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## Impact and Consequence of Superstition on Society Especially in the Field of Living Context

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### ABSTRACT

Man cannot live without society. Man is generally described as a social animal. It is not possible for an individual to live without society. Individual is a unit of the society and he lives in society after having been born in it. Society is the vast field in which the individual lives and acts. So in our living society superstition is also remarkable aspect. In general concept superstition means totally opposite of the meaning of belief. Belief assent to the truth of something offered for acceptance. It is the attitude that something is the case or true. Superstition play vital role in the field of society averse of belief. Superstition is a belief which has no basis to believe. It is a belief in the supernatural, which is to say, a belief in the existence of forces or entities that do not conform to the laws of nature or a scientific understanding of the universe. Especially in Indian cultures superstitions are common phenomena in our human society. Superstitious beliefs can have a negative and positive impact on the social well-being of people in society because they are highly associated with gambling behaviors. In this paper we estimate the impact of superstition on negative and positive aspects on the society especially how can psychologically behave the people through believing superstition. Superstition can be great lost of the people if they are blindly diving in this aspect. Also in this study will clearly analyzed the causes, demerits as well as merits of superstition and an attempt has been made to some significant suggestion. As methodology of this paper will be descriptive-analytic one. And required information will collected from different secondary sources like – Books, Research articles, Internet, Journals, etc.

**Keywords:** *Society, Superstition, Causes, Impact, Consequences, Suggestion.*

**I. INTRODUCTION:** Man is generally described as a social animal. It is not possible for a man or individual to live without society. Society is nothing but a web of relationship between different individuals as social beings. Especially, a group of people who share a common culture, occupy a particular territorial area, and fell themselves to constitute a unified and distinct entity is called a society. Without people there can be no society, no social relationships, and no social life at all. It is a group of people who are in continuous interaction and mutual awareness among themselves. Social interaction and mutual awareness are parts of a process whereby individuals interpenetrate the minds of one another. Each society has its own way of life called culture. Culture is the cement which binds together into a society the component individuals. Culture includes our attitudes, judgments, morals, values, beliefs, ideas and our institutions such as political, legal, economic and social.

As a human being we are live in a society. Without good thought, motives, attitudes, behaviors, of persons we can't think about of a good society. So if we want to a good society then we must belief to each other, belief in truth as well as avoid the violence. But in our society superstition is stay in our front of the door as blind indicator. Superstition is a social phenomena and product of social context and conditions. Most superstitions are relatively harmless other than the anxiety they can cause in those who believe in them. Especially the factors which provided the emerging field of social phenomena are the fear of human being from spiritual and material circumstances, precautions reactions and human ignorance of reality during the history. So in this study we have extended the impact of superstition on human society especially on health-related psychological behavior, negative and positive aspects and health outcomes of the society. Superstition is distracted and irrelevant speech. It is mainly rooted in history, culture, and myths throughout the world, and as stated earlier, it affects individuals' behavior. So the present study has tries to concept of superstition and how can impact its significant aspect on society especially in our living context.

**II. METHODOLOGY:** The method, applied in the present study is purely descriptive and analytical one. It is common sense that the methodology can help the researcher as well as the writer on his particular topic for the analytical review. The study is mainly based on descriptive method which provides a method of analytical study. The concepts used in sociology are often complex, and the concept of superstition is no exception to this rule. Through this analytical method here we have tries to negative and positive impact of superstition on society especially how can reflect psychological behavior of a person in our practical living context. As secondary data we have collected from various sources like – *Research Article, Books, Review studies, internet, Journals, Magazine, thesis, websites etc.*

**III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:** In the field of research as well as in project work the objective is most significant. An objective is the point of something. It is tell us what we expected to do under what condition it will be achieved. It gives the way to go forward. So, the main objective of the present study is to conceptualize of superstition and its significant impact on society. Also an attempt has been made to analyze the causes, consequences and suggestion of superstition and aware to the people on the negative impact of superstition.

