

# RAMPANT RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM IN THE WORLD AS MANIFESTATION OF HUMAN NATURE

## OUTLINE:

### 01) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: The sense of belongingness, fear and cognitive biases in human nature make them vulnerable to extremist narratives.

It impacts the socio economic and political fabric of the society. Hence, by highlighting the need of critical thinking and community engagement with religious teachings to combat extremism.

Structurally not correct

### 02) Nexus between rampant religious extremism and human nature

### 03) How rampant religious extremism is a manifestation of human nature:

a- Egoistic nature of human beings leads them to use religion to sustain their status quo and hegemony, contributes to religious extremism

b- Cognitive biases in humans against other religion leads to rampant religious extremism.

c- Individual vulnerabilities to feel anger and marginalisation lead them towards extreme interpretation of religion

d- Identity crisis and cultural insecurities, due to

- globalisation, in humans have encouraged religious extremism
- e- Socio-economic disparity creates a sense of deprivation in human beings that leads to rampant religious extremism
  - f- Historical grievances among humans contributes to the rise of extremist movements
  - g- Resistance to adapt and learn new perspective and diversity lead humans towards extremist agendas.

04) Repercussions of rampant religious extremism due to human nature:

- a) Escalation of violence and conflicts between different religions or ethnic groups.
- b) Polarization increases in the world, creating division and mistrust between individuals with differing religious beliefs.
- c) Increases human rights violation and abuses because of extreme religious doctrines
- d) Hindrance in educational activities and limiting intellectual development
- e) Rampant religious extremism leads to surge in global terrorism which disrupts the world peace.
- f) Economic disruption due to decreased investment and tourism because of terrorist attacks and instability.

05) Way forward to reduce the diverse implications and religious extremism:

a) Authorities need to work on promoting their soft power ~~over hard power~~ to reduce the religious disparity.

b) Promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding of their religion to reduce religious extremism.

c) Investment in education and critical thinking to make aware masses aware of the true spirit of religion.

d) Diversification and community engagement across the world to rehabilitate extremist groups.

06) Conclusion.

## ESSAY:

Human beings are strange species. To survive and gain power, they use every mean, whether right or wrong. They have innate nature to be hegemon and superior to others. They are striving hard, in this changing dynamics of global landscape, to control the world and administer it according to their own interests and ambitions. Currently, they are using religion, a sensitive, complicated and emotional topic, to manipulate ~~down~~ masses in order to gain vote bank and power. Resultantly, it becomes a cause of rampant religious extremism in the world. Their cognitive biasness against other religion and egoistic nature to gain power by manipulating the masses <sup>in the name of</sup> ~~using~~ religion contributes to religious extremism. The individual vulnerabilities of feeling marginalization and fear also have ~~also~~ been a reason of accelerating religious radicalism. Moreover, the insecurities and identity crisis, due to rampant globalisation, in humans have encouraged religious extremism. Furthermore, the socio-economic disparity creates a sense of deprivation in human beings and historical grievances among the masses leads to rampant religious extremism. The people have a nature to resist change and to adapt new perspective is also leading them towards

## extremism

~~extremist groups~~. Therefore due to human nature, religious extremism is accelerating and has adverse repercussions. Firstly, the fear of escalation of violence and conflicts between various religions is a worse implication. Secondly, it contributes in polarization, creating division and mistrust between an individual with distinct religious beliefs. Thirdly, the human rights violation and abuses are increasing due because of extreme religious doctrines. In addition to this, educational activities are hindering and limiting intellectual development. Correspondingly, the economic disruption and surge in global terrorism are another fault lines of rampant religious extremism. Therefore, there is a need of making policies to promote soft power, interfaith harmony and educational advancement to subdue the adverse impacts of religious extremism. As, the sense of belongingness, fears and cognitive biases in human nature make them vulnerable to extremist narratives. It impacts the socio-economic and political fabrics of the society. Hence, by highlighting the need of critical thinking and community engagement with religious teachings to combat extremism.

Religious extremism is an ideology which is against and opposite to existing mainstream.

societal norms, values, beliefs and standards. An act of violence in the name of religion to harm others is religious extremism. On the other side, humans are vulnerable to their insecurities and fears and have an innate nature to use anything around them to secure and save them. Therefore, the nexus between religious extremism and human nature is clear that humans are using religion as a sword to save their status quo and supremacy in the world. Unfortunately, it contributes to rampant religious extremism in the world.

