Religious Harmony: Epitome For Global Peace

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Abstract

The world is a religious, diverse global village. It is the dire need of today to promote religious harmony among the different religions to establish global peace. Religious harmony fosters a multi-religious society by ensuring unity and respect among the different followers. Religious diversity and religious prejudices are considered significant factors that promote conflicts and violence all over the world. Although every religion emphasizes unity and respect for humanity, No religion teaches against a man to a man. Still, the religious prejudices of followers are the principal source of destroying a peaceful environment. This study aimed to explore different religions' views regarding religious harmony and global peace. This study was qualitative in nature and focused on secondary data. Data was collected through sacred books, research articles, and online resources. Six major religions, i.e., Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, were selected for research. The main research question was: What is the role of religion in promoting religious harmony and global peace? The study's findings show that each religion's teachings emphasize peace, harmony, tolerance, and respect for other religions and beliefs. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended to promote religious harmony to establish global peace.

Key words: *religion, harmony, religious harmony, global peace, diversity, religious prejudice.*

1. Introduction

The contemporary world has reached a critical stage of development due to science and technology but several problems /issues are still unresolved, invention of sophisticated weapons has made the future of Earth extremely uncertain. The atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima caused massive destruction and killed thousands of innocent people in World War II. Unfortunately, our ability to harm each other has been hampered by the speed of science and technology. Human beings do not have enough wisdom to keep their aggression under control. Our plant is in extreme danger and no longer remains a sacred place for living. Unless there is a spiritual revolution, we cannot hope to save our planet. In these circumstances, only religion can be expected to guide people in the right way. Religion plays an undeniable role in the character-building process of human life. Human beings have been connected to religion in one way or another since its inception. There is no place in the world where religion is not active. The study of religions, cultures, and civilizations is very essential for those who are interested in promoting global peace. If anyone is not familiar with the religious culture and civilization of others, they cannot

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properly understand the globe. As important as the study of religion is, it has been made unimportant and considered a personal problem. It is also said that religions do not affect human life, but it is a reality that religions are responsible for all types of historical wars. It is universally accepted that no religion teaches a man against a man. The battle between Catholic and Protestant Christians, the dispute between Muslim and Eastern Orthodox Christians, the Christians and Buddhist battle, the Hindu and Muslim conflict, the Jews and Muslim problem, and similarly, several issues that are based on religions. India and Pakistan have come into being on religious-based. So, is religion still a personal issue? It is indisputable that conflict among religions has existed since the beginning, but that does not mean that adherents of different religions cannot live together. Religious differences should be understood to establish peace. Peace is not possible until our thoughts, ideals, and goals become the responsibility of other human beings. In today's violent and tumultuous era, there is a dire need for religious harmony because, in the name of religion, hatred, prejudices, and violence are being cultivated in the minds of individuals. Religious harmony provides opportunities to study and understand one's own religion and other religions in depth. Because every religion aims to promote peace, love, and respect among humans. These teachings are based on serving humanity, justice, and the observance of each other's rights. If these teachings are truly embraced, it can foster peace and brotherhood in the world. Despite these facts, an environment of tension and hostility is regrettably prevalent among these religions. Religious harmony, or interfaith harmony, is critical and sensitive and cannot be ignored under any circumstances. However, unfortunately, discussions on this topic have always been avoided. Sacks (2013) has stated that in the contemporary world, religion has become a decisive force for goodness and conflict resolution, not for fostering conflicts. If religion is not part of the solution then perhaps it would be a part of the problem. In this situation the precise reading and understanding of sacred texts of religions is vital. The fundamental and universal need of every religion and nation is peace, which is crucial for the development and prosperity of any country. Peace serves as the cornerstone for societal progress and economic growth, ensuring stability and fostering an environment conducive to advancement. Sack (2009) writes that religion is the only factor that can bring peace among religions.

Religious harmony is a symbol of tolerance and resilience. In this era of increasing divergence, dispute, and conflict among different religions, it can provide a path to peaceful coexistence, stability, and prosperity among followers of various religious faiths worldwide. Shahid (2015) says to achieve global peace it is vital to foster religious harmony, cooperation and patience among religions. If not, nobody would be able to establish stability and peace anywhere in the globe. To create global peace, it is essential to understand the contradictions among different religions. These differences enable followers of various faiths to respect other beliefs and religions, thereby bringing adherents of different sects, beliefs, and religions closer together. No religion allows hostility, injustice, violence, or insult rather sacred books of each religion promote love, respect and honors (Shahid, 2015).

