

Behavior of People & Yajmans Towards Hindu Priests

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Abstract

Hindu priests traditionally have very high prestige and status in Hindu social system. They were accepted as very respectful religious traditional leader from the very beginning. Behavior of people and Yajmans are being very respectful to these Hindu priests. But it is observed that there is a considerable Change in present scenario regarding this issue. Present research paper is an attempt to find out the actual status regarding it, which is based on Bareilly region included District Bareilly, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur and Badaun. A total 200 Hindu priests were selected on the basis of snow ball sampling method. Observation and Interview Techniques were used for primary data collection. By using these data collection techniques, it is found in present research study that a majority of people have respect full behavior towards Hindu priests in present days. However some priests also felt that the behavior of common people is not sufficiently respect full towards them now a days

Keywords

Hindu Priests, Hindu Social System, Behavior, Yajmans, Bareilly Region, Snow Ball Sampling

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Introduction

Priests are very important person in every religion. They are important mediator between God and followers of any religion. They narrate and interpret the divine will. People belonging to Hindu Social System also have influenced very much with the Hindu Priests. Hindu Priests are one of the most important service providers in Hindu Social system, who are the religious experts to perform many religious acts like ceremonies and rituals.

According to Maguire, M.B. (2002), an essential characteristic of the priest is his relationship with an organized religion and his legitimacy by religious authorities. By interpreting Weber, R. Benedix (1960) reiterated that the priest Serves in a holy tradition and even if he is having some kind of charisma, he gets legitimacy only through regular organization of worship.

Farley, John M. in his book “The parish priest on duty. A practical manual for pastors, curates and theological students preparing for the mission” discussed about the condition, which are required for the priest, preparatory to the worthy administration of the sacraments. He described the main characteristics of priest as purity of heart, cleanliness of body, a thorough knowledge of the ceremonies and of their significance also.

Traditionally Hindu priests have very high prestige and status in Hindu social system. They were accepted as very respectful, spiritual and religious traditional profession from the very beginning. Behavior of people and Yajmans are being very respectful to these Hindu priests. But it is observed that there is a considerable Change in present scenario regarding this issue. Present research paper is an attempt to find out the actual status regarding it.

Research Methodology

Present research study is based on Bareilly region included District Bareilly, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur and Badaun. A total 200 Hindu priests were selected on the basic of snow ball sampling method. Observation and Interview Techniques were used for primary data collection.

Field Survey Report

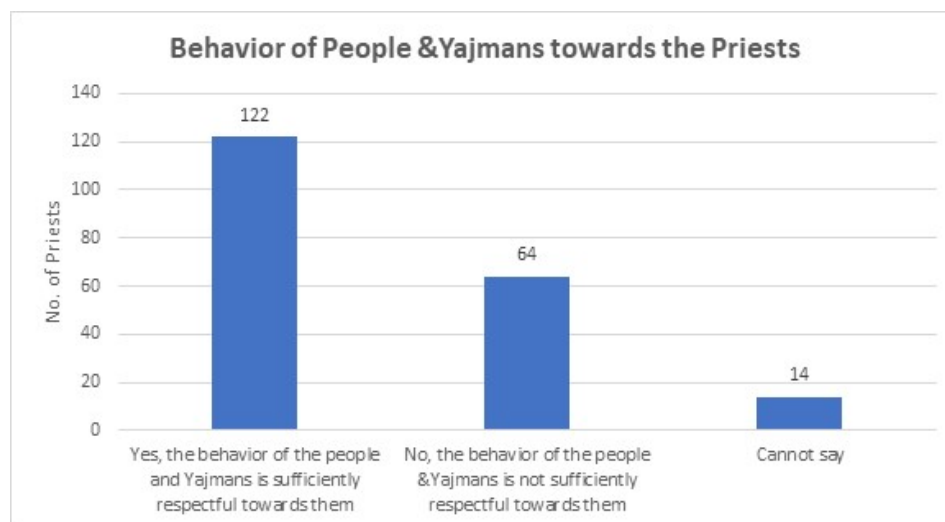
To understand the changes in the behavior of people and Yajmans towards the priests, the researcher asked this question to the respondents to know whether they consider it respect full or not. The responses for this question received from the priest respondents and it is presented in the following table-

