

Preface

Recently, study of religion in social context has become very relevant all over the world. Religion, being a factor of culture, is a continuous growth and influences from past to present give form and colour to the spiritual consciousness of man. Religion seems to be one of the most powerful, intensely felt, and influential forces in human society since it provides a foundation for the consciousness of value. It has shaped people's relationship with one another influencing family, community, economic and political life. Hence it is worthwhile to study religion from social perspective in this contemporary world.

In India religion is understood as "Dharma" which has been conceived as that which maintains or sustains human society and the world. Dharma sustains human society in the sense that it governs the conduct and behaviour of the people and thus maintains order and balance in society. Radhakrishnan considers "Dharma" to be a word of protean significance which explains that it is the concept under which the Hindu brings the forms and activities which shape and sustain human life.

The proposed thesis is an attempt to study critically the socio-religious thought of S. Radhakrishnan. His social philosophy is wholly pervaded by religious ideals and values. According to him, religion in the true sense has a positive role in the resolutions of problems rooted in the complexity of modern society. Radhakrishnan holds that the gap between man and man can't be bridged on the ground of a theory which formulates objectives and means of social development in terms of science and technology alone. Radhakrishnan talks about the ideals of establishment of a world community based on the universal moral order. True religion will bring people of the world close to one another. A socio-political system based on the philosophy of spirit is an open system in the sense that it derives its force from a reality which is not exhausted by revealing itself in spacio-temporal texture. Such a philosophy has got unbounded relevance today for the contemporary society.

Proposed thesis consists of six chapters. Chapter1: Introduction. Chapter2: Approaches to religious studies. Chapter3: Radhakrishnan's conception of religion.

Chapter4: Individual and society. Chapter5: Role of religion in society. Chapter6: Summary and Conclusion.

Chapter1 contains introduction about the religion and society and the significance of religion in society with reference to present perspective of society. It also briefly highlights the Radhakrishnan's position in this regard.

Chapter2 contains different approaches of religion. In searching the role of religion in society, an attempt has been made to find out the different approaches of religion including the Radhakrishnan's approach to religion.

Chapter3 discusses Radhakrishnan's conception of religion. Different aspects Radhakrishnan's idea of religion has been discussed to highlight the social dimension of religion.

Chapter4 describes the relationship between the individual and society. Society exists in the psychical relationship among the individual. The relationship between individual and society is ultimately one of the profound of all the problems of social philosophy, Since it is more philosophical rather than sociological.

Chapter5 discusses the role of religion in society from different perspective. Particularly more emphasis has been given to S. Radhakrishnan's view in this regard critically.

Chapter6 contains the summary and conclusion of the whole chapters as well as the works, which are deduced by evaluative discussion of the different chapters. It can be concluded that, religion being an element of culture, is very much inherent in human society right from the beginning of human civilization and plays a vital role in moulding the ordered of the society.

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