour occurs at the unconscious level linking to our past. Therefore, understanding human choice at this level can help us to acknowledge the full array of influences that shape such choice. The study goes further to argue that activity in this area of the brain may be attributed to a person perceiving a threat that arises from negative cultural associations.

Anna Spain (2019) further stated that ‘racism remains a barbaric and pervasive truth for too many people and is the under acknowledged human rights violation of our day. Hence, the word racial discrimination refers to discrimination that concerns the unequal treatment of races or people whose physical features are different. The very example of calling coronavirus to only North East people having mongoloid features clearly justifies that their actions are racially intended as the same word is not used for calling people coming from other parts of India. These definitions mentioned above gives a clear unified understanding that racism is wrong as it is a complete violation of human rights which is not only morally wrong to practice but also harmful to building a healthy society, especially for a multicultural nation like India.

The Hindu (2016) stated ‘Most Indians think racism exists only in the West and see themselves as victims. It's time they examined their own attitudes towards people from the country's North-East. (www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/lets-stop-pretending-theres-no-racism-in-india)

III. IMPACT OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:

Many research findings have come with strong evidences demonstrating the effect of racism on mental health. **William Wan (2019)** states that the negative impact of racial discrimination found in the study includes depression, general difficulty in recovering emotional trauma, hallucinations, anxiety and stress. It is also found that regardless of the extremity, when discrimination occurs, the person is often left with distressed and disruptions of concentration and focus. Some studies have also shown that also even the anticipation of discrimination can trigger the stress response. A study which was done by William wan also warned that racism has huge negative effects on children's health. Another study also shows that exposure to racism in adult can be linked to increase of risk of heart disease, depressions and other ailments. In another findings (**Burgess D et al, 2007**) from over 300 experiments published in several peer-reviewed journals demonstrates that experiencing stereotype threat can significantly reduce performance on cognitive and social tasks; increase anxiety, frustration, disappointment, and sadness; and generate coping strategies that may have undesirable effects.

Some research findings indicate patients' prior experiences of disrespect and discrimination is associated with higher treatment dropout, lower participation in screening, avoidance of health care. **Michelle van Ryn (2011)**, also states that such patients also delay in seeking help and even filling prescriptions, and manifesting lower ratings of health-care quality. Through the continuous efforts of UN, international law which

is called treaties or conventions has been developed for eliminating all forms of racial discriminations across the world. Since, convention operates like a contract, when any country becomes a member; it is bound to follow according to the rules mentioned in the convention. One example (**RacismNoWay**) is since Australia is a party to several UN anti-racism conventions, it impose obligations on Australia in regard to racism and racial discrimination in schools and other contexts.

In spite of having some shortcomings, the affirmation we get from the references mentioned above indicates the serious efforts made by the UN in eliminating racism of all forms of discriminations in the human society. However, it strongly felt that the UN must further reaffirm once again in upholding their commitment in fighting against elimination of racial discrimination and further promote justice, equality and dignity for all.

IV. THE RACIAL ATTACKS ON NORTH EAST PEOPLE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

In such terrible times like this, the people of North East living in different metros not only fight against Coronavirus but also fighting against Racism Virus which they have been fighting for many decades since they started moving out from the North East region. During these crucial lockdown days, as North East people move out to streets to buy essential items for their survival, they have been faced with people calling them coronavirus or corona carriers. Many people are even under forced quarantined by their neighbours or landlords without giving them any justification. Many have been also stopped from entering grocery shops to buy daily essentials for their survival. Even in spite of proving their identities, they were still denied of their basic rights. Hence, it is also imperative to introspect into the different existing systems of our society and see whether we have been always discriminatory in our approaches or it is a recent development.

On 9th March 2020, (Suhas Chakma, 2020, Nanguilung Panmel, a native of Manipur reportedly faced racial slurs at Undri, Pune. Panmel went out to buy some food when some man at the back of the queue began yelling in Marathi and called him “coronavirus”. Everyone present smirked. And, later that evening, while he was returning from a friend’s place a traffic cop stopped him and asked for his documents and licence. The police imposed him a fine for not wearing a helmet, but that he had let all the other helmetless riders off and commented ‘*Woh log toh local admihai, tum toh China se ho na, kisko pata tere paas coronavirus hai ki nahi* (they are locals, you are from China, who knows if you are infected or not)’”.