The cognitive biasness in human beings against other religion leads to rampant religious extremism. Cognitive biasness is a systematic <sup>process</sup> thought in human beings to simplify information processing through a filter of their own preferences and experiences. The masses are being averse to other religious perspectives and beliefs which makes them fundamentalist and radical religious pops. It is exemplified by the hindutva ideology of Hindus, prevailing in Bharat by the extremist religious Pundits to harm other religions. Hence, thinking with the lens of an individual person perspectives contributes in religious extremism.

Not only cognitive biasness, but also egoistic nature of human beings leads them towards religious fundamentalism. To use the religion as a sword to sustain their status quo brings unrest in the world. An individual person is prone to fulfil its own ambition, despite using wrong and unethical means. Like, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is using religious extreme ideology → Hindutva - Akhund Bharat - to increase its vote bank and remain in power. So, his egoistic and realist approach towards gaining power with the name of religion increases religious extremism in the world.

The individual vulnerabilities to feel fear and marginalised have also been contributing in religious rampant extremism. The innate insecurity of human nature to be marginalised leads them towards extreme interpretation of religion. Across the globe, it is a common phenomenon that the masses are insecure to other opposite religion which resulted in hostility and fundamentalism against them. It is evidenced by the increasing Islamophobia among western people, a fear of Islam, that Islamic religion will dominate their religion. Therefore, they are increasing their hostile and malign actions against Muslims and becomes a reason of rampant religious extremism across the globe.

Moreover, the cultural insecurities and identity crisis, due to globalisation, have encourage humans to be radical and increases hostile against other religion. Globalisation is basically a phenomenon of sharing culture, heritage, technology, economic and political thoughts across the boarder to increase inter connectedness. However, it many people are being skeptical towards globalisation and feel it as attacking on their identity and religious ideology. Such as, in France, the masses are feels feeling insecure to the Islamic religion because of its extreme interpretation which they see and read on social media accounts. Hence, this is how insecurity and fear of the masses lead to rampant religious extremism in the world.

Additionally, socio-economic disparity creates a sense of deprivation in human beings that leads to rampant religious extremism. The division among the actors, across the world, over economic opportunities and social development induce hatred against other actors. The huge disparity between western and north and south contributes in increasing hostility, which leads to religious extremism against other masses, in the deprived class. It is exemplified by the Jihadist organizations manifestoes and ideologies that



West is cleaving their culture and identity using imperialistic policies. Therefore, such north-south gap brings religious narrative and extremism.

likewise, the historical grievances among human beings contribute to the rise of extremist movement. Grievances in the history basically means an unjust, unfairly and unequal treatment of masses. History is showing a bleak picture of injustice and unequal treatment of many religions, across the world, which is becoming a cause of rampant religious extremism on humans. Such as, the recent attack of Hamas on Israeli citizens and Houthis supporting to Hamas because of decades long unfair treatment of and Palestinians deprivation of Palestinians. Hence, historical scars are also contributing in rampant religious extremism.

Furthermore, human beings are resisting to change and learn new perspectives. It becomes a reason of rampant religious extremism. People have innate nature of dominance and resisting to change as it brings a strain on their personality and ideology. They are also averse to learn new perspective and adapt it. Currently, the masses are using their resistant trait

to attain their ~~ambi~~ radical ambitions. Such as, Afghan Taliban are extreme interpreter of Islamic teachings and making fundamental policies for Afghani women and ~~aversion~~ to adapt changing dynamics of the world. Hence, it makes ~~their~~ women frustrated and manifested Islam as radical religion in front of the world.

The rampant religious extremism due to human nature has adverse repercussions on the world peace. Firstly, it contributes in escalation of violence and conflict between various religious or ethnic groups. Extremism, in the name of religion, leads to increase violence in the society. Due to increasing religious extremism, the uneducated masses become violent and intolerant towards other ethnic groups, a worse implication of it is manifested by the Muslim crisis and violence on them in, Rohingya, is a contemporary example. Hence, human nature is itself becomes a suffering for other humans in the world.

Secondly, polarization is increasing, creating divisions and mistrust between individuals with different religious beliefs. Polarization is an act of division and differing opinions over religion beings unrest in the world. In contemporary times,

It is clearly witnessing that the world is divided on religious fault lines. It becomes is becoming violent and challenging with the increasing day and years. The recent attack on Christian community and murder of an individual person in Pakistan is a clear illustration of polarization in the name of religion. Hence, such implications of rampant religious extremism are evidenced across the world.

