

Analyze the Importance of Historical Religious Monuments of Malwa Region in Punjab

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Abstract

Religious Monuments affect every aspect of society. A monument is usually connected with three aspects religiously, socially and culturally. It is built in memory of a person or associated with it or connected to a history or culture related to society. In society, people of every religion, caste and creed live there, in which the rituals ranging from birth to death are related to the religion related to them. In the community, every religion has to be connected in some form. These buildings are the path to union with religion and are seen as the visual source of religion. These buildings have great importance to religious, economical, Spiritual and social aspects in society.

Keywords: *Religious Monuments, Social, Multi-Cultural*

Introduction

A monument is usually connected with three aspects religiously, socially and culturally. It is built in memory of a person or associated with it or connected to a history or culture related to society. The word 'Monument' comes from the Greek word Mnemasynon and the Latin word Moneo, Monere, which means 'To Remind', 'To Advise' or to 'to warn'.

In northern India there are many stories in the history of the Punjab province. Here many kings have shown generosity for the Punjab and have left their deepest impression through the monuments. The land of the Punjab is the land of the Gurus. In this province there are people of every religion and have become numerous monuments associated with the customs and rituals associated with their religions and great personalities which are the priceless treasures of the history of Punjab. These monuments make the past and the future rich with the history of Punjab as well. This historic religious monument is a sign of the common good of the people of Punjab. These monuments make Punjab history unique in the world. Their importance is not only of religious but also of particular importance to social, economic and cultural aspects. Explain this importance in detail with:

1. Spirituality in Public Realm:

Religious monuments have important status in society and are an integral part of society. People living in the society engage with worldly interaction, while living in the world. A person living in a society makes many mistakes and runs on wrong paths. There are ways to stay away from popular prejudices in the society and to connect with God.

2. Sacred Space in a multicultural community:

Every people, religion, people live in Punjab. Many people have different rituals that are related to religion in some form or the other. These differences are also found in their kinship. Among the multicultural people, these monuments are kept sacred. Of course, people belong to different castes and religions. But they are dependent on one another. They respect all religions and castes which increases the religious and social tolerance among the people. They somehow portray the holiness of one another's religious places in some form.

3. Visual source of analyzing the History of Punjab:

The land of Punjab is very deeply religious. Those religious monuments have become religiously. The history of the monuments is still known to the people of Punjab even after hundreds of years. For example, the main wall in Sirhind where Guru Gobind Singh's younger Sahibzadas were confiscated. Even today, the wall makes up the history of the day. These monuments are a visible source of the history of Punjab. Religious places have important places in the goldsmiths.

4. Represent the style of Indian art and Culture:

Religious festivals are the finest specimens of art and literature. The structure of the these monuments shows the ancient history. The most important thing is that many of the best paintings and crafts in design are combination of multicultural literature. People in the Punjab region have shown their artistic and interests. At the same time, there is a change in the art of these buildings.

5. Connected with the religious feeling:

Religion affects every aspect of human life and human being fulfills all the responsibilities in their life, follow these customs rules of life through they connect with these monuments. These feelings are related to religion.

6. Playing important role in bussiness of Punjab:

These monuments contribute to the trade of Punjab. Many temples, mosques, dargahs and gurdwaras are associated with important historical events and are the finest specimens of art. Many foreign travelers have to travel around some places. The central point of the tourism formation is that these buildings also become part of the people's earnings.

7. **Spreading Education:**

These monuments are playing important role in spreading education in society. Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) is running many schools and colleges which impart higher education to students. Many colleges are opened by these institutions for girls so that they may develop themselves after getting education and play their role in development of society. A building for school is constructed on ten acres of land given charity by some Gurdwaras. Such institutions are giving opportunities to children's so as to develop themselves by getting education. These educational centres attained admirable achievements in academic, cultural, sports, youth festivals and religious fields. s contribute in fields of education to eradicate illiteracy from society. Muslim children are given education of Urdu by Mosques and Dargahas. Mother tongue of Punjab is Punjabi and most of educational institute provides education of Punjabi to students. But Urdu is not taught by any institute is Punjab. Less population of Muslims is main reason for it. Students associated with Muslim families are given Urdu education free of cost. After giving basic knowledge of Urdu they are taught how to read Quran and other holy books. Sanskrit, astrology etc education are providing by Hindu Temples also.

