

## ANTISOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ROLE OF A RELIGION IN A SOCIETY: A DESCRIPTIVE RESEARCH

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### ABSTRACT

Both positive and negative activities are found in a single society. Pro society activities are beneficial and productive for a society and antisocial activities prove disaster for a society. There are multiple reasons that people get involved in antisocial activities. From many ways antisocial activities can be minimized. Many institutions play key role to make people social and fruitful for others. Family, school, media, government and religion are some social schools that play role in public socialization. A religion always play positive role in a society. It creates bond among people of different regions and castes. Some people misuse the religious activities and do antisocial activities. There are multiple reasons for this attitude. Personal benefit is one of reason. This paper is to highlight the role of a religion in combating antisocial activities in a society. The basic research question is how a religion plays its role in a society for people's socialization. Descriptive research method will be used for this study.

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### INTRODUCTION

A society is that in which different kinds of people are living in a place having common interest. Somehow, not all people have same attitudes. Also, their positive and negative level is not same. Both, positive and negative activities are found in a single society. There are many reasons of these opposite attitude of people. A society make arrangement to make people's behavior collaborated to one another. For this purpose, every society makes institutions for public socialization. A family holds basic role in a child's socialization. School is built and all its arrangements are structured according to the objectives of the society. Curriculum is designed to get specific objectives, to modify the children's personality as a

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society demands. On mass media, campaigns are run to modify people according to desired goals. Specific data is showed on media channels to create common mentality.

Like this a religion has a pivotal role in a society. It involves in one's life from man's birth to his death. Some most religious affiliated person even registered their children's name on the base of some religious affiliation. They prefer their children to get education from clergy men also.

### **ANTISOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN A SOCIETY**

A social system can be run properly, if people are harmonious, cooperative and interactive. On the other hand, to control antisocial activities, every society, formulates a set of laws. Actually, Anti-social activities are against the benefits of common people. Every legislative institution tries to prevent them. In general terms anti-social acts are those that demonstrate a lack of feeling and concern for the welfare of others (David Clarke, 2003). According to Albert Bandura (an American psychologist), the anti-social behavior is learnt from environment. There are different motives behind these activities. People involve such activities to get some personal, political and religious objectives. There is of course the possibility that the label ASB (Anti-Social Behavior) has simply been invented by politicians and by the media to describe a loose collection of neighborhood problems (Andrew Millie, 2009). The result of this behavior may be some childhood social disorders. One's behavior gets the negativity, because of improper treatments of people in early age. It is negative form of socialization in which people's behavior gets negativity, informally. These activities are categorized in antisocial, unethical and criminal activities in some conditions. Some prominent antisocial activities are following.

#### ***Social Stratification***

Social stratification is a collective anti-social behavior in which a society is categorized into different social layers (poor, middle and rich). It is due to unbalanced division of wealth and power. People having different social status and position in a society, are also treated according to their social status. This division of nations, as well as the layering of groups of people within a nation, is called social stratification (James M., 2015). People involve themselves in illegal activities to get money or to become rich in short ways. In a society, people having financial power or high social status, deal other improperly. In reactions, the destitute and deprived people commit unlawful actions. This attitude varies from society to society. Also, in a pure religious society, this type of behavior is found. Caste system is also basic part of a social system. It creates social stratification in a society. By birth this stratification remains whole the life with a person. It is personal characteristic of a man that can never be changed or upgraded. A low caste man will remain in same status throughout his life. He will not be upgraded to higher caste in any way although; he earns huge money or a higher social rank.

#### ***Deviances and Crimes***

Deviance is also considered an antisocial activity. Under deviance, the determined values of a society are violated. Generally, it is divided into two levels: first is to violate the laws declared by a society or country. For example: robbery, theft, murder, and assault. Second is to violate the informal social norms considered

