



## SUPERSTITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION - IMPACT - RESPONSIBILITY

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### **Abstract:**

*The administrative system, established for improve the lives of the people, is the system of government. As part of governance, every action , from formulating an appropriate policy to implementing and overseeing it, falls into governance .The administration will need to be ready from time to time as the people will thrive only if every barrier that is an obstacle to the development of the people is removed. Superstition is one of the important issues plaguing our Indian society today. It is a pity that even in modern times people are swayed by the blindest of beliefs. Every day we come across information in various magazines and channels regarding people have losing their lives due to superstitions. Most of the people are suffering socially, financially and mentally due to umpteen superstitions.*

### **Introduction**

Superstitions create obstacles in every which way like, in the management of the family, in the personal management, in the administration of government agencies, and in the implementation of welfare schemes.

The scope of administration and governance has increased in modern times. The science of governance has evolved as a separate study from the science of politics. The beginning of the rule is the people and even the end is the people, So all sorts of things around people have an impact on governance. India has different cultural traditions and customs , Inherent in them are many misbeliefs and superstitions. Their impact will inevitably take over the governance system. The responsibility for their elimination also rests with the regime. We must first acknowledge and admit that superstitions have a bearing on governance. At first the regime must get out of superstitions and misbeliefs. Also there is a great need to keep people away from superstitions for which It will need to formulate appropriate administrative policies.

For example: We set traffic rules to regulate drivers. Vehicles cannot be restrained without those rules. Just as important as setting rules is the actions to be taken if those rules are violated.

It is very important for the public to understand all the rules on traffic rules. Supervision is also very important. Traffic control is made possible by the presence of a controlling system.



One cannot imagine how much of a problem there would be without a traffic signal system, without regulations and without a traffic police.

Similar is the case with the system, it cannot be streamlined unless there are administrative rules for everything. The Constitution of India gives direction to the system of governance of India. in Article 51AH of the constitution addresses the issues related to superstition . This article states that there is a need to develop a scientific perspective amongst the people.

It is imperative to do an in-depth study on the topic of superstitions affecting the society to a great extent. There should be a wide-ranging discussion on this issue in the community. All people need to be conscious of the superstitions that have inherently existed.

### **Superstitions:**

We hear this word often but most people do not know what it really means. Knowing the full meaning will help one understand and distinguish between superstitions and beliefs . Here we shall have a look at what some of the standard dictionaries say about superstition.

1. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines superstition as "religious belief or practice considered to be irrational, unfounded, or based on fear or ignorance; excessively credulous belief in and reverence for the supernatural" and "a widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief. "

2. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines superstition as, "the belief that particular events happen in a way that cannot be explained by reason or science; the belief that particular events bring good or bad luck."

3. Cambridge Dictionary denotes superstition as "belief that is connected with old ideas about magic etc., sans grounding in human reason or scientific knowledge;

the dictionary cites Cambridge English Corpus contextually the term superstition might define controversial beliefs, the practice of confessional opponents or the beliefs of the ignorant masses as superstitious.

4. Sankarnarayana Dictionary: "MOODHA BHAKTHI, MUDANA VISHWASAM OR NAMMIKA"

especially in connection with religion & worship based on fear or ignorance & unreasoning expectation.

5) Wikipedia: superstition is the belief in super natural causality that contradicts natural science

A closer look at the above meanings reveals that ...



Superstitions are those that have no scientific basis, no logical evidence, that have not been proven in experiments, that are contrary to the truth, and that continue only on the basis of misbeliefs.

If we look for what is the opposite word for superstition, the answer is science. Here we must understand that anything that's anti-science is superstition.

Hundreds of superstitions continue to be an integral part of everyday life. These are hindering the development of the people. They also affect governance.

Superstitions are mainly associated with religions. There are different superstitions by caste. Urban areas have different kind of superstitions from those of remote and forest villages.

### **Damages caused by superstitions:**

Superstitions affect people's lives. They affect the governance too. Human relations between have deteriorated to an extreme point of killing fellow human beings for having faith in superstitions.

The newly formed state of Telangana, has introduced many welfare schemes and took steps towards development. For any government development is not possible if people are left pondering and believing in various superstitions, myths and fears.

