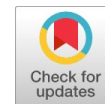


Understanding Communalism, Secularism and Regionalism

Radhika Kapur



Abstract: *The main objective of this research paper is to acquire an efficient understanding of the concepts of communalism, secularism and regionalism. Communalism is a concept that requires individuals to obtain information. They need to understand that differences exist in all societies, particularly among religious groups. Despite differences in religious groups, individuals possess negative feelings towards other religions; hence, they give rise to communalism. Furthermore, India is a secular country. All the citizens of the country have the right to practice the religion of their own choice. Regionalism is the feeling or ideology among a section of individuals who reside in a particular region. Communalism needs to be curbed. Individuals need to understand that all religions are vital and that individuals are equal. Secularism needs to be reinforced. Regionalism needs to be fought against. Communalism and regionalism create impediments to the progression of individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. On the other hand, when individuals acknowledge the meaning and significance of secularism, they will form more positive viewpoints regarding other religions as well as their own. Therefore, individuals must be well-informed about measures that facilitate the eradication of communalism and regionalism and reinforce secularism. The main concepts considered in this research paper are communalism, measures to address communalism, secularism, measures to reinforce secularism, regionalism, and measures to combat regionalism.*

Keywords: *Communities, Communalism, Implementation, Measures, Regionalism, Reinforcement, Secularism*

I. INTRODUCTION

Communalism is an ideology which states that society is divided into religious communities. This states that in some cases, individuals are different from each other in terms of their viewpoints and perspectives. Individuals who possess feelings of antagonism and antipathy towards people from other communities and religions are termed communalists. India is a secular country. In this country, secularism refers to the principle that individuals are provided with the opportunity to practice the faith of their own choice. Religions impart information on various factors that facilitate the strengthening of secularism. Regionalism refers to the feeling or ideology among a section of individuals residing in a particular geographical space.

The individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds are required to augment their information in terms of various factors, i.e. being well-versed in terms of different types of goals and objectives within personal and professional lives; promoting enhancement of career prospects; being well-informed regarding rights and opportunities; promoting well-being and goodwill of individuals and getting engaged in different tasks and practices, which would be facilitating in leading to progression. Furthermore, the inculcation of traits such as morality, ethics, diligence, and conscientiousness will be facilitated comprehensively.

A. Communalism

Communalism is an ideology which states that society is divided into religious communities. This states that in some cases, individuals are different from each other in terms of their viewpoints and perspectives. Individuals who possess feelings of antagonism and antipathy towards people from other communities and religions are termed communalists. The negative emotions may even assume a primary form and individuals may get engaged in different types of criminal and violent acts, i.e. verbal abuse, physical abuse, theft and robbery, grievous hurt, burning down the shops of helpless and weak individuals and dishonouring women. The significant factors that have encouraged the growth of communalism are the economic backwardness of the Muslim community, the development of communal parties and organisations, the electoral compulsion of political parties, communal media, literature and textbooks, and separatism and isolation among Muslims. Apart from political interests, economic interests are also considered vital factors that have contributed significantly to communal clashes.

There is a possibility of communal riots occurring within the country. Most of these take place at various types of festivals. The occurrence of communal riots is unhealthy, leading to the progression of individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. As a consequence, there are instances of impediments that arise during the implementation of various tasks and activities aimed at promoting well-being. One of the aspects that is disadvantageous is that riots lead to loss of life and property. Hence, in all countries and communities, these need to be curbed. Individuals are required to be well-informed about various methods and procedures, which will help create a peaceful environment. Additionally, individuals must ensure that they do not harbour any negative feelings towards others. In other words, one needs to have regard for each other's cultures and religions. Therefore, it is well understood that communalism has unfavourable effects and needs to be curbed satisfactorily.

