

Intolerance Politics in India: A Study in the context of Dadri incident

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Abstract

In this paper I have tried to explore the vision and mission of the Indian State in view of the Dadri incident. Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a right-wing Hindu nationalist paramilitary volunteer organisation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It founded on 27 September 1925 as a world largest non-governmental organisation by a doctor by named Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in the city of Nagpur. He was associated with the Hindustan Republican Association. (HRA). Initially it was founded to unify the Hindu masses for the creation of Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation). The objective of the organisation is upheld Hindu culture and Hindu civilisation. Gradually it was playing to role as an umbrella of Hindu nationalist. This organisation establishes so many schools, charities and clubs to spread its social and political ideologies.). The Bharatiya Gau Raksha Dal is a right wing Hindu nationalist organisation founded by Pawan Pandit in 2012. Before eyes of the state all religion are equal. The Dadri incident of 28 September 2015 in Bisara village near Dadri, Uttar Pradesh is started to feeling in a new way about the Hindu ideology. The critiques also criticise in various ways. That religious incident is indicated the ideology of the Indian State. The social scientists, economists' politicians' academicians, film actors and actress have opined from their own on the incident.

Keywords: RSS, Gau Raksha Dal, Secularism, Dadri, Constitution, Articles, Tolerance, Intolerance, Religion, Vedic, Literature, Murder, Politicians, Actors, Actress.

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Introduction

In this article an attempt is made to explore the tolerance and intolerance politics in India pointing out the Dadri incident. According article 48 of Indian Constitution in the Directive Principles of State Policy said that the state will protect the cow. It was the direction by the Constitutional makers towards the future leaders of India. The Hindu religion believe cow as a Gaumata. From article 25-28 of Indian Constitution inserted the right to freedom of religion by which all religious practicing people have equal religion rights and the state cannot be interfered over others religion. Before eyes of the state all religion are equal in status. The Hindu masses believe cow as Hindu God Krishna. The milk of cow is most essential nutritional meals. The milk, curd ghee, urine and dung are the components of Panchagavya. The Diary and Bhagirathi industries are consumed the Hindu culture and Brahminical rituals. The dung of cow is used for plastering the huts, urine is believed to have element of medical. Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai believed and consumed the cow urine and medical properties. Very recent the RSS chairperson Mahan Bhagavat awarded D. Lit doing research work on cow dung and urine as medical element by Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Science University on 9th March 2016. In his research work Mahan Bhagavat has shown not only the economic or financial benefit of cow but also shown that drinking the cow urine may clean the human blood, may remove the kidney diseases and may reduce the uric acid from the human body.¹

Historical Background of Cow Protection in India:

Vedic literatures recognised cows as mother. There are seven mothers like atma-mata, guroh patni, brahmani, raja-patnika, dhenu, dhatri and prithvi. The cow protection is a movement that demands to stop the cow slaughter. This movement has started from the British period and till now is ongoing process. Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj that the members of the Samaj toured across India which propagated for the protection of the cow from 1882. Arya Samaj rejected the idol worship, polytheism, child marriage, widow celibacy, caste system but accepted the cow worship. In the publication 'Gokarunanidhi' in 1881 Dayanada Saraswati strongly opposed cow slaughter. The activities of Dayanada was not anti-Muslims or anti-Islamic attitude, it was rational. In 1882, for the first time Gaurakshini Sabha (cow protection society) was established in Punjab. Its movement had spread all over North India, Bengal, Bombay, Madras and other parts of the central provinces. This Sabha save the slaughtering cow and had sent to the cow shed or gaushala. Allahabad High Court in 1888 ruled that cows are not sacred animals as defined in section 295 of the Indian penal Code and Muslim could not be held accountable for slaughtering the cow.² The cow protection movement reached at its reputational

zenith in 1893. Several meetings were held in Nagpur, Hardwar and Benares to renounce eating beef. The activists distributed leaflet, pamphlets to awareness among those who eat beef. The Muslim people of India have shown it as an instrument of oppression by the Hindu. Muslim sacrifices cow in the festival of Eid-al-Adha. The cow is a sacred animal of Hindu religion,

The Bharatiya Gau Raksha Dal:

The Bharatiya Gau Raksha Dal is a right wing Hindu nationalist organisation founded by Pawan Pandit in 2012. The cow protection and Hindutva is the ideology of this Dal. It is a volunteer organisation, not affiliated by any political party. It started campaign against killing the cow. The cow protection units all ready have been set up about 25 states. After installation the Dal is involved with numerous incidents in protesting against beef eating. This is flushed out due to anti-Muslim attitudes by militant Hindu nationalist. The weekly newspaper of RSS 'Panchjanya' published Vedic scriptures ordered the killing of "sinners" who slaughtered cows.

