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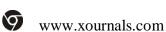


# Academic Journal of

# Social Sciences

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It gives me great pride and honor that the journal has been viewed by the various researchers from different countries in the world. The objective of journal is to distribute knowledge in several field of research and ends up at high level research. Maximum amount of research papers has been received from all over the world and have undergone peer-reviewed for the completion of final acceptance stage. We are sure that these papers will surely provide qualitative information and ideas to our readers.

I congratulate the organizing team and invite you all to explore the numerous research publication activities for submitting your research paper in our forth coming issue. Any comments and observations and suggestions for the improvement of the journal are most welcome.

We wish all our readers meaningful and quality time while going through the journal and with all these I extend my best wishes for the success of Xournals.

Dr. Ranjeet K Singh
President

International Association of Scientist & Researchers

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# Religious Rituals: An Empowering Mechanism for Risk Reduction (A Study with Special Reference to Pulin Utsav)

### Dr. Nirja Singh<sup>1</sup>

#### Available online at: www.xournals.com

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### Abstract:

The rituals are patterned, repetitive behavior focused on the super-natural realm and the enactment of belief expressed in myth and doctrine. Regularly performed rituals are called periodic rituals. Non-periodic rituals, in contrast, occur irregularly, at unpredictable times, in response to unscheduled events. This article reveals the role of religious rituals in coping with the sudden events like, flood. In the spiritualities of many indigenous traditions, humanity is inextricably linked to nature. Heavy rains and river behavior are communicated and discussed, dispensing with the need for high-tech warning systems. A worldview that sees water primarily as a source of life, rather than danger, affects the way villagers prepare themselves to mitigate with floods. Therefore, there are some non-periodic rituals which are traditionally performed at the time of flood. One of the best examples is Pulin Utsav, which is celebrated only when the Yamuna water enters in Gyan Gudri, the village of Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh, India) on the river bank, a phenomenon seen once in several years. Thus, the study shows that religion is a key force behind the way a community or society interacts and cope up with environmental hazard.

**Key Words:** Religious rituals, Periodic rituals, Non-periodic rituals, Indigenous, Environmental hazard



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#### Introduction

Religion refers to all forms of belief systems based on spirituality, mysticism and faith in divinity in contrast with secular philosophy, which can also unite and identify groups, religious belief systems are those that center around some form or forms of the divine (Schipper, E.L.S., 2010).

Religious beliefs do not only provide a support system but it is a ray of hope in adverse conditions. At the same time, the worldview of any people provides a sense of identity for the entire community or group. Thus, religion remains as the most powerful forces influencing individuals and group decisions, livelihoods, perceptions of nature, natural hazards and associated risk and works as a key force behind the way a community or society interacts with notions of development and disaster.

#### **Religious Rituals**

The rituals are patterned, repetitive behavior focused on the super-natural realm and the enactment of belief expressed in myth and doctrine. Religious ritual has generally been seen as indispensable in deepening spiritual insight. The repetition of rituals instills religious values and attitudes in the lives of the worshippers. Ritual also expresses and emphasizes the things that bind a faith-community together and rituals portrays basic needs, values and aspiration of both the individuals and the communities.

Regularly performed rituals are called periodic rituals. Non-periodic rituals, in contrast, occur irregularly, at unpredictable times, in response to certain unscheduled events.

#### **Risk Reduction during Disaster**

Risk Reduction, which reduces the impact of hazards of a disaster, involves mainly three basic measures - mitigation, preparedness and advocacy. Mitigation is a way of reducing the frequency, scale and also the impact and intensity of hazards. Preparedness is a holistic approach which engages in itself the strengthening of locales, community, government and non-government activities to withstand, response and recover from hazards; whereas, advocacy is concerned with the social, political, economic and environmental issues, which are related with to the causes and magnitude of impact of hazards.

According to Schipper (2010), sociology of religion, cultural anthropology and ethnology are some emerging fields of academic enquiry to understand the role of religion in culture and society, and addressing the issues, such as religion and its interaction with,

among other things, science, technology, education and politics. Unfortunately the important role of religion in shaping perceptions and attitudes and influencing key decisions is frequently forgotten anthropogenic interactions particularly ecosystems, including behavior and attitudes towards nature. Religion is a significant factor that is usually not discussed in mainstream debates and only a few studies have been conducted in this regard (Bolin, R.C. & Bolton, P. 1986; Schmuck, H. 2000; Campbell-Nelson, J. 2008; Reale, A. 2010; Schipper, E.L.S., 2010 & Harris, D., 2012). Against this drawback, this article reveals the role of religious rituals in disasters – from religious interpretations of disasters to the role of religious organizations in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and reconstruction, through the example of Pulin Utsav, of Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh, India), i.e., a non-periodic religious ritual.

#### Methodology

The area for the present study was the villages of Vrindavan, situated at the bank of river Yamuna. Both the sources of data collection, i.e., primary as well as secondary sources, have been used. Local residents, devotees, priests of the temples and visitors were interviewed.

The data has been collected through quasi-participant observation. Maintaining the position of a researcher, observations of their activities and behaviour were done by remaining at the periphery, which helped in bringing out a vivid picture of the role of the religion risk reduction in a disastrous condition.

An interview guide was used to capture history of the area, profile of natural hazards and disasters that have affected the community, periods of occurrence of disasters, type of the short term and long term strategies they were used to adopt, religious activities during natural hazard which could mitigate and hence enhance the resilience of the community to hazards.

#### Result and Discussion

In the spiritualities of many indigenous traditions, humanity is inextricably linked to nature. Heavy rains and river behavior are communicated and discussed. Even in case of climate change, where the scientific certainty is rapidly growing and impacts are already being felt around the world, certain religious group hold on to different explanations of natural phenomena.

