

India's Muslims

Social, Economic and Political Status

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Core issues for Nation Building

- India as a Nation: Political/Economic /Cultural entity.
- Economic convergence-Caste structure-*Varna* (from color)
- Cultural convergence
- The multi-ethnic State-Panchayat/ townships
- Evolution of Administrative Structure
- Evolution of Land Revenue Structure

Confluence of cultures

- **Architecture:** True Roman arch in place of tribute, the dome originating from the Roman Pantheon of Hadrian, use of mortar (lime). Adopted stone, *kalash*, inverted lotus symbol. Mughal specific: garden -Shah Jehan
- **Music:** *Raga, Sitar, Thumri, Dadra*
- **Painting:** Fresco: Ajanta, Shekhawati. Miniatures-Mughal, Rajput schools, Kangra, Mathura
- **Mughal contribution-Land Revenue System-Land records-Evolution of the multiethnic Stat**
- **Panchayat Raj system-the self sustained village.**

Taj Mahal-Mughal:17th century



India Human Development Report 2011

Income, poverty, education, employment, health:

- Muslims-Some improvement, but marginal
- Rate of growth lower than for SC/ST
- Sachar committee 2007:23.7% of Muslims in urban areas and 13.3% in rural areas poor
- 1993-4 to 2007-8-Muslim urban poverty declined 1.7 points; for SC and ST urban poverty declined by 28.2 points and 19.5 points respectively.
- Literacy 2004-5 and 2007-8 reference period: urban literacy increased (69.8% to 75.1%; rural literacy 52.1% to 63.5%). But lowest amongst other social and religious groups. Urban literacy in SC increased 8.7 points, ST 8 points.

Sachar Committee 2007-Findings

- 25% of Muslim children in the 6-14 age-groups either never went to school or dropped out.
- In no state of the country is the level of Muslim employment proportionate to their percentage in the population
- Muslim participation in professional and management cadres in the private sector is also low
- Muslims have been denied equal participation in the development process; equal access to justice in targeted violence during communal riots and identity-based discriminatory practices.

Multi-Sector Development Program (MSDP) -2008,

- Upgrading infrastructure-90 districts in 20 states with minorities of 25% or more of the population identified as minority concentration districts (MCDs).
- district-specific plans for provision of better infrastructure-schools ;secondary education, sanitation, secure housing, drinking water, electric supply; beneficiary-oriented schemes to create income-generating activities.

Failings:

- Muslims not a target group
- MSDP covers only 30% of the Muslim population of India.
- Muslims experienced exclusion by State administration in identification of areas for development, allocation and delivery mechanisms .

Ranganath Mishra Commission report (2007)

- Recommended 10% reservation for Muslims in central and state government jobs; 6% within OBC quotas for Muslim OBCs; inclusion of Muslim and Christian dalits among scheduled castes- yet to be implemented
- matriculation level in education: Muslims in general ,OBC Muslims is 20% and 40% behind national average.
- Education up to graduate level, general and OBC Muslims trail by 40% and 60% respectively.
- In employment in formal sectors, general and OBC Muslims trail the national average by 60% and 80% respectively.
- In landholdings, Muslims below national average: general Muslims: 40% , Muslim OBCs: 60%, Hindu OBCs approximately 20% .
- General and OBC Muslims poorer by 30%; 40% than national poverty level,

Institutional Arrangements

- Commissions for Minorities: National/States
- Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India
- State Departments of Minority Affairs/Welfare
- Their Effectiveness: Communal Violence; terrorist incidents
- Communal and Targeted Violence (Prevention) Bill

Muslim use of Democratic Space

Little use of the “right to dissent” thru public agitation

Rising trend among Muslims, in partnership with others, not Muslims who understand issues, taking recourse to civil society initiatives.

Political Consciousness-Elections: National; State

Section 243 (d) of the Constitution of India-
Decentralization(Panchayat Raj)

Social audit-Right to Information Act 2005

Conclusion

- Rights of equality and equal opportunity not realized
- Governments to act proactively to create conducive environment.
- Elections in the states of Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Bihar UP demonstrate increasing consciousness of political clout.
- Challenge: ensuring access to the rights available to the community under India's Constitution and laws