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B. Measures to Deal with Communalism

Individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds are required to be well-versed in the meaning and effects of communalism. In other words, individuals are required to be informative in ways that facilitate alleviating communalism. In other words, this needs to be prevented from giving rise to impediments within the course of putting into operation different types of tasks, particularly those that are related to promoting community well-being (Reisyan, 2020, [1]). The individuals are required to ensure they are well-versed in various types of measures that facilitate efficient dealing with communalism. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is that individuals must conduct their tasks and activities in a morally and ethically sound manner. Therefore, measures to deal with communalism are stated as follows:

1. In the initiation of the process of de-communalising individuals and communities at all levels, certain factors must be taken into account by the individuals. Individuals are required to be well-prepared in various ways, which will facilitate the curbing of communalism. In all communities, individuals are required to be well-versed in strategies that prevent communalism from assuming a significant form.
2. The individuals are required to supplement their information regarding communalism and that of the political elite. It has to be checked, as it leads to inaction against communal violence. In addition, covert or overt political and ideological support for communalism by the state apparatus is acknowledged. The primary factor that individuals need to be well-informed about is that all community members should be well-informed in terms of morality and ethics. This facilitates the efficient implementation of various tasks and activities, generating the desired outcomes. Furthermore, individuals will be able to develop mutual understanding with others.
3. The communalization of civil society also needs to be checked, as it often leads to riots that are more socially driven. The individuals and groups with communal ideas and perspectives require the Government to formulate programs that facilitate the alleviation of communal riots. Individuals need to understand that they must be well-informed about various methodologies and techniques, which will enable them to create a peaceful environment. In this manner, communal riots will be alleviated. Individuals must ensure that these types of factors are not implemented, as they would have detrimental effects on all communities.
4. In educational institutions of all levels, individuals are taught that all of them have the right to practice the religion of their own choice. India is a secular country, where every citizen has the right to practice the faith of their choosing. The individuals need to acquire equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there is no discrimination based on any factor. In all religions, emphasis is put upon the inculcation of traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. Emphasis is placed on value-oriented education. This signifies that individuals are required to augment their knowledge in terms of morals and ethics, and these principles must be implemented in one's life.
5. The media can render an essential contribution to the prevention of communal feelings. Communal press should be banned, and legal action should be taken against communal writers. The media is required to disseminate information that communalism is negative and needs to be prevented from hindering the implementation of various tasks and activities. Individuals need to understand that people from different religious groups will surround them. As a consequence, they are required to possess positive viewpoints and treat others with respect and courtesy.
6. It is of utmost significance to establish peace committees. In this case, individuals from different religious groups can collaborate to spread goodwill, promote social welfare, and foster a sense of brotherhood. Individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds are required to upgrade their feelings of brotherhood. All Indians are required to be considered as brothers and sisters. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there are no instances of negative feelings among individuals. Individuals are required to understand that all cultures and religions are equal, and they need to form positive viewpoints.
7. The state must implement new methodologies and procedures necessary for curbing communal violence. When leaders implement the methods and procedures for alleviating communal riots, they must understand that these are put into operation in a well-ordered and regimented manner. Individuals are required to be well-versed in methodologies and techniques. Individuals acquire an efficient understanding of the factors that, in such cases, have led to fewer occurrences of communal riots or their complete absence. As a consequence, there have been occurrences of peaceful environmental conditions.
8. The role of the media has been taken into account within the course of communal riots. The negative feelings of fear, antagonism, and hatred can be mitigated if the press, radio, and television report the events in a manner conducive to promoting peace and tranquillity among individuals. When individuals and groups are peaceful, they will make an essential contribution to the elimination of communal riots. Individuals are required to be well-informed about various techniques, which will facilitate the smooth operation of all activities without conflict. In addition, the well-being and goodwill of individuals will be promoted.
9. The communal riots are detrimental on a comprehensive basis and cause loss of life and property. It is understood that individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds share the primary goal of promoting well-being and goodwill. It is challenging for individuals to live their lives in communities where communal riots occur. Individuals from all communities are expected to foster a sense of unity and brotherhood. All Indians are required to be considered as brothers and sisters. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there are no instances of negative feelings among individuals. This facilitates the upgradation.
10. Communal riots are considered major impediments to the country's progress. Within

In all types of professional settings, i.e., educational institutions of all levels and various types of employment settings, it is of utmost significance for individuals to provide equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there is no discrimination based on any factor. In all religions, emphasis is put upon the inculcation of traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. These facilitate carrying out different types of tasks and activities in a well-ordered and disciplined manner. As a consequence, well-being and goodwill will be promoted.

