Superstition in Society and Steps to Eradicate

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***Abstract*— The term superstition is defined as the perception of reality and also it defines on fear of the unknown and faith in magic. It focuses on the most important aspects of the causes of superstition are ignorance, fighting religion, opportunists abuse and ignorant caring with some scientific weaknesses. In the society the number of superstitions are going on with the different issues in the community in the meanwhile we have to take some precaution to eradicate and to give with the suggested remedies like thinking positively, parental guidelines, teacher guidelines, enlightening the campaigns, role of media and developing the scientific attitude, scientific thinking and inculcations of the scientific methods in day to day life, in this way we can overcome from the superstitions in the society to change the life styles of the modern era.**

***Keywords— Superstition, Ignorance, Dharmasindhu, solar eclipse, scripture, reassurance.***

# Introduction

A superstition is a belief or a way of behaving that is based on fear of the unknown and faith in magic or lack.A irrational belief that contains events or things that will contain good or bad luck.

We all have experienced superstition in our lives. either we believe them unknowingly or knowingly or we see people believing them for eg. Even if you don't consider yourself as superstitious person. You may say “god bless you” when someone sneezes. A prayer that saves one from taking his soul by devil. Carrying charms, wearing certain clothes, visiting places , associating with good fortune, preferring specific color, using particular number are all elements of superstition.

All superstitions remain as outward expressions of the tensions and anxieties that hold way over humanity as it struggles down the corridor of life from birth to death, irrespective of education status and richness.

# Origin And Examples

## Origin

Superstition as such doesn’t have any root origin,they may start from an individual level and may have its base expanded to the society as a whole. People usually begin to find their lucky charm or bad luck on small things which causes a certain event even if there’s no logical reason behind it. Fear of society and fear of unknown things to happen after doing superstitious act create fear in people to act superstitious. In today’s world religious custom and tradition have mixed with superstitions that people readily follow and support them blindly and oppose the one’s against it. The entrance of superstitions in religious teachings collapse religion and detract its validity and prevalent superstitions in the society not only make society collapsed but also traditional teachings will change their place with the teachings of the superstitious in the beliefs and behaviours of believers

## Origin of some famous superstition:

Considering the most common superstitions followed around the world, there are multiple origin stories known of superstitions which differ from culture to culture.For eg. black cat is considered as bad luck since in ancient egypt. as the original religion which existed used to follow goddess which was a black cat. Christians begin to rumour that black cats are demons and people believing in fear accepted the superstition. In places such as japan,UK black cats are considered as lucky charms, whereas in german it depends on direction of crossing the path.Another,Example is walking under the ladder which has its root again from religion as christians consider triangular symbol as sacred by walking under ladder that symbol is broken and thus a bad luck follows.

# Some of the common superstition

1. Divination, astrology, prediction

2. Caught ghosts

3. Being unlucky of number thirteen

4. The consecration of Jumada and plants.

5. Opening book

6. Knowing sneezing as a sight of waiting.

7. Considering some animals unlucky (for example, it is said that the crow is a crossed bird).

8. Considering some animals lucky (for example, it is said that snake is a lucky animal).

9. Not cutting nail in someday.

10. Not moving in someday

13. Pouring boiling water on the ground burn the jinn.

14. Putting the blood of the victim’s on the door of the house or cat etc..,

15. Writing from some particular topic

16. Rubbing the black expand on forehead of a baby.

17. Many superstitions about rainbow.

18. Breaking eggs to relive some eyes.

# The Most Important Aspects of the Causes of Superstition

1. Ignorance

The most important factor which creates superstition in societies is ignorance. In the past some people considered elliptical events as being the wrath of god. While, if the cause of eclipse was clear for people, such beliefs have no place among people or some people call sneezing waiting signal while in medical science it is clear that sneezing with a foreign object especially a soft object is to remove foreign material from the nose. Similarly, ignorance made numerous superstitions in religions. For example, some groups such Halt (literally means whole grains) because of generosity, occult knowledge and other wonderful things that they observed from imam, could not properly explained and analyze such problems and knew them as pretext of superstition and heresy and anti-Islamic movements. So, certainly, ignorance is one of the most important causes of superstitions in societies.

## 2. Fighting Religion

Ruthless and arrogant men who saw the spirit of religion contrary to their behaviours. Directly or indirectly, struggled with the religion. One of the indirect ways of struggle with the religion is creating superstitions in religious communities. The entrance of superstitions in religious teachings collapse religion and detract its validity and prevalent superstitions in the society not only make society collapsed but also traditional teachings will change their place with the teachings of the superstitious in the beliefs “(and)” of behaviours of believers. The Jews had more relationship with Muslims than any other scripture and in this case, it means that the maximum effort in forgiving the traditional sayings was from them. So, one of the main sources of society in which is becoming familiar with the religion such as traditional sayings is mixed with thousands of superstitions and it is very difficult to detect correct from incorrect historical, interpretational as well as other sources are not exceptions.

## 3. Opportunists Abuse

Some of deception and opportunistic people have used superstition as a way to gain wealth or their evil thoughts in issues such as lust. Many people gain much financial revenue in prayer writing, daily horoscope predictions. Especially women are being subjected to sexual and moral abuse. This issue is so prevalent and obvious in the society that does not need more explanation. It seems that these factors are the main causes of superstitions in a given society. There are factor which are effective in creating superstition but are not essential like the three mentioned such as:

1) The human tendency to myth-making which causes exaggeration in explaining some abilities of religious figures.

