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Secularism in Indian Scenario

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ABSTRACT

India is a country of diverse religions and to offer freedom to religion to everyone, and for equality of faith, India changed into declared a Secular country. The word secular modified into brought into the preamble with the aid of way of the 42nd Amendment (1976). As in step with the written Constitution of India, India is an earthly state (India), and we as residents of India have to stand for it. Secularism way that everybody enjoys the entire religious freedom due to this that Government will now not compel all people to adopt any unique faith. Religious freedom is our critical right and is written in our constitution. Everybody has the freedom to publicize any religion, to espouse any religion or acquire any non-secular building. No particular religion is probably a concept in college textbooks. Secularism is the concept that government or other entities should exist separately from religion and/or religious beliefs. In one sense, secularism may assert the right to be free from religious rule and teachings, and freedom from the government imposition of religion upon the people, within a state that is neutral on matters of belief, and gives no state privileges or subsidies to religions. In another sense, it refers to the view that human activities and decisions, especially political ones, should be based on evidence and fact unbiased by religious influence. The purposes and arguments in support of secularism vary widely. In European laicism, it has been argued that secularism is a movement toward modernization, and away from traditional religious values It was Jawaharlal Nehru who gave currency to it in India. Hindu masses had not the slightest notion of what secularism meant or should mean. They saw it as an invitation for social and communal harmony and as a concession to the minorities. Ultra Hindu groups such as the Hindu Mahasabha and the Rashtriya Swyam Sangh were hostile to the idea of secularism.

Keywords: *Secular, Religion, constitution, Freedom of religion, Equality*

I. INTRODUCTION

Freshwater Secularism is a western concept stressing the need for separating Church from the state. Secularism is a system in which the state is neutral in all matters of religion unless it is a threat to public morality or Unity and Integrity of the Nation. The State does not declare any

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religion as state's religion. The State does not promote or interfere with any religion. The State is to be just and fair to all religious communities whether they are major or minor. Religion is considered to be the private affair of an individual. The secular state considers individual as a citizen irrespective of his religion.

The Indian concept of Secularism means "Sarva Dharma Sambhava", treating all religions alike with equal respect towards all. In our Preamble it starts with "we the people of India" which indicates that all the citizen of India has come together to form a nation. Every citizen irrespective of their religion has been part and parcel of this country. Every Indian having different religious beliefs and united together by a common bond of brotherhood. The word Secular was inserted to the preamble in the constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976. The Preamble to the constitution describes the features of India as 'Sovereign, Socialist, secular, Democratic, Republic'. Secular means the state is neutral in terms of religion having nothing to do with the conduct of the state of affairs. Though there is no state recognized religion in India, the fundamental rights in the Indian constitution guarantees the freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion by people.

II. OBJECTIVES OF SECULARISM

1. One religious community cannot dominate the other.
2. Members of one religious community cannot dominate other members of the same religious community.
3. The state does not enforce any religious freedom of individuals.

Features of Secular State are as follows:

1. A secular state does not have any official religion.
2. It neither encourages nor discourages the practice of any religion.
3. All citizens are free to propagate, profess or practice of any religion.
4. All citizens are free to propagate, profess or practice their own religion.
5. No discrimination is made among citizens on the basis of religion.

The Basic two Principles of Secularism based on:

1. Religion and Politics are two separate entities hence stressing the separation of politics from religion.
2. Religion is purely a private affair of the individuals and nothing to do with the affairs of the state.

The Constitutional Provisions with respect to secularism are enshrined in Article 14, 15, 16 and 44 **in General** and Article 25 to 30 in **Particular Provisions**. These provisions directly or indirectly obligates the state to give equal treatment to all religions and religious sects. India has to maintain a strong secular communal harmony to remain as a Nation and should guard against divisive tendencies which destroy our National Unity.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 14: Equality before the Law.

Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender or place of birth.

Article 16: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

Article 44: Uniform Civil Code for the Citizens.

IV. SPECIFIC OR PARTICULAR PROVISIONS

Article 25: Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

Article 26: Freedom to manage religious affairs.

Article 27: Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.

Article 28: Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

Article 29: Protection of interests of minorities.

Article 30: Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

“We Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, Christians and all others shall live united in a co-ordination; we shall live for our motherland and if need arises die for its cause. Let our ambition be to live like children of a single mother; Let us retain our individual religious beliefs and live united like numerous leaves of a single tree. ”

Mahatma Gandhi

V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, India has been declared as a secular state by its written constitution and it is every Indians duty to stand by and believe in this declaration. India being a traditional society that contains not one, but many traditions owing their origin in part to the different religions that exist here, has so far managed to retain the secular character of its policy. We need proper

educational plan too, to slightly redesign our existing curriculum in the schools and colleges. The text books presenting distorted historical facts have to be changed and secular ideas will have to be inculcated in the innocent minds of our young generation. All festival religious should get their weightage in the textbooks of history. The culture, traditions and festivals of any particular religion should not be over projected. The sacrifices and hardships of all religious communities and their contribution towards freedom and development of the country need to be focused in the books of history at school and college level. The importance of various culture and traditions of different religions in the peculiarity of the country should have to be discussed properly.

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