Various factors are affecting global peace, but the most prominent factor is religion. People of different religions coexist in every country of the world. Religious prejudice is highly dangerous. If we examine history, many wars have been based on religious beliefs. However, on the other hand, religion has the potential to create a harmonious atmosphere among the nations of the world. The term "religion" is the most usable in the contemporary era, but it is very difficult to understand. A lack of knowledge about religion causes prejudices, violence, conflicts, intolerance, and clashes among religions, which are

increasing. The purpose of the study is to explore the views of different religions regarding religious harmony and global peace.

2. Review of Literature

2.1 Concept of Religion:

Religion has remained a part of human beings from its very inception. Backing into the history of human beings, we will find that human beings were attached to religion because superstitions, myths, cults, and spiritual beliefs exist in every ancient culture of the world. Due to the variability of religions and cultures around the globe, it is a dilemma for social and religious scholars to present a universally accepted definition of religion. Religions play a significant role in shaping human lives. The term "religion" is derived from the French word "religiex" and the Latin word "religio" It means belief, worship, way, and obedience to a supernatural power (Sarwar & Alvi, 2020).

Social researchers face the challenging task of explicitly defining the term "religion." Each researcher focuses within their respective contexts; sociologists define it through their lens, educators through their perspectives, and similarly, religious scholars offer their distinct perspectives. Whatever the definition of religion, it is a fact that religion is the major binding force in religious society.

The concept of religion is a very comprehensive one; various beliefs, practices, rituals, and values come under its scope. "Religion is not a theory or doctrine; it is an act of realization" (Singh, 2018).

Khan (2023) has explained the concept of religion in his research as follows:

"Religion encompasses the personal feelings, actions, and experiences of individuals, especially in moments of solitude, as they understand their connection to what they believe to be divine" (Khan ,2023).

Religion is a very broad concept encompasses a variety of organized beliefs, practices, and beliefs in worship of divine force or supernatural being. Whatever the definition is, it is a fact that religion plays a vital role in human life. Religion shows the peaceful way to human beings, which leads them to successful destinations.

2.2 Types /Categories of Religions

All the religions of the world are divided into two major group: Semitic and non-Semitic religions.

i. Semitic religion :

Irfanullah et al (2004) have cited the Bible that the prophet Noah (AS) was a son his name was Sam, and the descendants of Sam were called Sami. So Sami religion was developed among Jews, Arabs Assyrians, etc. Jews, Christianity and Islam are the Semitic religions. All the Semitic religions have prophets and a sacred book to lead the people on the right path. These are also called Abrahamic faiths.

The Naik (2007) has explained the term Semitic as

"Semitic faiths refer to the religions practiced by Semites. Semites were the descendants of Shem and Shem was the son of Prophet Noah (AS). The main Semitic religions are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. All of these religions are prophetic in nature, trusting in divine guidance from God's prophets (Naik, 2007).

All the Semitic religions are monotheistic but not all the monotheistic religions are Semitic for example Sikhism is a monotheistic but it is not a Semitic.

ii. Non-Semitic Religion

Non-Semitic religions have distinct faiths, traditions and cultures that have not originated from Semitic or Abrahamic faith. Non-Semitic religions have rich traditions and teachings. These are in large numbers. Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism are the major non-Semitic religions. They did not have any prophets.

2.3   Teachings and Beliefs of Semitic Religions

Semitic religions are those religions that have a prophet. Allah (God) has sent His chosen servants to guide   the people on the right path. The teachings of all revealed religions are essentially the same. All the prophets of Allah have preached for the welfare of people. Peace is a central concept in all three Abrahamic religions. In this regard Anjum (2017) says that

"Semitic_ religions Islam, Christianity, and Judaism share the core and fundamental beliefs in monotheism, prophethood, and life after death, despite differences in their religious laws. Their teachings emphasize peace and interfaith harmony" (Anjum, 2017).

The teachings of Semitic religions are based on their sacred books, these are four in numbers.