Flood in Hinduism: In Hindu mythology, the belief about the cause of flood is deeply rooted. The Indian philosophy embraces beliefs related that floods are caused to end the evil age and start a new phase.



According to Hindu religious philosophy, Lord Vishnu, one of the Trideva, is closely related with water bodies, even he abode in Kcheer Sagar. Lord Vishnu has taken several incarnations to protect the universe. Matsya Avatar according to Matsya Purana and Krishna Avatar in Dwapar Yuga are closely related with water bodies and flood.

The tri-rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, are amongst the most sacred rivers in India. The Yamuna is the largest tributary river of the Ganges (Ganga) in northern India and holds a very important position in Pushti Marga of ShuddhAdvita, where Lord Krishna is the main deity and various stories connected with Him are found in Hindu Religious texts, especially the Puranas.

Lord Krishna, was born in a prison cell at Mathura in the captivity of King Kansa. The night of birth was witnessed by heavy rains which led to river Yamuna being in floods. Pulin (banks) of river Yamuna was the favourite place, of Lord Krishna, so various rituals and festivals related to the river are celebrated. Of all these, one significant festival is Pulin utsav, which is celebrated in Vrindavan, when the water enters in Gyan Gudri, which is a religiously significant place and is believed to be blessed by the prolonged discourse - stream of knowledge by Uddhava, friend of Lord Krishna to the gopis and gopas.

Flood in Vrindavan and Celebration of Pulin Utsav

Pulin Utsav is celebrated only when the Yamuna water enters in Gyan Gudri, sandy banks of river Yamuna at Vrindavan, a phenomenon seen once in several years. Most recently, it was celebrated in September, 2010, after the huge gap of 32 years, as the last time water reached at Gyan Gudri was in the year 1978.

As the Yamuna river rose and touches the step of the holy Lal Gudri temple, spilled its water onto its banks in the holy town of Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh, India, hundreds and thousands of devotees and pilgrims, turned up to be part of the glorious event at the riverside and set lit lamps afloat in the water to celebrate the auspicious ceremony of 'Pulin Utsav'. Pilgrims, who came to visit the various temples devoted to the Lord Krishna, were feeling blessed to have arrived at the time of the spiritual glory of river Yamuna.

All Vrindavan temples sent diyas (earthen lamps) to this place. People continued to light lamps on the river banks until the water receded. According to them they were praying to thank the river Yamuna and to ensure that it stays peaceful. The prayers were being offered to maintain peace and calmness in the river - so that it does not bring any harm to the residents. Devotees

turned up in large numbers and spent hours at the ghats, floating lamps and offering special prayers to the river.

The flood situation was very severe as the neighbor districts like Agra were the worst hit by the swollen Yamuna, dozens of villages had been cut off and the water had inundated thousands of acres of farm lands. However, in the flooded area of Vrindavan, there was no panic or frustration. Even, the people were celebrating the Pulin Utsav at the time of this natural hazard, because they feel that perhaps the Yamuna was in spate this year just like centuries ago when Lord Krishna was born. As the flooded river meanders its way through the land of the cowherd God, hordes of curious people have converged on the ghats (river banks) in Vrindavan.

Devotees and pilgrims coming here were ecstatic to see the Yamuna in its full glory, just the way it once used to be. The water level in the river crossed the lower danger mark of 495 ft. (Times of India, 2010), bringing alive the legend of Krishna, when the newly born Lord Sri Krishna lowers his feet into the river while his father Vasudeva was transporting him across the river. River Yamuna entering Gyan Gudri has its own significance and offering of prayers at this time is believed very auspicious.

It has been widely reported that livelihood of the people was enormously affected due to flood hit; people were facing many problems to adjust themselves with the disrupted environmental conditions. Usually, in the disastrous condition like this, people use some short-term and long-term strategies to cope or adapt to the situation. But, the people, who live on the banks of river Yamuna, explained the flood as the will of God and prayers as the best response. The people expressed their faith in God interpreting the high floods as His way of showing His power and testing their beliefs. It was thought that God Himself had sent the floods, but he also gave the strength to survive them. Thus, this spiritual feeling plays as the best strategy, as it unites the people at the time of disaster and increase cooperation, calmness, peacefulness, positivity and strength among them. Generally, disasters generate panic, negativity and anxiety in people, which in turns multitude the harms of hazardous condition, but in this particular place, Pulin Utsav not only minimizes the negativity, anxiety and panic, instead generates and maximizes calmness, unity and spirituality as a driving force to overcome the troublesome situation which is the first and foremost required condition in disaster management.



#### **Conclusion & Suggestions**

It is a very interesting fact, that the celebration of the festival Pulin attracted the researcher, which resulted in the form of present paper. The researcher wants to conclude with the note that if disasters have to be managed successfully, the indigenous cultural and spiritual practices and worldview of the natives must be studied and analysed by the agencies to get a community level co-operation for mitigation and preparedness of any forthcoming event.

Therefore, religion is a key force behind the way the society interacts with vulnerability, as religiosity and belief in disaster as creation of God give them mental strength and make the people prepare to cope with adverse conditions. Thus, the ritual reduces the frequency, scale, intensity and impact of this natural hazard, hence, is strengthening the capacity of communities to withstand, respond and recover.

It can be concluded that the Pulin Utsav at Vrindavan, not only reduces the risk but turns a calamity into an event, a spiritual event!...



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## **Conflict in Syria: An Overview**

#### Garima Wadhwa<sup>1</sup>

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# Abstract:

The cruel conflict continues in Syria, millions of people continue to be in need. Hundreds of thousands have been killed in the conflict between the Assad regime, extremist groups and moderate opposition groups. As the conflict starts to gain a character of a civil war, according to experts on the Middle Eastern region, the international community has to be very careful in handling the situation. It may pose a threat not only to the shaky stability in the Middle East, with extremism involved, it may likely become a serious threat to the international security. If this crisis continues uncontrolled, it could escalate into World War III. This paper sets out to explain the Syrian crisis and analyze it in relation to how it affects the global citizenry. It will also explain some underlying issues and discuss the best possible solutions to address it.

