

Justifying the title Mini India to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands: A Sociological Perspective

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Abstract: *This research article explores the cultural and demographic dynamics of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly focusing on the integration of tribal and non-tribal communities. The study highlights the classification of the island's population into non-tribal and tribal groups, tracing the historical settlement patterns and the influx of various communities. Its an attempt to explain the socio-economic characteristics and cultural diversity of the islands, drawing parallels with mainland India. The composition of the non-tribal population is analyzed, encompassing individuals from diverse backgrounds such as convicts, refugees, repatriates, laborers, and job seekers. The article emphasizes the integration of different ethnicities, languages, and castes, resulting in the formation of new communities referred to as "local-born" and "Mixture." The presence of tribal communities, including the Great Andamanese, living alongside non-tribal populations is acknowledged, while other tribes like the Jarawa, Ongee, and Sentinelese maintain their traditional way of life. The study further examines the limited research on the Nicobar group of islands, highlighting accessibility challenges and the influence of the Andaman & Nicobar Aboriginal Tribal Regulation. The rapid integration of the Nicobarese community into non-tribal society is noted, along with their simultaneous preservation of ancient cultural practices. The existence of conflicts within and between tribal and non-tribal communities is acknowledged, challenging the notion of a harmonious "Mini-India." Overall, the article emphasizes the need for peace, harmony, and tolerance among all communities to maintain the unique cultural coexistence present on the islands.*

Keywords: Mini-India, Co-existence, Socio-cultural integration, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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