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Expansion of Hindutva: Violation of Minorities Rights under Modi Government

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Abstract: The study will explore the influence of Hindutva ideology on Muslims of India about the perspective of human rights, that how the political system of India is impacted through this ideology. Violation of minority rights is usual thing currently, Human Rights which are granted under the constitution of India and they are actually fundamental rights those are inalienable and indivisible. Being a secular state discrimination of rights on religious bases and inaccessibility of fundamental rights in a largest democratic state is discussed. This research explained the history of various communal riots done by Hindu extremist and contemporary incidents of violence supported by current ruling party BJP. Basic purpose of promotion of this ideology is to make hegemony of Hindus in a religious pluralistic society where many religions other than Hinduism exists.

Introduction

Hindu Nationalism (Hindutva) is as a philosophy commenced on otherization. Hindutva's otherization project inferiorizes various groups including Dalits, Christians, women's activists, however in particular, Muslims. Hindutva subsequently imagines India to have consistently been a Hindu country, and sees Islam and Muslims as an outsider power which, through intrusion and war.

India's Hindu populace is assessed to be at 80%, while Muslims are the country's biggest religious minority containing generally 15% of the populace. Individuals from Hindutva groups, for example, "The Bharatiya Janata Party" (BJP), "The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and the "Vishwa Hindu Parishad" (VHP) have been responsible for prompting inhumanity among Hindus and Muslims and convincingly changing Muslims over to Hinduism (Waikar, 2018).

While Hinduization of the Indian country has a long history it has become an especially grave

warning to minorities in the course of the most recent decade with the political authority of currently administering Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) (Clarke, 2002).

This article explores the role of Hindutva in India under the Modi government. That is promoting the ideology of Hindutva in a secular state of India. Rights given to minorities through the constitution are not implemented. Notion of Islamophobia is being interpreted by different officials, hatred faced by Muslim minorities is normal. And this article will explore the discrimination and exploitation faced by Muslim minorities.

BJP Government under Modi

In 2014 Narendra Modi, the head of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was designated Prime Minister. Riots against Muslims have uplifted under the authority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the empower Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has

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sought after a Hindu nationalist plan since elected for power in 2014.

There have been a hundred and 68 assaults by Hindu radicals, for the sake of securing cows, against Muslims and other minorities. The assaults left 46 individuals dead. The huge mishap is the ascent of this administration. Under Modi, episodes of public brutality rose 28 percent somewhere in the range of 2014 and 2017 (Griswold, 2019). Numerous foreign governments and global bodies have denounced the BJP's segregation of Muslims, referring to activities in Kashmir and the Citizenship Amendment Act as specific concerns. (Maizland, 2020).

Hindutva emerged as a dominant factor under the regime of Modi. Before the government of BJP, Hindutva ideology was considered essential in the state of India but in this regime it gained a more significant position. Right-wing Hindu extremism groups consider Muslims as a threat, their loyalty is being suspected. For the citizens of India they want to make Hindutva ideology supreme and those who have opposite views or from other religions they faced discrimination everywhere.

Reality of Secular State

Being a secular state, Indian democracy needs to protect Rights of minorities but communal riots and violence on Muslim minorities indicates the failure of secularism in India. Both major political parties of India either Congress or BJP used religious cards for their promotion in a secular state. In a state in which religion has no role, rights of minorities are discriminated against on bases of religion and ethnicity. Secularism in India is being affected by growing Hindu nationalism. Religion is not supported in a secular state but in India the article 25(2) of constitution supports the religious institutes for all classes of Hindus. Urdu, the national language of Pakistan is criticized by Hindus because of its association with Islamic culture. (Khalidi, 2008).

Protection under Indian Constitution

The Indian constitution while proclaiming India as a secular state, alludes to minority rights without clearly defining the term 'minority' itself. The Indian constitution has utilized the word minorities in Article 29 to 30 and 350A to 350B, however has rejected a clear meaning of the term

minority groups in the Indian perspective. Article 29 of the constitution articulates minorities as "any section of citizens having a distinct language script and culture". Article 30 explicitly, discusses the religious minorities with regards to their entitlement to set up educational organizations. To the extent the booking of parliament's seats and occupations in open area is concerned, it isn't based on religion or language or minority status however depends on the marginalized position of the scheduled tribe (ST), scheduled caste (SC) or other backward classes (OBCs) (Shabir&Mian, 2015).