Keywords: Syria Conflict, Civil War, International, Middle East, Suo Moto





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#### Introduction

The Syria crisis has been described as 'the greatest humanitarian crisis in a generation'. The conflict began in 2011 and spread to engulf much of the country in a protracted, complex, and multi-sided war, it has been characterized as extreme brutality. The conflict is now more than just a battle between those for or against Mr. Assad. It has acquired sectarian overtones, pitching the country's Sunni majority against the president's Shia Alawite sect, and drawn in regional and world powers. The rise of the jihadist group Islamic State (IS) has added a further dimension. To demonstrate the atrocities done by the pro-Assad regime graphic videos of the conflict have been uploaded on YouTube by the rebels in Syria. ISIS uses Twitter for recruiting new members and pushing their ideology and political agenda for the whole world. Much of Syria's infrastructure, economy, and national wealth has been entirely obliterated, and More than 400,000 have died because of the Syrian conflict since 2011, according to the World Bank, and approx. million seeking refuge abroad and over 6 million displaced internally, according to UN agencies. Several countries and groups are involved each with its own agenda while collectively making the situation extremely complex. Key supporters of Syria's administration include Russia and Iran, while the U.S., Turkey and Saudi Arabia all back government rebels.

#### History

Modern Syria was established as a French mandate in 1920. After Syria declared independence in 1946, it struggled for the next two decades under the political instability. Series of revolutions ended in 1963 when the Baath party took control over Syria. In 1970, the minister of defense General Hafez al- Assad seized power and declared himself prime minister and then president in 1971. He established himself as an authoritarian to rule over Syria for the next 30 years. In consolidating power, he reinvented the face of Syrian politics and the Baath party, dividing the state apparatus between different communities and centering power about him and family.

The regime violently suppressed an armed uprising led by the Muslim Brotherhood in 1982 with tens of thousands of dead. It was not only a result of religious differences between the Alawite regime and the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood, but also the level of repression imposed by the Assad regime on the opposition. Opposition activities have been made impossible and faced strict responses by the regime since then (until 2011).

#### 2011

Antigovernment protests broke out in Syria in March 2011 in the southern city of Deraa. The government used high forces to crush the protesters. Opposition

supporters eventually began to take up arms, first to defend themselves and later to expel security forces from their local areas. In August, President Obama called on Syrian President Bashar al Asad to step down. In November, Al Quaeda members affiliated Islamic state of Iraq form the nusra front in Syria.

#### 2012

Violence increased and the country inclined into civil war, as rebel brigades were formed to fight government forces for control of cities, towns and the countryside. In March regime forces retook the control of the third city Homs, which had fallen into the hands of the rebels. It carried out other operations, notably in the central city of Hama, after massive anti-regime protests. On other side U.S began to provide non-lethal aid to Syrian rebels under emergency and contingency authorities. President Obama described use of chemical weapons as a red line.

#### 2013

Crude barrel bombs on rebel zones were released by the government helicopters and planes. Turn of events took place when ISI leaders Abu Bakr al Baghdadi announced the merger of ISI and the nusra front into the Islamic state of Iraq and Al sham. While repercussions were dreadful in August 2013, Sarin gas attack killed more than 1,400 people with chemical weapons in militant-held districts near Damascus. 2014

The aggressions between militants of the Islamic State (IS) of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and rebel groups turned into an open war in the north. At the same time ISIS captured Raqqah, and changed its name to Islamic state (IS). Whereas, militant offensives allowed Damascus to justify its fight as a battle against 'terrorism'.

#### 2015

In September 2015 Russia launched air strikes in support of Assad's troops, while remaining on the back foot. Falling the month of October U.S in revert modified Syrian T&E program to focus on equipping existing units which led to the formation of Syrian democratic forces (SDF). For this merger Kurdish YPG fighters came together with other groups, as a part of counter IS campaign, and became a key U.S. partner.

#### 2016

Turkey started operations in northern Syria against IS and YPG force. Russian firepower helps turn the tables for the regime, which begins to retake rebel-held territory, including second city Aleppo in December 2016.

#### 2017

Sarin gas attack on khan sheikhoun killed 80-100. In response firing were done by U.S. Tomanhawk missiles in horns area at AlShayrat airfield. Following to the event Russia, Iran and Turkey announced formation of de-escalation area in Syria. Whereas,



U.S, Russia and Jordan established ceasefire area in southwest Syria.

#### **International Suo Moto:**

#### Russia

Russia is one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's most important allies, simultaneously the survival of the Assad's regime is critical to Russian in order to maintain their own interests. It has blocked resolutions critical to President Assad at the UN Security Council and has continued to supply weapons to the Syrian military despite international criticism.

#### Iran

Syria is an essential buffer zone for Iran. The fall of Assad and the rise of a Sunni regime would be a strategic nightmare for them. Hezbollah believe Syria is the main transit point for Iranian, as it works as a channel for weapons shipments to the Lebanese Shia Islamist movement. Iran is also believed to have been influential in Hezbollah's decision to send fighters to western Syria to assist pro-Assad forces. Iran also believes in peaceful transition and proposed that it would culminate in free, multi-party elections. After years it first spoke of peace in Syria when world powers met in Vienna.

#### Israel

Iran's gain in Syria is very much Israel's loss. Israel is determined to disrupt Iranian lines of communication, control and supply to Hezbollah and keep Iranian-run militias well back from the line of separation at the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It prefers that U.S and Russia should restrain the Iranians, but if necessary Israel is likely to drop in to southern Syria to confront the Iranians and create a buffer zone. It also want to draw in U.S on its side in a wider role than counterproliferation and counter-terrorism.