Attacks are constantly taking place in the name of mantras, also being insulted and mocked with a suspicion and misconception of witches. Let's take a look at some of the events:

1. The patriarchs confirmed that Komuramma Komurayya couple in Kandugula village, Huzurabad zone, Karimnagar district can spell witched mantras. With that humiliating burden of insult they hanged their three daughters and then both husband and wife committed suicide by hanging themselves. Bharathi, a woman from the Mote Mandal Mekalapadu herd in Suryapeta district, sacrificed her six-month-old daughter to Lord Shiva, believing in horoscopes and divination. People in Vaddera colony of Jagittala district often fall ill, to which they attribute the cause was a local family stabbed three people to death at once. In the Greater Hyderabad city, Uppal area, a baby was beheaded on the day of the eclipse, believing that the first beheading of a baby would cure diseases. In Dubbaka village, BC colony, Siddipet district, a couple named Rajaya Rajeshwari were tied to a pole by their relatives and burnt alive, believing that they would be bewitched. Many such incidents are taking place. Although many laws have been enacted in the past to eradicate superstition, they have not brought superstition under control. More discussion needs to take place. There is a need to raise awareness among the people.

Superstitions also hurt people financially. Poor middle class people spend most of their earnings in the name of superstition. An average of Rs 47,000, people spend a year, according to a survey. The attitude of the people in this regard is causing governments to panic.

Superstitions are becoming a headache for the administration of local bodies, especially for sarpanch and ward members. These superstitions have become a big issue for the police when it comes to peacekeeping. Public representatives and government officials are also plagued by superstition. An IPS officer in Uttar Pradesh has resigned from his post saying he married Sri Krishna. Every day in the society various new Babas, Swamiji, exorcists are being born. People are robbed in various ways. Committing a variety of scams. Governments are unable to take any action because of the popularity of public beliefs.

In-depth study on these is much needed. It is imperative to identify the problem, find the sources, analyze the functional relationship and find the appropriate solution.

### **Impact on Administration :**

The word administration is formed from two Latin words, ad and ministrare, which means management, service and Tidying up .

Let's take a look at the definitions of government governance.

According to PFIFFNER AND PRESTHUS, Administration is the organization and the direction of human and material resources to achieve desired ends.

2. According to LD WHITE, Administration is the direction, coordination and control of many persons to achieve some purpose or objective.
3. According to SIMON, In its broadest sense, administration can be defined as the activities of groups cooperating to accomplish common goals.
4. According to GEORGE E BERKLEY, Administration is a process involving human beings jointly engaged in working towards common goals.

Government means those that are responsible for public service and meeting the needs of the same. It is therefore advisable to consider public administration as government's governance. Due to the rapidly changing social needs, government administration has to undertake a wide range of activities. The needs of the people In terms of the welfare , the government needs to take initiatives to address other issues related to public interest.

### **The impact of superstitions on public administration:**

1. Peacekeeping forces
2. Education sector
3. Rural governance system
4. Department of Medical & Health

The influence of superstitions on the governance of the above four government departments is hugely high.

### **Peacekeeping forces :(Law and order)**

Scams in the name of superstition lead to murders where they eventually reach the police station. The duty of the police department, which provides peace and security to the people during this age of developing period, is increasing day by day. Many types of crime issues have reached the police stations. Problems in the name of superstitions can be an additional burden for cops who are under a lot of work pressure already. The evidence for these is inadequate. People accuse a few of casting spells on them and causing them harm. But one can not show adequate evidence for it. They accuse each other with mere myths and fears. We also notice instances of people injuring and killing each other in a fit of rage .

Police art groups are working to some extent to bring awareness among the people. There is still a lot to do though.

### **2.Education:**

Many days students stay away from educational institutions in the name of festivals and fairs with works of different religions, family festivals, worship of village deities and cultural traditions that one has to perform in his daily life in those religions. There have also been incidents of students evacuating dormitories for fear of demons. Recently a hostel was vacated in Mahabubabad district saying that the devil roams in the college of tribal women degree college. Bhupalpally Jayashankar District The children went home fearing that ghosts were roaming in the social welfare hostel in Garepally, Kataram Mandal. There are rumors that a demon is roaming in a Kasturba Gandhi Balikala Vidyalayam in Nizamabad district.

If children get any ailments they are moving away from education by going towards witchcraft and exorcism rather than modern medicine. Almost all teachers feel that education is losing its working days due to superstitions.

### **3.Rural governance system**

Local bodies are the first step in governance and the most important system for providing government schemes to the people. The public representatives here are with the people and are among the people. So the superstitions among the people go directly to the local representatives. Unproven superstitions become a burden to them. Things are tied to the sentiments of the people so the representatives of the local organizations are left stunned not knowing how to solve such a problem. The majority of people respect superstitious beliefs and resolve superstitious disputes that come to them. Sometimes situations lead to conflicts in their hands. Superstitions are damaging the dignity of respective villages.

