

# **SURENDRANATH COLLEGE**



**CU ROLL NO.- 192115-11-0171**

**CU REGISTRATION NO.- 115-1211-1466-19**

**SEMESTER- 03**

**SUBJECT- SOCIOLOGY HONOURS**

**PAPER- CC6 ( )**

**YEAR- 2021**

**TOPIC- COMMUNALISM AND IT'S EFFECT ON  
SOCIETY**

# INDEX

❖ TOPIC	PAGE NUM
❖ WHAT IS COMMUNALISM	3
❖ RELATION BETWEEN COMMUNALISM AND RELIGION	3-4
❖ HOW RELIGIOUSNESS TRANSFORMED INTO COMMUNALISM IN FREE- INDIA	5-6
❖ EFFECTS OF COMMUNALISM IN SOCIETY	7-9
❖ CONCLUSION	10



## WHAT IS COMMUNALISM?

**COMMUNALISM** is a situation when a particular community tries to promote its own interest at the cost of other communities. A sense of loyalty of the interest of one particular group ( religious, ethnic, etc ) rather than to society as a whole can lead to extreme behaviour or violence towards others.

Communalism is political trade in religion. It is an ideology on which communal politics is based. And communal violence are conjectural consequences of communal ideology.

### Relation between Religion and Communalism

This is an ongoing debate among the scholars whether religion is the main cause of communalism. Often many scholars maintain that main 'culprit' is religion and some even go to the extent of saying that if there is no religion there will be no communalism. Of course it is quite hypothetical formulation. Human beings cannot live without religion or some kind of ideology which gives human life a meaning and direction and whatever the nature of ideology or thought or value system it creates its own 'other'. And some form of struggle starts between followers of one or the other ideology.



Religion can be defined as a system of beliefs and values with associated rituals to give these beliefs and values a concrete form. When these beliefs and values are held in common and rituals are performed in congregation it gives rise to a sense of commonality and a religious community comes into existence. This community is also product of a pre-

existing social structure and this social structure deeply influences the religious community and its practices. Thus all religions teach to be truthful, compassionate, honest etc. It is this commonality of values, which is often asserted to promote communal harmony. But, as pointed out above, there are marked differences between religions in terms of rituals and cultural practices. Those who wish to promote their agenda of creating conflict between communities they assert these ritual, social and cultural differences. Over assertion on these differences often lead to social or political confrontation.

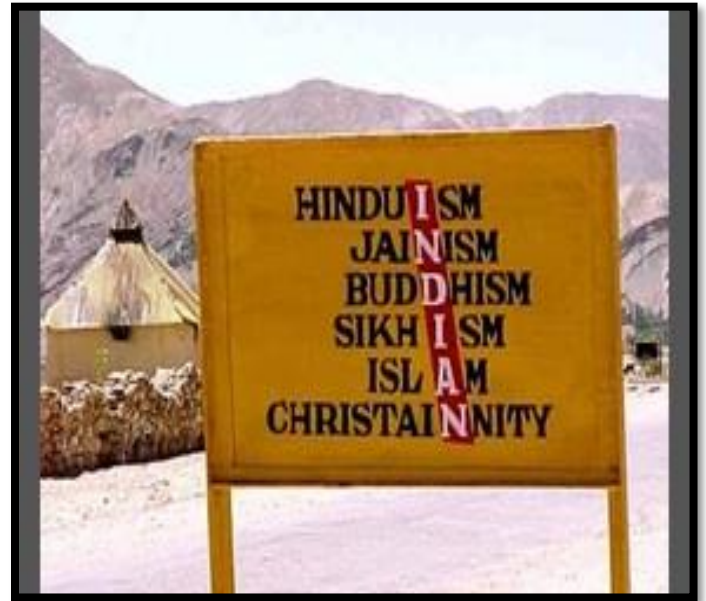


Thus the question of Ramjanambhoomi temple, basically a religious issue, was cleverly exploited by the BJP politicians to gather Hindu votes. Also, recently Narendra Modi, with the active support of top BJP leaders, provoked communal violence, mixing religious discourse with political one. Thus from this it can be easily seen that it is politics which uses religion than religion using the politics. Thus we can argue that in a democracy, politicians exploit religious identity for political power. They, by clever mix of religious beliefs and worldly interests, win the hearts and minds of people. Here it is important to note that these politicians who evolve this clever but highly explosive mix of religion and political power, do not represent interests of entire community but only its elite.

There are two alternatives for fighting communal politics. One alternative is to evolve carefully a secular discourse around real developmental issues and mobilise people around these secular issues. The other alternative is to use religious discourse in a creative manner making religion an option for the poor rather than for the powerful elite. Every religion has certain traditions, which can be used for empowering the poor. The vested interests exploit certain problematic traditions for their own interests.