Dadri Incident:

On 28 September 2015 evening, two boys used the local temple's public announced that the family of Mohammad Akhlaq had killed a cow and consumed its flesh meat on Eid –Ul-Adha. Some Hindu people attacked his family on the night of 28 September 2015 in Bisara village near Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. The attackers were associated with the Bharatiya Go Rakhsa Dal. The Hindu masses carrying sticks arrived at Mohammad Akhlaq's house at around 10:30pm. The family had finished dinner and were about to go to sleep. Akhlaq and his son Danish were already asleep. The attackers woke them and accused them for consuming beef. They found some meat in the refrigerator and seized it, but the family insisted it was mutton. The several newspapers and also electronic Medias revealed the meat was mutton, not beef. The mob dragged the entire family outside and Akhlaq and Danish were repeatedly kicked, hit with bricks and stabbed. Akhlaq's elderly mother and his wife were also attacked. The family's neighbours tried to stop the mob but were not able to. The attackers killed 52-year-old Mohammad Akhlaq Saifi and seriously injured his son, 22-year-old Danish. Cows are sacred to some Hindus and in most Indian states killing them is unlawful.

Agricultural Minister of Modi's government said that cow slaughter as a "moral sin". Modi said, the nation will only prosper "when Hindus and Muslims unite and fight" against poverty instead of against each other. In against the Dadri incident several leaders from several political parties both parliament and also outside parliament including state assemblies served the beef kababs to show they are

secularists. The comments of film actress Amir Khan and Sharuk Khan created an unrest situation in India politics.

Comment of film actor Amir Khan:

Film actor Amir Khan said at the Ramnath Goenka Awards function of the Indian Express Group that “His wife Kiran Rao had asked if they should move out of the country, as she feared for the safety of their children in a climate of insecurity”. He also said that “those in power strongly condemn what’s wrong.” Actor Aamir Khan on Monday joined the outcry against intolerance, saying he was “alarmed” by a number of incidences and his wife Kiran Rao even suggested that they should probably leave the country. My wife Kiran Rao even suggested we should probably leave India,” Aamir told the audience.³

Those who spoke against Amir Khan:

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher:

Kher posed a number of questions to Khan on Twitter, and asked him to remember that “this country has made you Aamir Khan”.⁴

Raveena Tandon:

Reacting to Aamir Khan’s remarks on the “growing intolerance” in the country, she has said that people who are not happy with Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister are saying things on intolerance. “Guess all those who did not want pm Modi to become PM, want 2 bring this govt down. Sadly becoz of politics, they are shaming country,”-she tweeted

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Paresh Rawal:

He attacked superstar Aamir Khan for saying his family about “insecurity and fear”. If I believe this is my motherland then I will never talk about leaving it ...but I would if I had believed otherwise...A true patriot will not run away n leave his motherland behind in turmoil or in troubled times (if any)...don’t escape - build it.

Comment of film actor Shah Rukh Khan:

On his 50 birthday Shah Rukh Khan said to the NDTV channel that intolerance “there is extreme intolerance in India”, Shah Rukh had said, “Religious intolerance, or intolerance of any kind, is the worst thing and will take us to the dark ages...nobody has more right to live in this country than me, and I am not going to leave. So shut up.”⁶

In the 10 anniversary of ‘Rang De Basanti’ Amir Khan clarified his comment relating to ‘growing intolerance’ that some people could understand him but some are not. He is also said that he can feel of hurt person of his comment. The speech is explained with misunderstanding. He said that India is a beautiful country and

most example of unity of diversity is that his wife is a Hindu, He said his two sisters like Farhat is married to Rajeev and Nikhat is married to Santosh. Their husbands are belonging to Hindu community. He is also extended to say that his cousin Mansoor Khan has married to Catholic. His three kids are half Hindu and half Muslim. He said again that it was wrong interpretation of Medias. He continuing that 'I born in India, I will die in India, I love India'. We should follow what Prime Minister Modi said "unity of diversity is our strength". He has also mentioned that he is belonging to a freedom fighter family. He has pointed out the name of his grand uncle is Moulana Abul Kalam Azad. ⁷

Those who spoke against Shah Rukh Khan:

Kailash Vijavargiya:

"Shah Rukh lives in India, but his soul is in Pakistan. His films make crores here but he thinks India is intolerant. If this is not anti-national, then what is it?"

Sadhvi Prachi, VHP leader:

"Shah Rukh Khan is an agent of neighbouring country Pakistan as he reflects their (Pakistan's) ideology. Such a man should go to Pakistan."

Yogi Adityanath, BJP MP:

"Shah Rukh Khan should remember that if a huge mass in society would boycott his films, he will also have to wander on streets like a normal Muslim....I am saying these people are speaking in a

Manoj Tiwari, BJP MP:

"He (Shah Rukh Khan) has issued a statement when the Bihar elections are going on. He has always been close to Congress party and his closeness has been seen before as well. I consider his statement as a political comment."

