

Girls' High School and College, Prayagraj
Worksheet -4
Session: 2020-2021
Class: 12 D
Subject: Sociology
Chapter: Religion and Society (Part II) I.

Communalism, Fundamentalism and Secularism in a plural Society

1. *Communalism: Communalism has become one of the biggest menaces of modern India. Problems that arise between the socio-religious relations of the people who belong to religious minority communities on one hand and the majority community on the other can be referred to as 'communalism' or 'communal problem'. Communalism and communal rights normally arise when religious matters are politicalized. Communalism is often understood as an ideology which states that the society divided into religious communities whose interests differ and are, at times, even opposed to each other. It is a kind of antagonism which is found between the religious communities.*

Definition:

Robert Melson and Howard Wolpe: "Communalism is the political assertiveness of a community to maintain its identity in a plural society undergoing modernization."

2. *Fundamentalism: Religious fundamentalism belongs to the same series of social evils such as communalism, regionalism, casteism, racism, sexism, ethnicism, and so on. Communalism often assumes the form of religious fundamentalism. It has both national and international dimensions. Religious fundamentalism is posing a new threat to the secular character of the Indian society. Specially after 1988, it has become more serious a social-political evil.*

Definition:

David E. Hunter and Philip Whitten:

"Fundamentalism refers to a firm dogmatic belief in certain principles that are held to be basic or fundamental."

3. *Secularism: With the changing society the attitude towards religion has undergone a change as well. Previously religion was not only an integral part of life but it was accepted as the main controlling agent of social life. No more people can only revolve around the community principles and religious guidelines, they have to mingle with variety of people and belief systems around them. Thus, came the concept of Secularism separating Religion from political and social institutions. This refers to the historical decline in the importance of the supernatural and the sacred. For religious organization becoming more secular means less focus on other worldly issues such as life after death and more on worldly affairs such as sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry. Secularization also indicates that functions once performed by the church such as Charity are now primarily the responsibility of other organizations.*

Definition:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"Secularism lays emphasis on this world rather than the supernatural, behavior rather than belief, freedom rather than obedience and a bold maturity rather than conservatism."

II. MORALITY AND SOCIAL CONTROL

Definition of Morality: "Morality is the system by which we determine right and wrong."

Sociology for the study of society looks at morality as a result of the impact of society on our reactions.

Definition of Social Control

Lapierre:

"Social control is a corrective for inadequate socialization"

Moral Code:

A moral code is a set of rules or guidelines that a person or group of people follow in order to live a life that is good. They are heavily dependent on our culture. The moral code that we live by influences many parts of our lives and often dictates how we act, how we dress and even how we treat other people.

Eg: the moral code of seeking help when you are sick, be good to others might include to be honest, give charity etc.

Religious Code:

Religious code includes ethical and moral codes taught by religious traditions. Eg. if anyone fails to obey the religious code it is considered as a sin.

Reference Books:

- 1. Sociology- Principles of Sociology with an Introduction to Sociological Thought by C.N. Shankar Rao*
- 2. Sociology of Indian Society by C.N. Shankar Rao*
- 3. An Introduction to Sociology by Vidya Bhushan and D. R. Sachdeva*

Websites:

- 1. <https://www.sociologygroup.com>*

Note: Parents please ensure that your ward refers to the Reference Books and Websites for two days to read the topics.

I. Answer the following questions briefly:

- i) Define Secularism.*
- ii) Define Morality.*
- iii) Define Social Control.*
- iv) Explain two characteristics of Secularism.*
- v) What is Communalism?*
- vi) What is religious code?*
- vii) What is a plural society?*

II. Answer the questions in detail:

- 1. Discuss any five characteristics of Communalism.*
- 2. Define Fundamentalism. Discuss its role in plural society like India.*
- 3. Discuss the relationship between religion and morality.*

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