Table: Behavior of people & Yajmans towards the priest

S.No.	Behavior of people & Yajmans towards the Priests	No. of Priests	Percentages %
1.	Yes, the behavior of the people and Yajmans is respect full towards the priests	122	61.0%
2.	No. the behavior of the people &Yajmans is not quite respect full towards the priests	64	32.0%
3.	Cannot say	14	7.0%
	Total	200	100.0%

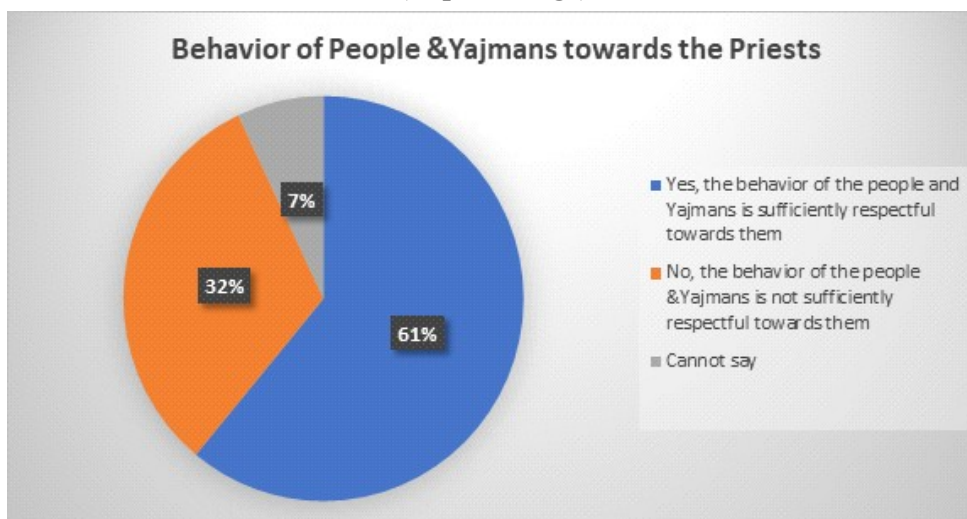
Source: Researcher's own construction

Chart No.-5.2.1: Behavior of people & yajmans towards the priests (In numbers)



Source: Researcher's own construction

**Chart No.-5.2.2: Behavior of People & yajmans towards the priests
(In percentage)**



Source: Researcher's own construction

As the data shown above, it is clear that 122 respondents were accepted that the behavior of people is quite respect full towards them. These priests shared their views and told that the priesthood profession is more respected full then other professions. Not only the persons who are their Yajmans, but also others pay proper respect to them. They said that most of the people wish them by calling 'Pundit Ji Pranam'. Some of the people wish them 'Pundit Ji Paayein Laagu' Many of the people touch their feet even in public places to get their wishes. These respondents further mentioned that they are getting special treatment when they get invited by any Yajman to perform rituals or ceremonies. These Yajmans and their whole family pay them high regards and even the children of many of the Yajmans families touch their feet. Most Yajmans follow their directions and guidance related to ritualistic work such as timing of the rituals to start, goods to be used in performing the ritual etc. These respondents also accepted that if we compare the present priesthood profession with the previous time there is definitely a shift from then to now regarding behavior aspect. But there is no hesitation to accept that priestly profession is still a comparatively much respect full profession and people and Yajmans generally pay proper regard to them.

But there are also sufficient respondents (total 64) who replied the opposite of the above experience of the priests. According to them, many people don't behave as per the standard of priesthood. Traditionally, the priesthood profession was very prestigious profession and priest was counted as very special and important person for the society. But due to modernization and materialization, the attitudes of people have changed and they have less focus upon the religious and spiritual values as compared to the previous society. They also, mentioned that the socialization process in families in the present society is a very important factor for the unsatisfactory behavior pattern of the society towards priests. According to them, this present generation is just like a 'Camera' which captures the behavior patterns of their surrounding especially of their parents and guardians. Many of the parents who came to temple with their children also could not learn the nobility, traditional value and social importance of the priesthood profession and priests. These respondents also told that this is a time of unemployment, when the young generation is facing a challenge of how to get employment. Due to this many people, who have no religious and spiritual sentiments, also joined this noble profession. This may be their need, but many of them could not perform the rituals and ceremonies properly. Due to these less trained priests, many people tend to undermine the priests in general and hence they don't behave with them up to the standard of the priesthood profession.

So, on the basis of above discussion it can be said that a majority of people have respect full behavior towards Hindu priests in present days. However, some priests also felt that the behavior of common people is not sufficiently respect full towards them.

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