e-ISSN: 2320-9801 | p-ISSN: 2320-9798

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN COMPUTER & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2019

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA

Impact Factor: 7.422

9940 572 462 | 6381 907 438 | ijircce@gmail.com | www.ijircce.com

ISSN(Online): 2320-9801
ISSN (Print) : 2320-9798

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(A High Impact Factor, Monthly, Peer Reviewed Journal) / Impact Factor: 7.422

Website: www.ijircce.com

Vol. 7, Issue 8, August 2019

Religious Diversity and Communal Harmony in Independent India: Challenges and Prospects

Vivek Raj Jaiswal

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Bharathi College of Education Kandari Mandar Ranchi Jharkhand, India

ABSTRACT: This paper examines the interplay between religious diversity and communal harmony in independent India, analyzing historical, sociopolitical, and cultural dynamics. It highlights the challenges posed by partition, colonial legacies, political exploitation, and social segregation. Despite these challenges, the article explores promising prospects for fostering unity through interfaith dialogue, educational outreach, community empowerment, and socio-economic development. By addressing root causes and promoting empathy, respect, and mutual acceptance, the study aims to provide insights and recommendations for fostering inclusivity and peaceful coexistence among India's diverse religious communities.

KEYWORDS: Religious Pluralism, Communal Harmony, India's diverse religious communities

I. INTRODUCTION

Since gaining independence from British colonial rule in 1947, India has emerged as a vibrant democracy characterized by its rich cultural tapestry and religious diversity. With a population encompassing followers of Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and various other faiths, India stands as a testament to the coexistence of diverse religious traditions within a single nation. However, alongside this diversity, India has also grappled with challenges related to communal harmony, as historical divisions, political exploitation, and social segregation have at times strained interfaith relations.

This article explores the intricate interplay between religious diversity and communal harmony in independent India **(Menon, 2015),** analyzing the challenges that have hindered harmonious coexistence and the prospects for fostering greater unity and understanding among religious communities. By examining the historical context, current realities, and potential pathways forward, this paper aims to shed light on the complexities of religious pluralism in India and the imperative of promoting communal harmony in the nation's ongoing journey towards social cohesion and inclusive development.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Upadhyaya, P. (2010) highlighted India's struggles and triumphs with religious intolerance and fundamentalism. Focusing on Banaras, it detailed the city's historical and contemporary efforts at maintaining communal harmony despite provocations, such as the 2006 temple bombing. The author drew from fieldwork to illustrate how Banaras's residents forestalled violence, showcasing the city as a model for peaceful coexistence. This analysis offered insights into the broader dynamics of communal peace and the factors that distinguish peaceful cities from riot-prone ones.

Menon, N. R. (2015) the dichotomy between Gandhi's and Nehru's models of secularism and communal harmony, arguing that both models served as state strategies of governance. Redefining communal harmony as reciprocity, Menon examined its performance and the state's dual involvement in promoting both models. This duality, the article argued, undermined the state's secular obligations, especially regarding the national belonging of pious Muslims. The study provided a nuanced understanding of the state's role in religious pluralism and citizenship.

ISSN(Online): 2320-9801
ISSN (Print) : 2320-9798

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(A High Impact Factor, Monthly, Peer Reviewed Journal) / Impact Factor: 7.422

Website: www.ijircce.com

Vol. 7, Issue 8, August 2019

Yang, Y. (2017) the challenges to Indian pluralism posed by rapid economic development, Hindu chauvinism, and caste politics. The article argued that these factors led to societal polarization and fragmentation. Yang highlighted that these issues were exacerbated by the contradictions within the Modi government's policies. The study suggested that economic growth alone could not resolve the deep-seated social disintegration and that more comprehensive approaches were needed to address these challenges effectively.