### **4. Department of Medical Health**

People in rural areas are lingering under various superstitious names without going straight to the hospital for all kinds of illness. As a result, the disease is becoming more severe. Going to the hospital after an illness has progressed can increase medical costs by many a rate.



Survivors are losing bundles of money. Pujas are being performed at a cost of thousands of rupees for medical treatment which is reduced by one hundred rupees or so.

Tribal people, to cite ,especially in the Mulugu Eturunagaram area of Warangal district, are wasting the money they earn all year round. Human immunity heals many of the minor ailments on its own. Some diseases can be reduced if proper first aid is taken. Some types of illness require treatment under the supervision of a doctor. Some other types of illness require treatment with advanced technology. But people, no matter how small or severe the disease, are first believing and resorting to the words of those around them and reaching the Muslim pakirs,babas and to exorcists. And few people are deceived into believing the words of Christian pastors that Prayer Oil can cure diseases.

The medical health department staff is making efforts in various ways to motivate the people. Yet health is not focused on because of the superstitions among the people. Many types of infectious diseases are treated with the names of various deities. Survivors are losing out by resorting to herbal medicine. Believing in exorcists, are so losing money financially. Despite the medicine available for snake bites, people are losing their lives chanting the snake mantra. Ongoing superstitions among the people are causing problems for the medical health department.

#### **Officials Public Representatives:**

Superstitions are believed from the village level officer to the IAS IPS officer. From the village sarpanch to the prime minister to the president, superstitions are practiced. Yadha Raja Thatha Praja said the elders. India follows the demise of the monarchy and democracy. The influence of the people's representatives in our country is as great as the influence of the government officials on the people within their jurisdiction. Representatives of the people born in those areas and their personal beliefs, superstitions and personal weaknesses have an impact on people.

Amrapali, who worked as the Warangal District Collector, said in a TV interview that she was not going upstairs for fear of being haunted upstairs in the Collector's bungalow. Recently, Telangana Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhara Rao offered interfaith prayers in case of illness. On this occasion, the Telangana ministers performed the Mrityunjaya Yagna. Hon'ble Chief Minister KCR performed the Yagya at his farm house Erravalli. Former Governor of Andhra pradesh, Narasimhan was constantly traveling around the temple towers. Central and state governments are also openly propagating many superstitions.

In fact the responsibility for eradicating superstition rests heavily on the people's representatives and government officials. In discharging their duty they should follow the guidance of the Constitution of India without any bias like caste, religion region, family. But in practice secularism is not practiced. It will have a profound effect on future generations. Promoting rituals in the name of various religions risks dividing people into religions in the coming days and leading to clashes.



### **Requirement for Eradication:**

Social reform is an ongoing process. Change must come in line with the changing times. Otherwise society will limp. The onus is on governments to make people aware of this.

### **What the laws say:**

Article 51 of the Constitution mandates governments to remove the pressure to promote unscientific material to promote science.

### **Versions:**

From Charvaka Lokayata to Buddha Mahatma Jyotirao Poole, Sahu Maharaj, Govinda Ranade, Raja Rammohan Roy, Kandukuri Veeresalingam Panthulu, Gurzada Apparao, Tripuraneni Ramaswami Chowdhury, MN Roy, periyar ramaswami, Gora, have contributed a lot to social reforms in India. Many public associations work to mobilize people against superstition. Rationalist groups, atheist groups, humanitarian groups, and science propaganda groups are doing their part. Public associations have a greater impact on the decisions made by governments no matter how hard they work.

A Legislation was enacted during the British period prohibiting sexual intercourse. Prohibition of child marriages, prohibition of dowry, prohibition of polygamy, prohibition of servitude, prohibition of untouchability, encourage widow remarriage and many other laws have improved the lives of the people. Superstitions were somewhat suppressed. Recently the Government of Maharashtra enacted the Superstition Eradication Act. The Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013. The state of Bihar and the state of Tamil Nadu are on a similar path. The law is also being debated in the state of Karnataka.

THE DRUGS AND MAGIC REMEDIES (OBJECTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS) ACT, 1954 was enacted by the Government of India. There is a great need to bring in more comprehensive laws.