## How religiousness transformed into communalism in Free-India?

- Religiosity is the totality of religious beliefs, values, practices and rituals.
- Whereas communalism is an aggressive political ideology linked to religion.
- The communalism before independence was rooted in the 'divide and rule' policy of the British. They had fostered communalism to weaken the nationalist movement by forcing religious rather than national allegiance.
- After partition, the class divisions of our society and the backwardness of our economy resulted in uneven development.
- As a result, some sections and individuals developed a sense of rivalry vis-à-vis their counterparts in other communities.
- Such leaders began encouraging communal feelings to strengthen their political support.



insecurities like poverty unemployment, price rise etc. into caste and communal ones. One such example is:

- Example of Bhindaranwale & the communalisation of Sikhs
- Demolition of Babri Masjid

Thus, Religiosity keeps a person peaceful and content, whereas communalism makes him agitated and dissatisfied. For human development and spiritual regeneration in the modern India, we should promote the former and discourage the latter.



Transformation of religiosity into communalism creates serious obstacles to good governance, economic development and social harmony of our country. Therefore, both the state and the society must prevent any individual, organization or event that encourages such process.

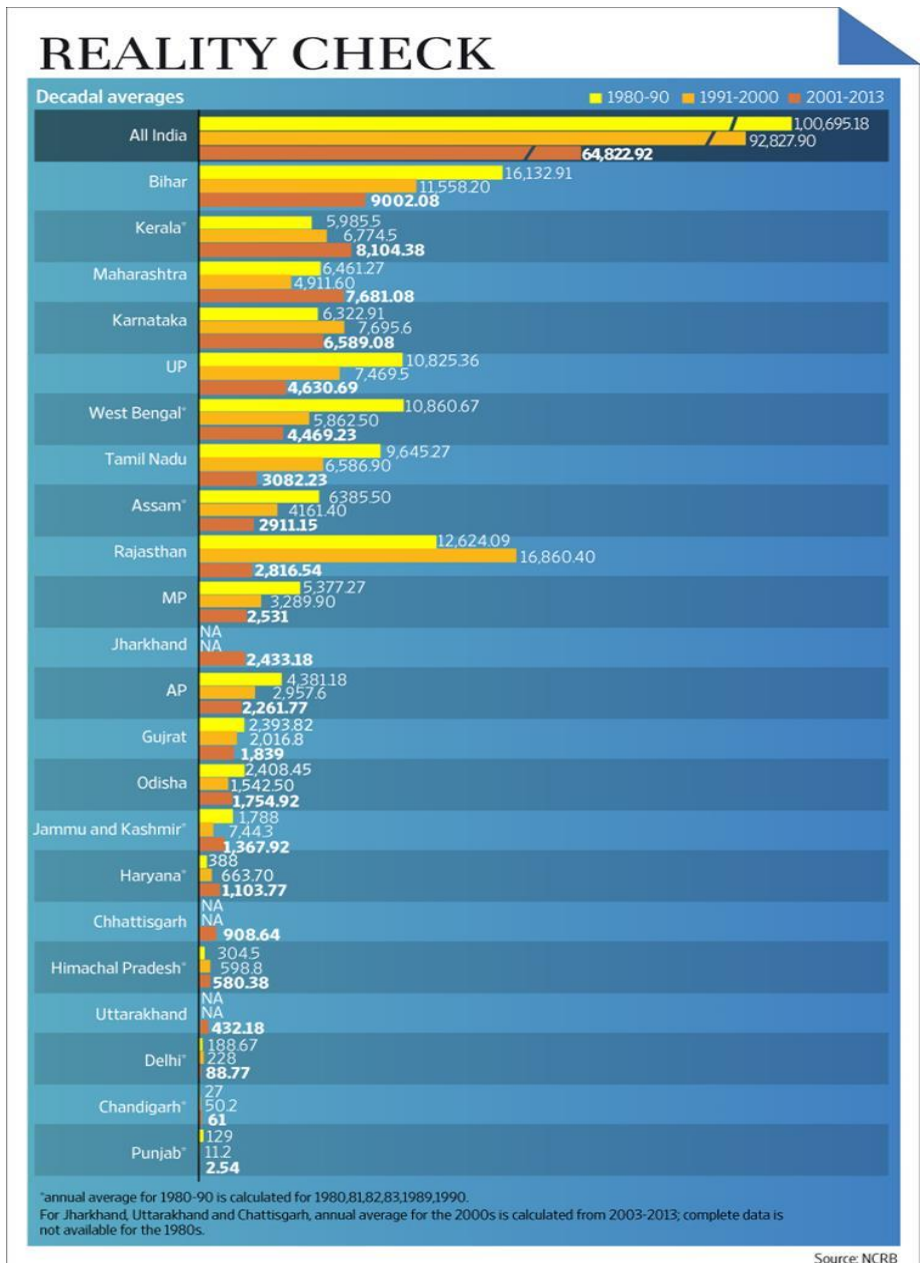
# EFFECT OF COMMUNALISM IN SOCIETY

The graph gives us idea about the decadal and regional pattern of riots and people died.

Consequences of communalism is well known to all of us. With killings in mass, the real sufferers are the poor, they lose their house, their near and dear ones, their lives, their livelihood, etc. It violates the human rights from all direction. Sometimes children will lose their parents and will become orphan for life time and nobody will be there to look after them.

