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BASUNDHARA

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Md. Nazmul Islam

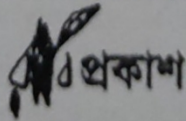
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Issues and Challenges of communal Unity in India and Bangladesh

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Abstract

India has a long history of 1000 years of religious unity amidst diversity. Apart from a few incidents, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and other communities have been living side by side here for ages. But in the last two centuries there has been a wide spread of communal attitudes between these communities based on differences, interests, beliefs, regionalism, customs and festivals. Especially the division of biracialism between Hindus and Muslims has affected Indian society the most. As a result of this, various communal incidents have happened repeatedly with different big and small issues in front. And as a result, India was divided and Bangladesh and Pakistan were born. The main purpose of my above discussion is to explain the root causes of the riots and intolerance that have occurred at various times between the different religious communities living in these two countries since independence. In particular, highlighting the causes of intolerance and erosion of religious unity.

Keywords: Communalism, diversity, majority class, minority class, religious phobia

India has an excellent example of unity in diversity for many years. People from different religious, regional, cultural, linguistic, ethnical, racial backgrounds and cultures live here with lots of love and brotherhood and respect one another. They follow their different faiths, beliefs, customs, rituals and religions practices because of India's secularism. Despite such differences, throughout various regions of the country have performed and celebrated diversify festivals and shows the sense of unity among themselves because of the ancient Indian culture which taught us the bond of nationality. Beside this, the

constitution of India makes provisions of fundamental rights and freedoms for all citizens which create dignity and respect among us.

We all know that since ancient times many ethnic groups, races, tribes and communities like the pre-Aryans, Aryans, the Greek, the Mongols, the Huns, the Persians, the Turks, and many others migrated and settled and made their homes in India and contribute their best effort to the develop the Indian social system, art and craft, architecture, science and technology, language, and literate. All of their cultural features enrich our cultural identity through assimilation. If we look back to our ancient history, we can notice that India had its own culture and till now it is performing along with mixed culture. Pre-Aryan culture among Dravidian and Tamil culture of the south is the perfect example of Indian own culture. Beside these many ancient tribes like Munda's practices their traditions from ancient times through their art and craft, ornaments, literatures. But it is also true that these ancient Indian communities adopt those foreigners and recognized them and their culture as a part of India. So, from the lots of decades, they live together side by side and maintain brotherhoods.

But despite the long coexistence, the divide and rule policy of British imperialism, the policy of following Islamic shariah rules by some Islamic rulers, the fierce nationalism of some Hindutva kings and zamindars, the flattery policy of the British, the religion centric politics, for the personal interests of some political figures and many other reasons caused the distance between Hindus and Muslims. In addition, through various newspapers and magazines, some unscrupulous writers continuously published provocative and hateful writings against each other communities. As a result, hatred between the two communities grew. And as a result of this, the partition was happened and two nation named India and Pakistan was emerged.

There is no denying that the partition of India was based on religion. India was formed around predominantly Hindu areas and East and West Pakistan were formed around Muslim areas. Later Bangladeshi (East Pakistan) gained independence from Pakistan in 1971 on the basis of language rights. This intensified religion animosity among Hindu and