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## CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS BASE POLITICS AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON VALUE EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASSAM

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### Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to show how religious base politics badly affects our human society as a whole. Whatever political party may be if it is guided by religion and religious master like people, the ultimate result is dirty politics. The present scenery of India in general and Assam in particular makes it clear that if the political party run by religious leaders are not tolerating, in the same vein of heinous acts, they can inflict harm to other religious people or sub-caste. What daily media expressed is that few of members of a particular political party followed by a particular religion lynching or torture both physically and mentally and even killed other religious people or lower caste people. In a sense religious base politics invites communal riots is unethical and immoral. It goes beyond the concept of democracy and human society. Equally, it degrades moral value in education. It based on religion is a dogma rather than wisdom.

**Keywords:** Education, Ethical, Politics, Religion, Value.

### Introduction

It would not be an exaggeration if we claim that in the last part of the twentieth century religious base politics has been extremely grown up in India. Unlike the past, it is a big threat to national harmony, integrity and value education or wisdom to a great extent. Politics based on religion not only change the mindset of the students but also exterminate humanity and ultimately turn down the value education. It is worthy to note that a number of religions are there in the world. None of them is superior, i.e., is scientifically true over the others. Value education treated for shaping to human being, national unity, work responsibility, judgment and beautiful life and many more. The key concept of value education is the attainment of truth, beauty and goodness. But contemporary politics in India in general and Assam in particular based on religious ideology and thereby separate out the value education. This is the reason why this paper will be more beneficial for future generation, i.e., young generation. Moral conduct, good personality, work efficiency, trust, respect, discipline, quality judgment, punctuality, coordination, reliability, reality justification, liberal thinking, secular approach etc. are main objectives of value education. But an extreme religious base politics ruled out value education in that it based on orthodox ideology and emotional practice.

Value education makes man ego free and crying for humanity. By contrast, religious base politics are egoistic and gives priority to the particular religious people. In this sense religious base political party is bias for religion is based on dogma hinges communal clash among different classes of human society. Nobody can deny that the ongoing clash between Hindu and Muslim in the name of food is eating beef is the outcome of religious base politics.

### Contemporary politics in India

India is a democratic country and parliamentary form of government. India has a good composition with various caste, color, creed, language, community, religion. In short, India is multicultural. The proud of India is unity in diversity. We the Indians are proud to be citizens of the world's largest democracy and see it as a precious national accomplishment. Indeed, democracy has become such an indelible part of nation's political consciousness, that despite the disillusionment with "politics as usual"<sup>i</sup> most Indians continue to maintain a deep philosophical commitment to democracy and embrace the fundamental democratic idea. After independence, India gradually increases communal politics and become a threat to democracy of India. Here it is worth mentioning that some Hindu likeminded fundamentalist political leader formed a political party namely "Bhartiya Jana Sangh," formed in 1951 by Syama Prasad Mukherjee<sup>ii</sup>. After the State of Emergency in 1977, the Jana Sangh merged with several other political parties to form the Janata Party; it defeated the incumbent Congress party in 1977 general election. After three years in power, the Janata party dissolved in 1980 with the members of the erstwhile Jana Sangh reconvening to form the BJP. Although initially unsuccessful, winning only two seats in the 1984 general election, it grew in strength on the back of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Following victories in several state elections and better performances in national elections, the BJP became the largest party in the parliament in 1996. However, it lacked a majority in the lower house of Parliament, and its government lasted only 13 days.



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After the 1998 general election, the BJP-led coalition known as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) under the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed the government that lasted for a year. Following fresh elections, the NDA government, again headed by Vajpayee, lasted for a full term in office. This was the first non-Congress government. In the 2004 general election, the NDA suffered an unexpected defeat, and for the next ten years the BJP was the principal opposition party. Long time Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi led it to a landslide victory in the 2014 general election. Since that election, Mr. Modi has led the NDA government as Prime Minister and as of February 2019, the alliance governs 18 states. Accordingly, in 2019 the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election 303 seats are won out of 543 and got 37.46% vote. Under the BJP government 28% communal incidents increased within three years (2014- 2017) and day to day increasing the rate communal cash and trying to established Hindu religious nation. Here it is important to point out that 2016 Citizenship Amendment Bill enacted 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This act is for illegal migrants of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian religious minorities, who had fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before December, 2014. What it reveals that this act includes all except Muslim migrants. Thus, nobody can deny that this act is an act that first time overtly uses the term religion as the criterion for citizenship. Quite truly, it goes beyond Indian constitution.

