**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Victimization of Hindus and Belittling of Hinduism in World Literature**

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**ABSTRACT**

Hinduism is not a religion as such but a way of life as even the Supreme Court adhered to this edict. The problem of calling it Hinduism arose because religions which came after it had their own founders, whether it was Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity or Islam. Under the circumstances there was no option but to give it an identity. It is probably the only religion in the world which has no founder. Hindus easily convert to other religions because they are indoctrinated with the thought that all religions are the same. Unlike the adherents of other religions like Judaism, Christianity or Islam they do not feel that they are committing a blasphemy by accepting a new faith. In fact there are instances where they are encouraged to do so if they feel that they are not happy in following Hinduism. Another great thing about Hinduism is that one can practice another faith without losing one's identity of being a Hindu. It can never be the neither way round. If someone converts from Hinduism to Islam or Christianity, in no time that person will become a Hindu baiter conveniently forgetting the fact that at one time he/she had Hindu blood flowing in his/her veins. Hindus are becoming more vocal now than before it is because they have suffered all types of heartaches, pains and tortures for being kind to the followers of other religions whose home was never India but India let them make it their home. Now though they are still in a majority, in no time will they be decimated with government moves in pampering the minorities at their expense and students will read in their history books that there existed at one time a great religion called Hinduism but due to their great sense of tolerance they let others rule over them without fighting back just to maintain harmony and make others feel at home.

**Keywords:** Religion, Identity, Government, Faith, Moral.

The oldest religion ever known to mankind is Hinduism. In fact, it is so old that historians, scientists and archaeologists have different assumptions as to its birth on earth. Some say it is about 2000 years old and some say it is between 5000 and 7000 years old. The right accepted term presently for it is ‘Sanatan Dharma’ which when roughly translated means the doctrine of living one’s life on earth in an ethical, moral and peaceful manner in order to attain eternity with the Almighty.

Most people acknowledge it as Hinduism, only after monotheistic religions made their appearances here and there and everywhere. There was no name for the values held as per ‘Sanatan Dharma’ as it was beyond comprehension for followers of monotheistic religions to understand it and the core values behind them. Since a name had to be given to it with millions of followers, it came to be recognized as Hinduism.

If there is any known religion in the world which has borne the brunt of critics or from followers of other religions, then it is Hinduism. Instead of respecting it for its great sense of tolerance for other religions, it is for this very quality that it is despised for by adherents of other religions. They fail to understand that it is an all-inclusive religion and that it respects the viewpoints of all religions.

It is probably the only religion in the world which openly teaches its adherents to treat other religions with love and dignity and to not despise them or their teachings. Then is
it any wonder that the number of Hindus outnumber Christians during church festivities or the weekly novenas held in churches? Is this not a sign of tolerance that Hindus demonstrate?

Yet how many Christians or Muslims can be found praying in temples during festivities? Even if there are a handful of them, they will be quickly reprimanded for visiting temples by their own religious communities and said to have committed some sort of a sacrilege!

Some types of injustices that Hindus have to face in India are presented here, sometimes with question marks, so that impartial readers may take their time to ponder over them and conclude if the injustices pointed out are really true or are just a figment of imagination of Hindus!

There are roughly around 57 Muslim countries in the world and none of them provide Haj subsidy to their Muslim citizens. Yet can any of these Muslim countries boast of giving a similar facility for Hindus living in their country? Isn’t it an injustice that Hindus are not given such a facility by any government in India or even Nepal, where they form a majority for pilgrims making a one-time pilgrimage to Amarnath?

Islamic scholastic Mullahs are quick to issue ‘fatwas’ or death sentences at the fall of a hat for reasons supposed to be sacrilegious for them. Then why has not a single mullah, not issued a single fatwa anywhere in the world against a single terrorist? Are terrorists immune to such ‘fatwas’? Why? Are they useful to any society Islamic or otherwise?

Is it not strange that none of these enlightened visionaries find the urgency to do so under the wake of the ruthless manner in which they wean out lives of innocent beings all around the world, whether men, women or children irrespective of the fact that they have nothing at all to do with their sufferings?

Why is that even good educated and ethical Muslims do not find it necessary to convince the terrorists and their supporters all over the world that what they are doing in the name of Islam is purely evil and that they should desist from doing terrible things in the name of Islam?

Why is there stiff resistance to the preaching of Hinduism by Hindus in states like Nagaland when it is still part of a Hindu majority country? Is the preaching of Christianity banned in any Hindu majority state? Singing of ‘bhajans’ are banned in locals trains but not ‘qawwals’. Similarly Muslim processions are allowed in Hindu localities but Hindu processions are not barred from passing through Muslim localities.

Even the electronic and print media of not only India but also foreign ones will cry hoarse when a Muslim has been victimized for a trivial reason. The whole episode may be blown out of proportion and given an extra colouring. However when a Hindu is victimized for the same under similar circumstance, it will not find a mention even in the smallest column of the last few pages of the newspapers and totally ignored in the electronic media.

Hindus are accused of being intolerant. Thinking of the pressures that fall on society due to population explosion and of the difficulties faced in bringing up children, most of them think of restricting their children to just two, irrespective of the fact whether they are rich or poor.

Do the Muslims care to keep up to such restrictions? Are only Hindus supposed to think of saving their precious resources and to limit their families for the welfare of the country? Why do the Muslims take the shelter of religion when the question of uniform civil code comes up? Do the Muslims actually follow the Sharia laws in India accurately. Definitely not. They have only made such laws applicable in India which suit them, not those which are tough to follow!

Muslim and Christian schools can teach Koran and Bible respectively but then why are Hindu institutions restricted from conveying any knowledge from the Ramayana or Mahabharata which are actually just epics and not religious texts, leave alone the Bhagvad Gita or the Vedas, though Hindus form the majority in India. Why are Hindus disallowed to do this? How are they different from the other two communities? Why are they given step motherly treatment in a country where they form more than 75% of the total population?

India had to give or rather sacrifice about 30% of her sacred soil to the Muslims to placate them to create a new country called Pakistan. They came as plunderers and plundered that piece to create another land for themselves. Why did they have to stay in India when a region was finally given to them?
Those who opted to stay behind should have realized that they should make adjustments with the Hindus who formed the majority.

Why should temple funds be used for the upliftment of people from other communities when there are enough of poor Hindus who require a lot of welfare measures? Are funds from mosques used in any Muslim country for the welfare of the minorities, including Hindus?

Muslims and Christians fight for minority rights in states like Maharashtra, Bihar and UP. Do Hindus fight for such rights in Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya or Arunachal Pradesh or even if they did does the local government care for them?

The recently canonized Saint Teresa came all the way from Albania to serve the poor of India. Were there no poor people in Albania? It is estimated that Albania is one of the poorest European countries in the world. Then why did she choose to come to India and not Bangladesh or Pakistan? That is because they are Muslim majority countries and she or her Missionaries of Charities would not find it convenient to convert people easily as it is in India even now!

If Hindus are intolerant how come there are over 3 lakh mosques which are active and mosques are being inaugurated in every nook and corner of India? Alternatively history is replete with facts that tell us that thousands of temples have been razed by them and the impassive Hindus have hardly been able to prevent them from doing it. Does this show that Hindus are intolerant?

These are some of the instances which truly and sincerely show the position of Hindus where they have been victimized inspite of their overwhelming majority. The question is why? Where have they gone wrong? Was it wrong on their part to make adjustments in accepting people from other religions with open arms? Or is it finally being proved that the more one bends, the more the kicks he will have to be prepared to take. That is the policy of the cruel world.
References