Thirdly, human rights violation and abuses are escalating because of extreme religious doctrines. People, in different regions, are experiencing adverse abuses and violation due to politically motivated policies which becomes a nightmare for the masses. In 21st century, the world is witnessing a genocide and, violation and human rights abuse just because of their extreme doctrines. Such as, Muslims genocide in Jammu and Kashmir by India, because of considering Kashmir issue as bilateral matter and Indians claim that there are jihadist and terrorists living in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, such are worse impacts of rampant religious extremism due to human nature.

Also, the educational activities are hindering which limit the intellectual and

Critical thinking development. It is due to religious extremism and biased cognitive perspective among human beings. Currently, there are huge masses and policymakers who are against advance education because of their perspective that it vanishes their religious beliefs and norms. In Boko Haram's case, masses are against the western education in Nigeria because of the identity crisis issues. Hence, as a result, they are hindering the critical thinking and give rise to radical masses.

In addition to this, there is a surge in global terrorism as well because of hindering quality and advance education to impart religious tolerance in the masses. Global terrorism is an act of cooperation and making alliances among various terror groups in the name of religion to disrupts the world peace. The rampant religious extremism is further fueling the fire of extremist against various groups. The 9/11 attack by Al-Qaeda is a manifestation of global terrorism by using the name of religion and labelling this attack as Jihad against violator of Islam. Therefore, extremism is going globally due to internal conflicts and rifts over religion.

Last but not least, economy is also affecting due to rampant religious extremism across the globe. The investors are hesitating to invest in conflict prone region with the fear of loss. In contemporary times, economy is a new sword and tool to use against the enemy. However, the rampant religious extremism is disrupting this progress and advancement of the state. Such as, the alerts of various states to their foreign envoys in Pakistan because of the surge in terror attacks in Islamabad in the mid of 2023. Hence, it fears the foreign investors and the economy of Pakistan becomes fragile.

As, everybody knows, every challenge has a solution, so the solution to rampant religious extremism are numerous. The authorities need to work on promoting their soft power to reduce the religious extremism caused by human nature. Soft power is a tangible and practical approach to stand the country in the global landscape. It can be done by introducing social media campaigns and using film industry to promote peaceful side of various religions. Such as, Korean and Chinese film industries are pursuing to promote peace and serenity by displaying peaceful religion.

Therefore, there is no state against the Chinese religion.

~~The world~~ Along with promoting soft power, interfaith dialogue and understanding of each other religion is also pertinent to subdue the religious extremism. Interfaith harmony is an act of pursuing dialogues among various religions to promote serenity among the masses. Currently, due to prevailing globalisation, it is easy to spread the interfaith dialogue and religious teachings using technology to bring religious tolerance across the world. To reduce Islamophobia, the Muslim scholars can initiate dialogues and exchange of talks with Jewish and Christian pops to harmonise relations. Hence, it is a need of hour to purpose interfaith dialogue.

Education can also contribute and helps in curbing the menace of religious extremism due to human nature. Investing in quality education to propagate religious sensitive education in masses ~~to make~~ It makes human nature a smooth and induces tolerance in them for other religion. Resultantly, humans are able to distinguish between

extreme and actual interpretation. It can be materialized by using 'Malala Fund's and educational activities' to promote advance and religious education among children to build great future leaders. Hence, education can be used as a catalyst to reduce religious extremism.

Community engagement and diversification are also becoming a source of inducing religious tolerance. Community engagement is an act of making a group of diverse religion and the masses from various beliefs. Currently, to reduce religious extremism diversification diversifying the perspectives and ideas will help the human to build tolerance against various religions. Saudi's program - A new dawn - in its vision-2023 is can be materialized at global level to engage communities to share their diverse opinions and remedies to help curb the religious extremism. Hence, it is a workable solution to operationalise for the sake of world peace and prosperity.

In quiescence of above discussion, human nature is playing a

major role in increasing religious extremism in the world. Their cognitive biasness, egoistic nature and fear of being marginalized fueling the fire. It has diverse impacts as well, the violation, conflicts and economic disruption is burgeoning which brings unrest in the world. Hence, by adopting soft power, pursuing true interpretation of religion can allviate the menace of religious burgeoning religious extremism from the world. Lets hope for the initiatives to be operationalise for prevailing peace and serenity in the globe.

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