1. The Torah (Revealed to Prophet Moses).
2. Psalms (Revealed to Hazrat Dawood, peace be upon him)
3. The Gospel (Revealed to Prophet Jesus)
4. The Quran (Revealed to Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ)

2.4 Basic Beliefs

Allah (God) has sent many prophets to guide the people to the right path. Every Semitic religion was Islam at that time, so they had the same beliefs and teachings. Ali (2011) has explained as all the Semitic religions recognize that Allah (God) is the sole creator of the whole universe and is the most powerful and knowing. All Semitic religions are monotheistic, they believe in the oneness of God and they worship the same God. Semitic religions reject any association of partnership with God. Semitic_ religions are also called Abrahamic religions. Abraham (AS) is conventionally acknowledged as the first Jew to establish a covenant with God. According to the faith of Semitic religions, Abraham (AS) was the first prophet who had established a covenant with God. Monotheism, worship only for God, charity and pilgrimage are common among them (PBS, 2002). Younas (2016) has explained that all Muslims (Believers of Islam) believe that every prophet has preached the same teachings, the oneness of God, worship for that one God, belief in the Day of Judgment, avoidance of idolatry and sin.

Teachings and Beliefs of Judaism

Judaism is an old monotheistic religion. The sacred book Tanakh also called the Hebrew Bible consists of 24 books. Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim are the three sections of Tanakh or Hebrew bible. The sacred book of Jews is called Torah, It contains Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The teachings of Judaism emphasize on Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are significant in Jewish law. They were the initial instructions given to the nation of Israel through revelation to Mosa (AS). Exodus, the second book of the Torah, recorded these. These instructions are divided into two categories: the first four commandments relate to God, and the last six relate to the relationship of mankind with each other.

1.   "Do not acknowledge any other deities besides Me" (Exodus 20:3).
2.   "Avoid crafting or worshiping any idols or images" (Exodus 20:4).
3.   "Refrain from using the Lord's name in a vain or disrespectful way" (Exodus 20:7).
4.   "Dedicate the Sabbath day to rest and reverence" (Exodus 20:8–10).

5. "Honor and show gratitude to your parents" (Exodus 20:12).
6. "Do not engage in the act of killing" (Exodus 20:13).
7. "Refrain from committing acts of adultery" (Exodus 20:14).
8. "Do not take what belongs to others" (Exodus 20:15).
9. "Avoid giving false testimony about others" (Exodus 20:16).
10. "Do not covet or yearn for what others possess" (Exodus 20:17).

i. Christianity

Christianity is the second major Semitic religion and is recognized as the largest in terms of global followers. It is based on the teachings of Jesus, who is considered a prophet by its adherents. According to Goodale (1920), Christianity is described as "a universal and ethical monotheistic faith where Jesus acts as the mediator between humanity and God." The Christian sacred texts are divided into two sections: the Old Testament, which aligns with Jewish traditions, and the New Testament, which focuses on the life of Jesus and the emergence of Christian teachings. Mathew, Mark, Luke and John are the authors of four principal Gospels.

Islamic tradition views Semitic religions as guidance sent to lead people towards ethical behavior and to avoid moral missteps. These religions stress the importance of peace and the protection of individual rights and belongings. Christianity shares these values, emphasizing principles of love, peace, and respect. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke offer teachings on treating others with compassion and fairness.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:31; Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27, New International Version).

Regarding the rights of others, Mathew and Luke have quoted the Lord's saying as

""So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31, New International Version).

Regarding peace, Jesus Christ preached to his nation about the importance of peace and reconciliation. Howard (1986) quoted two verses from the Gospel of Matthew.

"Blessed are those who pursue peace, for they shall be called the sons of God" (Matthew 5:9, New International Version).

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10, New International Version).

It means that treat others the way you want to be treated yourself. It summarizes the teachings and wisdom of the Torah and the Prophets in simple words, emphasizing kindness, empathy, and justice towards others.

Regarding enemies, Jesus Christ preached to his fellow, quoted from the Gospel of Mathew and Luke as

"Love your enemies: But this is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you" (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27, New International Version).

It means that should show love and kindness to everyone, don't take revenge but pray for your enemies also.

Jesus Christ preached to his nation regarding the importance of forgiveness. Mathew Mark and John have quoted from the Bible as

"Forgive people when they do wrong things to you. If you forgive them, your Father in heaven will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14; Mark 11:25, New International Version).