8. **Social Development:**

These monuments also play important role in development of society. During religious occasions messages are given by these monuments to establish harmony and unity in society. The rituals associated with human life from birth till death motivates him to become a civilized and cultured human being. The faith in religion of a human being stops him from doing immoral functions. It helps them to remain away from social evils and helps in development of human life.

9. **Skill development centre:**

Classes for small courses such as stitching etc. are organized in buildings constructed in these monuments. These courses are generally related with girls. The girls consider it to be their fortune to attain education from such common and religious place. Many girls are running their own business after attaining training from there.

10. **Common Platform:**

These monuments provide common platform to people whenever conflict arises or people quarrels with one another. Their problems are solved by meeting at these places. The decision of common conclusion of villages and cities are taken at religious building. The planning's regarding development of villages or cities are done in these places which is acceptable to all. The functions of happiness and sadness are performed at religious place and are attended by all people.

11. **Association with History:**

Sikh religion originated and flourished on the land of Punjab. Sikh religion has a great contribution to the land of Punjab. Its history includes every kind of sacrifice of spiritual aspects. Historical and religious buildings are constructed on the land of Punjab where Sikh guru visited during their life time.

These buildings associates people with their history and that how Gurus preached people during their

pilgrims, how they removed pains of people and also tells about the difficulties they have to face. People feel proud of their history. This history fills them with inspiration to do hard work, not to bewilder and to remain in will of god. Hindu and Muslim religious monuments also have great stories with their devotee and god, goddess.

12. Helpful in removing social evils:

Works and activities of these institutions help in eradicating evils from society. When a person becomes follower of Sikhism by being baptized he becomes free from the bonds of castism and racism. He has to make some promises before Guru Granth Sahib. He will not use any intoxicants, will not perform any immoral work, will always move on the paths of truthfulness, will follow preaching's of Gurus. The lives of many people have been changed after becoming followers of Sikhism. Such people try to remain away from evils. Same as devotee of Hindu and Muslim religion people try to live simple living and have great moral value.

13. Social Equality:

These religious institutions play important role in bringing social equality apart from social unity. Discrimination of caste and race is often found in society. Any person belonging to lower caste can attain status of equality after being baptised. The Sikhs of Gurus are given status of equality irrespective of the caste to which they belong. Gurdwaras are playing important role in bringing equality in society.

14. Social Unity:

Gurdwaras are biggest example of establishing social unity. Anybody without any discrimination of caste, color or religion can go to Gurdwara following dignity. They can eat in Kitchen and can live in Inns without any discrimination. Community Kitchen of Sikhs is famous in whole world. This example of social unity is not found in any corner of world. People of Punjab belong to any religion can go any religious monuments without discrimination. They are treated equally.

15. Teaches Life Style:

The holy books related to every religion which are part of these monuments tell us about qualities and truths of human life. These tell us about how to spend a human life and what should be our life style. It is explained through their teaching during religious functions and daily in some monuments. Human life is given direction through biography of Gurus, great religious personalities and followers of god, goddesses. Their life style becomes helpful in imparting healthy direction to society.

Summary

On the basis of discussion, it can be said that there are religious buildings belonging to Hindus, Muslims and Sikh religion in the Malwa region of Punjab province. These buildings provide the tuning to society with its precautions. These buildings provide the protection of religious Gurus, god and goddess and Pirs. These buildings have important places in every aspect of human life. In the every religious monument, people of every religion, caste and creed are seen. They are also socially and culturally influential. These are special sources related to the arts and crafts of Punjab's history. Punjab's history is kept in its own right and the people of Punjab are associated with rich history.

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