



SECULARISM IN INDIA: ITS CAUSE AND EFFECT

Hridoiyyoti Buragohain

Department of Political Science Sadiya College, Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

India is a multi-religious nation in the world. The prime Indian origin religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism were developed so early in India on the basis of Dharma, Karma and Ahimsha (Non-Violence). It is observed that religion has historically been playing a central and definitive role in the social life of Indian's people. Therefore the people of India want to give prior authority to their won religion. Moreover India is also a secular state with Hindu Majority people. In this article an attempts has been made to examine the basic causes and effects of secularism in India. In this context some suitable suggestion has been given for improving the concept of secularism in India.

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INTRODUCTION

Secularism can be described as the imperative need of the society like Indian society which is characterised by social, cultural, religious, regional and linguistic pluralism. It can provide religious security for all communities and nationalities living society (Ghai K.K.-2002).The concept of secularism is totally different in India. In contest of West the concept of Secularism basically denotes the difference between religion and state machinery, in contrast in India it is seen that Indian version of Secularism basically stand for the distinction between religion and politics. However antagonism between scholar and academician statement on the secularism is also available. In Indian context, the ideas of secularism discussed by Gandhi and Nehru, the two chief architects of modern India can be sited as the best example of this context. For Gandhi religion is the driving force of the State and deeply believed on the idea that religion and politics are inseparable from each other. On this reason Gandhi advocated Sarbadharma Sambhabha (religious equality).On the other hand Nehru the first premier who believed that religion had nothing to do in the state activities. There for he advocated the principle of Dharma Nirapakshata (religious neutrality). (Basu D.D. 2019). As per the Preamble of the constitution of India is concerned India is a secular republic, similarly the constitutional provisions embodied in the article 25-28 of the constitution also reveal the fact that India is a secular state having no state religion and equal respect to all religious believes. However it has been a highly contested issue that does secularism in true sense exist in India or not.

The communal riots frequently taken place in India for instance the communal riots of Babori Madjit demolition, Godhara massacre and very recently what happening in the Muzzaffanagar located in the western part of Uttar Pradesh just before the Parliamentary pools are adequate to prove the actual scenario of Indian secularism.

Objectives: The study has carried out with the following objectives:-

- To examine the basic causes of the problems of secularism in India.
- To analyse the basic effects of secularism in India.
- To give some suitable suggestions for improving secular concept in India.

METHODOLOGY

To make this article more effective various methods such as descriptive, analytical and historical have been followed. The secondary data were collected from printed books, journals, magazines, official records and documents, e-bulletins and relevant websites etc.

Table 1 Gender background profile in India

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Total population
1	Male	623,724,248	1,210,854,977
2	Female	586,469,174	

Source: Census of India 2011.

India is considered as the second highest populist country in the world. The above table shows that, as per 2011 national census the total population of India is 1,210,854,977 Where 623,724,248 are belong to male and 586,469,174 are belong to female.

*Corresponding author: **Hridoiyyoti Buragohain**

Department of Political Science Sadiya College, Assam, India

Table 2 Religious Demographic Profile in India

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hindu	966.3 million	79.8%
2	Muslim	172.2 million	14.23%
3	Christian	28.7 million	2.30%
4	Sikhism	20.8 million	1.72%
5	Jainism	1.21 billion	0.37%
	Buddhism	Approximately 84 lakhs	0.7%

Source: Census of India 2011.

The above table reveals that, the majority people under the study is dominated by the Hindu community i.e. 79.8%, 14.23% belong to the Muslim community, 2.30% belong to the Christian community, 1.72% belong to the Sikh community, 0.37% belong to the Jain community and only 0.7% belong to the Buddhist community.

Causes of the problems of Secularism in India

It has been observed that though constitutionally India is a secular republic but it is a bitter truth that Indian society is unable to be a secular society still today. Scholars have identified that there are certain causes which are responsible for shaping the non-secular Indian Society. Some of such causes have been discussed below-

1. **Vote bank politics:** It is the key factor of communal riots in India the profit seeking politicians always use communal disharmony in order to get power.
2. **Provocative speeches:** provocative speeches from the part of cunning politicians and many anti-social elements also play a vital role in spreading communal disharmony and other anti-secular ideologies to the different corners of India.
3. **Religious orthodoxy:** Religious orthodoxy may play a tremendous role in creating communal riots. For example Babar Masjid demolition and Ram temple established at Ajothya in Uttar Pradesh can be cited as a Religious orthodoxy.
4. **Impact of Globalization:** It is a comparatively new element that violates the norms of secular in India. For intake no one can deny the role played by various social network sites i.e. Facebook, what Sapp the outcomes of globalization in spreading the riots.