Subsequent to winning a second term in May 2019, the government repudiated the legal sovereignty of only Muslims majority state, Jammu and Kashmir, and, envisaging fights, sent extra soldiers, confined thousands, and cut off telephone and web associations. The police have neglected to mediate when BJP allies participate in discourse impelling brutality or crowd assaults however rush to capture critics of the administration (Human Right Watch, 2020). Minorities political participation in Indian politics has been victim to majoritarian secular debate, quota controversy, discriminative elites and maltreatment of the system by the high societies. The public authority of India has sanctioned different enactments, for guaranteeing smooth working of the Indian vote based system and ending the dread of violation of minority rights. The Indian constitution's preamble clearly defines the Indian state as a "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic" which guarantees to the entire population "liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship". In Indian perspective, according to secularism every person is equal in front of law regardless of any religion, tolerance and freedom of religion's exercise, and the dismissal of segregation dependent on religion or conviction. Under Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian constitution, segregation on the grounds of religion is precluded, and all residents are ensured the right of equal treatment before the law. Article 25 of Indian constitution gives the assurance to follow religion freely and promulgate religion. Article 26, 28 and 30 guarantees to control religious matters freely by citizens, in various educational institutions they can attend religious worship and minorities have the right to establish

and administer educational institutes (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Citizenship Amendment Act

Citizenship amendment act passed by parliament of India and approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 2019 allows Hindu, Sikh, Bhuddist, Jain, Parsi and Christians migrant of Muslim countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan for fast tracking of citizenship (Maizland, 2020). This act faced criticism and many demonstrations have been started against this act. Indian government defend this act as minorities facing trouble in these three Muslim countries will get protection from this act. Ashutosh Varshney from Brown University an expert on Indian intercommunal conflict says right “The longer Hindu nationalists are in power the greater the change will be to status of Muslims and the harder it will be to reverse such changes”.

Muslims facing many attacks by different Hindu nationalist incidents of Babri Masjid 1992, Gujrat riots 2002, Muzzaffarnagar riots 2013, Delhi clashes 2020 are few examples of these brutalities. An assistant professor Ghazala Jamil from Jawaharlal Nehru University says “The idea was that if you were a Muslim then you were liable to be attacked anywhere and anytime”. And her saying is true, the agents of Hindutva never search any reason but beat any person if they find him Muslim.

All human beings have equivalent prestige all over the world. For the development of human rights, rights are essential which are prepared by institutions and protected by the judiciary of the country. Constitutionally Indian government granted rights to all citizens but in practice minorities are not availing these rights. According to the law minorities including Muslims have their religious rights but they cannot even offer their religious obligations.

The law for the protection of cow are constituted and in practice as well but human beings are suffering communal violence, discrimination in education, employment, political power and various other troubles. According to article 48 of Indian constitution “The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving and

improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle”. But the fundamental human rights are lacking. Brutality is on its peak especially after the government of BJP. In every aspect of life including economy, education, religion Muslims are seen as inferior.

Promotion of Hindutva

Violence and religious activism has increased in India because of the promotion of Hindutva in India by the Modi government. Hindutva is another type of religious terrorism. The Basis of Hindutva is about violence on religious minorities and to impact their life from the ideology of Hindutva. Forces are being used to discriminate against minorities, activists of Hindutva do violate human rights in India because they want to implement the Hindu culture in all over the state. Those activists force Muslims of India to follow the orders by Hindu extremists for their survival. Basically the ideology of Hindutva is anti-Muslims.

After the success of BJP in India, the world's largest democracy is in threat. By giving the name of democracy to a secular state but democracy is not in practice there. Discriminating practices against Muslim minorities is routine. BJP is promoting the ideology of Hindutva through different sources including Education and media.

In some of the schools in India teachers are trained about Hindu religion, culture of India and Indian nationalism, so they teach students of very young age about all this. Teachers taught them about the wars against Muslims and Hindus, about the places of achievement of ancient times. They depict that Hindus were innocent and victims but foreigners or non-Hindus were invaders and tyrants. In some area where most students are Muslims and teachers are Hindus, teachers' refuses to teach them, an example of Gujarat is here, where teachers refused to teach Muslim students. Syllabus is clearly about the discrimination of Muslim rights. Teaches the students about the prohibition of cow slaughter and tells them about fake history that other than Hindu religion are defeated.

Media as a fourth pillar of democracy plays a vital role in impacting the minds of people in any society. In India the government and media are working on the same page for the promotion of

Hindu nationalism. Its example is a programme of “Ramayan” which is shown on TV channels on daily bases. Print and social media is being used for promotion of Hindutva. (Sengupta, 2006). Media houses are under the control of the government, anti-government statements are not allowed to cover. As a result of terrorism media starts blaming Pakistan and Muslims. Those channels and newspapers got more coverage who speaks more about Hindutva, Hindu nationalism, anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam. In reality there is no freedom of speech there. (Ali, Saleem&Farooqi, [2018](#)).