in a society or in a country as steering, kidding and violating the formalities of an institution. Norms of a society are something demandable and valuables for them and their ignorance is deviance. For example: uniform is norm of a school is, if someone wears a casual dress then he will be penalized. The intensive form of deviance is, to commit some unlawful activities. For example: robbery, sexual harassment, stealing, and killing. Deviance is any behavior or physical appearance that is socially challenged or condemned because it departs from the norms and expectations of a group (Joan Ferrante, 2021). Deviance cannot be defined in easily. For, social norms are different in different societies. Legislation and prosecution method are same all over the world. Capital punishment is functional, in some countries but many states have waived it. There is a prominent difference between the norms of a secular society and a religious society. Crimes are something illegal activities declared by a society or by a government. Some activities by law are nominated as punishable and illegal. The definition of crime seems to be deceptively simple, that is, it is what the law declares to be illegal the sociologists have differentiated the activities that whether these are crimes and these are not crimes on the base of social values and environment of a society (Tony, 1999). It is reality that a crime is a production of an individual. Somehow, minority of people are responsible for the production of criminals. Some social scientists have worked on this phenomenon that some people who are not treated equally, by a system, they are compelled to commit crimes. Many times, their environment and negative socialization are responsible for their antisocial activities.

### ***Vandalism and Graffiti***

Vandalism is, to damage the public and private property without permission of its owner. There are different motives behind such activities. Vandals (who damage the public or private property without the permission of owner) commit such activities whenever they are violent. The term ‘vandalism’ came to refer to the planned destruction of medieval buildings (Matt Long & Roger Hopkins, 2015). There are a number of motives behind such activities. It may be some political as well as religious. A number of motives are there to provoke the people to commit such of activities. Vandalism is all crimes where any person without lawful excuse intentionally or recklessly destroys or damages any property belonging to another (Matt Long & Roger Hopkins, 2015). Vandalism has become more functional in democratic states. People in the shape of a mob, held a protest and commit a lot of illegal and antisocial activities. They block the roads till their demands are fulfilled. They sometime, damage the public property. They set the vehicles on fire. They holding wood sticks and iron rods, break the side mirrors and screens of those vehicles whose drivers show some reactions. Graffiti is also an unsocial and antisocial activity. It is an activity in which people without the permission of an owner makes drawing and painting on walls. It is very old activity and was used by Greek. Now in modern age, it is used to convey some social and political messages. In Indo-Pak, this is used for the publicity of medicines and remedies of diseases. Near about general election, a full-fledge campaign is run to advertise the slogans and objectives of political parties. They use walls to write with paint without the permission of its owner. In public places this trend

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has become very familiar. Sometime, some vulgar messages are written on the walls of public toilets. For this reason, graffiti is considered to be unsocial and antisocial activity. Graffiti is usually used in negative form by people without the permission of owners of that building.

### ***Addiction of Drugs and Alcohol***

Drugs are some types of chemical substances which are used for medical purposes. But their excess use or only usage for mental relief is harmful. The ultimate results of drugs are not beneficial in any condition. Use of alcohol and other drugs can have serious negative social, psychological, and medical effects (John Brick, 2004). Drugs used for medical purposes are beneficial for human being. But the drugs (used for mental relief) are harmful to human organs. Its usage is conditionally permitted. The usage of drugs in excessive form or for relief purposes is considered to be an unsocial activity. In such types of activities, people cut themselves off from social setup and live an abnormal life. They don't realize their social responsibilities. Sometimes many of them involve in severe criminal activities. Excessive alcohol use has immediate effects that increase the risk of many harmful health conditions (Debra Sullivan, 2021). For these reasons a society doesn't accept such type of people. Alcohol (Drinking) is also an unsocial and antisocial activity in many societies. In many societies it is totally, and in some societies, it is conditionally permitted. The medical effect of alcohol is not considered to be beneficial for human body.

## **RELIGION**

Spiritual satisfaction and mental contentment are the basic needs of every man (or a woman). To get these conditions, there is need, to get spiritual purification. A religion deals all the activities which help a man to get purification from wrong deeds. A religion also helps a man to live a life in a satisfactory way. Its influence on man's life is from birth to death. For socialization purposes, every religion also gives different instructions and information, how to deal a child in infant age? How to train him socially, in early stage? By sociologists, a religion is said to be a social agent and social institution for children as well as adults. It is considered to be a very strong institution. People hold the religious beliefs firmly as compared to others concepts. These adopted beliefs cannot be changed. Religion is a significant socializing mechanism in the transmission of values and behavior. Traditions, rituals, and religious institutions reinforce the values taught in families (Roberta M. Berns, 2013).