2) Ignorant caring: some people with falsifying sayings want to create love in people regarding to religious issues particularly among some Sufis.

3) Some scholar scientific weakness and errors in providing religious education.

##### Purpose

## Instil fear

Constructing a world of spirits and gods to explain the unknown aspects of nature might have been a reasonable attempt by our ancestors to understand the environment, but it also created the harmful effects of superstition and fear. Perhaps we should combine the two terms and call it superstitious fear. Superstitious fear of the gods can make us do anything, and some of the things we think the gods require are horrible. Fear of the gods also brings a sense of alienation. Very few believe they have a secure relationship with their god, and those who feel secure do so only because they think they follow all the strict requirements of their god. Superstitious fear is bad for people. It is a terrible burden on a person’s spirit, freedom, and happiness. And it prevents us from progressing as individuals and as a group

## Laziness

The fake Godmen have great acumen and are able to secure the affection and belief of their followers with usual tricks of the trade. They are great at playing the collective psyche and hand out miracles and tidbits of hope. The herd mentality of people not wishing to be left behind in the race to God-dom helps their cause further. Superstitious beliefs and the deep need to find hope and happiness keep people attached to them. The conmen are clever enough to understand how to hoodwink and collectively hypnotise masses into becoming followers.

# Todays generation on superstition

Life in India is suffused in superstition of various kinds, from the most bizarre to the innocuous. Everyone has their own stories and many their own superstitions. But I find the GKVK solar eclipse incident emblematic of a particularly curious aspect of superstitions in India.

Does this have to do with our failure to separate religion and faith from belief in the supernatural? Or is this the result of shallow education, especially science education? Perhaps both. Scientific understanding can dispel superstitious and magical thinking without us losing our sense of wonder. Those who are deeply religious need not fear this. Religious life does not need magic and miracles to sustain itself. Instead, the very people who should know better, those who study, teach or research science, seem to be equally in the grip of superstitions. The proportion of such people doesn’t seem to be different from the general population.

Our classrooms are embroiled in conflict, animated by the beliefs of the educator being vastly different from our educational goals. How effective can a science teacher, who is in the grip of unscientific thinking, be? If a teacher’s superstitions are visible on their gem-laden fingers or in the black mark to avert the evil eye, what scientific temper can they foster? While I am emphasizing the matter of science in this piece, similar conflicts arise from the prejudices and beliefs of teachers about gender, caste, religion and more. This is our messy sociocultural reality. It is not going to change overnight. And it won’t change by heaping derision on such people. As with most matters, even in this, there is no substitute for reasoned public and private dialogue.

# Effects

Everyone has at least one superstition that they follow, whether they will admit it or not. Whether it's from a certain religion, or a legend passed down from their ancestors. It's in our human nature to come up with something to believe in, however obscure and ridiculous it may be. Many of these superstitions can dramatically affect a person's life. Looking at the following examples will show what effects can come from trying to stay on the good side of the supernatural.

Because superstition many poor people get affected they spend their income on this thing and becomes victim of that Many places womans are not allowed to enter in temple At one point in India, widows couldn't get shelter and received harsh treatment. They were not allowed to attend auspicious functions.

# steps to eradicate superstition

Have you become a slave to superstitions? Do you run to the other side of the street when you see a black cat? Do you cringe any time you accidentally step on a crack, or feel convinced that your day will be ruined because of it? If this sounds like you, then it’s time to break those superstitions habits and to learn that you have the power to make your own luck.

## 1. Learn the origins of the superstitions

you believe in one way to overcome your superstitious beliefs is to learn where they come from the idea that it’s bad luck to walk under a ladder came from to begin with. For example, did you know that the belief that it’s bad luck to walk under a ladder came from the idea that it was dangerous to walk in an area where work tools are likely to fall? The more you debunk these superstitions, the more you’ll see that while they may be fun to believe in, they have no foundation in reality.

## 2.Realize that there’s no rational proof that these superstitions can affect your life.

Is there any real reason that the number 13 should be unlucky? Why should black cats be more unlucky than any other cat? Can finding a four-leaf clover really cause good fortune to rain down upon your head? If a rabbit’s foot were really lucky, wouldn’t the original owner (that is, the rabbit) still own it? Though you may believe that thinking rationally is beside the point when it comes to superstitions, if you want to beat your obsession with them, then you have to use critical thinking for it.

3.Consider which superstitions cause regular inconvenience to you.

Are you constantly starting at the grand to avoid stepping on cracks to the point of bumping into people on the street? Do you take winding deters in order to avoid stepping on cracks to the point of bumping into people on the street?

4.Avoid superstitions beliefs when making decisions.

When making decisions, rely on common sense and a sound pattern of reasoning as opposed to weird feelings and supported supernatural signs. if your friend asks you to meet her at a certain place, take the path that makes the most sense instead of the “lucky one”, when you walk to work, wear the clothing that is most appropriate for the weather instead of your “lucky” coat when it’s 80 degrees outside. Let reason govern your choices, not superstition.

# Conclusion

Conclusion Superstitions are the types of belief’s practices or rite irrationally maintained by ignorance of the laws of nature or by faith in magic or chance.

Superstitions plays important role to develop positive attitudes in some situations and in some situations it become a bad practice.

Superstitions and blind faith are two of the weakest mental quantity of any human being on earth not only with Indian society.

It is impossible to change society on whole but yes as an individual one can adopt changes in life style and beliefs.

Today science and technology growing fast, so we must develop scientific attitude among the people to eradicate superstitions.

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