#### **United States**

US supports Syria's main opposition alliance, the National Coalition, and provides limited military assistance to "moderate" rebels. As part of an international coalition US has been conducting air strikes on IS and against the jihadist group. But it has

avoided attacks that might benefit Mr. Assad's forces or intervening in battles between them and the rebels.

#### Turkey

The Turkish government has been a loyal opponent of Mr. Assad since the start of the uprising in Syria. Turkey is a key supporter of the Syrian opposition and has faced the burden of hosting almost two million refugees. But its policy of allowing rebel fighters, arms shipments and refugees to pass through its territory has been broken by foreign jihadists wanting to join IS.

#### Conclusion

We have seen that Syria has gone through immense changes on a social, political and cultural level since Hafez al-Assad became president in 1970. From the analysis of available study, it can be concluded that the conflict in Syria, began with anti-government protests, escalating into full-scale civil war, and has transformed Syrian region. Much of the country lies in ruins, thousands have been killed and two thirds of the population has been displaced, half outside the country. Large numbers of Syrians have pursued refuge in neighboring countries, putting host countries and communities under huge strain, and seriously threatening the stability of some neighboring states. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the EU and other international organizations convincingly demonstrate that the high frequency of violent conflicts has had significant consequences for the development of the Middle East region. Since seven years Arab uprising has upset livelihood and ecosocial condition of the neighboring country hugely impacting Yemen, Syria, and Libya. The greater and lasting challenge is to rebuild Syria's human capital and social consistency. Reconstructing damaged physical infrastructure will require substantial international support and prioritization. To rebuild the lives of internally displaced people considerable resources will be needed. Also in order to retain the humanity and to normalize the condition middling of U.N seems apt in this situation



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## **Elements impeding Indo-China Relationship: A Study**

#### Kamini Rathee<sup>1</sup>

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# Abstract:

A good history of relation is shared between India and China with a brief economic and social conjunctions. Being the two largest democratic countries in the world, both are together accounting for more than a third of the world's total population. Both Indian and China experiencing a period of rapid economic growth. On April 1, 1950, India and China established diplomatic relations. The two countries also jointly developed the Panchsheel (Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence) in 1954. Despite growing bilateral cooperation between China and India, sources of tension in the relationship remain and in some cases become more prominent. The relations got sour after 1962, when the two nations had a war between them, which led to a serious setback in bilateral relation. Issues like Doklam, Dalai Lama, water dispute, boundaries issues, triangle with Pakistan and other have emerged between the nations. This makes the Sino-Indian relationship critical not only for those living in China and India, but for the whole world. The main objective of this study is to highlight the issues which affects the relation of both countries. The trajectory of bilateral relationship has many positive as well as negative associations. It would highlight both the convergences and divergences and then suggest ways by which the existing divergences can be bridged. It would also try and explain the validation for a healthy and positive engagement.

KEYWORDS: Panchsheel, Indo-China, Doklam Issue, Dalai Lama.



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#### Introduction

The period belongs to two present powers of Asia, China and India. In the era of development, innovation & advancement of the nations, both China & India have bloomed magnificently. China because of being world's largest budding military power, and also with a strongest economy and India because of a growth oriented economy and a democratically elected majority government determined on growth and economic progress. China is not only an Asian giant but continues to play an increasingly dominant role in international trade, whereas India aims to be a regional leader.

The coexistence of India and China in the international state system is highly noticed and unusual in that they both aspire to become superpower and share a border. Fifty years ago, this border was both casus belli and battleground between the two countries. Today, it remains the source of multiple disputes. Yet the Sino-Indian border, the wider relationship between the two countries, can just as easily be characterized as being relatively peaceful. China and India acts as both allies and opponent for each other irrespective of their differences.

#### History

In 1950, India became the first non-socialist alliance country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, as reported in a press release by the Ministry of External Affairs.

In 1988, Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visited china to stress down the Indo-China tensions following the 1962 conflict between the two countries. In 1993, Ex- Prime Minister Narasimha Rao visited china and an agreement was signed between India and China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which reflected the growing stability and substance in the bilateral ties.

In 2003, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited China, during which the two sides had signed a declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to "to explore the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective".

In 2005, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India, The two sides established Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, while the signing of an agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles.

In 2008, Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh visited China. A joint document, titled "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century" was issued during the visit.

In 2010, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visited India, the two sides jointly set a bilateral trade target of USD

100 billion for 2015. According to the statement, over 60 percent of the agreements between the two Asian giants have been signed during the last decade.

In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India, A total of 16 agreements were signed in various sectors-including commerce and trade, railways, space -cooperation, and etc. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between the two countries to open an additional route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in India through Nathu La pass in China.

1n 2015, this was part of record 24 bilateral agreements signed between the two neighboring countries, amounting to USD 10 billion.

In 2016, former Indian President Pranav Mukherjee visited China to meet the Chinese leaders and attended a round table between Vice Chancellors and Heads of institutions of higher learning of the two countries.

#### **Boundary Dispute**

Border demarcation has been a major issue between India and China. In 1914 McMahon line was defined by British colonial administrator henry McMahon in Shimla convention, which was signed by British and Tibetan representatives. China has shown its disapproval over the McMahon Line and has refused to consider this as the international boundary between India and China. Currently, the line considered as border is a ceasefire. China claims Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh as its part and had been aggressively pursuing its policy in this regard. The area of Aksai chin in the north India has been captured by the Chinese authorities and they claim its part especially Arunachal Pradesh, it is always considered as its part. China always tries to keep India engaged in a strategic pressure from both the sides. China's intrusions in Daulat Beg Oldi and Chumar sector were criticized and apparently triggered a reaction from the Indian side. In the beginning of year 2017, without consent or intimation to India China officially changed the names of a few places in Arunachal Pradesh, leading to the cross action from India. The current demarcation as Line of Actual Control (LAC) is temporary and settling the border has been a huge issue between these two Asian giants. Denial of Visa to residents of Arunachal Pradesh, PLA's incursion into India's territories etc. have become frequent by the Chinese.

