

Secularism and Education

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INTRODUCTION:

- India is a democratic and secular country.
- The country does not discriminate against the followers of a particular religion.
- According to Vinoba Bhave, “ The days of religion and nationalism are gone, the days of science and spirituality have come”.
- Spirituality and good conduct must be taught in the centers of learning because of our multiracial and multi-religious society.

- The classroom instruction should not be based on one's own religion.
- When we teach Bhagavad Gita, we should also teach The Bible and The Quran.
- This will lead to the development of feeling among the students that they are living in the temple of humanity and bow down their heads before all the great teachers and preachers of the worlds without considering their differences.

SECULARISM:

- The realization of Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Mankind.
- The term secularism has been derived from the Latin word 'Seculam' meaning "this present age" or "this present generation".
- The real concept of secularism is that state shall not impose any religion on people and it should pay equal respect to all religions.

Indian Concept of Secularism:

- Mahatma Gandhi: “The soul of religion is one but it is engaged in a multitude of forms. Wise men will ignore the outward crust and see the same soul living under a variety of crusts”.
- S. Radhakrishnan: “Secularism does not mean anything irreligious or atheism even stress on materials comforts, rather it lays stress on the universality of spiritual values which may be obtained by a variety of ways”.

- B.R. Ambedkar: “All that secular state means is that this parliament shall not be competent to impose any particular religion upon the rest of the people”.
- **Article 25, 28 and 30** of the Indian constitution emphasis the concept of secularism.
- **Article 28** states that, “ No person attending any educational institution recognized by the state or receiving state funds shall be required to take part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such situation or any premises attached thereto unless such person is a minor or hid guardian has given consent thereto”.

Characteristics of Secularism:

- It treats all religions equally, though their paths of realizing their goals may be different.
- It encourages moral and spiritual values.
- It develops freedom from dogmatic ideas.
- It does not mean negation of religions but accepts that all religions have equal value.

- It implies that no religions is superior or inferior to other religions.
- Mutual co-existence of all religions without any hatred or bias against anyone.
- It implies freedom of worship.
- It encourages rational thinking and understanding.

Characteristics of Secular Education:

- Secular aim.
- Multiple curricula.
- Sincere teaching.
- Enlightened teachers.

- Moral outlook.
- Development of wider version.
- Democratic values.
- Cultural development.
- Humanitarianism.

Need of Secular Education In India:

- India is a multi religious and culturally varied society.
- Fanaticism, communalism and regionalism are on the increase.
- Equality, liberty, fraternity, national outlook and international understanding need to be propagated.
- We need secular education due to the erosion of values, narrow mindedness, selfishness etc.

- To train the youth to be good citizens.
- To inculcate in the youth social, moral and cultural values.
- To strengthen secularism and human relationship in India.
- To fulfil the requirement of democratic Indian.

THANK YOU