Although other causes are also playing a significant role in violating the norms of secularism and spreading the hatred of communalism as well.

Brief observations on some current incidents: It is a general allegation that after the instalment of BJP led NDA government in central India has gradually witnessing the incidents of intolerance. Some of such recent incidents briefly discussed below.

Dadri incident: Dadri is a small village located in Uttar Pradesh. This area was unknown to the rest of the world prior to September 28, 2015. On September 28 a rumour spread in the whole locality that the family of Akhlaq Saifi (52) has killed a cow and consumed beef on account of Eid- Ul- Jahar. The local residents were annoyed with Akhlaq Saifi and they publicly attack on his family as a result unfortunate Akhlaq Saifi had to lost his life and his son Danish was badly injured. After the incident Dadri became an issue in both election and print media and it also became the destination of political tourism of politician including Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi.

Ink of Hatred and Sivsena: Sivsena is known for its aggressive nationalism that considered Hindutava as the driven force of Indian Politics from the time of Blashahehb Thakrey who is termed as Hinduhridayasamart (Emperor of the heart of Hindu) Sivsainik the workers of Sivsena in spite of sharing power in the both governments of centre and native Maharashtra did not hesitate to throw ink on Sudheendra Kulkarni a noted social figure while inaugurating a book written by Pakistani writer Khurshid Mahamud Kasuri and termed him as second Kasab a Pakistani terrorist involved in 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks).(Source-India Today News)

Tension in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly: Recently beef has been banned in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northern most state in India significantly the most sensitive state of India in terms of security as well as law and order related issues, by the high court of the respective State. But this led to a violent situation in the streets of the Kashmir valley Engineer Rashid organized a beef party in MLA hostel in Srinagar. This beef party organized by independent MLA Engineer Rashid made BJP MLA's annoyed with him and BJP Legislator Rabindra Raina did not hesitate to physically assault him inside the sacred House. Moreover in Delhi ink was thrown to Engineer Rashid Khan by the members of a pro Hindu Organization.(Source-India Today News)

AICWA against on Indian Artist: On 8 of August in 2019 a tension was emerged with Indian Bollywood singer Mika Sing who went to Pakistan for performing a singing saw in Karachi. Despite of banned relation with the Pakistan Mika Sing involved in guilty. Hence he was boycotted by the All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA) along with the Indian film body, music companies and online music content provider etc. (www.timesnownews.com).

This recent incidents are adequate to prove that Indian Democracy and Secularism are in crisis to some extent in present scenario.

Suggestions: Some suggestions for improving the concept of secularism in India have been prescribed below.

1. All political parties should not indulge in any sorts of narrow politics violating the norms of secularism. They should not provoke any religious violence for the goal to get power.
2. The government needs to act treating all the citizens equally irrespective of their religious identity.
3. The media being the fourth pillar of Democracy needs to be impartial and it should be kept itself away from telecasting any sort of provocative news which may be resulted to violation of secularism in India.
4. Existing education system as well as the curriculums should be designed incorporating the basic lessons of secularism.
5. Moreover, the mind- set of the native of India should also be secular both in this public as well as private domain which is quite necessary to building a secular nation in true sense. Above all, these are some of the major remedies for achieving the goal of strengthening the notion of actual secularism in India.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion now it is cleared that secularism is a very important as well as a debated issue in the realm of Indian politics. However there are some problems or factors responsible for the emergence of non-secular ideologies, intolerance, communalism which have been the burning challenge before the survival of Indian Democracy as the secular Democracy. Moreover on-going phenomenon is alleged as the outcome of non-secular ideologies also humiliating the whole nation of Indian secularism. In such a critical phase of history it should be the responsibility as well as duty from the part of state apparatus, civil society, media, NGO's and most importantly from the part of the common masses to think and act for preserving as well as materializing the features of secularism in their life and society as well in order to strengthening the secular norms of Indian Democracy and preserving the norms of Unity in Diversity, the steering power of India, the largest Democracy of the world.

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