#### **Water Disputes**

In India and China water issues are becoming major area of concern. China's plan of constructing big dams and diverting the water of rivers to its own advantage has dissatisfied in India. The two countries must have a better understanding relating to water sharing and other attending benefits out of these rivers. But China's strategic advantage over these rivers makes it possible to counter-balance India on many other issues.



The main dispute between India and China is mainly regarding the Brahmaputra River. The 2,880 km-long river Brahmaputra originates in Tibet and flows eastwards through southern Tibet for a distance of 1,625 kilometers and at its easternmost point it swings around and enters India's easternmost state, Arunachal Pradesh.

The effort of diverting the water resource of Brahmaputra River away from India will worsen the situation between India and China. The melting glaciers in the Himalayas as a result of accelerating global climate change will have a dramatic effect on this river's water supply. This will increase water shortage as well as the likelihood of floods, impact agricultural livelihoods and strain the fragile equilibrium between the two Asian giants.

#### Dalai Lama

In 1950's difference rose between the two countries because of the status of Tibet. India's step to shelter Dalai Lama, who has taken shelter in Dharamshala, after his exile. According to china, India is treating Dalai Lama as government in exile in Dharamsala which is just 200 miles away from China's border. Another cause is the migration of around 1 lakh Tibetan residents. India's continued willingness to provide shelter to the Dalai Lama is a continued source of irritation in China-India relations. China has alleged that Dalai Lama provoking people in Tibet against China. China accused the Dalai Lama of being behind a self-immolation protest by a Tibetan exile in India during the visit of Chinese president in March 2012. So the presence of Dalai Lama and his anti-China activities in India have negative implications on Indo-China relations. Similarly, anti-social activists in India are always considered as the problem by China.

#### **Doklam Issue:**

Doklam is an area disputed between China and Bhutan located near their tri-junction with India. China claimed on Doklam is based on 1890. But in 1949 Bhutan tied a treaty with India in which Bhutan allowed India to guide its diplomatic and defense affairs. In this case India does not claim Doklam area but supports Bhutan's claim. Bhutan, which doesn't have any diplomatic ties with China is requesting India to provide the support of the border issue. In 1958, the map of china started showing large parts of Bhutanese territory as part of China. The tension arose in 1960 and in 1970s discussions took place between China and Bhutan in presence of India, which for some time played a supporting role but failed to create an agreement on the status of the Doklam plateau. Now the international forums and the consistent efforts of nations have solved several issues in a calm way. The issue of Doklam could be checked by interference of top military officials and diplomats.

#### India-China-Pakistan Triangle

The most unpredictable and dangerous strategic formations is India-China-Pakistan triangle. The three powers account for nearly half the world's population, In terms of population they are the second, first, and sixth largest countries. Regarding active personnel in the armed forces, they are third, first, and sixth largest in the world. India and Pakistan have fought four wars and managed several crises, while India and China have fought one war and had several smaller confrontations including most recently in Doklam in June-August 2017.

The general view is that China and Pakistan both are constant allies against India. In fact, the triangle has gone through phases, with China tilting one way and another. From 1949 to 1958, India and China were friends, and both were suspicious of Pakistan because of its US alliance commitments. From 1959 to 1989 the two powers china and Pakistan was in tacit alliance against India. With the end of the Cold War, China moved to a more neutralist stance between India and Pakistan. Since 2015, China has tilted once again towards Pakistan. The two purpose behind china to assist Pakistan is that, it takes Pakistan as a secure friend and ally in the Indian Ocean and second, they share a common interest to contain India. Pakistan supports China's candidate for China's entry into South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). India is against the prospect of Chinese membership. China also helped in the construction of the Gwadar port. China-Pakistan nuclear deal could spell trouble for India. The weakening of India-China relations since 2014 and the strengthening of China-Pakistan relations have put India in a difficult strategic spot.

#### Conclusion

The present state of relationship can be described as Sweet and Sour state of understanding. The two Asian giants continue to have an impressive cultural history and share some affinity, but the effect of a very complicated history also continue to stand.

The border issue with china need to be discussed at diplomatic value given the stand and condition of countries in present scenario. As long as this dispute remains there is going to be lack of mutual trust between both countries. A diplomatic relation that began years ago, now stands at junction with one path leading to benefits assisted by mutual cooperation, and the other leading to regression assisted by a downward spiral of disputes. There is an ongoing attempt by China to contain India by befriending immediate neighbors and have come to a munity at both military and civil level.





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## **Study on Religious Values and Economic Growth**

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The interest in the controversies about the role of religion in society is increasing from recent years. The present review study is about the impact of religion on institutions and economic growth. Due to the absence of theoretical framework, the practical result of this study cannot be the unambiguous. There is no religion found to be the specific about pro or anti growth. At many times, the rulers try to affect the leading interpretation of a religion. In favor of a causal effect, evidence is increasing from the economic situation to religious interpretations while causality is a difficult issue.