"But if you do not forgive them, your Father will not forgive you" (Matthew 6:15, New International Version).

"If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:23, New International Version).

The greatest and the first command that Mathew, Mark and Luke have quoted from the Bible is as

"Love God with your whole person – all of your heart, all of your inner person and all of your mind" (Matthew 22:37–38; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27, New International Version).

The verses emphasize the obedience and fulfilment of every command of Allah

The entire teaching of Jesus Christ emphasizes love and obedience to Allah and services for humanity. Palmer (2024) translates the verses of the Bible, the Gospel of Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John have also written as

"And sitting down, he called the Twelve and said to them, 'If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all'" (Mark 9:35; Matthew 20:26–28; Luke 22:26–27; John 13:12–17, New International Version).

iii. **Islam:** Islam is a Semitic religion and the world's second largest religion, after Christianity. The Arabic word "Islam" means submission and peace. It has been named so because it teaches submission to Allah Almighty (God), which in turn gives peace of mind to human beings. Historically, "Islam" is a term that means the teaching provided by Allah Almighty (God) to Adam (AS), the first human being with intellect and freewill. The founder of Islam is the prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh). Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) was born on the 12th of Rabiulawal (571 AD) in Mecca (the holy city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). Islam originates from two sources: the holy Quran and the Sunnah. A Quran is the collection of revelations downed upon the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) from time to time throughout the twenty-three years. Sunnah is the practical method introduced among Muslims by the prophet of Allah.

Semitic religions are those religions that have a prophet. Allah (God) has sent His chosen servants to guide the people on the right path. The teachings of all revealed religions are essentially the same. All the prophets of Allah have preached for the welfare of people. Peace is a fundamental concept in Semitic religions. In this regard, Anjum (2017) states, "The Semitic Religions; the Judaism, Christianity and Islam share the basic concepts of Monotheism, Prophet-hood and Life after death as fundamental beliefs, though they have differences in their shariahs. But as regard their teachings all of these prescribe mercy, peace and reconciliation among intra and interreligious groups as carrying great rewards in the hereafter" (p. 254).

Five Pillars of Islam:

The basic beliefs and practices that every Muslim should obey are called the Five Pillars of Islam. They are

- Shahada: Admitting that Allah is one and that Muhammad is the last prophet of Allah.
- Salat (Prayer): After Shahada, every adult male and female is required to offer five prayers at different times.
- Zakat (purification of wealth): Giving 2.5% of accumulated wealth annually to the poor.
- Swam (Fasting): At Ramadan, every adult male and female Muslim abstains him/herself from food and drink from dawn until sunset
- Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and is obligatory once in a lifetime for every adult Muslim who is physically and financially able. This act of worship is performed annually from the 8th to the 12th of Dhul-Hijjah in Mecca. The rites of Hajj begin on the 8th of Dhul-Hijjah..

2.4   Basic Beliefs and Teachings of Non Semitic Religions

Non-Semitic religions have distinct faiths, traditions and cultures that have not originated from Semitic or Abrahamic faith. Non-Semitic religions have rich traditions and teachings. These are in large numbers. Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism are the major non-Semitic religions. They did not have any prophets.

i. Hinduism

Hinduism is an ancient religion of the world (Anjum, 2017). The date of origination and development of Hinduism is not exactly known. On the basis of reviewing of various studies it is concluded that Hinduism is about 3000 to 5000 years old. Malik, & Kayadibi (2011) state that Hinduism is a complicated religion not easy for scholars to define its doctrine and limits.

Malik and Kayadibi (2011) explain,

"Hinduism has an extensive list of sacred scriptures; the Vedas, Upnishads, Bhagavad-Gita, and six Darshanas are the core scriptures and significant storehouses of Hindu philosophy. Though its substance and praxis have changed dramatically throughout the centuries, the earliest writings reveal much about its rich legacy. Peace is a vital component of Hinduism. By exploring Hinduism's key teachings, it is feasible to explain how Hinduism helps individuals in achieving global peace through personal peace" (p. 155).

- **Basic Beliefs of Hinduism:**

Hinduism is a diverse and complex religion, and identifying its belief structure is impossible. Different worldviews exist regarding Hinduism. The religion's fundamental beliefs and practices are Karma, Samsara, and Moksha (Warrier, 2006).