On 10 February, 2020, (Sumitra Debroy,2020) a young lady from Nagaland arrived from the airport and visited her friend, a student of TISS wearing a black mask at Chembur housing society, Mumbai. The neighbours just seeing the Naga girl wearing black mask conclusion that she carried the coronavirus and video recorded her suspecting her to be a Chinese and sent to the building’s owner. This led to an argument and the Naga girl went away to another friend house. **On 10th March 2020,(Suhas Chakma, 2020)** Pamziuliu Gonmei,(Suhas Chakma, 2020-13) a 26-year-old Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi faced racial discrimination based on her looks. Reportedly, a young boy at India Gate walked past her and said, “*Ye toh Chinese hai, Corona, Corona [She is Chinese, Corona, Corona, Corona]*”. On another occasion two boys pointed out to her and said, “*Ye Corona [She is Corona]*” while she was walking in her colony in Mukherjee Nagar. **March, 2020 (Suhas Chakma, 2020)** what was even surprising was the recent racial discrimination faced by Dr.Alana Golmei, a well recognized activist who has been consistently fighting against racial discrimination in India. She was called coronavirus by an employee of one of the most respected institutions in the country. She said, she was repeatedly called coronavirus inside the campus of a reputed institution. Now, the question is, when such discrimination can happen to such personality at such respected institution, how can we be sure that we can be safe anywhere?.

March, 2020, (Suhas Chakma, 2020) there was an incident which went viral over night where a young woman who had been spat on her face and called 'Corona' by a middle aged man in Vijay Naga North Delhi. The young woman is a research scholar in Delhi University. She was totally traumatized which made her to even question her own identity as an Indian citizen. Fortunately, an FIR was lodged against the middle aged man who was later arrested. She stated “The scariest part was that the paan juice entered inside my eyes, including bits of tobacco. I was in shock and my eyes were burning”. **On 15th March, 2020, (Suhas Chakma, 2020)** Girl from Shillong, Meghalaya made to leave Delhi restaurant to make others comfortable- On March 2020 East Mojo In an opinion piece published in *East Mojo* on 16 March 2020, Pallavi Ghosh, a senior editor at CNN- News 18, wrote about a horrific incident of racial discrimination she was witness to in a restaurant at the upscale Pandara Market of Delhi. The editor has gone to the restaurant to pick up some takeaway when she noticed a girl (from Shillong, Meghalaya) was eating her meal inside the restaurant. A group of ladies walked in and took offence on seeing the girl with Mongoloid features dinning at the restaurant. They created a scene and demanded that the girl be asked to leave or they would call the health department and the police. The helpless girl pleaded that she is not Chinese but from Shillong which is a part of India. Eventually the girl left the restaurant crying.

On March 16th, 2020, (Sahas Chakma, 2020) another case was of Rinzin Dorjee (74) and his daughter Tsering Yangzom who were reportedly denied entry to a Mulund society in Mumbai on March 16 as residents thought they were Chinese. Dorjee, a cancer patient, had a rented apartment in the society, but that day, he was stopped by the security guard as they thought he might be infected with corona just because of their looks. It said even the building's administration claimed they had been infected with coronavirus. It was reported that even after showing their medical documents, the guards did not listen to them. **On 22 March, 2020, (Prasanta Mazumdar, 2020)** in the state of Gujarat in Ahmedabad, police arrived at the office of an insurance company building to take away nine employees from Nagaland for COVID-19 testing. The girls had no idea why police had come to their office building. Infact, none of the girls had shown any symptoms of covid-19. It seems the police had come to their office building on receiving complaint that the employees were from China and are suffering from covid-19. The nine girls said they all cooperated with them because they were all aware of the current situation. The young girls were tested, and the results came back negative. Even so, the authorities had refused to release them, and placed them under forced quarantine, along with others who might have the coronavirus. They showed the police their Aadhaar cards as proof of their identity but they were still admitted in quarantined building along with some of suspected covid-19 patients. The young girls recorded a video that went viral and reached authorities in Nagaland, who intervened with municipal and police officials in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to have them released. If the state Govt had not intervened, they would not have been released. These are just few of the cases of racial discrimination during this covid-19 days. Had the state government of Nagaland didn't intervene, they girls would not have been released.

