

Rise And Growth Of Communalism In India: Its Consequences

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ABSTRACT:

India is a multi-religious country. There are eight major communities coexist in this country. Communalism in a board sense means strong attachment to one's own community. In Indian context, it means unhealthy attachment to ones own religion. Religious differences between groups often leads to tensions & rioting among them. Communalism essentially **leads to violence as it is based on mutual religious hatred**. Communalism as a political philosophy has its roots in the religious and cultural diversity of India. Its has been used as a political propaganda tool to create divide, differences and tensions between the communities on the basis of religious and ethnic identity leading to communal hatred and violence. communalism has been a significant challenge since the country's independence in 1947. Adherence or attachment to religion or a religious system is not communalism. But using a religious communities against other communities or against the nation is communalism. It is the enemy to progress, social change & democracy. Fundamentalist tendencies in religion give rise to communal tensions. Jawaharlal Nehru once described "Communalism is the Indian version of facism". This Article tries to explain the causes for the rise & growth of communalism, its consequences in India.

KEY WORDS: Communalism, Communal Violence, Religious Fundamentalism, Colonial India, Riots.

INTRODUCTION

India is a diverse nation with a pluralistic society. People of India have different religion, culture community. The India has a secular country but communalism also exist in India. Communalism means when people or community of one religion or followers of one religion go against the people or community of another religion which causes tensions, riots, and destruction to prove the superiority of one over other. The emergence of communalism in India has their unique history. In the history, the British policy of divide and rule included communalism which may be dated back to the period before independence. India's religion and cultural diversity inspires communalism as a political notion. It has been used political propaganda weapon which used violence among communities based on religious and ethnic identity. Simply communalism is regarded as a manifestation of confrontation between the minority community and the majority community. Sometimes communalism spread hatred between different communities and used as a tool which create differences between the communities on the basis of distinct religious and ethnic identity. Religious fundamentalism also accountable for spread communalism because fundamentalists believed that their belief is right and the rest is wrong. Communalism disputes between different religious groups particularly Hindus and Muslims that distinct emergence since the British rule. The emotions and feeling of communalism has huge impact and misunderstanding between Hindus and minorities and which is affected the basic structure of secularism. The communalism is an ideology which states that society is divided on the basis of religion communities and every community belief that their community or religion superior or good for another community. Various ways communalism can be practice i.e. political, economic and religious. The understanding and adjustment between Hindus and Muslims has been a failure many times and this has resulted in violent communal riots. The communalism based on religious orthodoxy and is related to dogmatism and religious fundamentalism. When communalism spread huge way in any country that could be affected economic growth of that country. Communalism can be threat to the national security because increased socio-economic tension

among the communities which is resulted lawlessness and weakening of administrative institutions.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUFY

1. To analyze the reason for the rise and growth of communalism in India
2. To explore the negative effects of communalism in our country
3. To study the relationship between politics and communalism in India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study based on descriptive method and secondary sources. The secondary data collected through various relevant books, journals, article, thesis etc.

REASON FOR THE RISE AND GROWTH OF COMMUNALISM IN INDIA:

1. **A legacy of Past:** - Mohammad Jinnah “theory of two nations” on the basis the India was partitioned. Communal politics had played its nasty game during the immediate past of independent India. Despite the emergence of Pakistan, a large number of Muslims are staying in India. India has adopted the principles of secularism but communalism as a legacy of past is continuing and expressing itself in various form.
2. **Divide and Rule Policy of British:** - During the colonial rule in India, the Britishers were used by the Divide and Rule policy. The Britishers used this policy because they divided Indians and to create divisions among the different religions. The Britishers also used communalism to counter and weaken the growing national movement. The Divide and Rule policy had a lasting impact Indian Society. It creates divisions among the people that still exist today.
3. **Rise and Growth of Communal Political Parties:** - Another reason for the growth of communalism in India is continuously emerging communal political parties. At the time of election the political parties make an appeal to the people on communal lines to garner their support and keep their communal feelings alive. During elections time many communal riots are emerged. These riots are sometimes pre-planned.

4. **Religious fundamentalism:** - Another reason for the growth of communalism in India is religious fundamentalism because our country with the presence of different religious communities, religious fundamentalism causes confrontation and riots. Fundamentalists do not have necessary tolerance to accept the beliefs and practices of different faith.
5. **Socio-economic Regions:** - The socio-economic conditions of our country not that much of good. There are facing many challenges because of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment which have created unhealthy competition among the communities.
6. **Poverty:** - Poverty is another reason for the rise and spread of communalism in India. Poverty and unemployment many times create a sense of frustration among the people. The unemployment youth of both the Hindu and Muslims community can be easily deceived by religious fundamentalism and fanatics. For instance, poverty and unemployment among the youth are the reason for the communal violence of various state of India.
7. **Role of media:** - The media also play a vital role in communal riots occurred in the country. In the present times the media has also been deeply implicated in the production of communal violence. The media is a most powerful weapon which can unite the people and also can break the people. In most of the communal riots, the mass media tend to disseminate false rumours as news and which can rise and spread communal riots in the large way.
8. **Cultural-historical factors:** - Culturally and historically, Hindus and Muslims are different groups. The relations between the two communities were changes before and after the Independence of India. Cultural and Historical factors one of the reasons to spread communalism in India.
9. **Muslim Community Isolation and economic underdevelopment:** With the different culture and customs of Muslim community, they have a distinct identity. The economic backwardness of Muslim community, most of the time they are deprived from adopting scientific and technological learning and as a result, they are not recognition in the industry, trade and among others sectors. Some of the orthodox organization promotes Islamic Fundamentalism and they also demand reservation facilities for Muslims. These

orthodox groups create psychological separation and misunderstanding among the communities.