Hinduism holds that there is a single, supreme, universal spirit known as Brahman, which is the origin of all existence and is revealed "In Hinduism, the three principal roles are: Brahma, who is the creator; Vishnu, the preserver; and Shiva, the destroyer." Hindu belief that Brahman manifests in various forms of gods and goddesses. These manifestations include deities such as Krishna, Durga, Ganesh, Sakti (Devi), Vishnu, Surya, Shiva, and Skanda (Murugan).   According to Taylor & Francis (n.d.), Hinduism is characterized by several central beliefs, such as the worship of numerous deities, reverence for the Vedas, belief in a singular, pervasive Supreme Being, and the cyclical nature of existence. Concepts like karma, reincarnation, and the existence of higher beings in alternate realities are also integral. Additionally, it emphasizes the guidance of enlightened gurus, adherence to non-violence, acceptance of the validity of all revealed religions, the view of living beings as fundamentally spiritual, and the existence of an organically structured social system (para. 1).

Sikhism

Sikhism is the youngest religion, originating in the 15th century. Guru Nanak, who was born in Punjab, North West India, in 1469 CE, founded Sikhism. The adherents of Sikhism are known as Sikhs.

According to Hinnells (2017), the term "Sikh" is from the Punjabi language and means "Sikhna / learn.". In the beginning, it was a reform organization but with the passage of time, the movement turned into a distinct religion. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that believes in one God. Singh (2019) has explained the Sikhism as; Singh (2019) described Sikhism as "a panentheistic religion, originated in the Punjab province of the Indian subcontinent during the 15th century. It is one of the youngest and fifth major world religions" (P.1).The Encyclopedia of Religion defines Sikhism as follows: "The religion of

the Sikhs living in Punjab and surrounding areas. It is characterized by the concept of brotherhood based on religion rather than race or ethnicity".

Nesbitt (2016) explains Sikhism as follows: "i) Sikhism is a Hindu sampradaya (that is, movement led by a succession of gurus), ii) Sikhism is a 'derived' religion, drawn from the Hindu tradition, iii) Sikhism combines Hinduism and Islam, two ancient religions, iv) Sikhism is a distinct revelation, v) Sikhs are a 'separate nation'" (P.4).

Basic Beliefs of Sikhism

The) Sikhism follows the teachings of his sacred text Guru Granth Sahib (GGS) has explained as

i.   Sikhs believe in one God
ii.   God is the only creator of this universe
iii.   Truth is the name of God
iv.   God is without hate
v.   God is the without fear
vi.   Equality of human being without color, race, gender, religion

Basic Beliefs and Teachings of Buddhism

The teachings of Buddhism are the "Four Nobel Truths". The first is that suffering is an indispensable aspect of human beings. The second truth highlights that suffering is the effect of desires.

According to the third truth, one can achieve liberation from suffering by overcoming these desires, a state known as nirvana. The fourth truth introduces the Eightfold Path, sometimes called the Middle Path, which outlines eight practices necessary for attaining nirvana: understanding correctly, setting right intentions, speaking ethically, acting appropriately, choosing a right livelihood, making diligent efforts, maintaining mindfulness, and cultivating concentration.

Religious Harmony

Religious harmony involves the peaceful and respectful coexistence of diverse religious beliefs and practices. People from different religious backgrounds can live together in mutual respect, tolerance, understanding, without experiencing discrimination and hostility, or violence. Religious harmony plays a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and stability and contributes to the development of a unified and shared identity among diverse communities.. It helps to build bridges of trust and friendship among the followers of different religions and to promote a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance. Religious harmony could be promoted through many ways, such as interfaith dialogue, education, and the promotion of shared values and goals. It requires a willingness to engage in respectful and honest communication with people of different religious backgrounds, as well as a commitment to building relationships based on empathy, understanding, and compassion. In a world where religious conflicts and intolerance can lead to violence and division, promoting religious harmony is more important than ever. By embracing diversity and seeking common ground, we can build a more peaceful and just society for all. Religious harmony is indispensable for the promotion of peace in any society. A peaceful society based on brotherhood, affection, love, harmony, tolerance and peace among people of all religions, castes, colors and races. Sari and Wasi (2022) describe religious harmony as the peaceful coexistence and shared growth of individual religions and the wider society, achieved through dialogue that fosters mutual understanding and empathy. This harmony

is based on recognizing religious diversity and differences, and it involves jointly taking responsibility for peace and justice.