Keywords: Religion, Economic Growth



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#### INTRODUCTION

Awareness of the important role of culture and religion in improving the economic development is increasing by development organizations from mid 1990s. In various reports of World Bank and the activities of the World Faiths Development Dialogue, this awareness is noticeable. There are many ways of defining the economical phenomena such as evolutionary economics, behavioral economics, new institutional economics, and economics and culture are grabbing the attention which are much significant. Culture is the collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group from another, as defined in the reference literature. A shared set of beliefs, activities and institutions previously stated on faith in supernatural forces is said to be the religion which afterwards considered as the part of culture. Society can be influenced by the religion and religious activities in two ways, where first is the religious activities which can also be called social activities such as church attendance which are comparable with the meetings of football clubs, tennis clubs, scouts, political parties etc. These meetings can be an instrument helps in the establishmnet of the networks which can be used for the economic activities. It may also be helpful in maintaining the trading relations with partner of same religious groups belonging to the other countries. The second channel is the values taught by the leaders or adherents concerned with that religion. Through these values, the actual behavior changes with the functioning of society as per the assumption (Jong, 2008). This review belongs to the economics and culture view on economics which studies the relation between values, economic institutions and economic performance.

#### **Three Phases of Economic Development**

All the three phases of economic development can be distinguished (Marini, 2004) and each phase is classified by a particular level of economic growth of income per capita and the set of dominant values. The first phase is categorized by the low levels of growth and low income per capita and is labeled as the antique or the pre-industrial phase. There are majority of the population especially are farmers which are dependent on agricultural production. Economic privations which are caused by the lack of technical skills for dealing with climatic difficulties and by damage resulting from wars between local warlords are protected by the extended families and communities.

The second phase consists of high growth rates and a sharp increase in income per capita and also stated as the modernization, industrialization or take-off phase. Relatively high saving rated and technical progress may stimulate the economic growth. Large number of groups can be escape from the poverty by high levels of economic growth (Jong, 2008).

The third phase can be characterized by relatively modest levels of growth and high income per capita and also stated as the post modern or post industrial phase. The majority of the inhabitants grows up with the feeling that existence can be taken for granted (Inglehart, 32).

During the industrialization period, the rate of economic growth is relatively high as illustrated by the three stages of economic development. Lower rates of economic growth characterizes both the post industrialization period and the post modern period, level of income per capita is low during the first phase and high during the second phase as differs considerably.

It will be the positive effect on the level of economic development and a negative effect on the relative growth rates in cross country analysis of a sample of wealthy countries when a particular religion explains the evolution from pre industrialized to industrialized phase as an important factor.

#### **Economic Growth and Religion**

As it is discussed about three phases of development, the growth rate can differ from the certain level of the economic development. Barro and McCleary studied the series of papers about influence of church attendance and religious belief on the average growth rates of real per capita Gross Domestic Production (GDP) in a group consisting of developed, emerging and evolution countries. The World Value survey derived the measure on church attendance and belief in particular respondents that if they regularly attend church services or not, and whether they belief in hell or in heaven. In regressions, the average of the respondent's answers in a country is used. According to the result of survey it has been noticed that belief in hell seems positively contributes to the economic growth and the coefficient of belief in heaven is insignificant. Church attendance has found a negative impact on growth of economy showing that the time spent in church is the expensed time for economic activity.

After that Durlauf criticized the study of Barro and McCleary on many points, re- estimated and include as control variables, traditional Solow variables and three measures of other fundamental theories of economic growth. There are many types of



traditional Solow variables which are population growth, real investments to real GDP, the average years of secondry schooling in the total population over age 25, and real per capita GDP for the initial year of the sample. A climate of a country and geographical isolation, its economic and political institutions and the degree of fractionalization in the society is denoted by the variables resulting from other growth theories. In any of the specification used, there is none of the religiosity variable are important at the 5% level.

It is the belief in heaven that is sometimes marginally significant in contrast with the Barro and McCleary's result.

#### The role of religious leaders

The texts written in holy books are applicable to many situations of life. In the Bible, at many places, rulers are criticized for the harsh behaviour for their people and the poor. Without being specific about the particular situations, religious leaders uses these phrases and criticizes their Governments. The current situations can also be legitimized by the religious arguments for example Mohammad Yunus, the founder of the Grameen Bank case.

# The influence of religion on determining factors of economic growth

It is previously discussed about the direct relationship between religious beliefs and economic growth. This view is taken as the starting point by some of the studies and the relationship between religion and institutions and types of governance that are known to positively or negatively affect economic growth are investigated.

#### **Institutions**

The transaction costs are reduced by the economic and political institutions of high quality because of which economic growth enhances. Trust towards the government institutions are increased by the religious upbringing and active religious participation and also reduces the willingness to break any sort of legal rule. Adaptibility of institutions is important for economic development is another claim.

#### Governance

Economic growth is often found to be associated with trust and cooperation. There are many studies which have found a positive relationship between the economic growth and trust. The variables of trust is the percentage of people responding that most can be trusted after the deletion of don't knows.

Religious upbringings has a negative effect on trust for Catholics, Muslims, and Hindus and unaffected for the other religions. For Protestants, the sum of the two effects is more possitive than the Christian religion. Freedom is also a good source of wealth creation. Enhancing growth is considered by the open borders and free movement of persons along with an open mind for new ideas. The effect of Corruption is generally considered negative on the economic growth while it works as a posstive factor in the short run bribe paying in case of bad economic institutions.

As the relation between religious values and economic growth is not strong and healthy, the relation between religion and factors determining growth are focused under the institutions and governance headings (Jong, 2008).

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Barro and McCleary, (2003) worked on determinants of the economic growth neglected the influence of religion. They use suggested instruments in which church attendance and beliefs are the dependent variables and found out that religious belief responds positively to the economic growth notably those in hell and heaven but negatively to church attendance. They conclude that religious beliefs influence individual traits that enhance the economic performance.

**Vitell, (2009)** studied the review of role of religiosity in business and consumer ethics. The review is descriptive rather than the normative linking religion to business and consumer ethics. The objective is to encourage researcher to follow further research in this area.

Campante and Drott, (2013) studied on the economic effects of religious practice in the context of the observance of Ramadan fasting. Evidence indicating Ramadan affects Muslim's relative references regarding the work and religiosity. The result of this paper indicates that labor supply choices can be affected by the religious practices in a negative implications for economic performance.