Moywaywa, C. K. (2018) paper examined the role of faith communities in promoting harmony in Kenya, a country more affected by inter-ethnic than inter-religious conflict. The research identified root causes and patterns of religious conflicts and assessed their socio-economic impacts. Through literature surveys and interviews, Moywaywa found that religious conflicts, whether intra- or inter-communal, significantly hindered development. The study recommended increased cooperation among religious groups and participation in inter-religious dialogue to foster peace and social cohesion.

Nilesh, P. (2011) analyzed the Mohalla Committees of Mumbai as a civil society initiative for managing communal conflict post-1992 Ayodhya Mosque demolition. The study highlighted the pivotal role of women in rebuilding trust between communities and the police. Nilesh's work emphasized the importance of grassroots mechanisms in restoring peace and fostering reconciliation, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-driven efforts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in a diverse urban setting.

Ali, M. M. (2015) a historical overview of India's religious and cultural pluralism, tracing its roots through various invasions and colonialism. The paper emphasized the significance of secularism in Indian society and its challenges. Ali argued that India's rich diversity contributed to its wisdom and complexity but also posed challenges for maintaining secularism. The study shed light on the ongoing struggles and the importance of embracing secularism to ensure harmonious coexistence in a multi-religious society.

Atal, Y. (2016) the pervasive nature of violence at various levels and its impact on communal relations in India. The paper focused on the Gujarat riots as an example of Hindu-Muslim conflicts exacerbated by British colonial policies. Atal criticized the media's role in shaping biased narratives and highlighted the need for invoking multiple identities to prevent communalism. The study suggested that embracing cultural diversity and promoting national integration were essential for mitigating communal violence.

Subramaniam, M. (2014) the resistance of NGOs to gendered religious nationalism in Gujarat. Through interviews and document analysis, the study identified three main frames used by NGOs: Communal Harmony, Endangered Woman, and Gender Mainstreaming. Subramaniam argued that these frames were crucial for addressing gendered violence and promoting women's rights. The paper highlighted the complexity of NGO resistance and the need for a feminist perspective in mainstreaming women's issues in political discourse and actions against communal violence.

III. INDIA'S RELIGIOUS MOSAIC

India's religious mosaic is a vibrant tapestry woven from a multitude of diverse faiths, reflecting the country's deep-rooted cultural heritage and historical evolution. With a population encompassing followers of Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and various other traditions, India stands as a testament to the coexistence of myriad religious beliefs and practices within its borders. Each religion contributes its own unique customs, rituals, and philosophies, enriching the social fabric and shaping the collective identity of the nation. This religious diversity not only fosters a sense of pluralism but also underscores the complexity and depth of India's spiritual landscape, where ancient traditions intermingle with modern influences to create a dynamic tapestry of faith and culture **(Lakra, 2016)**.

ISSN(Online): 2320-9801
ISSN (Print) : 2320-9798

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(A High Impact Factor, Monthly, Peer Reviewed Journal) / Impact Factor: 7.422

Website: www.ijircce.com

Vol. 7, Issue 8, August 2019

IV. HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The historical context of religious diversity in independent India is marked by a complex tapestry of events, including the partition in 1947, which led to the creation of Pakistan as a separate Muslim-majority nation. This partition resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and communal tensions, leaving lasting scars on the social fabric of the region. Additionally, the legacy of colonialism and the British policy of divide and rule exacerbated religious divisions, laying the groundwork for ongoing challenges **(Körber, 2015)** to communal harmony. Political exploitation of religious sentiments, coupled with socio-economic disparities and persistent social segregation, has further strained interfaith relations, leading to periodic outbreaks of violence and mistrust between religious communities. These historical challenges underscore the deep-seated complexities of navigating religious diversity in India and highlight the imperative of addressing root causes to foster a more inclusive and harmonious society.

V. PROSPECTS FOR HARMONY AND UNITY

Despite the challenges, there are promising prospects for fostering communal harmony and unity **(Butler, 2016)** in independent India. Initiatives such as interfaith dialogue, educational outreach, community empowerment, and socio-economic development hold the potential to bridge divides and promote understanding among diverse religious communities. By addressing root causes of tension and promoting empathy, respect, and mutual acceptance, India can cultivate a culture of inclusivity where people of all faiths coexist peacefully. Through collaborative efforts at local, national, and international levels, India can realize its vision of a pluralistic society where religious diversity is celebrated as a source of strength and unity rather than division.

