



SOCIAL STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS PLACES

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Indian society has been conventionally religion lover. It is also fact that there would be hardly a village in Saurashtra where there is no a single temple of Hanumanji or Meladima or other god or goddess. An attempt has been made to discuss structure of social system of religious places and to present them as tourism spots in this research article.



INTRODUCTION:

While looking back at the history of Indian society, it can be said that since ancient times, Indian society has been a secular country. Even that cannot be ignored that at the passage of time, there have been changes in religious beliefs. As such, religion was hidden in the "promise" in Ramayana era, whereas, in Krishnavatar, "karma" was considered as a religion. Today humanitarian ideology is entering the religion. At present, religious places have also been instrumental in sustaining religion. In ancient and medieval era, temples were built by kings and nobles. From the time, people gathered there on the festival days. Such places were developed as a place of pilgrimage and were come to exist as a place of greater convenience in modern times. The government has tried to put intensive efforts to develop such religious sites as tourist destinations. The roots of the belief in religion are so deep in Indian society, that it is hard to imagine them being overthrown. Religious sites could not be harmed by the government even for any development work. Religious sites can also cause political upheaval.

There are some such religious places in India, which also brings foreign exchange. That cannot be ignored today that religious places have become important, not just as a pilgrimage but also as a form of tourism. On the other hand, the hotels are established, where ordinary people can stay and five star hotels have been built to accommodate the VIP people. Certain kinds of market systems have also emerged in religious places. Along with this, the facilities of transport are also increased. In sociological terms, its social structure has changed.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH ARTICLE

- (1) To clarify structural formation
- (2) To analyze different aspects of structure and religious places
- (3) To examine changing efficacy and picture of religious places
- (4) To examine changing social situation of religious places

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The presented paper is presented based on the model of the research article using empirical observation method and library method.

KEY WORDS:

(1) Religious place (2) structural formation (3) Market of religious places (4) Social situation

(1) What is social system?

The term social system is also found in the writings of Comte, Spencer, as well as early sociological theorists, and in the writings of Perrot, Junkie, and Homans among modern sociologists. Modern sociologists have further developed this concept. They mean that the social system is a system of interconnection between individuals who act and that action is oriented by the rules. This is a complex set of expectations regarding rules, roles and standards. If religion is viewed as a social order, the interplay between the followers of the same religion, the various religious gatherings, the procession of the religion at the festival, the direct and indirect interaction between the followers of the nation-wide Hindu religion in relation to the construction of the Ram temple in India. Interoperability can be seen. Dr. Vidyut Joshi describes religion as the key to the relation of human supremacy and religious places have been set up to preserve religion. The same religious places have emerged as a tourist destination from pilgrimage. Every religious place has its rules in place. Such a system is arranged so that there can be peace. The more the importance of a religious place, the more its security is intensified. In certain religious places, certain types of system are found.

(2) Elements of formation of social system and religious places

The formation of any social system is formulated by five aspects such as its sub-groups, roles, social standards, cultural values and goals. These five aspects are regarded as its parts, which are as below.

(2.1) Group and sub-group

Each society has many groups. Each group is system of social interaction. Any group developed as its part-group is called sub-group. In this way, the religious places are not now remained limited as religious spot but they are being developed as tourism spot. It was found during experimental fieldwork that many small groups might have come into existence at this place. Mostly vehicle drivers, shopkeepers, pandits (worshippers) and beggars were also seen there. When any struggle rises with the member of the group, they unite and protest the rival person.

(2.2) Status and roles

The members have status in sub-groups. In the same way, they have definite role to play in groups. The duties, which are to be performed by the person as a member of sub-group, are his roles in the group. Here, shopkeepers and vehicle drivers were found preparing certain rules for their group to play their roles. They were found playing role according to their status in the group.

(2.3) Social standards

There are rules deciding behaviour of a person in any group. These rules are called social standards. The rules determining acceptable or non-acceptable behaviour in society are called social standards, e.g. customs, laws, manners of people etc. at this place, there is a group of volunteers, who arrange legal security for rush of tourists and its management. Vehicle drivers have to manage vehicle facilities till the fixed stand. They can construct new rules based on the place in order to maintain management.

(2.4) Cultural values

The behaviour or status of any person in social system is evaluated by other members. This evaluation is based on cultural values. It was found in visits of many religious places that food items were

available there in hotels but no shop of meat or flesh was found there. People were found aware of cleanliness so those religious places were neat and clean.

(2.5) Institutional goal

Along with four elements for maintaining any social system, there is an institutional goal in each society. Now, the government tries her best to provide more facilities in tourist spots to make them more attractive. Considering this matter, Tourism Sociology is being developed as a sub-branch of Sociology. More and more tourists have created active effects on economical affairs of that place. In short, tourism is developing and growing, which has created important impacts in providing employment.

(3) Tourism and changing social situation

- Religious places are being transferred as tourism spot.
- The facilities are increased in modern age than they were in traditional religious places.
- The recent religious places are not limited for Hindus but people of other religions also take benefits.
- The religious places run by trusts or those taking grant from state or central government are having more facilities than those private religious places.
However, certain diverse matters are also seen there like...
- Generally, things are sold more costly than other market price.
- The activity of begging is found increased at such places.
- Crime is found increasing even in religious places.
- Mostly, people of middle and lower class visit more so rich people visit less, which create diverse effect on economical affairs at these places.

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