



### Unity in Diversity: Societal benefits of Communal Harmony

Venue: Business Lab  
Date: 20 August 2021  
Time: 12 00 to 2.00pm  
Organized by: Prof. Kusuma R.  
Attended by: Students of II B sec Bcom

Communal harmony is necessary for every nation. Only if there are peace and harmony in the country it can grow. India is known to maintain communal harmony even as people of different regions and castes reside here. The college is a melting pot of many religions. To highlight the importance of harmony among the religions a drama was conducted by Prof Kusuma during class activity with the students of II year B section. India is a very large country and it is a land of a variety of religions, languages, manners, communities, and cultures. Despite these diversities and differences, there always existed a bond of unity. Unfortunately, these differences are exploited by interested parties.

Communal hatred and tensions are created to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the country. As a result, the unity of India is endangered, and the progress and prosperity of the country are checked. Let us first examine the causes of the evil of communalism and then suggest ways and means of uprooting it.

The history of communal riots dates back to the pre-independent era: Our British rulers followed the policy of divide and rule. They realized that if the Hindus and the Muslims are united, it would be impossible for them to rule over such a large country. Some self-seekers inspired by the British took advantage of the situation and put forward the "two-nation theory", i.e. the Hindus and the Muslims were two different nations professing different religions and having different ways of life. The result was the partition of the country and the consequent blood bath before and after the partition.

Lakhs of people were uprooted from both sides to find a haven in their new countries i.e. India and Pakistan. Almost all the Hindus from West Pakistan and a bulk of them from East Bengal migrated to India. Some of the Muslims went to Pakistan, but the majority of them remained

in India of their own accord. Electronics City P.O., Bengaluru - 560 100

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Soon after the partition of the country, the communal minded Hindus began to say that since the Muslims had a homeland of their own, they cannot be treated as equals in our country. In other words, either they should be contented to remain as second-class citizens or go away to Pakistan.

If they do not go of their own will, they will be pushed out. The Indian masses are by and large illiterate and conservative in their outlook and as such, they were easily taken in by this kind of false and mischievous propaganda. The Muslims, too, have not been blameless in the matter. Instead of mixing up with the majority community and joining the mainstream of national life they have been eager to maintain their separate identity. Their Mullahs or priests have missed no opportunity to exploit the religious sentiments to serve their own selfish ends. Thus, the communal poison has infected both the communities with the result that there have been recurring communal riots. Aligarh, Jamshedpur, Bareilly, Moradabad Delhi recently Bhiwandi, Bombay, etc, have been the scenes of the worst type of communal riots. This resulted in loss of many life and property.

Such communal riots are a blot on the fair name of Mother India: She is a secular, socialistic, and democratic republic and the constitution forbids any kind of discrimination based on caste, religion, or region. All those who live in India are the equal sons of Bharat Mata. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to protect the life and property of the minorities. The security forces like PAC, BSF, CRPF, and others should be impartial and honest in the discharge of their duties. They should act promptly and wisely and those who neglect their duties should be dealt with severely. A heavy responsibility also lies on the politicians, political parties, and religious leaders. They should refrain from fanning the flame of communalism.

Instead of pointing out the differences between the Hindus and the Muslims, they should emphasize their similarities and common points. The press should try to create an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and harmony among the people. The Hindus and the Muslims should celebrate their festivals jointly.

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Education should be reformed for this purpose: The textbooks taught in schools and colleges should be suitably prepared to instil into the young minds the lesson of harmony, tolerance, and mutual understanding.

Various other methods are adopted to bring about communal harmony: Propaganda is a powerful weapon. This can be done through the press and the platform, the cinema, the radio, and the television. A still more effective, though a very bold step in the direction of the Hindu-Muslim unity, is the encouragement of inter-communal marriages: Roti and Beti relationship will go a long way in cementing the two communities. The students played the role of Christian, Muslim, and Hindu. By showing how families of different community's face problems if they are not united, the students took home the point 'united we stand. Divided we fall.'

*Rajiv*

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