### **Superstitions in Mulugu District:**

Mulugu district was newly formed on February 17, 2019 after the formation of Telangana state. Formerly an integral part of Warangal district. Acharya Jayashankar district was then an integral part of the Bhupalpally district among the 31 newly formed districts. It is bordered by Bhadradi Kottagudem district on the east, Chhattisgarh state on the north, Acharya Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on the west, Warangal Rural and Mahabubabad districts on the south. mandla 1. Mulugu 2. Eturunagaram 3. Venkatapur 4. Wajedu 5. Thaduvai 6. Govindaravupeta 7. Kannaigudem 8. Mangapeta 9. Venkatapuram. In this a zone called Kannaigudem was newly formed. According to the 2011 census, Mulugu district has a population of 2,57,744 and a population of about 75,600.



Mulugu district is the least populous district in the 33 districts of Telangana. It is also known as a district with a large rural population. The Integrated Tribal Development Authority is located in Aturunagaram, Mulugu District.

1. The feeling of punakam.
2. Catching-demon
3. Believing in mantras
4. belief in demons
5. Giving animal sacrifices
6. Belief in herbal medicine
7. Belief in the prophecy of the coyotes:
8. Promises of offering to the gods.
9. Drug injection,
10. Believing in the mantra of snake bites.

#### **Hanmakonda District:**

Hanmakonda is a district in the Indian state of Telangana, India. [The administrative headquarters of the district is the town of Hanmakonda. It is located 157 km north of the state capital Hyderabad. State Government issued orders on 12th August 2021 to transform Warangal Urban District into Hanmakonda District

Warangal district has a population of 759,594 as per 2011 Indian Census. Of whom 51% are men. The percentage of women is 49%.

According to the 2001 Indian Census, the literacy rate in Warangal district is 84.16%, which is more than the national literacy rate of over 69.5%. Of whom male literacy is 91.54%. Female literacy is 76.79%. In Warangal district, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age. According to the 1981 Indian Census, the district has a population of 22,99,61, a sex ratio of 987: 1000 and a literacy rate of 23.84% (Source: Andhra Pradesh Darshini 1985)

#### **mandals in Hanamkonda**

1. Hanmakonda
2. Kazipet \*
3. Ainovolu \*
4. Hassanparthi
5. Vellore \*
6. Dharmasagar
7. Elkathurthi
8. Bhimadevarapalli
9. Kamalapur
10. Parakala
11. nadikuda \*
12. Damera
13. Atmakuru
14. Sayanpet

Note: \* Newly formed mandal in the district as part of reorganization



Note: Before the conversion of Hanmakonda district (formerly Warangal urban district) into Warangal zone, Qila Warangal zone was included in the present Warangal district (formerly Warangal rural district). [3]

Note: Parakala, Damera, Atmakuru, Sayanpeta, Old mandal s in the former Warangal Rural District (now Warangal District) and the newly formed Nadikuda mandl in August 2018 have been included in the newly formed Parakala Revenue Division in this district.

The main superstitions in Hanmakonda district are:

1. Leaving the resident home if someone dies
2. Adherence to structural defects
3. Worshipping vehicles
4. Wearing black laces
5. Belief in the magic of the arrow
6. Watching Muhurtas.
7. belief in demons
8. Giving animal sacrifices

Mulugu is a backward district with remote forest villages. Hanmakonda is a developed district with urban areas. Although there are slight fluctuations in superstition in these two districts, their intensity is higher in two places. Superstitions are strong even among those who are financially developed despite being highly literate. There are superstitions and superstitions among people from all walks of life, whether literate, illiterate, poor, rich or rural. Representatives of the people from the village level to the national level are being influenced by the superstitions of the government officials.

### **Conclusion:**

The role of government is very important in eradicating superstitions. Appropriate laws need to be enacted to eradicate them to control them. There is a need to bring awareness among the people along with the government officials representing the people in the zones in the respective districts in coordination with the organizations working for the eradication of superstitions. Superstitions in particular deny man the right to life. Violating the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. Peacekeeping is deteriorating, Education system is limping ,Health system is severely damaged. So social reform decisions need to be made along with administrative reforms. The matter needs to be studied in depth and preventive measures be taken. Researchers also need to do more in-depth research on the subject. The police department, the medical department and the education sector need to work together to create a better plan for the eradication of superstitions and motivate the people by making



them partners. The world is evolving by making modern innovations in the fields of science and technology. At a time like this, it is very dangerous for superstitions to continue in India, especially in the state of Telangana. Superstitions are a social problem that directly and indirectly harms everyone in the society and all efforts are needed to eradicate them.

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