

SUFI SAINTS OF INDIA: ROLE IN NATION BUILDING.

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of the study is to find out one more theory or apparatus for Nation Building through Sufi teachings. The teachings of Sufis should be encouraged in today's time to combat terrorism, extremism, anti social and national ideologies. The teachings of Sufi saints would be very helpful in enlightening the youth to follow the path of peace and humanity and at the same time would also restrain from all acts of terrorism. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi praised and promoted Sufi ideologies for nation building during 'World Sufi Conference'. He stated, "Sufism is the voice of peace, compassion and equality. At the time when a dark shadow of violence is becoming longer, Sufism is the light of hope, the voice that heals."

Key Words: Sufism, Nation Building, National Integration, India, Sufi Saints.

INTRODUCTION

India is always been a land of Sufis, Darwaishes and Rishi Munnies. If we look at the vast history Sufism, we come across the illuminating galaxy of Sufi Saints, who for many centuries together played a significant role in the service of mankind at various crucial periods of this historical vicissitudes. They are apolitical in nature but their teachings and theories can be used in nation building and combating extremism.

India is a multi religious, cultural and lingual nation. Although she is defined in 'unity in diversity' but it's not easy task to hold her together as a united India. Though there were many people and ideologies who worked tirelessly for the Nation Building and better society. Similarly, there is small group of Sufis who spent their whole life in serving people of India. These Sufis are the follower and practitioner of Sufism. These Sufis dived deep into the "divine mysteries" of the spiritual world and although their teachings were strictly based upon the tenets of Islam but in essence they invariably coincide with the fundamental principles and the noble teachings of other great spiritual leaders of the world. Their motto of life was "love towards all, malice towards none." A very sacred pledged aiming at the destruction of ill will and sin among mankind. Their preaching's showing the right path of happiness and salvation to mankind without any discrimination any cast and creed. They promoted and protected social equality, social justice and social harmony. They have rendered invaluable services not only in building up but also in polishing and preserving the moral, spiritual, social, cultural and even political behavior and character of the people fighting courageously the eternal battle of religion against uncontrolled, unbalanced and extremists materialism.

SUFISM

Sufism is a science of purifying the heart or inner self. It is the process of realizing ethical and spiritual ideals. Sufism also teaches us how to train mind and commanding our own body for salvation. Sufism has contributed significantly to the elaboration of theoretical perspectives in many domains of intellectual endeavor. The Arabic word *tasawwuf*, generally translated as Sufism, is commonly defined by western authors as Islamic mysticism. In 18 century, the word Sufism was originally introduced into European languages by Orientalist scholars, who viewed it mainly as an intellectual doctrine with the sterile monotheism of Islam.

Sufis teachings helps the seeker to turn away from sins, love of this world, the love of company and renown, obedience of satanic impulses, and promptings of the lower self. The seeker must also be trained to prevent the corruption of those good deeds which have accrued to his or her credit by overcoming the traps of ostentation, pride, arrogance, envy, and long hopes and practices, while attractive to some, are not means for gaining knowledge.

The Sufism inculcates and promotes the values of love, harmony, universal brotherhood and social justice. Their belief is serving mankind is serving God. Their mission is to serve people with love for the sake of Allah (God). The spiritual orientation of Sufism only sought to refine the "consciousness of the divine, intensify piety and inculcate a humanistic attitude.

Indian Sufis Historical Background - Sufis has a history in India evolving for over 1000 years. Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti, also known as khawaja Garib Nawaz introduced and established the Sufi order in the India. He came to India in 11 century and settled down in Ajmer. He served people of India throughout his life with love and compassion.

Sufis had no political inspirations or worldly benefits. They always engage in finding and spreading knowledge and believe in equality of mankind irrespective of their religion n region. Their mission is to serve people with love for the sake God. They built khanaqas (school, lodge, community centre, dormitory, common kitchen for all) all over India, where all the people had excess for getting education, lodging or having food without paying any money, that drew people from all faiths and all corners of the nation. They bridged the gap between different faiths and bought them on single platform of humanity and love.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The primary objective is to find out more theory or apparatus for Nation Building through Sufi teachings.

The teachings of Sufis should be encouraged in today's time to combat terrorism, extremism, anti social and national ideologies. Sufism is an antidote of all these evil ideologies. The teachings of these Sufi Saints would be very helpful in enlightening the youth to follow the path of peace and humanity and at the same time would also restrain from all acts of terrorism.

Sufism is not a political movement but its preaching's can be used for national interest. The second objective is this research to promote National integration and identify the role of Sufism in promoting and achieving national integration and peace. Create awareness towards positive living with understanding the Nationalism and its values. As great Indian Sufi poet Ameer Khusru had liberal attitude towards both Hindus Muslims and other religions too. He inculcated a feeling of patriotism among public through his poems and literacy work.

In many parts of the world, there is uncertainty about the future and how to deal with it as nations and societies. These are precisely the times that the world is most vulnerable to violence and conflicts.