An important example of bad deeds of religious base political party is recent attacked on Muslim in Delhi, total forty-six people have been killed, more than 250 injured and four mosques set on fire in the sectarian violence in Delhi that coincided with President Trump's visit to India according to media. Media said that the violence which lasted over three days and nights and was mostly directed to Muslims in northeastern areas of Delhi was not surprising before the government. A number of scholars are of the opinion that over the past six years the present honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his colleagues or Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party entirely, their armies as well as a few of social media, i.e., television news channeled. have consistently been building an atmosphere of hatred, suspicion and violence toward India's Muslim minority. As a matter of fact, the programmed in Delhi follows in the wake of the discriminatory citizenship law that Mr. Modi's government passed in December. Indians, especially Muslims, have been protesting the law and 19 people were killed when protests broke out in the neighboring state of Uttar Pradesh which is run by the B.J.P. government.

In recent elections in Delhi, BJP ran a dangerously sectarian campaign. Many BJP leaders equated the protests against the citizenship law with treason and called for the murder of protesters. The B.J.P. lost the Delhi elections and the protests continued. On Feb. 23, Kapil Mishra, a leader of the B.J.P., incited mobs in northeast Delhi to remove a group of Muslim women who were holding a sit-in and blocking a road to protest the citizenship law. Similar behavior by the Delhi police was visible before last week's violence. Media state that on January 30<sup>th</sup>, a gunman fired on protesters at Shaheen Bagh in southeast Delhi. Photographs and videos from the site show an armed man facing the protesters, leisurely taking his aim as lackadaisical Delhi policemen stand and watch in the background.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020, more than 50 masked people with armed, rods, sticks and acid attacked the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and injured more than 39 students and teachers. Many students received serious injuries. Professors, who tried to intervene and protect the students, as well as ambulances carrying injured individuals, were attacked. Eyewitnesses stated that police within the campus did not intervene to stop the mob. After attacking residents of the university campus for three hours, the mob escaped; none of its members was arrested or detained. All 36 students who were injured and admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS) were discharged within 24 hours. Eyewitnesses, including students injured in the attack, as well as opposition parties and left-wing organizations, accused the members of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) student wing, AkhilBharatiyaVidyarthiParishad (ABVP) of orchestrating the attacks.

The Congress-backed NSUI has alleged that newly elected Delhi University Students' Union President, 2019-2020 DUSU election Ankiv Baisoya of RSS-affiliated ABVP, had submitted fake BA certificate to gain admission in the varsity. Contemporary political propoganda is not positive for the national unity and economic development. Political issues are going on only for religious base, no constructive role for young generation of India. All of the above hinges how many ways value-based education going down day by day due to religious base politics.

### Religious base politics and value education

We have elsewhere mentioned that religious base politics grounded on orthodox religious ideology can emotionally blackmail and wash the human mind. As a result, young fall down and thereby losses their rationality as they emotionally and dogmatically involve themselves in particular religious faith. Similarly, some of the Medias favors and encourages religious base rigid politics. Precisely speaking, some party base IT cell always working in the social media for religious base issues and propagate the editing news hinges communal riots is very harmful for value education in contemporary education. Contemporary Indian politics are trying to date back to the necked culture of barbarian era. As social and rational animal human beings are opting for peaceful life via



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creative thinking and effective works. Here is the relevance of moral education makes man social via love, affection, kindness, forgiveness etc. Morally good conduct implies value of life and thereby builds harmony among us. Finally, man make himself patriotic advocate classless, clash-less human society where there is peace, harmony and integrity.