II. SECULARISM

India is a secular country. In this country, individuals are allowed to practice the religion of their own choice. The religions impart information in terms of different factors, which would facilitate the putting into operation of other tasks and activities in a well-ordered and regimented manner (Skills Development, 2020, [4] [5]). Religion renders an essential contribution to influencing the overall standards of living of individuals. An aimless life is regarded as a meaningless life. It is necessary for all individuals, regardless of their community, category, or socioeconomic background, to set various types of goals and objectives. These are evident in the personal and professional lives of individuals. Hence, when they are wholeheartedly committed to achieving various kinds of goals and objectives, they are required to abide by norms and values. Religion renders an essential contribution in imparting information in terms of norms and values. Abiding by these facilitates the upgradation of one's overall standards of living. The different types of religions practised throughout the country are Hinduism, Christianity, Baha'i, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism. Individuals from all communities, categories, and socioeconomic backgrounds share the primary goal of acquiring a good-quality education. These are acquired in educational institutions of all levels and different types of training centres. Throughout the acquisition of education, individuals encounter various kinds of dilemmas and challenging situations (Strategies to Promote Gender Equality in the Classroom, 2018). These include teaching and learning methods, instructional materials, instructional strategies, assessment strategies, and other related elements. Individuals are required to be well-informed in this area to a satisfactory standard. Furthermore, various implementations of different assessment strategies exist, including tests, exams, competitions, quizzes, assignments, and projects, among others. The individuals have faith in religion. They remember the Almighty and offer prayers to carry out all types of tasks and activities in an efficient manner. The individuals reinforce the viewpoint that possessing strong religious beliefs will facilitate carrying out various job duties in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, it can be stated that the concept of secularism is considered necessary. Individuals from all communities, categories, and socioeconomic backgrounds prepare themselves to engage in employment opportunities. This is essential to sustain oneself effectively. Individuals are required to select employment opportunities that align with their skills and interests. Individuals are required to be well-versed in all the factors necessary to execute job duties in a well-ordered manner. In addition, individuals are required to retain their

jobs and experience job satisfaction; hence, they reinforce the viewpoint that having faith in religion facilitates the successful completion of various job duties and responsibilities. The individuals have faith in religion. They offer prayers to carry out all types of job duties and responsibilities in an efficient manner. The individuals reinforce the viewpoint that possessing strong religious beliefs will facilitate carrying out various job duties in a satisfactory manner. In other words, having faith in religion will be beneficial to the individuals on a comprehensive basis. Therefore, possession of strong religious beliefs will facilitate individuals to a significant extent.

A. Measures to be Implemented in Reinforcing Secularism

Individuals are required to be well-versed in all measures that facilitate the reinforcement of secularism. These are both complicated and manageable. They can be put into operation in a shorter amount of time, but can also be more time-consuming. Additionally, they can be implemented independently or with assistance from others, including family and community members. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is that all the individuals are required to reinforce positivity in these measures. These include being well-versed in terms of goals and objectives, enhancing career prospects, being well-informed regarding rights and opportunities, promoting the well-being and goodwill of individuals, and engaging in religious practices. These are stated as follows:

B. Being Well-versed in Terms of Goals and Objectives

Individuals from all communities, categories, and socioeconomic backgrounds are required to be well-versed in terms of goals and objectives. Different types of goals and objectives are present in the personal and professional lives of individuals.

Some of these are, acquisition of good-quality education; getting engaged in employment opportunities; augmenting different types of skills and abilities; overcoming all kinds of setbacks in an efficacious manner; enhancing career prospects; bringing about improvements in one's financial positions; promoting good health, physically as well as psychologically; forming an effective social circle; promoting enhancement of personality traits and leading to up-gradation of overall standards of living.

Hence, when they are wholeheartedly committed to achieving different types of goals and objectives, they are required to abide by norms and values. Religion renders an essential contribution in imparting information in terms of standards and values. Therefore, being well-versed in terms of goals and objectives is regarded as one of the indispensable measures to be implemented in reinforcing secularism.

C. Enhancement of Career Prospects

Enhancing career prospects is a primary goal for individuals from all communities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds prepare themselves to engage in employment opportunities. This is essential to sustain



oneself effectively. Individuals are advised to select careers that align with their skills and interests. Individuals are required to be well-versed in all the factors necessary to put tasks into operation satisfactorily.

In addition, individuals are required to retain their jobs and experience job satisfaction; hence, they reinforce the viewpoint that having faith in religion facilitates the successful completion of various job duties and responsibilities. The individuals have faith in religion. They offer prayers to carry out all types of job duties and responsibilities in an efficient manner. The individuals reinforce the viewpoint that possessing strong religious beliefs will enhance their career prospects. Therefore, enhancement of career prospects is one of the significant measures to be implemented in reinforcing secularism.