VI. SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

The research on "Religious Diversity and Communal Harmony in Independent India Challenges and Prospects" seeks to comprehensively explore the historical, sociopolitical, and cultural dynamics shaping interfaith relations in India. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the study will investigate the historical context of religious diversity, including the impact of partition and colonial legacies, and analyze contemporary challenges such as political polarization, social segregation, and religious extremism. With examining successful initiatives and potential strategies for fostering communal harmony, the research aims to provide insights and recommendations for policymakers, civil society actors, and religious leaders to promote inclusivity, understanding, and peaceful coexistence among India's diverse religious communities.

VII. CONCLUSION

In India's journey towards communal harmony amidst religious diversity is complex and multifaceted. While historical events, socio-economic disparities, and political exploitation have posed significant challenges, initiatives promoting interfaith dialogue, education, and community empowerment offer hope for a more inclusive society. By addressing root causes and fostering mutual understanding and respect, India can transform its rich religious mosaic into a source of unity and strength. The nation's ongoing commitment to these efforts is crucial for achieving lasting social cohesion and inclusive development.

REFERENCES

1. Upadhyaya, P. (2010). Communal peace in India: Lessons from multicultural Banaras. In Religion and Security in South and Central Asia (pp. 95-107). Routledge.
2. Menon, N. R. (2015). Communal Harmony as Governmentality: Reciprocity, peace-keeping, state legitimacy, and citizenship in contemporary India. Modern Asian Studies, 49(2), 393-429.
3. Yang, Y. (2017). Challenges Facing India's Pluralistic Society. Annual Report on the Development of the Indian Ocean Region (2016) Modi's India, 107-142.

ISSN(Online): 2320-9801
ISSN (Print) : 2320-9798

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(A High Impact Factor, Monthly, Peer Reviewed Journal) / Impact Factor: 7.422

Website: www.ijircce.com

Vol. 7, Issue 8, August 2019

4. Moywaywa, C. K. (2018). Management of Religious Conflicts in Kenya: Challenges and opportunities. international Journal of Education and Research, 6(1), 129-142.
5. Nilesh, P. (2011). Negotiating communal harmony in Mumbai: Women in Mohalla committees. Asian Politics & Policy, 3(4), 611-625.
6. Ali, M. M. (2015). Secularism in India: concepts, historical perspective and challenges. Asia Pacific Journal of Research Vol: I. Issue XXIV.
7. Atal, Y. (2016). The climate of violence and the concern for communal harmony. Perspectives on violence and othering in India, 55-68.
8. Subramaniam, M. (2014). Resisting gendered religious nationalism: The case of religious-based violence in Gujarat, India. In Gendered Perspectives on Conflict and Violence: Part B (pp. 73-98). Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
9. Menon, N. R. (2015). Communal Harmony as Governmentality: Reciprocity, peace-keeping, state legitimacy, and citizenship in contemporary India. Modern Asian Studies, 49(2), 393-429.
10. Lakra, N. (2016). Nation-building, Intercultural Communication for Communal Harmony. Role of Media in Nation Building, 37-45.
11. Butler, D. (2016). Peace and Harmony in the World Based on Pancasila and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity). Harmoni, 15(2), 33-40.
12. Körber, A., & Meyer-Hamme, J. (2015). Historical thinking, competencies, and their measurement: Challenges and approaches. New directions in assessing historical thinking, 89-101.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA

INNO SPACE SJIF Scientific Journal Impact Factor

doi crossref

निस्केयर NISCAIR

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN COMPUTER & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

9940 572 462 6381 907 438 ijircce@gmail.com

www.ijircce.com

Scan to save the contact details