Islamophobia

In India Islamophobia is articulated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in his different speeches. Muslims of India are being forced to convert their religion from Hinduism to Islam. It is cleared from the practices of Hindutva that this ideology is basically Islamophobic. According to this ideology Muslim of this area were Hindus earlier and convert their religion because of fear so they should now accept Hindu religion again. (Waikar, [2018](#)). They blame Muslims for destruction of their temples and consider them violent but in reality Islam gives protection to its minorities. In India due to the rising Islamophobia identity and security of Muslims is under threat. Muslims are not able to enjoy their fundamental rights. Biasness of the Modi government is the reason for increasing hate crimes against Muslims. Modi government and Hindus both don't like the development of Muslim minorities. This hate against Muslim started since the partition of Pakistan and India and after the incident of 9/11 wave of Islamophobia grown. Media is impacting the minds of people, depicting them as terrorists. Indian politicians speak about anti-Muslims for their success in election campaigns. (Hussain, Usman, Habiba, Amjad&Amjad, [2019](#)).

Political Liberalism and Pluralism under Modi Government

Since the Modi government took charge, exploitation of minority rights has been increased. In India political liberalism came under threat in a secular and democratic state which is based on diversity. Criticism of government policies is not tolerated by Hindu nationalist party BJP. Sanctions faced by Muslim minorities like cow slaughter is

prohibited, religious places are not secured from Hindu mob. In a pluralistic society having individuals from various religions should ensure the protection of each individual. But in democratic state of India the media is prohibited to show the reality, educational institutes are influenced by governmental policies. Muslims are discriminated against economically and socially. After consideration of the current behaviour of the government towards minorities it seems like in future political liberalism will be under the threat in India. (Ganguly, [2019](#)).

Exploitation of Muslims

Exploitation of Muslims by the right wing became a normal in India. Violence on Muslim minorities by right wing Hindu extremists, brutal killings of Muslims by bombing or through other methods is increased day by day. According to some Hindu scholars the nature of Hindu religion is peaceful, basically the Ideology of RSS depends on violence which targets Muslims minorities and promotes Hindu nationalism. Hindus want to subordinate all the minorities, (Singh, [2019](#)).

For the protection of cows many human beings are humiliated. Restriction faced by Muslim minorities for beef and the slaughter of cow is prohibited according to the article 48 of Indian constitution. (Chigateri, [2010](#)). In political institutions, in courts, in temples and in all over the country cows play a significant role. In India the problem of slaughtering cows is so controversial. Because Hindus sentiments are attached with cows but Muslims needs to slaughter the cows according to the traditions of Islam. Cows are sacred in Hindu religion, they are worshiped. By the name of cow slaughter, killing of Muslims who have done nothing wrong is the new normal in India.

Those people in India whose income is dependent on the trade of meat, or like butchers face many difficulties. Like if we see in Islam eating pork is not allowed, Muslims don't forces the people from other religions to don't eat pork then they should not be prohibited to eat meat. In India Muslims are the largest minority group and they should not be prohibited from the obligations of their religion, government and judiciary should balance the desires of both Muslims and Hindus. (Miglani, [2017](#)).

According to the constitution all individuals of the Indian state have the right of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. But in reality they are not in practice. Media is not allowed to show the reality of India and those who spoke against the state became victims. Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian constitution gives the right of freedom of speech and expression to its citizens. (Liang, 2016). Currently, social media is playing the role of a powerful weapon that impacts the people beyond the boundaries. People who don't have a platform to express their feelings use this platform for their freedom of expression. But in case of India Hindu majority used power of media against Muslim minorities for spreading hate and grow a community who are against Muslims. That anti-Muslim community threaten the Muslim population by using social media tools like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram etc. In a state where Muslims are the largest minority authorities treat them badly. They want to present India as a one nation where everyone enjoys their fundamental rights but in reality the world is aware of their brutal actions against minorities.

Discrimination against Muslims

Minorities of India especially Muslims are confronted with problem of Religious discrimination. Religious discrimination against Muslims is supported by authorities. Government institutions and judiciary take such decisions that are in favour of Hindu majorities and against Muslims. Different crises are faced by the Indian population currently like education, employment, different financial issues and other basic necessities of life. But if we compare the situation of both Muslims and Hindus, Muslims have less opportunities of employment, their participation in politics or other state matters is minimal. They have not enjoyed basic rights given by the constitution. Less resources and less opportunities are provided to Muslims. Education discrimination and economic discrimination are faced by Muslims of India, Not only in government sector but in private sector as well.

