

Religious Values in the Process of Globalization

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Abstract: Globalization is a term that refers to increasing global connectivity, integration and interdependence in the economic, social, technological, cultural, political and ecological factors. The term can also refer to the transnational circulation of ideas, languages or popular culture through acculturation. The phenomenon of “globalization” is one of the important topics of human life that has many dimensions. This is evident that, religion is taken as one of the important parts of culture and civilization that is as old as the human life itself. As it plays an important role in the society, therefore, the study of the relation of religion with the phenomenon of globalization has become an important aspect of life. As all major religions of the world derive from the same root source, it is importance to realize the significance of mutual respect that has been advocated in all religions. Islam not only recognizes all the messengers but also makes no discrimination between them. The objective of this study is to discuss the term globalization and it will discuss the relationship between globalization and religion. This study was written on the basis of some research works done earlier. The results of this study could be useful to researchers who are interested in better understanding of the role of religion on globalization. In order to foresee a world that gives precedence, respect and equal status to all religions their ethics and practices, a more collaborative application of modified policies of states and global organization must be taken.

Key words: Globalization, religion, precedence, equal status, organization, civilization

INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of “globalization” is one of the important topics of human life that has many dimensions. This phenomenon has left its impact over the economical, political and cultural aspects of human life. This is evident that, religion is taken as one of the important parts of culture and civilization that is as old as the human life itself. As it plays an important role in the society, therefore, the study of the relation of religion with the phenomenon of globalization has become an important aspect of life.

In the era process of globalization while different aspects of the society are in the process of change there raises this question: what is the status and role of religion in the process of globalization. In this research study, I have will discussed about the globalization and religion. In my study an objective and descriptive methodology has been used and the books available in the concerned centers and organizations have been studied for this purpose.

THE DEFINITION OF GLOBALIZATION

There have been given different definitions of globalization until now by advocates of this subject. One of its definitions is “globalization is the result of the expansion of the economical, political and cultural

relations among the countries and the different societies of the world.” These relations have come into being collectively by means of the exchange of different kinds of pacts and agreements (Political Science Encyclopedia, 1996).

“The concept of the meanings of globalization is at least 400 years old” (Wazer, 2000). However, “this was introduced during the sixth decade of the 19th century in the literature related to international relations. It is since then that the concept of globalization has become complicated” (Sani, 2003).

Some of the thinkers of the third world are of the opinion that there are two trends related to globalization. One is “globalization” based on reality while the other “universalize” is a theory.

The political and economical changes are the result of the industrial Revolution of Europe and expansion of the mass media in society base information. These factors are also the reason of coming into being the phenomenon of globalization.

THE DEFINITION OF RELIGION BY SOCIOLOGY

As religion is one of the spiritual peculiarities of human beings and part of the culture and civilization of humanity, it therefore has always been with the human beings. Man without religion, cannot understand the concept of the world and life. It is from this view that a

man should realize of himself, know about his environment in which he lives he should define it, understand it and act upon that accordingly.

From the point of view of Sociology, many definitions have been given of religion. "Religion is embellishment of the society. It is the common and collective values of the human beings. It is to know about the known and unknown facts of life". On the other hand, "the religion is the collection of beliefs, acts, philosophical values related to the definitions of the spiritual affairs, salvation and release from the problems of human life." Based on the sociological point of view this religion brings harmony between man and nature. This creates such a positive harmonious society it comes up by itself in human beings and makes its impact on the society. It teaches values, beliefs, norms, customs, manners and traditions by means of the socialization. It is therefore, the base of the evolution and expansion of religion that stands on knowledge of human beings and the knowledge of the environment in which he lives. These factors come into being by socialization. Therefore, the purpose of religion is to acquire knowledge. It is after acquiring knowledge that human beings chalk out the program for their life to make concord with the world which finally gives him peace and comfort. Religion, from the point of view of Divine religions is an institution that contains the factor of cohesion.

Religion is a course of moral thinking that moves round the existence of life. The purpose of religion is to give direction on the right path and should have acceleration (like all the teaching process), it bring into being rituals and ceremonies. All the rituals and the ceremonies have come into being to accelerate the religion to attain the ultimate goal. It is therefore, all the divine religions have rituals and ceremonies that are considered the essential or lawful part of the religion. They are common in all the religions whose objective is the recognition that can be either of the self, the others, the existence of God almighty.

The theoretical framework: Emile durkheim defines religion based on on sacred and non-sacred elements. This can be said ultimately, "The religion is the collection of the beliefs, values, objectives and the faith" that in the framework of sociology is considered one system or organization. At the time when the religion is taken as an organization or institution, it is recognized as structure that has its function. Emile durkheim is of the opinion that one of the functions of religion is cohesion in the groups of society that ultimately leads to the social cohesion. (Akbari, 2009).

Emile durkheim believes cohesion in the society is consequence of the existence of the feelings and common

values among all the human beings. The religion is a social institution that puts bindings of existence in the particular sense (Coser, 1993).

THE RELIGION IN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION

Just as the specialists have given various definition of globalization in the same manner they have their different views and have made different categories. One of these categories is the status of religion in the process of globalization. The views that have been presented can be divided into two groups. One of these groups does not have positive view regarding the phenomenon of globalization. They are of the opinion that the cultural, religious and local values of the society in this process would go under the influence of political and economic condition that are dominating over this process and would be hurt. Opposite to that, the other group is optimist. The members of this group have this opinion that the world is constantly moving towards globalization. The expansion of communication and the growth of political and economic relations are not only providing ground for the cultural exchange but they are also establishing the religious values and making them strong. Their argument is that all the human beings have the divine nature and as all the divine religions have common values and they are all from one origin, it is therefore these religions have the similar objectives. One of the particularities of the divine religions has common values and they are all from one origin, it is therefore these religions have the similar objectives. One of the peculiarities of the divine religions is that they take the whole world a single unit that is the temporary abode for all these who are inhabitants in that. In this matter they have common rule and object. They are of the opinion that the religion has particular and distinguished status in the human life.

The durability of the religions in the long span of time shows that they have capability and strength for the adaptation with the realities and the needs of the human beings in all the cycles of time. This can be said with emphasis regarding these peculiarities that the religion in its full spirit is playing very important role in the process of globalization.

CONCLUSION

After the study of the relation between the religion and the globalization this can be said that the globalization gives us positive answer but it also has some ambiguities. Taking in view thoughts and the analysis of different aspects of religion in the process of globalization that there are not similar conclusions for all

the people. It is, perhaps for this reason that a part of the religion does not go along with irrational mind and the spirit of human beings.

Nevertheless this can be said with certainty that all the religions have common factors they are: all the religions have the concept of good and evil. All the big religion takes the world as a single unit. All the religions have the objective to educate and develop the human values.

To establish the identification in the human beings is the output of religions that lead towards a better life. The other output of the religion is the commentary of the world and the things that are in its surrounding. The common factors that are among the religion prepare a ground for the dialogue. This is the effective factor for more and better factors and would bring better fluency among the human beings. With the support of the common values among the religions, the religion can

play an effective role in the process of globalization that would bring to reality the high values of the human beings.

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