According to Khan (2023), Religious harmony pertains to the peaceful coexistence and collaborative growth of different faiths, religious communities, and society as a whole.

3.   Teachings of Different Religions Regarding Religious Harmony

All religions teach peace, happiness, tolerance, empathy, love, and respect and emphasize harmonious enhancement in different religious communities. Semitic religions are revealed religions, and they have divine books revealed for the guidance of people. Religious harmony refers to cooperation between people of different faiths.

Teachings of Judaism: The teachings of Judaism promote religious harmony through teachings of respect, ethical conduct, peace-seeking, dialogue, and a commitment to repairing the world. In Genesis chapter one and verses 27 stated as that God has created this world diversely with different people and cultures. This diversity is seen as enriching humanity rather than dividing it, emphasizing the unity of all humanity.

The verse "Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you" (Deuteronomy 16:20) underscores the fundamental role of justice and fairness in societal interactions. It advocates for these principles to create a harmonious and equitable community, transcending individual religious affiliations.

Teachings of Christianity: Teachings of Christianity: Christianity advocates for religious harmony through various teachings. The Gospel of Luke, for instance, provides guidance that promotes peace, understanding, and mutual respect among individuals of different faiths and backgrounds. Key verses include: "Treat others as you wish to be treated... Refrain from judging others to avoid being judged yourself; do not condemn others to avoid condemnation; forgive others to receive forgiveness; and give generously, and it will be given to you. You will receive a generous measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing. The way you give will determine what you receive" (Luke 6:31, 37-38).

Teachings of Islam: Regarding religious harmony, Islam's teachings are very explicit. Islam is a universal religion that guides all humans. Allah blessed Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a mercy for all creatures. Muthaliff et al. (2016) describe Islam as promoting religious harmony among the followers of all religions. Despite fundamental differences, Muslims must accept and practice the tolerance of other religions, as well as live in harmony with other nations, religions, and groups of people (Muthaliff et al, 2016). Leghaei (n.d) clarifies that while Islam explicitly declares religious tolerance and liberty, Western philosophers introduced these concepts relatively recently in the 18th century. Islam's teaching fully supported religious coexistence, respecting and acknowledging their rights. In surah Baqarah verse 256, Allah says,

"Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clear from falsehood" (2:256).

In Surah Al-Kafirun, Allah says that

"To you is your religion, and to me, my religion" (109:6)

Teachings of Hinduism: Hindu philosophy emphasizes the importance of religious harmony through its fundamental principles and teachings. Sivananda (1999) highlights Hinduism's inclusive nature regarding other religions:

"Hinduism is renowned for its religious hospitality, being both broad-minded and tolerant. This inclusivity is a core characteristic of Hinduism, which respects and honors all religions without disparaging any. It embraces and values truth regardless of its source or form."

The Vedic scriptures further advocate for religious harmony, tolerance, and mutual respect among all individuals. This is reflected in the following verses:

"O mankind, attend with the same care to each other. Foster mutual understanding among yourselves, and you will achieve harmony and unity" (Rig Veda X.191.4).

"O mankind, embody sincerity, share a unified mindset, and offer friendship without enmity, akin to a mother cow's love for her calf. Similarly, extend love to your neighbors" (Atharva Veda III.30.1).

Teachings of Sikhism: Sikhism, founded by Guru Nanak, promotes the values of equality and unity among people of diverse backgrounds. Guru Nanak expressed:

"No one is my enemy, No one is a foreigner, With all I am at peace. God within us renders us incapable of hate and prejudice."

Reza (2021) elaborates on Guru Nanak's vision for religious harmony:

"Guru Nanak established two key institutions, Sangat and Pangat, to promote equality and brotherhood across different castes and faiths. Sangat involves congregating with people from diverse backgrounds to worship together, reflecting a universal sense of love. Pangat refers to sharing meals together, symbolizing unity and shared humanity. Both practices embody the principles of love and equality."

Sidhu (1977) describes Sikhism as:

"Sikhism is a lifestyle and discipline that emphasizes the unity of God, the equality of all people, faith in the Guru's teachings, and universal love."