**IV. CONCEPT OF SUPERSTITION:** Belief and unbelief are the meaning full words but in practical that's an abstract image. In our living life belief can a vital significant role. So in this field superstition is very significant. In simple words we can say that superstition is a belief based on fear or ignorance and not on the laws of science. It is common phenomena in our human society, especially in Indian cultures. It is product of social context and conditions. Amongst the factors which provided the emerging field of social phenomena is the fear of human being from spiritual and material circumstances, precautions reactions, and human ignorance of reality during the history and transmission of superstitious ideas. Actually superstition may call the confusing opposite meaning of belief. It is a man-made phenomenon and is the only problem that, despite the changes and development of societies, still exists. Finally we can explained that superstition is a belief in the supernatural, which is to say, a belief in the existence of forces or entities that do not conform to the laws of nature or a scientific understanding of the universe. It is one type of lack of scientific knowledge. For example, belief in magic, belief in divination, belief in good luck charms and rituals, belief in astrology and belief in ghosts or a spirit world beyond what can be explained by science etc.

Especially superstition is a complex concept, needs to be clarity. It is beliefs that particular objects, events, or actions cause to happen or predict the happening of other events outside the normal realm of physical cause and effect. The most common superstition is the belief in the power of prayer. It is a concept with a pronounced psychological-cognitive aspect. Superstition proposed as beliefs about particular events that cannot be interpreted by scientific reasoning. It is a belief in the existence of luck, as a real force in life, and that luck can be predicted by signs, and can be controlled or influenced by particular actions or words. It is a part of the culture and is associated with an irrational inclination toward uncontrollable and unexplainable elements. Anyway superstition is never good aspect for the society.

**V. SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NATURE OF SUPERSTITION:** Generally in sociological terms, everybody can be said to have superstitious beliefs some more and some less. It has traditionally hindered progress, development and the effective use of technology. Superstition may also be a value judgment on religions or societies which have a different. In sociological point of view superstition is deeply rooted in social deprivation and can easily enter a society through people's thoughts, but is very difficult to be removed from minds because it has penetrated the culture. It includes the belief in spirits, magic, taboos, witchcraft, and spiritual healing etc.

In psychologically superstitions can sometimes have a soothing effect, relieving anxiety about the unknown and helping people gain a sense of control over their lives. Its actions are common in our society. Superstitions are cultural or personal beliefs that make connections between unrelated items or events and believe them to affect life events. It is as an attitude which can be understood from affective, cognitive and behavioral aspects. The emotional aspects includes feelings that ranged from fear, apprehension, to joy and delight towards superstitious objects. On the other hand it may say that people become superstitious in the face of issues such as death, illness, and adverse events, which have always caused mankind anxiety and feelings of failure, fear, and anger. So, in such cases, the failure to find a logical explanation for the event through science and logic makes people turn to superstitious beliefs to relieve themselves of inner turmoil and anxiety as well as to relieve their internal significant aspects. So, the psychological and sociological nature of superstition is practically reacted on the society.

**VI. CAUSES OF SUPERSTITION:** Superstition is based on ignorance and its infrastructure and origin are false hopes. Superstitions are self-imposed selfish beliefs. It is a widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief. Superstitious behaviour can include rituals in which we get engaged to produce a specific outcome, we must understand that we indulge in superstitions because we believe in it; we believe that certain beliefs or certain rituals will benefit us. In our society most of the people think that people who are religious are mostly superstitious. Actually the causes of superstition are people's beliefs. Generally people believe in the inherent power and charm of superstition. So think that being religious and being superstitious is completely two different aspects. Generally unrealistic and realistic, unimaginable and imaginable, never-ending and ever ending concepts are interconnected somewhere beyond the universe by some unpredictable threads of God. In this field science completes superstitions in the same way as reasons complete assumptions. Therefore we can see that some of the significant causes are very quickly impact on society. So I am trying to indicate as the examples of the causes of superstitions as follows –

In technological age some people also believe in some traditional feeling. They are beliefs that Ghosts residing in tree especially in Peepal Trees. It is a significant matter. Actually this myth continues to prevail even today. But the scientific reason behind this is that the trees use carbon dioxide during the day and release oxygen but at night, it is the other way round. So, when we sleep under the tree, the excess carbon dioxide level can make us feel heavy in the chest and suffocated which is associated with the feeling of being possessed by some spirits. That is the truth as per science. But the believing people argue that Ghosts are invisible they residing in Trees.