D. Being Well-informed Regarding Rights and Opportunities

Throughout the lives of individuals, they are required to be well-informed about the fact that all individuals are equal in the eyes of God. Hence, they should all be well-informed about different types of approaches, which would facilitate reinforcing equality. Therefore, throughout the country in all areas, equality needs to be strengthened. Within all kinds of professional settings, i.e., educational institutions of all levels and various types of employment settings, it is of utmost significance for individuals to provide equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there is no discrimination based on any factor. In all religions, emphasis is put upon the inculcation of traits of morality, ethics, diligence, and conscientiousness. These facilitate carrying out different types of tasks and activities in a well-ordered and disciplined manner. Therefore, well-being and goodwill will be promoted. Thus, being well-informed regarding rights and opportunities is an eminent measure to be implemented in reinforcing secularism.

E. Promoting Well-being and Goodwill of Individuals

It is understood that individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds share the primary goal of promoting well-being and goodwill. Individuals need to ensure that they communicate effectively and become engaged in tasks and activities that promote well-being and goodwill among others. It is challenging for individuals to live their lives in communities where communal riots occur. Individuals are required to upgrade their feelings of brotherhood. All Indians are required to be considered as brothers and sisters.

Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there are no instances of negative feelings among individuals. This facilitates the promotion of well-being and goodwill among individuals, leading to progress. Within various professions, such as education, science, technology, medicine, healthcare, law, engineering, and others, individuals focus on promoting the well-being and goodwill of others. On the other hand, within personal lives as well, this task is being implemented satisfactorily. Therefore, promoting the well-being and goodwill of individuals is an expedient measure to be implemented in reinforcing secularism.

F. Getting Engaged in Religious Practices

Individuals are required to participate in religious practices. It is understood that individuals have busy schedules; therefore, in their lives, they are required to set aside sufficient time to engage in religious practices. These include visiting religious places, listening to religious sermons and hymns, making donations of various items to deprived and marginalised groups of individuals, feeding birds and animals, and so forth. Hence, it is well understood that all these religious practices facilitate the promotion of well-being and goodwill. Individuals belonging to all religions observe their respective festivals. For example, Diwali is the major festival of Hindus, Christmas is the major festival of Christians, and Gurupurab is the major festival of Sikhs, and so forth. The religion imparts information in the form of norms, which are implemented during the celebration of festivals. Hence, it is well understood that religion is regarded as a prominent aspect of the lives of all individuals throughout the country, in all communities, including urban, rural, and tribal. Therefore, getting engaged in religious practices is an essential measure to be implemented in reinforcing secularism.

III. REGIONALISM

Regionalism refers to the feeling or ideology among a section of individuals residing in a particular geographical space.

The geographical space is characterised by unique languages, cultures, codes, dress, norms, values, traditions, and so forth. These are considered vital factors on which the lives of individuals are centred (Sasson, 2020, [3]). In other words, these are regarded as crucial factors on which the lives of the individuals are centred. The growth and development of regionalism can be traced back to the Dravidian movement, which originated in Tamil Nadu. The main objective of this movement is to promote empowerment opportunities among Dalits, non-Brahmins, and individuals belonging to deprived, marginalised, and economically weaker sections of society. At a later stage, it turned to the imposition of Hindi as the sole official language. Finally, the movement had focused on seceding from India for some time to carve out their own Dravidistan or Dravida Nadu. There was a gradual decline in the movement, and they have become prominent regional parties despite numerous fragments and factionalism. Acquiring an efficient understanding of the concept of regionalism is considered vital in fostering cordial and mutually amicable relationships. Individuals belonging to deprived, marginalised, and economically weaker sections of society have diverse goals and objectives to achieve. These are in personal and professional lives. To achieve various kinds of goals and objectives, individuals begin to adopt violent means. Regionalism in contemporary India is readily used for political gain by party politicians and secessionist organisations. Economic reasons are exploited for political dividends. When violent means are used against individuals in the The term "regionalism" is regarded as a criminal offence and is punishable under law.



Article 19 of the Constitution of India provides rights to the citizens to move out freely within the country, live and settle in any part of the country, practice any profession and to carry out any trade, occupation, or business. When United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) militants or Maharashtra Navnirman Sena activists used violence against the poverty-stricken migrant workers, they violated the law of the land and the constitution, which is above all, even above the parliament.