Teachings of Buddhism: Buddhism advocates for compassion, non-violence, tolerance, and understanding, laying a solid groundwork for religious harmony. These principles encourage Buddhists to interact positively with followers of other faiths, fostering peaceful coexistence. Bhutto and Munir (2016) note that:

"Buddhist moral and spiritual teachings significantly support the ideals of brotherhood and global harmony."

Mohanta (2020) adds:

"Buddhism, or Saddhamma, promotes human fraternity and a sense of unity among followers of various religious traditions."

The fundamental message of Buddhism is encapsulated in the philosophy of "Live and let **live.**"

4. Global Peace

The quest for peace, prosperity, and development is a universal aspiration shared by people across all societies. Peace is essential not only for the well-being of individuals but also for the progress of nations and communities. To establish peace, it is crucial to create a society that upholds values such as tolerance, equality, and mutual respect, thereby minimizing the potential for conflict and discord.

Global peace denotes a state of widespread harmony and the absence of large-scale conflict across the world. This concept spans multiple dimensions, including political stability, social justice, economic equity, and environmental sustainability. Achieving global peace involves several critical steps:

Fostering International Collaboration: Effective global peace depends on the cooperation of governments, international organizations, and civil society groups. Collaborative efforts

are necessary to address global challenges like climate change, human rights violations, and economic inequality.

Addressing Root Causes of Conflict: Resolving conflicts requires understanding and tackling their underlying causes, such as poverty, discrimination, and injustice. Diplomatic solutions, dialogue, and mediation play vital roles in this process.

Promoting Social Justice: Ensuring equitable access to essential resources, including education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, is fundamental to reducing inequality and fostering social harmony.

Environmental Stewardship: Responsible management of natural resources and environmental protection are crucial for maintaining global stability. Environmental degradation can lead to resource conflicts and impact community well-being.

Encouraging Cultural and Interfaith Dialogue: Engaging in dialogue between different cultural and religious groups helps build mutual understanding and respect. Such interactions can reduce biases and promote collaborative efforts towards shared objectives.

Investing in Education and Awareness: Educating people about the principles of peace-building and conflict resolution helps to foster a culture of peace. Awareness initiatives empower individuals to contribute positively to their communities and the broader global society. Achieving and maintaining global peace is a dynamic and complex process that requires the ongoing engagement and dedication of various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, religious groups, and individuals. It necessitates a sustained commitment to addressing conflicts, promoting cooperation, and nurturing a culture of peace throughout all levels of society.

1. Role of religious Harmony in Promoting Global Peace

The contemporary world is characterized by its rich religious diversity, functioning as a global village where various faiths coexist. Despite the potential for religious diversity to lead to conflicts and violence, the core values of love, respect, tolerance, equality, sympathy, and acknowledgment of others' beliefs are essential for fostering peace. These values are present in every religion, and tolerance is a key factor in overcoming animosity between different religious groups. The promotion of religious harmony relies heavily on the influence of religious scholars and clerics. When these leaders advocate for peace and tolerance, they can bridge gaps between followers of different religions.

Respect is a fundamental teaching in all religions. In Islam, for example, there is a strong emphasis on protecting the life, property, and honor of non-Muslims living within a Muslim community. Providing facilities and ensuring freedom of worship are also highlighted. Each religion advocates for peace, and those who understand and adhere to these teachings generally support peaceful coexistence. Recognizing and accepting the rights of others is crucial for maintaining peace and harmony.

If religious scholars from various traditions show mutual respect and acceptance, it represents a significant step toward promoting religious harmony. The modern world faces numerous challenges, including conflicts over resources, technology, media, economic disparity, and cultural differences. These issues contribute to sectarianism, religious and ethnic prejudices, extremism, and terrorism. In response, there is a growing global movement towards upholding human rights, promoting democracy, fostering religious tolerance, and ensuring communal harmony.

Zuo'an (2013) emphasizes the need for a new approach to religious peace, stating:

"To address the challenges posed by religious diversity in a globalized world, it is essential to establish and promote a new concept of religious peace. This involves recognizing religious diversity, enhancing mutual understanding and empathy through dialogue, and

collaboratively working towards peace and justice. Such efforts should focus on fostering harmony both within and between religious communities, as well as with the broader society" (Zuo'an, 2013).

