

Relevance of Religion in Present Society

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Religion is a growing, dynamic and broad concept which can be realized but cannot be defined in its completeness. It is not such a discipline which is mere belief, conviction and faith, but it is a principle of unification and harmonization of the whole personality of human beings. Though different thinkers put forwarded different definitions of religion from different perspectives, a holistic definition cannot be found till now. The term 'Religion' is derived from the word 'relegere' signifies 'to bind together'. So from the etymological standpoint religion is a binding force which puts individual beings together in agreement in a group, which unites human life as well as social life. At the dawn of human civilization people have immense faith in a power beyond himself that satisfies not only his emotional needs but also guides him to lead a good life. Religion implies the spirit of devotion to the perfection of human life. All human beings try to attain the ideals of life i.e. Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. Search for the attainment of these ideals is nothing but the search for God or Perfect Being. In broad sense religion is a way of life, the art of living through right action, a code of conduct which regulate man's life. It helps man to achieve the highest goal of human existence and to lead a life of peace and happiness. In social phenomena religion manifests itself in various ways-domestic, economic, political and so on.

Individual life and social life are inseparable. Good of the individual depends upon the good of the society and vice versa. Religion is inborn tendency of man. It helps the individual to develop his moral character and indirectly supplies the foundation for the society. Without the bond of religion society would be collapsed. The study of human history would be incomplete without the study of religion because true history of man is the

history of religion. (Max Muller) In the history of mankind no such widespread, impressive thing is found than religion. Religion gives us an interpretation of the meaning of the universe in terms of its values for human life. Religion also can be regarded as an attempt of human being to satisfy inner urge or spiritual hunger and thirst. Spirituality is the core of religion which can be attained through the path of knowledge, action, devotion and concentration. It helps in developing moral character and supplies basic fruits for the development of society, helps man to establish cosmic harmony and a centre of human fellowship through different religious institutions. Religious institution not only unites different categories of people but also helps the poor and needy people economically as well as educationally. It helps in social unity, harmony, social development and integration. In this regard we can mention the name of Sankardeva, pioneer of Assamese society who established EK SARANANAMA DHARMA by means of which he tried to evolve social harmony and unity through NAMGHAR. Moreover it tries to establish understanding, co-operation, goodwill, friendship among people which are the basic key words of social peace in which there will be no conflict and war.

The contemporary world is full of anxiety and tension. The modern civilization leads the social framework to a deep crisis and conflict. Due to the technological advancement and scientific development today's society are mainly concerned with material comfort, it neglects moral and spiritual values.. It provides an easier life to man, helps man to reach on the Mars, to fly in the sky and so on. But human being seems to be unhappy inspite of such achievement because only material comfort is not sufficient for leading a good life. It requires spiritual development which springs from religion. Though material wellbeing is one of the ends of life it should be earned through right way without violation of peace and harmony in the society. Because utility of something depends upon its practicability and the mode of appliances. If scientific development is taken from moral and religious standpoint, it will be boon for us rather than curse. For this religious sentiment is essential because from a truly religious life our control over minds and intellect can be achieved by means of which we are able to minimize our control over the forces of nature coming from scientific development. To be a civilized, noble, ideal and rational society it must be

based on religious and moral values i.e truth, right conduct and love All religions provide us moral foundation to build up a harmonious society where a coercion of mutual trust, respect, and tolerance exist.

In today's society we observe that religion becomes the tool of political leaders. They use religion for their personal benefit. Nowadays it is seen that the believers and practitioners' of every religion deviate from their good motives. As a result social evils like religious riots, communalism crop in and that leads to disintegration of social framework. Religious fundamentalist make use of this conflict amongst different community to fulfill their own aim. Moreover today's society is divided into many parts on the basis of religion and innocent peoples are killed in the name of religious fundamentalism. This is the situation that is prevailing in the present scenario affecting different societies. Why this confusion takes place in very advanced societies in 21st century? The proper way to tackle these imbalances we must go back to our religious roots and find out reasons. In order to maintain peace and harmony in the society political involvement in the religion and religious institution should be prohibited. Religion helps to establish national integration in society and it also helps to preserve social, cultural and political harmony in society. According to religious thinkers such situation can be removed through the reward for spiritual values, the love of truth and beauty, belief in brotherhood among all human beings

Any problem of life can be solved if there is a harmony or unification between theory and practice which is proved by M.K.Gandhi through India's struggle for Independence. This is also applicable in case of religion. Religion helps people to lead a peaceful and harmonious life, but if it is practiced wrongly on the basis of wrong interpretation and misunderstanding it will affect negatively, If religion is taken as a personal quest, personal effort and sacrifice it would be most effective weapon for eradicating violence and tyranny of today's' society

In religion there is no distinction of cast, creed and color and there is no fundamental difference amongst the religions. All religions are based on truth and love. Different religions are the different ways of achieving the same goal i.e. the realization of ultimate reality, attainment of liberation through the service of humanity. Therefore in truest sense, religion

is the worship of mankind. If we accept that all religions are true then there will be no room for religious persecution. Different religions are the different stages on our journey to realize the ultimate truth. The motto of all religions is the realization of the true nature of man; Man is both religious and moral being and the co-relation between religion and morality is one of the essential ingredients for the development of today's society. Just like without water soil has no fertility in the same way without morality no religious life is meaningful. Religion is the ideal foundation of morality. These two are inseparable for a complete and integral development of the individual. In every society, every individual finds opportunity and facility for their own development; and for self development self sacrifice sympathy, tolerance are essential which are found in the very nature of religion Therefore religion is able to fulfill our hope i.e. establishment of peace in the present disturbed society

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