Regionalism within the country is often regarded as a means of meeting political ambitions by emotionally exploiting the sentiments of individuals. The fear of Balkanization lacks any logical basis. India is bound by a common culture that has been on the land for thousands of years. First, the Indians of the country are required to state that they are Indians, and then specify the state to which they belong. Within foreign countries, the identity of an Indian person is recognised. The states that fought for complete independence are now a part of the Indian Union, and they have renounced violence to some extent. These include Mizoram, Nagaland, Kashmir, Bodoland, and Tamil Nadu. In the present world, regional parties play a significant role in shaping the formation of governments, both at the national and state levels. It is regarded as the political development of several political entities, including the RJD, BSP, LJD, DMK, AIADMK, and BJD. These parties have represented individuals who were neglected in the political process for an extended period. It is understood that individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds share the primary goal of promoting well-being and goodwill. It is challenging for individuals to live their lives in communities where communal riots occur. Individuals are required to upgrade their feelings of brotherhood. All Indians are required to be considered as brothers and sisters. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there are no instances of negative feelings among individuals. This facilitates the upgradation of individuals as well as communities. The individuals are required to augment their information in terms of peaceful conflict resolution methods (Responsibility, 2020, [2]). Furthermore, they are required to be well-informed about ways to curb violence. In other words, it is of utmost significance for individuals to adopt a constructive approach and be well-informed about ways to foster cordiality and amiability in their relationships. Therefore, it can be stated that regionalism is prevalent throughout the country; however, individuals must approach it with a positive and broad-minded attitude.

A. Measures to Combat Regionalism

Regionalism is a concept that can be unhealthy, leading to the stagnation of communities and nations. Individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds are required to be well-informed about measures to combat regionalism. The measures are both complicated and manageable. They can be put into operation in a shorter amount of time, but can also be more time-consuming. These measures can be implemented independently or with the help and assistance of others, including family and community members. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is that all types of measures must be implemented in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner. These are stated as follows:

1. Some regions throughout the country are considered remote and neglected areas. The population is scarce. Individuals are required to be well-informed about measures necessary for the upgradation of remote and neglected areas. It is of utmost significance to focus on the development of infrastructure, amenities and facilities in these areas.
2. The communal riots are detrimental on a comprehensive basis and cause loss of life and property. It is understood that individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds share the primary goal of promoting well-being and goodwill. It is challenging for individuals to live their lives in communities where communal riots occur. Furthermore, individuals are required to upgrade their feelings of brotherhood.
3. It is of utmost significance for the individuals to make provision for equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that there is no discrimination based on any factor. In all regions, emphasis needs to be placed on instilling moral, ethical, diligent, and conscientious traits. These facilitate carrying out different types of tasks and activities in a well-ordered and disciplined manner. Therefore, individuals will contribute efficiently to improving their living standards.
4. Except for the issues of national importance. The states are to be given the freedom to run their affairs. The decision-making process must be conducted effectively. Individuals are required to select work opportunities that align with their skills and interests. Furthermore, individuals are required to be well-versed in all the factors necessary to put tasks into operation satisfactorily.
5. It is of utmost significance to bring about changes that are necessary in the central-state relations. These are required to be in favour of the states. Furthermore, it is essential to introduce the system of national education. The system of national education would contribute efficiently in helping individuals overcome regional feelings and develop a sense of attachment towards the nation. When unity is reinforced among citizens, it can lead to national progress. They need to consider each other as brothers and sisters, cultivating a sense of cordiality and amiability in their relationships.

IV. CONCLUSION

Communalism is an ideology which specifies that society is divided into religious communities. This suggests that individuals differ from one another in terms of their viewpoints and perspectives. Secularism is referred to when individuals are provided with the opportunities to practice the religion of their own choice. Measures to be implemented in reinforcing secularism include being well-versed in terms of goals and objectives, enhancing career prospects, being well-informed regarding rights and opportunities, promoting the well-being and goodwill of individuals, and engaging in religious practices that respect others. Regionalism refers to the feeling or ideology among a section of individuals residing in a particular geographical

space. Finally, it can be stated that augmenting information regarding communalism, secularism, and regionalism will facilitate the enhancement of individuals.

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