Religious teachings help the people in resolving many spiritual and social issues. A religion pulls a man out from different superstitions and baseless concepts. It helps, to minimize the extremity of frustration and hypertension. It helps, to transfer the social values and norms in the form of preaching. Religion almost always includes the belief in the supernatural and a code of ethical behavior (Kenneth F. Kister, 1994). Somehow, some clergies use the religious teaching to get some personal goals. They adopt some ritual practices, at extreme level to get spirituality. To get the next level of spirituality or alleviate their sins, sometimes they adopt some unsocial as well as inhuman activities.

### ***Role of the Religion in A Society***

A religious belief is the basic need of a man. In a society, a religion holds a valuable position. A religion influences in different ways, in one's life. Also, social aspect of a man is highly affected by a religion.

There are different views about a belief that whether it is instinctive or it is learnt after one's birth, in a society. The authentic view point is that a religion is given by one's parents. This is also explained by Holy Prophet (ﷺ). There is none born but is created to his true nature (Islam). It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Magian quite as beasts produce their young with their limbs perfect (Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj, 2021). A religion effects on human attitude, character and social life also. Usually, religious teaching and strategies are misused by its followers in some optional cases. So, there is need to elaborate the phenomenon that what is religion actually? And what is the role of a religion in a society? What are the impacts of a religion on a society? A religion is a set of some beliefs and ritual practices. Its practices are revealed by God for the facility of human being. It promotes human nature and deals with mostly social life of mankind. The practices are implemented according to the physical and mental strength of every common person. A religion is found approximately in every society and considered a basic part of every social system. A religious belief indicates the culture of a society or a nation. A lot of social conflicts have been introduced due to variations of religious beliefs also. People are strongly and firmly tied with the beliefs, given by their religions. Also, they don't ignore these beliefs in any condition. A religion is the best elaborated by Emile Durkheim in such a way: Religion, then, is a social institution involving beliefs and practices based on recognizing the sacred (Johan J. Macionis, 2009). A religion is called a social institution. It is declared by different social scientists. For, it plays a significant role in socializing people and children by its teaching and practices. It is further elaborated, Religion is an organized system of beliefs, rituals (acts and ceremonies), personal practices and worships directed toward a supreme power or deity (god) (Kobasa, Paul A., 2013).

Some people devote themselves, only for a religious mission. In every society, these types of people are found. Some people, under the cover of a religious belief, exploit others. They get some personal benefits from illiterate people. People related to any religion believe in a divine or supreme power. The ultimate motive of a religion is, to get a spiritually purified and contented condition. A religion deals the basics queries of a man. People adopt some religious practices due to many reasons. Mostly, people learn them from their families. A religion, in somehow provides social security for an individual or a group. A religion helps us in searching for the answers of the basic questions. It satisfies a man in this regard and gives mental peace and contentment. The origin of a religion or religious belief is very old and unseen. Some historians or archeologists wrote that people of this world when used to live in caves and had not some kind of facilities. They had fear about their surroundings. Then, they started to worship the fearful things to save them from their terrors. According to both, Freud and Radin, the source of religion is traceable in loneliness, helplessness and emotional strain which were experienced by primitive man (Sayyed Sajjad Rizavi, 1986).

In start, man's fear became a basic motive of worships. He used to fear from rainfall, earthquakes, storm, weather changes, someone' death and other abnormal situations. Some people started to make responsible for these abnormalities, a supreme power. So, they began to bow before him and gave sacrifices for him.

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The sense of religious belief and supreme power were originated earlier in the history of man, when they started to bow before natural forces. Archeologists believe that prehistoric people drew pictures and may have performed other rituals intended to promote the fertility of women and animals and to ensure good hunting. They likely to made sacrifices for the same reasons (Kobasa, Paul A., 2013). A religious belief is assumed and suggested by the activities and cultural values of people. Archeologists and historian derived a belief from living style, buildings designs and from fossils. The historical buildings showed the culture of that nation who used to live on that place. A shrine's many names may express history, humor, geography, and social relationships (Lind Say Jones, 2005). The religions which have historical record were originated mostly in 36 centuries before. Different religions were started in different periods by different holy personalities.

