Revised Copy

Minority oppression

After the partition of India in 1947, Bangladesh minority communities have suffered from ethnic repression that dropped their population from 23% (in 1971) to 7% (in 2022)(Islam, 2019). Religion is a collection of cultural systems, belief systems, and worldviews that relate humanity to spirituality and, sometimes, to moral values. Many religions have narratives, symbols, traditions and sacred histories that are intended to give meaning to life or to explain the origin of life or the universe. Nowadays, majority of people becoming blind by fake religious concepts and do not give priority to other religious people. This religious difference are making gaps between communities. This difference are making minority group more vulnerable. Moreover, religiously egoist hate other religious belief for no reason, So, they are being harassed at their workplace, universities and public areas. Discrimination based on religion make them feel unsafe and insecure about their identity. Other human rights are violated as a result, including the right to privacy, the ability to move freely, the right to fair treatment, and the right to fully participate in society. So, to sum up, At present, religious difference is the sole cause of minority oppression in Bangladesh because it gives rise to communal violence, makes people insecure to reveal their identity, and deprives minorities of their fundamental rights.

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First of all, religious differences give rise to communal violence as it creates intolerance toward others' religious views and provokes people to perform extremist activities. The number of Hindu population has halved during the last 30 years. For real or perceived reasons, there is a sense that Bangladesh is losing some of its tolerance of minority communities. These prevailing religious differences are giving rise to many problems like rising incidents that distinguish it from its traditional spirit of tolerance. A number of recent violent attacks against persons from religious minority groups and their places of worship have resulted in the loss of lives and destruction of property. To begin with, the Ramu incidents with destruction of Buddhist places of worship in 2012 are still fresh in peoples' minds(Sarkar ,2016). Moreover, religious differences induce people to perform extremist activities toward people from other religions. For instance, bomb attacks against Hindu temples in Dinajpur and the killing of a Hindu priest near Panchagarh(Walkings,2016). Hate crimes like these are often times instigated by even things as trivial as a Facebook post. Religious extremists add fuel to these conflicts and give rise to communal riots. The religious minorities become the victims of these situations and innocent people are subjected to rape, torture, murder, and other forms of extremist activities. To sum up, lack of tolerance towards people of other religions and provocation to perform extremist activities are the reasons why religious differences give rise to communal violence.

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Moreover, minority people feel insecure to express their identity because they are discriminated against in their workplace and sometimes they are victims of bullying in the education system. To begin with, minorities are harassed in their worksite in various ways such as lack of employment opportunities, being robbed of deserved promotions, and not getting proper job evaluations. According to BBC News (2018), In 2015, four bloggers and a publisher, whose writings and publications were critical of religions, especially Islam, were hacked to death by co-worker extremists. Niloy Neel was a blogger, known for his atheist views. He was the fourth secularist blogger to have been killed this year by suspected Islamist militants in Bangladesh. Imran H Sarkar, head of the Bangladesh Blogger and Activist Network, told the BBC that Mr. Neel had been an anti-extremist voice of reason. "He was the voice against fundamentalism and extremism and was even a voice for minority rights - especially women's rights and the rights of indigenous people," he said. Also, minorities face various forms of bullying in education because of their religion. It provokes someone to stop being friend with someone because of religion identity(Miranda, 2020). He further adds that aside from everyone having to learn one religion, memorizing passages from the Quran is rewarded with bonus marks. In this way, minorities are being put through various forms of harassment starting from their schools and educational institutions. As a result, students of other religious identities suffer from inferiority to identify themselves. In this manner, minority people feel precarious about revealing their identity.

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Furthermore, minorities are deprived of their basic rights as they are deprived of their rights of laws and the right to exercise their own religion. To begin with, sometimes minority people do not have the freedom to exercise their religion. As their religion is different from the majority of people, they are being mocked for performing their religious activities, they do not even get any vacation during their religious festivals. For instance, Shojib Minj, a 22-year-old Oran Catholic student at a private university in Bangladesh, was unhappy to attend exams on the auspicious date of Easter Sunday(Rozario, 2022). Hence, as Easter Sunday is the second biggest festival of a Christian, nothing can be more sorrowful for him than it. We have the right to put our thoughts and beliefs into action. This could include our right to wear religious clothing, the right to eat our preferable food. Public authorities cannot stop us practicing our religion, without very good reason. In a society where the majority of people have religious instructions on a particular food, the minority people without these restrictions are also prohibited from eating that food which is a form of oppression. We have constitutional laws of freedom to follow our religious believes. But, the way this laws has just been forgotten and kept aside, year after year, is frustrating(Karim,2017). Thus, minorities are deprived of their fundamental rights due to minority oppression.

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To conclude, minority persecution across the globe is solely due to religious differences, which lead to communal violence, insecurity about exposing one's identity, and deprivation of basic rights for minorities. We should implement a Zero Tolerance Policy against religious harassment and discrimination to eradicate prejudice at work based on different religious beliefs. Such as suspension from workplace or imprisonment, so that the person who is doing the harassment can understand what goes through the other person who is being harassed. The government should also take the required actions to prohibit discrimination based on individual religious beliefs by ensuring that everyone has the right to fundamental freedom. The Equality Act is essentially a legal extension of the Supreme Court’s decision, which it handed down in June 2020 and which barred discrimination against employees based on their religious identity or sexual orientation or gender identity(Kavanaugh, 2020). To end discrimination against minorities, we should also provide formal education and good employment opportunities for all faiths. There are a lot of people living in Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrahcari, who are from different ethnic and religion. Because of this difference they barely get proper education or job. They need to provided with proper education and job opportunities. Even though, in a world where there is no way to end minority domination ultimately, there is no doubt that by taking the steps stated above, we may at least try to lessen the destruction and harm caused by minority oppression so that individuals can go about their daily lives without migrating from Bangladesh or hiding inside their homes.

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