Khan et al., (2015) investigates recent studies regarding the effect of culture on economic growth and development. The found out that the enormous challenges for economic growth and development still needs to review their conceptions about in a particular society, variation of culture or social organization conversion is pronounced with more strong and resilient reference setting and said that culture may be the hinderance to the economic growth or may be a promising tool.



**Basedau, Gobien and Prediger, (2017)** reviewed on the empirical quantitative literature on the effect of religion on development from the last decade and found out that there is more need rigorous methodological and theoretical investigations and better availability and coverage of data.

**Fuller, (2017),** studied on big data, ethics and religion: New questions from a new science including some explorations of the ways in which insights from religious and theological perspectives might be valuable and said about the need of engagement of different jurisdiction.

#### CONCLUSION

Religion is the most important source of values therefore, the role of religion in the development process is again in program. From this review study, a definite conclusion cannot be made. There is no study which refers clearly the type of religious values promoting the growth. The conclusion of this review is that there is no specific religion which can be considered to be pro-or anti growth. Recommendations can be drawn that this topic can be best studied with the later analysis about the political leaders manipulate public opinion and the dominant view of religion.



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## **Women and Development: A Literature Review**

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For all the citizens' preamble to the Indian Constitution sets the nation's highest goal to be justice, equality, liberty and community. Achieving development requires the attentions of various aspects. Gender equality is now a genuine political claim at local, national and global levels. The role of women's are high in the progress of society as well as country. But the attentions of various aspects are required for achieving the development of women. The main barriers in most of the developing countries for women development is education, which prevents further growth and power of decision and leads to more inequalities between men and women. The women health and clarification of religious beliefs is another factor that legitimates inequalities. Crime against women and sex ratio is other main issue which shows barrier in gender and development. Our purpose in this paper is to highlight the main issues and challenges which are barriers in the growth of Gender and development.

Keywords: Development, Gender Equality, Sex Ratio, Education





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#### Introduction

The one of the top agenda across the world is issue of women and development. In developing countries, gender disparity is widespread compared to the developed countries about the concept of development there is many theories which varies according to agencies involved, area of focus, environments, etc. the development of women depends upon various aspects like education, sex ratio, health, etc. development of women is essential for the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women. From last couple of decades both national and international development community governments has increasingly focused its efforts to promote gender equality as a means for better social, economic and health outcomes. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio the population of females has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Gender and development also involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination. general feeling of harassment which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure. Education is also consider as the most important factor of development. Education brings reduction in inequality and mold the shape toward the development of a country. In all aspects women have got equal right and status with men in western society. But in India the paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave. Some Gender discrimination and disabilities are as:

#### **Educational Status of Women in India**

To change the position of women in society education is the most powerful tool. Women education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is a foundation stone for the empowerment of woman. Education brings reduction in inequalities and grow the status of a person. In India education for women has a major worry for both the government and civil society. For Women growth, education is landmark because it empowers them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. According to Census 2011, the female literacy rate is 65.5% against the male literacy rate of 82.1%. Although there has been a considerable improvement in literacy rate of female but still it is much lower compared to male. Male-female gap is predominant and nearly 20% gap is remaining

between male-female literacy rates. The problem of literacy is serious in rural India where nearly 43% female are illiterate. Different scheme regarding education of women is started by the government of India.

#### Women Health

The health of Indian women is basically linked to their status in society. Health is generally regarded as the most vital component of growth and development of a nation. The status of health of Indian women becoming worse due to the dominant culture and traditional practices in India. Indian women are generally vulnerable to poor nutrition, especially during pregnancy and lactation. However, in India the field of health is the most neglected aspect of development especially in case of women. It was found that the contributions Indian women make to families often are overlooked, and instead they are viewed as economic burdens. Even today the issue of family welfare and reproductive health is much more important to policy makers than the issue of providing basic level of nutrition, better health, better control over women's body etc.

#### Crime against Women

Crimes against women is a day to day phenomenon in recent days. Women are often viewed as the property of the men in their lives, whose responsibility is to protect them, conflict between men and women over any issue provokes violence against women (Centre for women development studies 2002). Exhibitions of violence include physical aggression, burns, attempted hanging, sexual abuse and rape, psychological violence through insults, humiliation, coercion, blackmail, economic or emotional threats, and control over speech and actions. In extreme, but not unknown cases, death is the result. Crimes against women and incident of rape have risen sharply over the last few years. The latest National Crime Records Bureau data reflect how incidents of rapes have gone up by 12-15%, while other crimes have risen by 3-5%.

#### Sex Ratio

The sex ratio is revealing of the arrangement of population. Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males or in a given population the ratio of males to females. Falling of sex ratio is one of the conspicuous examples of gender inequality. Preference for boys over girls that exists in many male dominated society, gender inequality can manifest itself in the form of the parents, wanting the new born to be a boy rather than a girl (Sen and Drez 2005). In spite of having higher level of female education,



greater economic participation of women, these countries are facing sharp decline and below average sex ratio. The Sex ratio in India 2011 is 918 girls for 1,000 boys. Government launces various schemes regarding to improve the sex ratio.

#### **Review of Literature**

**Bhoganadam, Malini and Rao** (2014) studied on women's empowerment and economic development and concluded that the women empowerment plays a major role in developing countries through which the organizational problems can be solve and it also can reduce the poverty level and improve the economic growth.

Bayeh, (2016), worked on the role of empowering women and achieving gender equality to the sustainable development of Ethiopia, and finding based on the data analyzed shows that role of women of sustainable development is less reflected in the country. This study also expose that Ethiopian women account for the half of the total population of the country. This paper suggested that the Government need to maintain the gender equality and need to make effort to change the existing position of the woman.