Ghettoization and refugee problem is the other dimension of communalism induced violence, whether its

inter country or intra country. Sudden increase in violence against any particular community causes mass exodus and stampede which in turn kills many number of people. For example, this was seen in the case of Bangalore in 2012, with respect to people from North eastern states, which was stimulated by a rumour.



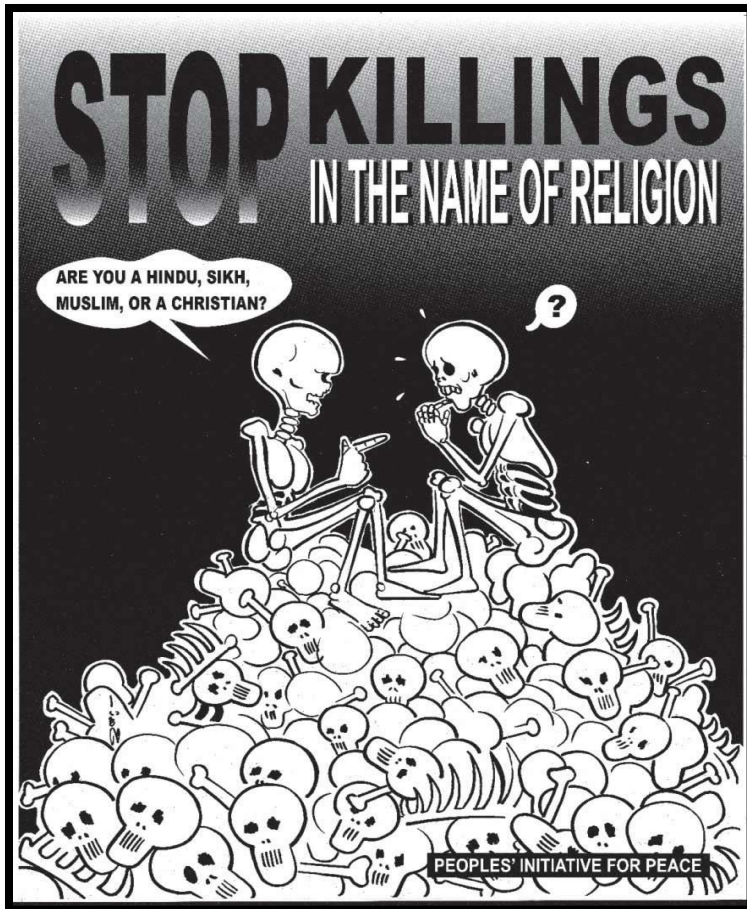
Apart from having effect on the society, it is also a threat to Indian constitutional values, which promotes Secularism and religious tolerance. In that case, citizens don't fulfil their fundamental duties towards the nation. It becomes a threat for the unity and integrity of the nation as a whole. It promotes only the feeling of hatred in all directions, dividing the society on communal lines.

Other than these, minorities are viewed with suspicion by all, including state authorities like police, para military forces, army, intelligence

agencies, etc. There have been many instances when people from such community have been harassed and detained and finally have been released by court orders guilt free. For this, there is no provision of compensation of such victims, about their livelihood incomes forgone, against social stigmas and emotional trauma of the families.







Such things are set back for the society and becomes barrier for its development. This is also one of the reason which is keeping India still under the status of “developing nation” because, such activities occurring frequently do harm the human resource and economy of the country. And then again it takes years for the people and the affected regions to come out the traumas of such violence, having deep impact on minds of those who have faced it. Whole life, they feel emotionally broken and insecure.

## **CONCLUSION**

Communal violence is common now days throughout the world. Communal violence and riots have also been called non-State conflict, violent civil or minorities unrest, mass racial violence, social or inter-communal violence and ethno-religious violence.

Violence between Buddhists and the Muslim Rohingya, inhabit Rakhine state which stretches along most of Myanmar's coast up to the Bay of Bengal and borders the Chittagong province of Bangladesh, erupted in 2013. Such violence in neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan causes violence in retaliation in India also. It also catalyses the problem of refugees, as in case of Pakistani Hindus, etc. Sri Lanka is also facing international critics and United Nations related to ethnic clashes and action of government against minority Tamilians, which has direct bearing on India and Sri Lanka relations and India's internal security.

Communalism can be combated with the help of globalisation as a tool. In the globalised world, all countries are becoming integrated and dependent on each other. Movement of people from one place to other is becoming very easy, in such conditions to avoid such potential violence, governments are already promoting cultural exchanges through shows, programs, heritage walk, cultural visit by students and parliamentarians. Promoting learning of each other's local language for easy exchange of ideas. If all the countries cooperate with each other, they can face and solve even the deadliest challenge of terrorism and groups like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, etc.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

To make this project I have taken source from the following-

- <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/>
- <https://www.countercurrents.org/>
- <https://www.toppr.com>

**THANK YOU!**