On 23 March 2020, (Sahas Chakma, 2020) an incident of racial discrimination against a group of women from Northeast India living in Ahmadabad, Gujarat was reported. A video clip of the incident, which has gone viral in social media, showed a group of women from the Northeast India crying as the housing society they have been living tried to forcefully evict them and blamed them for "bringing coronavirus in India". **On 28 March, 2020, (caravanmagazine.in, 2020)**, a 24-year-old North East woman arrived at KPC Hospital in Kolkata, on 28 March, complaining of intense abdominal pain from a pre-diagnosed urinary-tract infection. It was said that She was denied entry to the emergency ward, and directed elsewhere to undergo screening for COVID-19, despite having no symptoms or any known exposure. She left for a third hospital, farther away—the Belehghata ID and BG Hospital where she was finally treated for her UTI. When she got back home, at around 7 pm, she got a call from the police, demanding that she return to MR Bangur Hospital to be put in isolation. The hospital had lodged a FIR against her accusing her of having run away. Her pleas that she was only suffering from a UTI were ignored. Once the woman entered the hospital, she said, the gates were locked behind her. She showed her medical papers detailing her treatment for a UTI, and a certificate from the hospital in Belehghata that exempted her from COVID-19 screening. But she was taken to an isolation ward, where she was kept for the night with at least a dozen patients suspected to have COVID-19. She said she tried to explain to them that she had no symptoms but it didn't make any sense to them. She said that she felt like being treated like a dog. She said she was hungry and was in pain and had asked for medicine but the nurse just ignored her.

In March, 2020, (eastmojo.com,2020), In Hyderabad, two Manipuri students were denied entry into a grocery supermarket because of their mongoloid looks. The guards of the supermarket stopped them outside the supermarket and were adamant in not letting the two boys inside. The guards then went further and asked the boys to prove their "Indianness" with some official IDs, which they did in the form of Aadhaar cards. Even after that, they were stopped from proceeding inside the mart. The boys had to return home empty-handed. The Telangana police upon being informed on social media acted swiftly. They took three persons into custody, including two security guards and the manager of Star Market, after an FIR was filed on the incident. The departmental chain also apologised on social media. **In March, 2020 (deccanherald.com, 2020)**. In Karnataka, a group of girls were forced out of their home by their employer. They move into another locality where they faced discrimination, they could not even venture out. Their roommate, an Assamese girl (with more Indian features) was the only one who could go out to buy groceries. Their nightmare was compounded when a neighbour barged into their house at midnight and took videos of them. Their private space infringed, threatened, abused they were on the edge.

On 29th March, 2020, (morungexpress.com,2020), a group of students from Nagaland were allegedly denied entry into a supermarket in Mysuru with police booking the staff on Sunday after a video purportedly showing them being driven away went viral. In the video record, we can hear the students telling the security guards why were they discriminating them, aren't we are not human enough without any needs? The incident took place few days after India's days Union Home Ministry asked all states to take action against those harassing people from the Northeast by linking them with COVID-19. The home minister further stated that such incidents are racially discriminatory and painful to the victims.

In April-May, 2020, (Easternmirror.com, 2020), a young doctor from Nagaland working in West Bengal had to go through constant racial slurs and derogatory remarks from his neighbours about his race. He was not only called corona but also accused of spreading coronavirus by his neighbours and people he faces

everyday on his way to hospital. Dr.Achumi reported to Dr.Alana Golmei, North East Support Centre & Helpline that he has been attending patients everyday wearing PPE from 8 pm to 8 am and receiving such treatment from local residents and neighbours is really saddening and painful, especially, when he had to also face additional discrimination just because of his looks. This was not the first time I had experienced such abuse. Earlier on several occasions, I have also been called names like 'Chin', 'momo' etc. But during the pandemic, several comments were passed at me while on my way from work, accusing me of bringing Coronavirus in the locality," he narrated.