Another a common example of superstition is that cause of false bias. False bias is very impact on our society in day to day life. False bias is the mainstream of superstitions. Those people believe or depend on the cause of false bias they are always faced a problem in their life functions. False bias thinking is the major cause of superstition; it means generally we link two situations or events to each other. Common people know that a universal example. This example is that suppose a man were walking on a road. The main aim of the man was to see the result of his son's entrance examination at the college. In that time of walking on the road suddenly a black cat crosses his front of way, and when he reaches the college he see that his son is failed in entrance examination. After collecting the result of his son man feel that the reason of failed of entrance examination is that black cat. That is the matter. So, in this matter man link his son's result with black cat and such false bias, such negative linking will make his and their brain superstitious.

From the above universal example it is clear that the feeling capacity of particular man is not true in scientifically. Because the particular man already created about a negative significant in their mind. So in day to day life we faced in different problems in different places. We can try to solve those problems as per situations. In the field of solving situations sometimes the aspect of superstitions reacted on our mind. So the cause of false bias is not completely deleted from our society. It's sometimes again and again reacted, re-response, in our people's mind. Therefore, if we want to delete the cause of false bias of superstition for forever from society then we will believe in science, as well as practical functions. Also we should analyze our gaining knowledge as educated and avoid the impact negative aspects from the society.

So we the people cannot totally avoid the feeling of superstitions. But through the knowledge of scientific reason we can improve our introspective concept to the external behavior. Especially superstition is very impact on the field of some area of people like backward, uneducated, rural, etc. They are easily believe in superstition through their traditional rules as well as per their mores and folks. For example a mirror which is broken may bring bad



luck; it is said, house where mirror was broken cannot get well for a period of six/seven years, milk cannot be given to nobody in the darkness of night, it is said that if it is given then cow does not produce milk any more, that crows fly around a house is not considered as a good luck, hands should not be bound together, if so that person becomes unsuccessful, a bird's knocking on the window with its beak is the sign of news to be received etc. Besides, there are different examples like these in our day to day life situation.

**VII. IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCE ON SOCIETY:** Generally the concept of superstition is commonly used; many of its features and aspects were still unclear. Especially superstition is totally related with sociological aspect. It is deeply rooted in social deprivation and can easily enter a society through people's thoughts, but is very difficult to be removed from minds because it has penetrated the culture. Especially in poor societies social pressure and emotional stress are high and this issue makes life insecure and stressful for the people.

We know that superstition is a widespread phenomenon. Actually it is a psychological concept. First of all the people creates on the particular matter psychologically. After that he/she indicated psychologically creating matter to the external side as their behavior. So in this field we can find out in distinct aspect. These are negative and positive impact. Basically the direct impact on society of superstition is negative aspect. Because the negative impact of superstition is may never effective result for the society. It is losses to the people as well as is obstacles in the field of social development. Superstitions reflect people's backwardness. Believing in superstitions and blind beliefs reflect backward thinking and lack of scientific outlook on life. Believing in superstitions is not good; people who are superstitious fail to solve their problems. They live in ignorance, and die in ignorance. Superstitions, however affect different people to varying degrees as women tend to be more superstitious as compared to men. Moreover, people who are more depressed, dealing with anxiety or have an external locus of control who believe they are the losers or not the masters of their fates are more likely to be superstitious.