### ***Influences of a Religion in a Society***

It is reality that a religion influences on man's life from birth to death. The spiritual aspect of a man is mostly handled and led by a religion whole the life. How to deal immediately when a baby is born, it is told by a religion. What the beliefs should be given or taught to the infants and adults? It is decided by his parents in the perspective of a religion. What the school should be for him? The basic questions that who is the creator of human being, universe and everything in this would? Who is handling all these matters? It compels a man to study for a religion. Many social activities are also performed according to the directions of a religion. Marriage ceremony is not completed till a religious man isn't involved in it. A lot of other social activities are performed with the help of religious men or as directed by a religion. A man has to face a lot of social agents which help him in socialization. A religion is one of those social agents. Religious back ground of a family helps a child in socialization also. In schools, many religious curricular activities are taught. Some people themselves, get some religious instructions from books and other sources. In religious socialization, many faiths and beliefs are taught to people. Some people strictly attached to some religious beliefs. Many social activities are affected by religious teaching. People select their way of living according to a religious belief. People chose their life partner under religious preferences. Some people just work whole of their life for the promotion of their religious beliefs. So, a religion affects socially and changes the life style of a man or a woman. It affects the way of learning and way of living. Actually, man's socialization changes with the change of some beliefs and faiths. So, one's social life depends on religious incentives and religious background. Emile Durkheim is in the favor of this approach that a religion plays basic role in one's social life. I had a clear view of the capital role played by religion in social life (Emile Durkheim, 1982). People send their children to attend some religious activities and learn some religious teaching. To get a contented life and peaceful mental situation, people visit some religious places. Some people attend the religious meetings to get spiritual refreshments. They ask for clergy men to pray for their good health and prosperous life. Adult children may attend church with aging parents to make parents feel better, despite being agnostic or even ill at ease with the collective benefits generated by religious activities (Michele Dillon, 2003). Children's

activities, in the boundary of a school formally are affected by some religious beliefs. Relations and connections are made for the sake of a common religious approach.

### **PRO AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF CLERGY MEN**

A religion plays basic role in socializing a child at every stage of his life. It is also reality that social life of a man is affected by a religion. Basically, a religion is a social agent but, many people, for spiritual purposes, adopt different antisocial activities. In some situations, religious ascetical practices express some kinds of antisocial behaviors. The basic objectives of these activities are, to enhance the spirituality or to get the spiritual purification. But, some people to get this condition use the unnatural or antisocial ways. So, under the cover of a religion, both: social and antisocial activities are practiced. In this sense, religious ascetical practices are divided into two forms: pro social activities and anti-social activities. Pro social behavior is a form of religious ascetical practices which promote a social system in a society and also it helps a society, to run a social system. A lot of religious activities are there which promote the social life. Fasting is a religious ascetical activity that is practiced in different world religions. But it doesn't harm the social setup. It is medically proved that many stomach issues are resolved with fasting. Yoga is a practice that is considered to be a religious ascetical activity. It is practiced mostly by Hindu ascetic people. This practice also resolves many health issues. Not only Hindu ascetics but also non-Hindu people practice this activity to get some physical as well as spiritual ends. It is not harmful or anti-social aspects. So, the activities which are beneficial for people, are called, pro social activities. Anti-Social Behavior is a form of religious ascetical practices which don't promote the social system and don't help the people to become socialized. On the behalf of these activities, people ignore their social aspect. These activities are sometimes social and, in some conditions, are anti-social. The extreme level of these social practices is sometimes antisocial. Renunciation is the one of many activities of religious asceticism in which a man or woman ignores the basics of life and bear pain to get spiritual ends. People cut themselves off from a social system and live a celibacy life. This activity is the prevention of social progress.

### **CONCLUDING POINTS**

A religion or teachings of a religion play an affective role in a society. Usually a religion's role in a society is positive. Some people by their selves' uses a religion, its teachings or sometimes they modify its verdicts according to their thinking. In this way, some practices become illogical and out of approach of common people. Unsocial activities are found in every society. A religion's role in a society is to prevent these activities by educating people. The main role of religious teaching or mission of a religion is to make people's behaviors positive. The actions those are harmful for public, every religion encourages and preach its followers to eradicate such elements from a society. So, a religion is the need of a society and a society cannot make progressive without some spiritual believes in it.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Though a religion plays positive role in a society, there is need of some spiritual believes and activities in a society. For this purpose, a child at the age of learning, he or she must be given some spiritual doses.

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Actions of one depends upon believes. Positive and constructive believes of a person compel him or her toward positivity. For peaceful society right beliefs of a religion are needed in a society. For those people who misuse religious teaching for personal use or for political uses, they must be prevented. A religion is for human being not human being is for a religion. Every piece of a religious activity must be used for the welfare of a man as well as human being.

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