

Religious Pluralism and Social Integration

Growth in the religious pluralism in the multicultural societies of Europe, America and Asia has brought so many varieties in the religious and other recognition which has given rise to the problems in the social relationships. Where the religion had started weakening in the form of a social power after Second World War, there, in the decade of 1980s, especially after the fall of Soviet Union and socialist group, circumstances had changed a lot.

Today, once again, religion is being made an important source of political power and identity. On the global level, these are such kinds of examples, like Islamic revolution of Iran in 1979, rise of American Christians in the 1981 and rise of Islamic Terrorism on global level in 21st Century. There could be difference in opinion in the philosophical and theoretical explanations of religion on the political level but this is definite that the fall of socialist/communist group has finished a parallel ideology against the western global authority and the politicization of religion has got a chance as one of its option.

Apart from it, globalization has comparatively minimized the old relevance of national boundaries in the context of religion and culture with the increasing para-nationalism, it is being clear that the means to control the religious activities used by the national rulers on their own land have become comparatively limited. In multicultural societies, the increasing variety in religion and other beliefs have raised many challenges. These circumstances demand for accepting new changed circumstances and self-analysis by citizens, states and other characteristics which include religious institutions and media etc. Public discussion is one of the days through which subjects can be identified, challenged and an agreement can be made on them. But we should not forget that they are joined with a vast social reality because on general religious feelings and especially of the Muslim have been politicalized so it is clear that religion is gradually becoming one of the most important area in social discussion.

Liberalists are facing lots of problems in making these religious demands valid. Though, it is possible that ultimately if these claims are translated in particular language then they do not look very different. Claims of caste or breed are easily accepted. Pluralist societies based on many beliefs, freedom of expression rises many problems where even obtaining inters personal relation is very difficult, leaving aside respect and understanding for each other.