Massacre of Muslims

In modern times the number of brutalities faced by Indian Muslims under the sponsorship of the Indian government is huge. Killings of Muslims,

under the title of "Inside Delhi: beaten, lynched and burnt alive" is a story of brutal killings of Muslims, many Hindu mobs fully armed were beating Muslims. Lynching was another strategy used by Hindu mob until the death of victim. Beside all this they try to give loss to Muslims in business and property. India, world's biggest democracy, calls itself a secular state but minorities are not secure there. Law and enforcement agencies support Hindu mobs in such brutalities. Indian history is full of incidents of massacres that happened to Muslims of India. Thousands of Muslims lost their lives as a result of massacre. Since 2014 to 2019 anti-Muslim violence is increased. Due to the influence of Hindutva, Hindus wanted supremacy over Muslims, usage of weapons against Muslims is increased. Muslims are not safe, their religious places are not secure, and they are not able to offer their religious obligations. As a result of the BJP government this ideology is raised in the country. In India in the time of 2015-2018 in different hundreds of cases about securing cows around 280 people injured mostly Muslims and around 44 died. (Ramachandran, [2020](#)).

Incidents under Modi Government

Rohingya Muslims

In the beginning of the Rohingya crisis in 2012 between Rohingya Muslims and Buddhist of Rakhine state in Myanmar where sectarian riots were begun (Sahoo, [2017](#)), thousands were displaced. India considered this their inner matter and did not interfere. Allowed them to enter the Indian state. In 2015 when many Rohingya Muslims were in trouble when they were on boat and tried to reach on shore, in this attempt many Muslims were left in the high sea. In this difficult situation India did not help them and supported the government of Myanmar. In the other stage in 2017 India asked the Rohingya Muslims to leave the country. Government strategy has reflected inclination against Muslims. Indian authorities have ousted many Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar notwithstanding the dangers to their lives and security. According to some reports in 2015 there were around 10,500 Rohingya Muslims but in 2017 their numbers increased to around 40,000. Bangladesh asked for help from India in refugee matters so India started an "Operation Insaniyat" for their assistance. This assistance encourage

Rohingya's Muslim to enter in India. After the involvement of China in the Rohingya crisis an agreement was signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Indian foreign secretary visited Myanmar and signed a project for the people of Rakhine state who would return back. (Yhome, 2018).

Assam Violence

Assam, a place of many ethnic groups, has witnessed many riots since an extensive period; in the last five years around 3500 incidents of violence took place in Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD). Riots of Assam began when a journalist who was also the president of Kokrajhar press club was attacked and suffered some injuries. After some hours of this incident, a massacre began in a village, NarasinghaGaon, with around 65 families, where several people including children were injured. After this incident in Balapara village nine more people died. On that day, a massacre at Narayanguda took place in which 46 bodies were recovered and many people suffered, especially women and children. There were some 30-40 militants around the village and at 4.15 in evening they started shooting at people indiscriminately. Houses were set on fire, people tried to go to the river. When they went to the river there was no boat in the river and militants were still firing there. Children were killed and later thrown into the river and all people there were burnt. (Siddique, 2014). According to some reports, the number of killings were around 76. (Deka, 2015).

More Incidents

Before the first phase of elections 2019 one more incident happened to one Indian Muslim Shaukat Ali who was just 48 years old, from north-eastern state of Assam was going after work when he was stopped by a mob. One man asked him are you from Bangladesh? The other man asked him why he was selling beef? After asking this they started to beat him brutally. According to Mr Ali his family was selling beef for decades and it is legal in Assam. According to him, "They beat me with a stick, they kicked me in the face, I have no reason to live now, and this was an attack on my entire faith".

A February 2019 report from Human Watch found that between May 2015 and December

2018, at least 44 individuals - 36 of them Muslims - were murdered across 12 Indian states. Around 280 individuals were wounded in excess of 100 episodes across 20 states over a similar period (BBC News, 2019).