On 10 May, 2020, (timesnownews,2020), at a time when the nation is faced with the rising of coronavirus positive cases, a 21 year old from Manipur was subjected to racist attack in Gurugram. She was brutally attacked by some locals from Faizapur, Gurugram in Haryana just for passing through the locality on 10 May, 2020. The elderly woman had rudely interrupted her from passing through the road and abused her in a racially-charged tone calling her corona. After the altercation, the entire family came forward and started hitting her with sticks. As a result she became unconscious and was then rescued by some local people who then called up the police. **On May 17, 2020, (morungexpress.com,2020)**, A 27-year-old man allegedly harassed two women from Manipur by calling them "corona spreaders" and asking them to go to China in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district on Sunday evening 17th May, 2020. It was stated that the incident happened just near police station. One of the victims had recorded the racial abuse and asked the accused to apologise and yet they accused did not apologise. According to one of the victims, they have been facing such incidents in the past and have decided to returned back to their hometown.

On May 17th, 2020, (morungexpress.com, 2020), one evening a case emerged from Maharashtra of five Naga girls being allegedly subjected to racial and sexual harassment. The first case pertained to two Naga girls working in Pune. They were reportedly on a walk in Janwadi, when two men on seeing them started hurling racial abuse and told them to "go back where they came from." One of the men allegedly also threw a plate of food on the girls, covering them with rice and dal. **On May 17th, 2020, (nagalandexpress.com, 2020)** in another case, three Naga women were accosted by their house-owner who allegedly asked for sexual favours in exchange for letting them stay in their rented apartment. The incident occurred at Jalna, a few hours away from Pune. The apartment was reportedly arranged by the company for which they work, and the company had failed to pay the rent. On May 17 evening, the three girls were called by the houseowner and asked to leave if they refused to reciprocate with physical intimacy. After the incident, the women got in touch with the company, who arranged for them to be situated at a different location.

On May 17, 2020, Pune (timesofindia, 2020). This pandemic is bringing extreme difficulties to the people of North East for being racially attacked because of their looks. On 17th May, 2020 another case of racial discrimination has taken place where a miscreant threw tiffin at Naga girls without any proticular reason while they were going back to their room from Janwadi in Pune. When asked the man why he threw the tiffin at them, they were just told to go away from there. It was reported to the police and the culprit is yet to be identified. **On 20th May, 2020, (m.dailyhunt.in,2020)**, Around 185 nurses have quit their job from hospitals in Kolkata and returned to their native place Manipur. One of the nurses, Cristella said, "We are not happy that we left our duties. But we faced discrimination, racism and people sometimes spit on us. Lack of PPE kits and people used to question us everywhere we went". It was stated that because of facing so much discriminations they were compelled to quit their jobs and left for Manipur (38). On 21st May, 2020, (Suhas Chakma, 2020), it is reported that around 300 nurses resign due to racism, discrimination; leaves Kolkata for Manipu. The Deputy Residence Commissioner, Manipur Bhavan, Kolkata JS Joyrita, on Wednesday stated that "Around 60 more nurses will be leaving tomorrow (22nd May). She further said that they are getting many more calls from people who want to go back to Manipur.

Based on the present study, India cannot deny the fact that there is no there is no racial discrimination against its own citizens from the North East India. What is A New Delhi-based organisation, Rights and Risks Analysis Group (**RRAG**), has brought out a report documenting the harassment that people from the northeast are facing as the pandemic rages across the world. This report was published in THE WEEK. The report, called Coronavirus Pandemic: India's Mongoloid Looking People Face Upsurge of Racism. It says they have documented 22 reported cases of hate and racial discrimination between February 7 and March 25, 2020. However, what makes the episodes in India different is that North Easterners are being insulted by neighbours and landlords who are well aware of their nationality. The pandemic has only re-ignited the collective fear and disgust for "the North East people as other", and by virtue of being a health crisis, has been seen to validate racist suspicions, attitudes and behaviour. The pandemic covid-19 which is far from being "the great equaliser" has bared the fragility of Indians' tolerance of difference. Having said that, while racial discrimination against North East people in the mainland India is constant issue, but the recent chain of events bears only an added dimension.

