

Preface

The present study is an attempt to explore and examine the concept of 'Secularism' in Indian Context. This is a burning issue of our time. Though this concept has a much broader area to cover, the present dissertation tries to locate it within Indian Culture only.

To present the above endeavor clearly, the present study is divided in five chapters. They are as follows (1) Introduction, (2) Secularism in Ancient Philosophy ; Jaina and Buddhist Philosophy,(3)Secularism in Modern Philosophy; Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, (4) Crisis of Secularism in Present India, (5) Conclusion.

First chapter traces the origin of the concept historically and how it has been developed and used in different periods of history. Indian culture is mainly based on the four fundamental and universal values, viz, *Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksa*. The chapter tries to throw light on the above values and the changed perspective of the value-system in this 21st century.

The second chapter mainly focuses on the philosophies of Jaina and Buddhist Schools. It tries to analyze the secular thoughts of their philosophies.

Secularism in Modern India is the thrust of the third chapter. This chapter tries to make a threadbare analysis of the philosophical thoughts of Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. Besides that, attempt is made to analyze the thoughts of Raja Rammohan Roy and Mahatma Gandhi.

Crisis of Secularism in present India is the main tune of the fourth chapter. This chapter explores the nature of secularism in India and discusses the difficulties associated with this particular concept. Three basic assumptions are considered. First, secularism as an anti-religious or non-religious ideology has universal applicability, but has culturally specific expressions. Second, secularism will be welcomed by all right thinking persons, for it shows the way to the making of rational plans for social reconstruction and state action, placing ultimate faith in the adequacy of human agency. Finally, with appropriate corrective measures, it is possible to develop ideological secularism in India

The fifth chapter presents the concluding note and it attempts to throw light on the peculiarities of Indian Secularism.