

**Communal Riots: A Systematic Study since 2014-2018**

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**Abstract**

The problem of communalism is not a new in India it is an old phenomenon. There were many communal riots took place so far from Kashmir to *kanyakumari* and from *Kutch* to *Assam*. Almost all states of India have been threw from many communal Riots, however some states suffered less while some state affected to much. The most affected states of India were Gujarat, Utter Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh west Bengal. In the same time there are some less affected states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Goa, Sikkim are less affected states in India. While keeping the past approach of analyzing communal Riots in India this paper also made an attempt to keep the systematic study of all those communal Riots which had happened after 2014 to 2018

**Key words**, Communalism, communal riots, role of administration, damage of property, killing,

**Introduction**

The problems of communalism aroused way back from seventeenth century in India. This is a kind of ideology and eventual foundation of all communal riots in India. this kind of ideology always promoted by any particular group either for sake of his personal interest or the interest of particular group by circulating the wrong intention in the name secular need of particular community on communal lines. There are many factors which contribute the aggressive atmosphere of communalism in India. Some factors works individually while some factors work collectively. <sup>1</sup>

Riots often happed in violent ways between two unorganized group in opposition to each other. Riots may be separate from other violence because violence may take place between organised people or organised group suppose the violence between two states. It may also happen when one onrganised group of rebellious goes against state. This can be arranged in the shape of militancy. In context to communal riots there is great example found in India where the conflict between Hindu and Muslim is often generated. Riots can happen in small scale, as well as riots can happen very large scale. When it happens in large scale the communities may suffered. There is no single cause for the riots to happen between the communities. There are various motives; some are economic motives while some are non economic motive. When it happened between the rich and poor communities there may be the motives of economic while when it happen between the communities of same level there will not economic motives.<sup>2</sup>

**Historical Background**

Communalism as an ideology and had a source of communal riots. The seed of communalism can be traced back from seventeenth century. When British entered in India they had identified the communities on the basis of religions and castes. Later the movement for freedom struggle and representation of different communities on communal also fueled up the situation. The nature of all those communal Riots happened prior to partition was also different from the nature of communal Riots had happened after partition of India. Earlier the British sowed the seeds for division of different communities but after partition the situation had turned around.

After independence, our constitution framers had set up a structure for secular democracy. The purpose of doing this is to remove enmity among the communities but the situation had turned down their hopes gone crushed and their dream poorly founded. The constitution had set up each provision for the purpose of bringing equality but the significant of these things remain in dream. Most of the educational and other institution difference continues persisted between majority and minority communities. This hurt the sentiment of Muslim communities more who opted to hang with India. Most of the Muslim could not get what they desired. This deprivation of Muslim again raised the question over identity politics in India. In various states some Muslim leaders entered in mainstream politics as a result in large states Muslim organisations designated to represent the interest of Muslim. The attitudes of others, national political parties, also responsible for more communal politics in India.

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There was foreign involvement found in the shape of cross boarder infiltration that mobilise the people feeling on the name of religion. So this give push back to provocations. So this provocation sometime turns in various communal flare up. So after partition of India large number of communal Riots had happened in india , such as in Agra(1953) , Allahabad (1962) Badaun 1954, Aligarh (1956), Azamgarh (1948) Bahraich(1973) ,Basti (1966) Bulandshahr( 1977) Etah (1952) Faizabad ((1964) Firozpur (1958) Mau 1956 ,Kanpur (1973) Meerut (1968) Muzaffarnagar 1965, Sitapur(1959) Varanasi (1991) Gujarat (2002) Assam (2012) Muzaffarnagar (2013) .All these places were remained very hit after the partition of India. there were hundreds of reason for all these communal Riots <sup>4</sup>

The supporter of communalism always gets the opportunity of the situation by mobilizing one community against the other community for particular gains. Not all members in a community are communal only few wanted to build the image in community.