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev:

"If he is a true patriot, he should return all the money he earned after winning the Padma Shri to the PM relief fund, in case he plans to return the award." ⁸

In a TV channel Shah Rukh Khan said towards the writers and film makers for their returning the national awards that "I respect those who returned awards, but I don't have to". He added that "we will never be a superpower if we are not going to believe that all religion is equal". At press conference he said "creativity is secular, creativity ke andar koi jaat paat, koi dham nahim aata hai. Kis religion ke hain, Humein kalaakaar se praar hai, na ke kahaan se aayein hain".⁹

Comment of Salman Khan:

In question to Salman Khan regarding Shah Rukh's comment on intolerance, Salman said he was not "aware" of Shah Rukh's remarks but I would like to say "my mother is Sushila Charak and father is Salim Khan."¹⁰

After incident:

After incident the police arrested the priest of the local temple from where the information was spread relating to beef eating. The FIR was filed against ten attackers which charges contained with under Sections 147(rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 458 (house breaking), and 504 (intentional insult). Out of ten eight were arrested on 1 October 2015. The local people protested against the arrest by police and they set fire on vehicles and shops. To disperse the protesters the police set the fire in the air. The Provincial Armed Constabulary of UP and the Rapid Action Force were deployed in the spot.¹¹ The priest of the temple had denied his involvement and he said that he was forced by some young men to make the announcement. He argued that he was just announced that a cow had been killed and asked the people to gather near the temple. The son (Vishal) of Sanjay Rana who is supporter of BJP was arrested in the case on 3rd October 2015. The son of Mohammad Akhlaq Mr. Danish was also admitted in Kailash Hospital in the Incentive Care Unit in the Greater Noida. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav announced and directed to the DM and Superintendent of Police of Noida of UP to make protect the concern family. Home Minister Rajnath Singh appealed to the people to maintain harmony and unity and said those try to disrupt it nobody escapes from punishment. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said this incident affects the image of the Indian state. A Union Minister of the government Mahesh Sharma said that the incident was unplanned and unfortunate. Asaduddin Owaisi a leader of All India Majlis-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen criticised against the role of state government and local BJP leaders due to insufficient action. He also criticised against the decision of police to test the meat. The elder son of Mohammad Akhlaq is an employee in Indian Air Force. Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha stated that the incident is unfortunate and they were trying to settle the concern family to an Indian Air Force near. The former Chief Minister and leader of RJD Lalu Prasad Yadav said that there is no biological difference between cow and goat. Eating of meat is not a good for health. Markandey Katju who was a Justice of Supreme Court that he eats beef does not consider cows to be sacred. He demanded fast justice and strict punishment to the attackers.¹² The author Nayantara Sahgal return her Sahitya Akademi award in protest against the Dadri incident on 6 October. After that Ashok Vajpeyi and Rahman Abbas return their awards. The Cabinet Minister of UP Azam Khan stated on 7 October that he will produce the issue at

UNO. On the 7 October, President of India Pranab Mukherjee said that said that “diversity, tolerance and plurality are the core of Indian civilisation and they kept India united for centuries”.¹³ On 8 October Modi stated that “Hindus and Muslims should fight against poverty and not against each other”.¹⁴

Conclusion

On 27 February, 2002, the incident near Godhra Station in a Sabarmati Express treated him as an anti-Muslim. Several printed newspapers, electronics Medias, and human right organisation and anti BJP political parties raised fingers against Modi government due to taking inappropriate and insufficient steps to curb the violence. In April 2009, the Supreme Court of India appointed a special Investigation Team known as SIT to enquire into the role played Narendra Modi government of Gujarat. In 2012, SIT submitted its report to the Supreme Court stating that it did not find any evidence against Narendra Modi. In a programme of book release Pranab Mukherjee said that “We can’t allow the core values of our civilisation to be wasted. The core values are that over the years, civilisation celebrated diversity, promoted and advocated tolerance, enjoyed plurality. Modi in his political address in Bihar pointed out President Mukherjee’s speech that “Mr. Mukherjee’s message is the best guidance we can get as a nation. We should follow the path shown by the President”. Modi said, the nation will only prosper “when Hindus and Muslims unite and fight” against poverty instead of against each other. The state cannot discriminate on the basis of religion. Modi’s government of Gujarat and NDA–II have come under criticism following the Godra incident of 2002 and Dadri incident of 2015 that betrayed the communal harmony, unity and dignity within the state and country. The fingers were raised for communal violence and beef eating issues. He is criticised as autocratic leader. In June 2013, when he was appointed as the chairman of the national campaign committee L.K. Advani resign from his post having objection against Modi’s appointment but the leadership of BJP has shown rigidity attitudes for the general election of 2014. We can found Modi’s conception of secularism from his declaration of January 2008. The question is rising on the secular politics of India due to the incident of Dadri held on 28 September 2015 in state of Uttar Pradesh. It is also claiming from several sources that after came into power of BJP government at the central level the Gau Rakha Dal has been trying to establish the Hindu ideology. But the present scenario about the issue changes after came in to power and formation of state government by BJP in 2017.

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