In the age of globalization and social media, platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp facilitate interactions among individuals of different faiths, offering new opportunities for mutual understanding. Zuo'an (2013) notes:

"The rise in religious diversity and interfaith interactions presents both opportunities and challenges. Developing and advocating for the concept of religious harmony is crucial. This involves respecting religious diversity and differences while promoting mutual understanding and empathy through dialogue among various faiths" (Zuo'an, 2013).

Huda (2019) reflects on the paradox of global religious advocacy for peace amid prevalent conflicts, stating:

"Every religion promotes peace, harmony, and unity. Unfortunately, the world today is plagued by conflicts, hatred, enmity, hypocrisy, jealousy, selfishness, and mistrust."

Hinduism, one of the world's oldest religions, provides a perspective on religious harmony. According to Pinterest.com:

"Hinduism is celebrated for its religious hospitality and liberal approach. It involves respecting all religions, avoiding disparagement of any faith, and embracing truth in all its forms."

Singh (2018) further explains:

"Religious harmony is crucial for fostering solidarity and teamwork among adherents of various religions."

7. Objectives of the Study:
- To investigate how different religions view religious harmony.
- To analyze religious perspectives on global peace.
- To assess the relationship between religious harmony and global peace.

Method and Procedure:
This research employs a literary analysis approach to investigate the teachings of various religions concerning religious harmony and global peace. The study involves a thorough review of sacred texts from multiple religions, as well as academic articles related to peace and religious harmony. The researcher conducted a systematic search of academic databases, libraries, and online resources to gather relevant literature. This literature was critically analyzed, with key information being extracted. Thematic analysis was used to organize and categorize the data, highlighting common themes, patterns, and differing viewpoints on the connections between religious harmony and global peace.

10. Result and Discussion
After reviewing the views and teachings of the major religions, it is concluded that religions play a vital role in promoting peace and religious harmony. Each religion in the world teaches peace and religious harmony. Religious diversity occurred because there was a gap of thousands of years between one religion and another. Religious diversity also depends on time and geographical location also. Considering the Semitic religions, Judaism is the first Semitic religion, but there is a thousand-year gap between Christianity and Judaism. Islam is the third Semitic religion that emerged after many thousand years. Semitic religious believers believe that they follow the path that has been revealed by Allah (SWA) to his prophets. All three Semitic religions teach peace and harmony. With the passage of time

and the development of science and technology, the followers of each religion forgot the true teachings of their religion. Therefore, they fell into prejudices. All the non-Semitic religions also strongly emphasize peace and harmony, but their followers have also suffered from prejudices. It is the function of religion to eliminate this prejudice between people of different faiths. Only religion can make the world a global peace village. Global peace and religious harmony have a significant relationship and are directly proportional; increases in religious harmony promote global peace. Religion provides the solution to every social problem. Religion shows the right path, but the followers of the religion do not understand the teachings of their own religion; hence, they prejudice the followers of other religions. The findings of this study are consistent with Thelma, Mutepuka, & Phiri, (2023) who found that religion has contributed positively to ensuring peace and harmony in diverse societies. Malik & Kayadibi, (2011) has explored that humanity's faiths have always encouraged peace and exhorted people to global brotherhood. In today's world, all the believers of different religions are living together in every country of the world. In this situation, religious harmony is a dire need.

11. Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion, it is concluded that each religion provides a message of peace and harmony. Religious diversity is not bad, but the followers ignore their religious education. The adherents of each religion do not give importance to the religion's teachings. It is concluded that none of the religions ever taught against humanity, but its primary goal is to keep peace and religious harmony among the people. Each religion's sacred texts share the message of peace, harmony, tolerance, love for humanity, and nonviolence. Every religion teaches mutual respect. It is concluded that to promote global peace, focus on religious harmony. It is concluded that ignorance of religious teachings is the source of promoting religious prejudices. It is blind obedience, not understanding the teachings of religion, and blaming other religions for not being true. However, regarding peace and tolerance, every religion emphasizes them equally.

12. Recommendation

1. Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue at international level
2. Religious extremism should be control
3. Religious leaders and religious institutions should be made responsible
4. Global education should be promote

13. Suggestions for future research

This study was to seek out the views of different religions regarding religious harmony and global peace. This study was qualitative in nature, and a literary research approach was used to achieve the required objectives. To find out the in-depth answer to the research question, religious leaders should be interviewed, and it is recommended to conduct mixed-methods research in the future

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