

Study of Religion in Contemporary Indian Society: Status, Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract: *Since its inception, Indian religious studies are no longer exclusive in nature as it includes people from multicultural backgrounds and diverse communities. The study reflects the same tune as that of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutambakam’, meaning the universe is our relative, which represents the essence of religious texts and the practice of contemporary Indian politics. Sometimes it is misinterpreted and distorted due to different political intentions of different groups. Ultimately, this is the cosmic relationship scent that characterizes pluralistic perspectives on human society. Pluralism is the essence of body, soul and spirit, while war, hatred and migratory nature of the population keep this perspective away from the realm of life. The wisdom and knowledge permeate the continuous process of the entire nation in close connection. This article examines the essence of pluralistic viewpoints in the study of religion and society.*

The study also evaluates how it guides the idea of the country of pluralism and multiculturalism amid tolerance. It also means the coexistence of all groups or communities regardless of race, caste, colour or varna system. The Indian religious texts Upanishad, epics Ramayana and Mahabharata denote the moral character of man because the human mind is limited by morality and spirituality, without which humanity could disappear from the social sphere. Nowadays, the study

of religion and society is very significant and lively, as it was the main topic in the past centuries. It will continue to matter in centuries to come because people who are born in a religion live in a religion and die in a religion. Without religion, no other matter matters in this world.

This article further examines each and every aspect of the values of religious study as well as the frequent violence that occurs in society due to tremendous individualistic tendencies of the postmodern world. As a result, fundamentalism occupies an important place in society. Although not everyone is in favour of fundamentalism, barely ten percent of the population commits violence, which certainly has a negative impact on social conditions.

This article also highlights the discussion on secularism, although it is not very applicable in the social life of India but is still important as India has been declared a secular state in the constitution. Therefore, the concept of secularization, which is characteristic of the Western social structure, cannot be ignored as the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution took place in Europe, but the highly motivated Indian society and eventually Indian thinkers adopted the idea of European Renaissance and on Indian soil applied. Consequently, the nature of the latent secularist syndrome cannot be ignored in any form. Nowadays, the secular issues have taken shape in contemporary discourses. Surprisingly, the role of women workers in the study of religion is currently highly valued as women are viewed as gatekeepers of civilizations, which was once expressed by Swami Vivekananda.

Key Words: Fundamentalism, Multiculturalism, Secularization, Secular State, Women labour force and Renaissance.

Religion as a political and social factor has received increasing global attention both in academia and in the media. 09/11, the Mumbai attacks and the bombings in Bali, London and Madrid are just a few