Especially problems of population, poverty, technological, pollution, backwardness etc. are caused by superstitions. So as a human being we should always believe in scientific reasons and wisdom of great men and women. Sometimes wise men see what even the scientists can't see owing to lack of proper equipment and focus. Wise have the power of intuition and spirituality to look deep into life's mysteries and secrets. Belief and faith are enviable qualities, but superstitions are false beliefs. Therefore we should always adopt scientific outlook. On the other hand if people are from a superstitious family, it is more likely they will be superstitious. Not only this, superstitions have many demoralizing effect on our society such as- weakening self confidence, incapable of thinking in a reasonable way, paralyzing of will power under the influence of fear, blocking logical thinking, over indulging in non existing beliefs etc. So superstition impact on society is that it results in setback to modernization of society and overall human development. It develops an attitude of lethargy and idleness that hampers utilization of human potential. These practices results in misappropriation of resources and wastage of wealth. It favours exploitation and atrocities against depressed sections in the name of rituals.

Superstition refers to any belief or practice which is explained by the Supernatural Causality. A superstition is something that is believed by many people all around the globe based on myth, magic or irrational thoughts and beliefs. They usually involve animals, ghosts, graveyards, inanimate objects, fruits or even other people. Some superstitions commence based on a fact, and then become misrepresented over years and years of use and belief and some are formed from religious beliefs. In Indian especially in North East region, superstition is a wide spread social problem. So in this field some of the significant causes which can be attributed to superstition practices. For example - many tribal areas are far from the reach of modern development, hence lack in basic amenities'. Thus the inhabitants rely more on superstition than of modern sciences. Besides, due to existence of mass poverty, people often prefer superstitious cures than going to doctors for the diseases.

So in this regards there are many consequences as such beliefs and practices like - women are often subjected to physical and sexual violence in the name of performing superstitious rituals. Many a person is likely to suffer from the exploitation by the 'Babas' and 'Sadhus', Animal killings are often part of such superstitious beliefs etc. Also Superstition and rationality don't co-exist; this discourages scientific progress, belief in hard work. Multi-crore enterprises develop around these fake institutions, try to make quick buck and thereby encourage others too. Poor, superstitious people seek treatment from quacks instead of relying on modern health system. Belief in Magic causes the people attract toward witchcrafts and ultimately loose of rationality in north east India. Practice of witchcraft has a serious impact on the psyche of the children and women and widows. Animal are killed in the name of witchcraft etc. Besides, in this field re-enforcement is one of the significant social rigidities. These blind beliefs have in part ensured the immutability of the caste structure especially in the rural society where economic opportunities and educational facilities are nonexistent. Even where the provisioning of modern health and education facilities has been made the people are reluctant to avail them for the 'fear' of superstitions and the response of the society.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:** From the foregoing analyze at the end I would like to conclude that superstition is an irrational belief in something that is not based on concrete knowledge or facts. It is social phenomena and product of social context and conditions. Especially understanding the superstition concept from the scientific point of view, superstitions are a part of adaptive behavior in all organisms, as they struggle hard to make sense of an uncertain world. The evolution of superstition is much more than the natural selection of genes that is associated with crossing fingers, toughing wood and gold and many other superstitious traits. Generally humans, who don't have the confidence and trust on their hard work and efforts, prefer to take the safer route believing in superstitions in order to avoid any adversity, harm or injury. This is the reason why most superstitions are associated with fear of some harm that may strike the person if he or she does or fails to do a particular thing. So superstitions are an undesirable part of our lives. Ignorant and uneducated people have faith in unseen or unproved superstitions however educated people do the same thing. The only remedy for unnecessary superstitions is education and awareness, developing reasoning power, developing scientific mind, analyzing the things in logical way. At last would like suggest that education alone will not help eradicating superstition from north-east India we need to impart rational thinking among society. We know that superstition is a psychological aspect. If we want to avoid the side of our psychological aspect then we should develop our reasoning power. We must have a scientific mind; we should try to analyze the things in logical way. Also enacting laws against such practices will not suffice. The young generation should take the appropriate steps to eradicate such practices from the root and movies and media should take up the challenge of fighting against this evil. Then our society will be lightness in the field of psychological feeling as well as will be positive impact in psychological behavior.

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