### **Saharanpur communal riots**

In 2014 the communal Riots broke out between two communities Muslim and Sikhs. The reason being cited was the land dispute. One community made claim that the present peace of the land belong to Wakf Board and second community had no right to construct over land while the second community represented claim that it had purchased some fifteen years ago and had already completed document to show. <sup>5</sup>

The Muslim community was guided by Muharram Ali Pappu while the Sikh community was led by Shri Guru Singh Sabha. The reason being not construction and why objection sustained by one community against another. The Sikh community wanted to construct over the land nearby Gurdawara over the Qutubsher Police station's road But the Muslim community objected that this land belonging to their graveyard and how construction began allowed without taking the permission Saharanpur

Development Authority Board. The three people lost their lives and more than 26 got seriously injured.<sup>6</sup>

Besides civilian, half dozen, police personals and Magistrate, were also got seriously injured. Many shops, government property, petrol pumps were burnt and looted. The local administration including police administration were rushed to spot immediately and played very important role in handling this communal riots, whole district was put under the strict curfews, otherwise the situation could be worsened.<sup>7</sup> One thing here is that earlier the communal Riots held between the majority and minority community. Form this riots it is seen that both communities are in minority in India.

### **Nadia communal Riot**

Nadia is a district in west Bengal. In the eastern side its border attach with Bangladesh, on the western side it boarder attach with Purbabardaman and northern side it boarder shared with Murhsidabad and southern side Hooghly district.<sup>8</sup>

There communal riot broke out on May 5, 2015. This was a worst communal riot seen in recent history. The devastation starts from Kaliganj block. Everything had been destroyed badly. All housed were terribly upset under fire. Many innocents were taken out from on the roads and beaten up, there was large scale looting took place in that areas. The role of Police in controlling this riot was very weak<sup>9</sup> There were four persons killed in this riot besides more than seven people got injured in this communal riot.<sup>10</sup>

### **Kaliachak Communal Riot**

Kalichak is one of the sub-divisions of Malda district which is located in West Bengal.<sup>11</sup> In this sub division communal Riots broke out on Jan, 3, 2016. The immediate cause of this riot was some Muslims leaders' orgained a rally in context to protest against Kamlesh Tiwari who was associated with 'Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha'. All others local leaders associated with other political parties such as Trinamool Congress and CPI (M) were presented there. In the rally they raged their anger against the speech of Kamlesh Tiwari who made derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).<sup>12</sup>

In amid rally a bus carrying passenger was halted. The driver of the bus starting heating argument with rally as a result they had to get off passengers from the bus and set into fire. When the Administration started its action the protest turned out to be violent against the state's management. They burnt down buses and police motor vehicle, looted government properties and also burnt down police station Kaliachak. As per the report of the police this riot was not only busted due to disparaging remarks made by Kamlesh Tiwari but the communal seeds were already planted by some political parties before the riots. The view of the police clearly indicates that this communal riot was pre planned. However, the role of the police was remained quick to control the riots. As the IPC, 144 put in imposed there. The RAF personals were deployed in a time. So the causalities remained zero. However more than 30 peoples got seriously injured while the huge property got damaged.<sup>13</sup>

### **Coimbatore Communal Riot**

The Coimbatore is the third largest city in Tamil Nadu. Besides largest city it is also most industrlaised region in Tamil Nadu. It is also called 'Textile capital of south India'. This is quite old city existed from second and third century by the

karikalan Ruler of Chola dynasty.<sup>14</sup> The basic cause for these riots is murder of C Saskikumar a spokes person of Hindu Munnani. The factors behind the murder were unrevealed at that time. Some Hindu orgainasation such as Bhartiya Janta Party came outrage and said, “the Hindu leaders were being targeted and police is doing nothing to protect them”<sup>15</sup> The day after the murder took place, large numbers of people gathered and started protest as a result people from different religious group went on storm. In this way large number of property they set under the fire. They looted the shops and also torched the police personals vehicles. The police action was also remained quick, more than 2,000 personals were deployed instantly. Besides police vehicles around 30 public buses were under gone fire.<sup>16</sup>

Most of the Rioters put fire on religious worship places, they also ransacked store and hurled many petrol pumps. There were many questions left behind whether there was some personal enmity between the communities? Is there religious fundamentalism prevailed? Or another small scale business rivalry? One theory worked that as long as the police had allowed the people form long funeral procession of Sasikumar’s body. The moment’s rioters planned for communal riots. In this communal Riots there was no any killing took place but large numbers of peoples including police were got injured.<sup>17</sup>