These are just a few of many examples of the serious concern about the country's very sensitive issues like rise in communal misbalance, extremism and terrorism. It is a constant threat and it would violate national integrity. Well study will also help in finding out the new theory or doctrine for combating radicalization.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A brief review of the literature to the present study is detailed as follows: Book entitled by "Big Five in Sufism", by W.D Begg presents a wonderful account of Sufi teachings and practices. He also describes in detail its relevance for today's issues and their impact.

The book "winds of grace, compiled by Vraje Abramian. Collection of Sufi stories, teachings and poetry. Book "Winds of grace" is a fresh and extensive collection that will both instruct and encourage individual on the path of love, peace and humanity. In a book Sufi Encounters: sharing the wisdom of enlightened Sufis, by Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri and Munnera Haeri, has an unparalleled exploration of Sufism as its practiced globally. Ultimately, this book acts as a guide to the Sufi path and offers wise insight into the meaning and purpose of life. The Sufi Book of like, Author by Saadi shakur chisti, the Sufi path described in this book leads the seeker past ordinary states of consciousness towards a new experience of infinitude that is the source of the universe. In this stage there is no duality or otherness.

The book From Mosques to Khanqahs: the origin and rise of Sufism and Sufi institutes, by Spahic Omer. This book critically examines the themes of the evolution of Sufism and Sufi institutions and their impact on society. The Article Political Disfunctionalism: the problem of nation building in India, by Vinod Khobragade. He gave a account of changing circumstances on which our nation is facing plenty of disrupting various anti social elements and the ideologies clashes. Also described how Indian nation is struggling to maintain its unity and integrity. It's Not Just Academics! An essay on Sufism and Islamic Studies is a collection of Carl W Ernst's previously published work on basic and critical issues relating to study of Islam.

One more article titled, "Sufism" by James J Ellias, vol.31, published in Iranian studies, 1998. In this writer presents Sufism as is one of most dynamic and interesting dimensions of Islamic religious and Cultural Expression. In article the politics of nation building: problems and preconditions by Arnold Rivkin, Describes the problems and causes of nation building. He also draws an attention towards national integration as the important element in nation building and how it should be achieved.

It is noted that a good number of manuals on Sufism and national integration, particularly the teachings relating to the peace, Integration and Nationalism are available. Similarly there are several seminar reports on the subject and relating issues.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The descriptive-analytical methods adopted for research. The empirical methods also are used. Relevance of Sufi Saints teachings in nation building with the perspective of National Integration in India has been analyzed and described.

FINDINGS

India is the country of much diversity. We speak different languages, have various types of food, celebrate different festivals, and practice different religions. But actually, if we have thought about it, we do many things that are similar except that we do many things that are similar except that we do them in different ways.

India's diversity has always been known as a source of its strength, during freedom movement women and men apart from diverse backgrounds came together to oppose them. They all fought with single motto of freedom and together won the battle. This past remind us the glory of our bond and how united we were despite of diversities. Unfortunately there are some elements like Regionalism and Religion Extremism are swiftly dividing us. Some anti social and anti nationals groups and ideologies has been come into existence, who is constantly trying to create differences among masses. Now the major challenge remains as to how to reconcile identify and difference in plural society like India.

Sufism or Sufi teachings can be used as the measure for national integration and peace. Sufism would also be important as it helps us understand more than a few aspects of life or we can say Sufism showed us the path of spiritual life based on honest and ethical values unfettered by dogmatic conformity and ceremonial piety. All Great Sufi Saints emphasized universal brotherhood and communal harmony, messages which remain as urgent today as ever.

Hazrat Ameer Khusrau, was the great Sufi poet and patriot of India. He was the founder of Urdu, the second official language of India. His love for India is proven by his literately work. He played a very vital role in National Integration. He bridged the gap between Hindus, Muslims and other religions too he also brought them closer to each other. He provided a connecting link between two great communities in India. He made Urdu from the terms of Sanskrit, Hindi and Persian. This new approach to the language problem which was a hindrance to the establishment of closer ties between Hindus and Muslims, who spoke Hindi and Persian respectively, was easily solved by Ameer Khusrau.

CONCLUSION

Being Indian we have a responsibility not only to ourselves, our religion, family and society but also to our country. Today India is a largest democracy matter of pride for us. It is amazing feeling that India is “one” despite tremendous diversity. The cultural, religious, regional and social differences are to be accepted as the basic fact of life and the issue of identity is to be understood as a social democratic issue for a nation to be integrated. But in spite of this fact, some groups have been emerged who are the biggest threat to our Nations Peace, integrity communal harmony. These groups are extremist on religious, regional and cultural grounds. They are spreading terror and hatred among the masses and trying to weaken our Nation Building.

In this struggle, the Sufis have always come over successfully over evil; their teachings cannot and should not be ignored by us at present times, mainly and religious values are deteriorating under the violent impact of anti national elements, unsocial ideologies and bad political policies. It is pity, intoxicated by the hatred, anti nationalism and communalism. Human is going astray from the right path.

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