

ABSTRACT

Pluralism is the quality of a state to develop a system of coexistence for its citizens. This is a political philosophy which attempts to find common ground for different beliefs and cultures in the same society. There are different forms of pluralism such as cultural pluralism, legal pluralism, political pluralism, medical pluralism, and religious pluralism. In the case of religious pluralism, it is an attitude of a society in which different beliefs and ideologies coexist. Most religious values advocate and encourage coexistence with those who can share and respect those values to live in peace and to create a just order in society. This philosophical concept was an idea on account of religious diversity.

Religious pluralism advocates for interreligious relations. However, this is not an incidental process but rather a dynamic process that develops through engagement with one another. The practical version of this idea depends upon the interpretation of this concept. According to some arguments, this idea is represented by the reconciliation of theological differences. Some scholars argue that there is no need for reconciliation between ideologies in order to achieve a pluralistic culture.

The concept of Modern state had to address the civil society as well as civic life. Civil society and civic life are interconnected in a sense that both are not political; even though each and every individual has personal concerns regarding their political as well as religious affiliations. However, there is a collective life regarding the public interests and that forms a religious pluralistic society in the modern state. This collective life made different types of public platforms in the society.¹

Indian Union Muslim League maintains communal harmony in the formulation of policies and in statements. When Babri mosque was demolished, the response of Muslim

¹ Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life-Hindus and Muslims in India*. (Yale University, 2002) p. 3

league was “it was loss for the nation, not only for the Muslim community.” The penetration of radical arguments or statements into the community in the form of political parties should be discouraged. In diverse society, Muslim League can to be act as a safeguard for minimalizing the Muslim approaches.

Social activists, religious scholars, political leaders and poets discussed the significance of social harmony, Hindu-Muslim unity, the role of religion in society, the importance of public platforms in society, the role of women in the society, the historical background of a society in communal harmony, the traditional models of religious harmony, activation of religious ideas in a society, the role of a believer in a democratic society, practical application of universal responsibility, and mutual understanding of religious distinctness and similarities through the dialogues.

It’s not undeniable that there are limitation for Muslim organizations to ‘integrate with the other’ while keeping this ‘Muslim’ identity. Even though, a normative behaviour was enrooted in the rural area.

This study attempts to understand the role of shared sacred spaces to build inter-religious relationships and examines how much the role of Panakkad thangal family and their charismatic leadership is helpful for Muslims in a pluralistic society. It also addresses the question; how the district Malappuram faces Islamophobia in a pluralistic society?.

There are a number of shared sacred places in Kerala like dargas. Everybody was welcomed to Dargas, and the visitors were performing their own rituals there. Before proceeding to Sabarimala, Ayyapa pilgrims visited Vavar Mosque and they made some offerings there. *Chandanakudam* is a shared festival, everyone participates in the festival and remembers the former king who build the worship centers. The shared festival is an opportunity for the followers of different religions to come together. Sila khan asserted that the culture of a village would be harmonious with the integrity of myths and legends into the history.