According to the report of Human Rights watch 2019, many cases have occurred for the protection of cow and beef. Slaughtering cows is a religious obligation of Muslims and that is halal for them but Muslims of India faced many restrictions about this matter also. Many Muslims lost their lives and many injured in different riots between Hindus and Muslims for the protection of cows. In 12 states 40 individuals and around 36 Muslims were killed since 2015 to 2018, around 280 people injured in 20 different states in this period also. (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

According to the paper, in one of the occurrences, Mohammad Mudasir, a 31 years of age young man was executed while he was lying in a bloodied ball on the floor. A horde of more than 30 Hindus continued beating him with mallet even after his passing. Mohammad Zubair, an overcomer of the Indian state-supported slaughter portrayed his story in the phrasing "The blows kept raining on my head, hands and back. I did not ask them to stop beating me. I became silent, tried to hold my breath and stiffen my body". They were shouting, "Kill the bastard Muslim and jai Sri Ram" (Khan, 2020). Currently, on 23rd February 2020 before the arrival of Donald Trump, ex-president of USA to meet Narendra Modi prime minister of India communal mass riots against Muslims get started. On his arrival Trump praised the role of Modi about freedom of religion in India and denied to talk about citizenship law and consider it their inner matter. (Slater, 2020). After his appreciation of Modi Muslims started protests against him. As a result communal riots started in which Hindus destroyed properties belonging to Muslims. At least 45 people, mostly Muslims were killed (Agraval, 2020).

Reason behind Brutalities

Basic reason for brutalities is the behaviour of the government, psychological factors and any type of arm Conflict. In the case of India Hindu extremists want to influence the life of Muslims of India. Conflict between Hindu and Muslims is because of human rights violations. Those rights are given by

the Indian constitution but in reality there is no implementation of those articles of constitution.

Hindus want superiority on all individuals of India having other religion than Hinduism. Hindus want to destabilize Muslims in economy, education and in all aspects. Being a Hindu dominated state Muslim minorities don't feel secure. They are not free to offer religious duties. India wants to keep its illegal occupation of Kashmir.

Since the government of Modi anti-Muslims violence cases have increased. Islamophobia is being expressed by politicians and the public through their actions. Hindus are afraid of spreading of Islam in country so they put more restriction on Muslims. Because of the partition of the subcontinent in Pakistan and India, Indians consider Muslims as their enemy. As Muslims and Hindus cannot live together in a peaceful environment, because all their culture, traditions and religious values are different. And when Muslims are in minority, Hindus consider them supreme so they do violence on them. Police and other institutes also protect Hindu majorities, against the communal violence authorities never take such actions that can harm the interest of Hindus. Individuals of any state are loyal with their country but loyalty of Muslims towards India is being suspected. Communal violence in the world's largest democracy is a new normal. Atrocities faced by Muslim in a secular state is an alarming situation which international world should consider.

Rights of Minorities in a Secular State

In a secular state there is separation of religious institutions from the practice of faith or religion without hurting others and every person is equal in front of law (National secular society). Since India got independence from British rule on 15 Aug 1947 it has been a secular democratic and plural society where the rights of every individual is secure. But in reality the government is ignoring the rights of minorities. Occurrence of discrimination against minorities, violence and harassment are not new issues.

Under the government of both parties' congress and BJP these issues are happening. Indian constitution prohibits any type of discrimination and give equal rights to people regardless of faith and creed (Cheema, 2017).

Conclusion

Currently India is doing massive violations of human rights and world authorities are quite just because of their interests. Humiliation of minorities in India and also brutalities with Muslims of Kashmir should be minimized. On Atrocities and massacre of Muslims international media is quiet and not highlighting this issue. If world authorities remain silent in this situation it will give India more power to violate basic rights of Muslims. The United Nations should impose sanctions on India for its act against humanity. The inference can be taken from Sudan when UN imposed sanctions as a result of Human Right violation and huge massacre of minorities. Being a secular state India should protect its minorities, discrimination against religious minorities should be prevented. Riots against Muslim minorities in India is increasing because of lack of tolerance in religious affairs. Without discrimination minorities should have right for political representation and their culture and religion should be protected. Rising Hindutva is influencing minorities in India, their freedom is restricted. The Indian constitution gives rights and respect to minorities in a secular state. But in practice implementation on these rights are equal to zero. Being a secular state and largest democratic state of India should consider the matter of mass killing and genocide against minorities specially Muslims.

Recommendations

- Opportunities for training about freedom of religion, standard and human rights should be increased. Members of legislature, judiciary and police should also increase their practices for the protection of these fundamental rights.
- If the government of India wants to keep the laws that are based on religious thoughts like legislation for the ban on slaughter of cows, then it should also introduce such laws that are considering sarcasm of religious texts, worship places and prophet of different religions as wrong doings and hate crimes.
- Government should respect the rights of minorities and should not deprive people of their rights.

- Freedom of speech and expression should be provided to all individuals and they should have the right to enjoy all fundamental rights.
- Hindu nationalist movement should not be supported, Mob lynching and killing of innocents by extremist groups should be stopped.
- Institutions like police, judiciary and government should perform their duties honestly without any discrimination and racism.

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