### Religious politics and its negative impacts on value education especially in Assam

Education system is a system that interlinked with our cultural heritage on one hand and economic and scientific development on the other hand. Its universal outlook leads to the banishment of all evil influences may they be superstitions, hatreds or intolerance. Education is an umbrella concept that makes world one human world for the establishment of a global civilization. Unlike present day state, we can hope one global government in future when the differences of east and west would perish and values of like would be universalized. According to John Dewey, “Value primarily means to prize, to esteem, to apprise to estimate.”<sup>iii</sup> It means the act of cherishing something, holding it dear and also acts of passing judgment upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else. Values are practiced by education is considered as soul of the nation. Values are guiding principles of life. Inculcation of desirable values is felt necessary through education makes man morally fit for society as a whole. This is where the necessity of value-based education.

Cultural values need to be identified for standard curricula all over the country. Thus, value education should be imparted compulsory up to the high school level. Evaluation of value education should be routine one and it should be based upon the daily observations of students by teachers, peers and should be monitored by administrator and by the parents. In value education man is the object and it is said moral is caught and not taught. Therefore, the person inculcating moral values must be of very high moral standard. By contrast, religious rigidity always considered as a barrier of value education. Sometimes political party used religion as a weapon. Every religion has some moral value. In fact, religious base politics always used religion as a banner for their own benefits and so there is no place of value education. In Assam lot of clashes, communal riots are still going on by name of religious politics. For example, citizenship Amendment Act-2019 implemented in Assam only for religious politics according to intellectuals. Present day Assam political campaigners insist on religion rather than development. Even the present-day government of Assam added few chapters on fake histories and communal drama in the text books of different classes. So, untimely value education has been degrading in Assam. Even some well-educated person involves in communal speech and false statements before media makes division among human society. All this hinges how religious base communal politics spread out in Assam in particular and India in general. Here we can name Rupa Rani Bhuyan, Nabajit Das Hazarika, Jayanta Mohan Das, Deep Hindu, Dhanjit Das and many more who spread out communal speech before social medias. However, they are arrested by the police. Despite the fact, we are crying for secular political environment is essential for the national unity and harmony is possible via positive and sympathetic attitude of the ruling government to all and value education, otherwise not. Value education claims all are equal in the eye of the law.

### Suggestions for Improvement of ‘Value Education’

- Values need to be imbibed among children by parents in terms of respecting fellow human beings/environment/plants and animals etc.
- Children should be taught about the dignity of labour and make them self-dependent and responsible for their deeds.
- Value education should be embedded with School curriculum.
- Materialistic and capitalistic trend should be curbed or discouraged from school days and core discipline of behaviour needs to be encouraged.
- School teachers need to play a key role to shape the behaviour of children by imparting what is morally good and what is morally bad and so on.

### Findings of the paper

1. This paper mainly focuses on the concept of contemporary politics in India in general and Assam in particular.
2. Religion base politics always threat to value education.
3. Political party, if any, followed by religion makes man emotional and thereby blackmailing the people in general and young generation in particular.
4. Religious base politics emphasizes orthodox believe system and inflict harm secularism.
5. Religious base politics is worst for value education entirely.

### Remedial Measure

1. Educated people should aware the contemporary political approach. It should be justified with the rational viewpoints.
2. Religious base political party should be given good bye through the judicial system.



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- 3.Place judicial activism so much important in a democratic country.
- 4.Voter should be aware during the time of election. Their voting power should be free from political pressure or threat.
- 5.Government should implement secular law and order for all the citizens of India so that they can enjoy fundamental rights and duties in a better and easier way.
- 6.Educational institutions should be free from politics.
- 7.Importance of value education should be compulsory paper for college and universities.

## Conclusion

In view of the above it can be said that no one can evade the importance of value education. Unless there is value-based education, how could anyone make democratic government is secular and equal for all. Religious base politics makes division among us. It has disastrous impact on society. Here the government deviates from particular community, caste and so on thereby beak down unity of the people. Thus in a nutshell, it can be said that political party or government influenced by religion destroy social peace entirely. Religious base politics is a big challenge and threat to value education as well as nation too. It ignores the ideology of humanity, secularism and actual meaning democracy. Therefore, political parties should be free from religion. There is no priority of any religious faith before political party or parties or government. Thus, value education is an amicable solution to overcome political nuisance.

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