### **Baduria Communal Riot**

The Baduria is a small city located in located in north 24 Praganas District of West Begnal. On July 2, the communal Riot broke out between two communities Hindu and Muslim in this town. This communal Riot happened when a boy post on social media, against Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Soon after the crowed of Muslims community more than 3000 thousand people gathered at Rudrapur ground. They were demanding to see the boy while the local police and civil administration assured them that they will be booked him under the relevant provision of law. In the next day when police bowed down their demand the mobs turned violent on police. This triggered communal riot in whole district.<sup>18</sup> Due to this, one worker who belonged to RSS got killed on spot and twenty fife people left Injured. The angry mob torched twelve police vehicles. Several other shops were also looted.<sup>19</sup>

### **Communal Riots Series in Bihar**

The communal Riots broke out in series in the month of March 2018 in Bihar’s many districts on the instance of ‘Ram Navami procession’ First it started from march seventeen, at Nathnagar Bhagalpur, a one of the sensitive district of Bihar. This riot had been considered as major communal Riots in the history after 1980s. This Communal Riots had happened when some members associated with BJP, RSS and Bajrang Dal attempted to take out a march without getting the proper permission. In this communal riot near about, 35 people have got injured. However, the policemen were also got injured while dealing with rioters.<sup>20</sup>

Then on March twenty four communal riot hit the Siwan when Ram Navami procession held at Hassanpura. The both communities started stone pelting to each other as a result number of people got injured. This time also fire broken down and hit three vehicles. In this connection police detained six people.<sup>21</sup>

Next day, again Riot broke out between two communities at Aurangabad. In this time fifty shops were set ablaze. In the whole month of March communal riots were striking on March, Smastipur march, 27, Nalanda and Sheikpura, march 28, Sitamarhi march 29, Navada march 30. In this riots more than 60 people belong to Hindu religion were got critical injured. Police had detained large number of Muslims people in their custody.<sup>22</sup>

## **Final Result and Discussion**

After systematic study of communal Riots from 2014 to 2018 there were number of things have seen changed. In relative to previous years communal riots the number of killing took place were very less. The nature of communal riots happening these days was quite changed. Earlier the communities were engage themselves in different issues over the pity things but now as per the existing riots available the people were involved only on sensitive things that led suppose to hurt their religious sentiments. The communal riots which happened in twentieth century the role of police and administration were remained weak so that purpose the large scale killing punched in India. Now in these riots the role of police seemed quite active. All the paramilitary and RAF personals seemed quite active. The civil administration also played super role in solving different communities' demands. Of course the worth of property set ablaze, number of vehicles including public and private also put under the fire. The Nadia and Kaliachak communal Riots were pre-planned as per the reports available through newspapers. From these riots, it is cleared that the seed of communalism cannot be finished from India because of long term rivalry between Hindu and Muslim. The political parties and their leaders played decisive roles in mobilizing community for the purpose of political gains. The communal organisations such as, RSS, Bajrang Dal also fueled up Hindu community sentiments. In this way, the most important things lost were communal Harmony among the communities.

## **Suggestions**

Communalism is not a new phenomenon, it roots can be traced back since human being divided in different communities because of conflicted human nature. However we can reduce communal feeling by putting following step in society.

1. All communities should respect each other's religious sentiments, no religion in this world teaches harm.
2. Everyone is equal before the God. No one is superior or inferior. So at the time of teaching students attempt should be made to realize all students like that not in school but from family as per the stages of socialization helps in grooming up.
3. At the time of little conflicts between the communities, there is prime duty of each religious head to give the knowledge of communal harmony to each community rather than communal debating on loud speaker, social media.
4. All social media should user should not put irrelevant stuff on social media that may hurt the sentiment of other communities in the society
5. One should keep in mind all community are only for identity. The community should not be treated as preferential because the collective interest is more important things than individual interest.
6. India could be developed more if all the communities will perform work together for the development of country.
7. All the police personal should give special type of training so that at the time of communal riot they handle people very carefully.
8. All cities should be covered under CCTV camera the person who involve themselves actively should be given exemplary punishment, so that other may learn lesson from these people's punishment.

## **Summing up**

India is pluralistic country and had a diverse culture. Due to growing over population in the country the country has been going through various upheavals, such as rural population, poor education, lack of employment, poverty, mal-nutrition, lack of proper medical facilities put people under the debt of mountains. Owing to these large problems the

people come under the pressure and starting fighting with each other on pity things, frustration generally hit them. Therefore the government of our country should focus on substantive causes of people so that the long lasting solution can come out.

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