10. **Administrative Failure:** Another reason for the communal violence in India is Administrative failure due to lack of law and order and proper implementation of law and order. Both the Union and the State government fail to prevent spread of communalism in our country. Failure of immediate and effective steps of our government has been a cause of the continuance of communalism in India.

COMMUNALISM AND POLITICS IN INDIA

There is a close relationship between communalism and politics in India. Communalism is one of the most secular spheres in Indian politics. The elite, who are largely responsible for instigating communal violence, are fiercely secular. Communalism in politics is leading to the emergence of a new kind of a political culture. Now a day's communalism is promoted by absence of ideology in politics. Many times people voted not because of their ideological performance they are voted for the simple reason that their community wants them in power. Communal politics simply means that people with a common religion have similar interests and their religion is above other religions. Casteism, linguistic, regionalism and factionalism are very common problems in Indian politics. There is a common features in Indian politics is coalition. That's why the influence of communalism in Indian politics is very common. The different castes and communities determining the political stability and instability of Indian politics. Now a day's no coalition government come into political power without support of caste and communal groups. Communalism always remains a political weapon in India. Politician has played the major role to creating a serious communal situation in India. The communal politics rooted in the painful partition in the name of a particular religious community. Communal violence strengthens the vote bank of ideologically alliance political parties and it affects serious damage to communal harmony in the long run. Simply communalism refers to a politics that attempts to unite one community around a religion identity in hostile opposition to another community. The religious differences are expressed in the field of politics. Communalism and Indian politics there is a closer relationship. The communalism in politics emergence of a new kind of political culture. In India, there are number of various

religious and ethnic communities. The fundamental values of communal politics are that religion serves as the cornerstone of a social community. The conflict over religion rapidly increased in the political sphere. In India, everyone has their own religion, ethnic identity and they are demands in politics as members of a religious community. When one religion groups or community demand are set forth in opposition to another and one religious groups or community dominations over the another means one religious beliefs are superior to others religions and needs of two or more different religious groups conflict.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF COMMUNALISM IN INDIA

The dangerous outcome of the communalism in India i.e. communal riots. The communalism also takes the various forms like communal violence, riots and massacre. Religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities, religious fundamentalism and believes that one own religion superior than the other religions. Some of major riots in India discussed are as follows:

- **Ahmedabad riots (1969):-** The Communal riots between Hindu and Muslims were started in Ahmedabad 1969. Atleast 1000 people had died during this riot. At the time there was a dispute between Indira Gandhi and Morarji Desai.
- **Nellie massacre (1983):-** This communal riot start North-Eastern in Assam. These riots killed more than 2000 Muslims.
- **Anti-Sikh Riots (1984):** - After the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her own Sikh security guards. The violence against Sikhs was witnessed in Delhi and others part of the India. The Sikhs were massacred in large numbers by anti-Sikh mob.
- **Babri-Masjid Demolition (1992-1993):-** In 1992, destroyed the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya city of Uttar Pradesh. The mosque was build by 16th century Mughal Emperor Babur. The Hindu mobs attacked destroy the mosque. The riots began on 6th December and ranged on for a month. Around 900 people were killed and 2,000 people were injured throughout the India.
- **Mumbai riots (1992):-** After the demolition of the Babri masjid, Mumbai erupted hours after the riots. As many as 1788 people were killed and property worth crores of rupees destroyed.

- **Gujarat riots (2002):-** These riots started after Muslims were blamed for allegedly burning a train which left 59 Hindu people dead. Nearly 1000 Muslims people were killed in the western State of Gujarat on 28th February. Around 20,000 Muslim homes and business and 360 places of Worship were destroyed.

- **Assam communal violence (2012):-** The large scale immigration of Bangladeshi people into the North-Eastern states often results in communal and ethnic classes. In 2012, there were communal riots in Kokrajhar between indigenous Bodos and the Muslims after unidentified persons killed four youths of Bodo tribes. The riots resulted in the around 80 people death and destruction of 500 villages.

- **Delhi Riots (2020):-** In 2020, the large number of property destruction, waves of bloodshed rioting in North-East Delhi caused by Hindu mobs attacking Muslims. Of the 53 people killed, two-thirds were Muslims who were shot, slashed with repeated blows or set on fire. The dead also included a policeman, an intelligence officer and over a dozen Hindus who were shot or assaulted.

HOW TO PREVENT COMMUNALISM IN INDIA

Firstly, secular education should be teach all the educational institutions for prevent Communalism in India which would be helpful for maintain peace and harmony in our society. Secondly, not supporting any political parties which indirectly spread communalism in our country. Thirdly, should be strict action against the communal riots and the CBI or a special investigation body should investigate communal riots within a limited time. Fourthly, uniform civil code should be implemented with the religious communities so that there is uniformity in personal laws. Fifthly, Government Should be encourage and support civil society and NGOs to create communal awareness among the different communities and stronger communal harmony among the different groups. Sixthly, increase representation of everywhere in the minority community and weaker sections of our society and there is a need for minority welfare schemes strictly implemented. Seventhly, now a day mostly focused on value oriented education which focused on the values on peace, non-violence, secularism and humanism.

CONCLUSIONS:

In the above discussion, these are the some of the factors which contributed to the growth and spread of communalism in India. Now a day, communalism has impact huge way in the Indian Citizen and has affected a lot of families directly and indirectly. The communal riots, violence should be strictly handled by the Govt. of India and taken by the various steps and implementation which can be help to promote cultural harmony and togetherness among the different communities. The globalization also plays a major role to bring the world closer and reducing communalism in the different countries of world including India.

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