V. INDIAN SOCIETY MIRRORED THROUGH THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION FACED BY NORTH EAST PEOPLE:

The issue of racism continues to hunt the North East people as since initial days the issue of racial discrimination is consistently faced by them and now with covid-19, it seems to be rising even higher. There have been several cases where discriminations had taken place because of lack of India's diversity in terms of skin colours and feathers. However, what is much more worrisome are the many incidents of discriminations committed by people who already knew that the North East is part of India and that their physical features are different. How do we address this issue? In such scenario, one may conclude that the general mainlanders are generally insensitive by nature or also having high prejudices towards people who are different either in terms culture, customs, looks or race and so forth and hence discrimination cases happen. This also means that people are generally racial in their minds.

What is even more surprising is, in spite of year after year of hundreds of racial attacks happening in India, the central government is yet to accept the fact that there is racism in India. The only way forward is accepting the reality and thereby addresses the issue by enacting anti racism law in the country. This is the only way to safe guard and upholds India's call for unity in diversity.

The Challenges:

Racism, in all of its forms, remains a massive cause of discrimination, indignity, and lack of equality for millions of people in the world today. (Anna Spain, 2019). Looking to the future, how should humanity organize itself in the world to come? Anna Spain Bradley (2019) writes that the future world is one of great diversity amid great numbers. According to the World Bank, the present human population of 7.53 billion is expected to reach 11.2 billion by 2100.328 People in Asia and Africa are contributing to this population explosion at higher rates than other regions, and by 2100, it is projected that 80 percent of the total world population will live in those regions.329 Referring to groups of people as "African" or "Asian," as members of a single race or even several races, will fail to capture important political alliances, language distinctions, cultural affiliations, and other means of human identification. If the use of race is under scrutiny today, the predicted demographic shifts of the future will make this matter all the more pressing.

Now that we have come up with strong evidences of racial discrimination in India against people of the North East, how do we justify the statement 'Unity in diversity' when some sections of the country are being left to think the 'Other' or made to feel like strangers in their own land? What is the sincerity of the Government of India in addressing the issue of 'Racial Discrimination' which has been posing a huge challenge for the people of North East living in different cities across India? As per the latest records (businessstech.co.za) of the global survey on racism, it says India continue to be ranked as one of the most racist countries in the world. If the global survey is accepted as true, what measures has the government of India taken to address this challenge? Moreover, India being one of the signatory of the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, how it is possible that till today, there is no anti racial discrimination law in this country which can safeguard the ethnic groups and other minorities?

RRAG (Suhass Chakma,2020) also question that since here is no law against racism and racial discrimination in India. Police usually invoke Section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and Section of 509 (insult to the modesty of women) if the victim is Mongoloid looking woman but there are no provisions when the victim is a male. None of the racially discriminatory terms used against Mongoloid looking people such as "Momos", "Chinkis" etc are defined as offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. Further, all Mongoloid looking people such as the Meitis or Tibetans are not listed as Scheduled Tribes to be covered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. The police are at loss which sections or which laws to invoke given the legal vacuum against acts of racism and racial discrimination.

VI. THE WAY FORWARD:

From the present study it clearly revealed the existence of racism in the country. Hence, the way to address the issue is to accept the reality and address it. From the present study some of the following directions may be suggested:

Can the central government provide financial and other resources for anti-racist training to agencies across the civil and criminal justice systems for creating an awareness of racial discrimination in such training? Can India develop policies and programmes, including quotas, to increase participation of North East people in decision-making at all levels? There is a need for further research to define the parameters of race and racial discrimination in India. There is also a need for much creating much awareness raising campaigns to comprehend discrimination in institutions and in everyday life. There is a need in intensifying public education to incorporate tolerance and promotion of respect for other ethnicities.

However, there is also an urgent need for creating separate law that addresses the various socio-cultural-political and economic types of discrimination. A national action plan against racial discrimination as

an alternative plan to address racial discrimination. What is even more surprising is that racism is missing from Indian legal framework and this needs to be addressed if India is to fight racism. The inaction of the government to control such an attack is only a symptom of the larger inability to even acknowledge the reality of racism. Moreover, there is a need for increase in political participation in all the marginalized regions like the North East states.

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