Hopkins and Patel, (2007) analyzed the impact of religious beliefs and practices on gender inequality is the issue that cannot be ignored and summarized the key discussion and findings of two workshops held by Oxfam GB, on the challenges of working on gender equality in Muslim contexts and finally concluded that there is need to highlight and understand the local context and in each country that how specific issues affect gender relations.

Mikkola, (2005) suggested about the issues from which the gender inequality is associated with such as the overall economic developmental level, values and religion, cultural restrictions and roles, legal and inheritance laws and practices, the marital pattern of resource allocation, monogamy vs. polygyny, labor market access, education, fertility, gender specific market failures in finance, power in the political decision making etc.

**Duflo, (2011)** studied review on the women empowerment and economic development and said that the development may influenced by the women empowerment. Also reviewed on both the literature of empowerment development and about the weakness of inter relationship to be self-sustaining, and also about the policy commitment to equality between men and women.

Chakravarty, Kumar and Jha, (2013) studied about the concept of women empowerment on a holistic basis and also examined the effort made for the empirical works towards the empowering the women with Self Help Groups (SHG) initiated in Ranchi district of Jharkhand state of India. This study also suggested to accelerate the empowerment drive to the local level area for the developing country like India and point the further research in this area.

Nayak and Mahanta, (2017) analyzed the status of women empowerment in India using various indicators based on the secondary sources and concluded that the enabling factors to empowerment and to achieve the goal are the access to education and employment which depends upon the attitude of the people toward gender equality.

#### Conclusion

The gender and growth is one of the most important concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Women are the most target population in gender development. Government are taking steps by launching various schemes regarding girls as Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna., Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Balika Samridhi Yojna and many more. But the initiatives by government alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and women have full opportunities of self-decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country with a sense of equality. Women have to be fully involved in the process by being trained to leadership positions in order to be part of the decision making process and be able to design policies that bring change for a consistent reduction of gender disparities and inequalities towards women.



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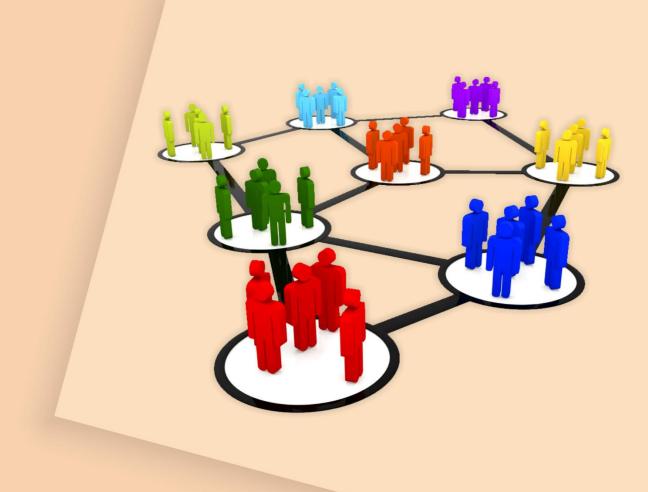
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- 1. Academic Journal of Accounting and Finance (AJAF)
- 2. Academic Journal of Agriculture Sciences (AJASc)
- 3. Academic Journal of Anthropological Studies (AJASt)
- 4. Academic Journal of Applied Engineering (AJAE)
- 5. Academic Journal of Archaeological Studies (AJALS)
- 6. Academic Journal of Arts and Humanities (AJAAH)
- 7. Academic Journal of Astrophysics and Planets (AJAP)
- 8. Academic Journal of Bioinformatics (AJBI)
- 9. Academic Journal of Biotechnological Research (AJBR)
- 10. Academic Journal of Botanical Sciences (AJBS)
- 11. Academic Journal of Chemical Sciences (AJChS)
- 12. Academic Journal of Computer Sciences (AJCoS)
- 13. Academic Journal of Dance and Music (AJDM)
- 14. Academic Journal of Earth Sciences and Geological Studies (AJESGS)
- 15. Academic Journal of Economic and Finance (AJEF)
- 16. Academic Journal of Educational Sciences (AJEdS)
- 17. Academic Journal of Environmental Sciences (AJES)
- 18. Academic Journal of Forensic Sciences (AJFSc)
- 19. Academic Journal of Forestry Sciences (AJFS)
- 20. Academic Journal of Geographical Studies (AJGS)
- 21. Academic Journal of Historical Studies (AJHS)
- 22. Academic Journal of Home Science and Food Technology (AJHSFT)
- 23. Academic Journal of Information Security (AJIS)
- 24. Academic Journal of Law and Judiciary (AJLJ)
- 25. Academic Journal of Library and Information Studies (AJLIS)
- 26. Academic Journal of Life Science (AJLS)
- 27. Academic Journal of Literature and Language (AJLL)
- 28. Academic Journal of Management Studies (AJMSt)
- 29. Academic Journal of Material Sciences (AJMSc)
- 30. Academic Journal of Mathematical Sciences (AJMMS)
- 31. Academic Journal of Medical and Health Care Sciences (AJMHCS)
- 32. Academic Journal of Microbiological Studies (AJMBS)
- 33. Academic Journal of Modern Applied Sciences (AJMAS)
- 34. Academic Journal of Nanotechnology (AJNT)
- 35. Academic Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Studies (AJNMS)
- 36. Academic Journal of Ocean Sciences (AJOS)
- 37. Academic Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AJPMS)
- 38. Academic Journal of Physical Sciences (AJPSc)
- 39. Academic Journal of Psychological Studies (AJPSt)
- 40. Academic Journal of Social Sciences (AJSS)
- 41. Academic Journal of Sports and Physical Education (AJSPE)
- 42. Academic Journal of Veterinary Sciences (AJVS)
- 43. Academic Journal of Zoological Sciences (AJZS)





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