

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:10 pm (Edit)

The argument of tougher laws destroying our cultural fabric doesn't take into account the harm inflicted on an individual by superstitious practices. I argue that crimes in the name of belief, should be treated on equal legal footing as that of crimes under IPC.

[Reply](#)**Agrata**

November 10, 2013 at 6:10 pm (Edit)

Yes... Superstition do exist not only in India but also in many parts of the world. But people won't change their perception of the things suddenly. For example government cannot ban 'vastu shastra' and 'astrology' as people will not accept it. But if we take the case of Godmen, there are so many people, who don't like Godmen concept. So, govt may implement a law regarding banning of Godmen. The change must happen slowly to avoid revolt from people. And in the education system too, these points must be stressed to create awareness among children.

[Reply](#)**Aaru**

November 10, 2013 at 6:29 pm (Edit)

When our top political leaders who routinely indulge in acts like meeting these Godmen publicly, we can't expect people stop going to them.

[Reply](#)**Saurabh**

November 10, 2013 at 6:14 pm (Edit)

Recent murder of rationalist Narendra dhabholkar highlights the primordial intolerant nature of superstitious beliefs. A murder should be called Murder, whatever be the driving force behind it.

[Reply](#)

Tuks

November 10, 2013 at 6:18 pm (Edit)

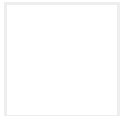


First instead of making tougher laws we should awareness regarding superstitious. because india is a diverse country with class, caste system. and in india there are many religion as india as secular every religion has freedom. but the problem is that every religion has different superstitious things... as given by the Swami Vivekanan

[Reply](#)

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:18 pm (Edit)

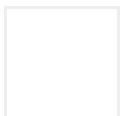


No, I don't think there is any need to enact a law to ban Godmen. The way state handled recent case of asaram shows that how even rule of law is bend even in most obvious cases demanding proper legal proceedings.

[Reply](#)

Anjali

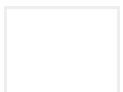
November 10, 2013 at 6:24 pm (Edit)



After knowing Asaram's deeds I am sure many people are laughing at themselves as whom they assumed god like.

[Reply](#)

Tuks



November 10, 2013 at 6:32 pm (Edit)

No.....there is need to enact the law to ban godmen....because in india it also become a part of business....because these men giving fake information w.r .t.people....

[Reply](#)

Agrata

November 10, 2013 at 6:19 pm (Edit)

And when we talk about the case of top scientists visiting temples before launching scientific mission is not related to superstition in my opinion. It is just their belief in God. And the important thing here is we should be able to distinguish between belief in God and superstition.

But at the same time celebrities or the top officials can influence the minds of people. So, they have the responsibility to avoid visits to Godmen as it definitely comes under superstition.

[Reply](#)

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:27 pm (Edit)

I think ban on Godmen is a ham-handed approach as it questions the very foundation of fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution. But treating so called Godmen equal before the law will surely invoke the sense in people that their beliefs are not above the law of the land. And it should not encroach upon other peoples right to choices.

[Reply](#)

INSIGHTS

November 10, 2013 at 6:44 pm (Edit)

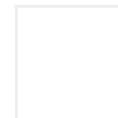


True.. Celebrities can influence the mind of the common man, but then would'nt that curb 'freedom of expression'?

[Reply](#)

Anjali

November 10, 2013 at 6:55 pm (Edit)

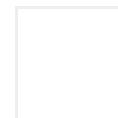


Sir, I agree with you that celebrities have their personal life, media should not report such things about celebrity visiting particular godman though it is also curb on freedom of speech of media, but in larger interest they can be advised not to publish such things

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 6:59 pm (Edit)

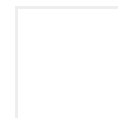


I feel that they should keep the visits to babas and mullahs as personal as possible. Being celebrities, they carry sense of responsibility with them.

[Reply](#)

Anjali

November 10, 2013 at 6:20 pm (Edit)

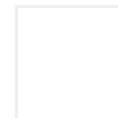


I think superstitions which affect public like ghost, witch must be dealt with tougher laws, those which are confined to one's personal life like vastu-shastra and astrology etc should be dealt with awareness with scientifically demonstration.

[Reply](#)

Tuks

November 10, 2013 at 6:22 pm (Edit)



As Said by Gautam Buddha, "forget about all the fast and superstitious things and just do good and be good...so first we make awareness....then we can implement laws step by step..
Becaz it cannot be changed instantly.

[Reply](#)

Anjali

November 10, 2013 at 6:27 pm (Edit)



If you know recently one women burnt to death, on the assumption that she is witch and causing harm to village, don't you think we need tougher laws to deal with such cases though awareness is necessary.

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 6:32 pm (Edit)



I'm sure we already have laws to arrest "murderers". Why do we need another law?

[Reply](#)

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:35 pm (Edit)



this is true. And if i may bring it to your notice, the punishment under Anti-witchcraft law for the same crime is less severe than that under IPC. Now does that make sense? A murder is a murder. Treat it on equal legal footing.

[Reply](#)

INSIGHTS

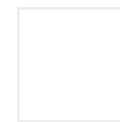
November 10, 2013 at 6:43 pm (Edit)



Reply

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:23 pm (Edit)

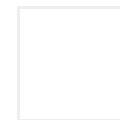


Well the concept of Indian secularism does require the state to intervene in the religious beliefs which hinder other people to exercise their right of freedom to belief. Yes, education and curriculum changes is a long term strategy which will bring scientific temper to our public discourse.

Reply

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 6:26 pm (Edit)



While there is no denying the fact that superstitions are closely inter-woven with religion and particularly to our culture, it doesn't stand in goodstead to bring out laws and try to curb them.

Rationalists should try to educate the people and condemn all superstitions, but i think they shouldn't try to bring any new laws. If those superstitious acts bring harm to the people then there enough laws to prosecute those charlatans.

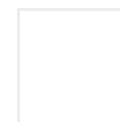
The leaders who represent people should restrain from advertising "self-styled" godmen by attending their gatherings.

As long as we don't infringe on the personal beliefs of people and prosecute the charlatans, there is no need for any new law.

Reply

Rekha

November 10, 2013 at 6:29 pm (Edit)



ofcourse makin tougher laws are antithetical to our cultural ethos,we cannot blindly ask our coming generations to follow it which will only take the advantage of once situation rather than helping.

One can follow only if it involves scientific reason. But we cannot say all are superstitious,without knowing the rationale behind it. For

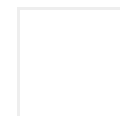
example in our day to day life when we sleep and awake,we are advised by our elders to sleep on left-hand side and wake up from the right-hand side which as a scientific reason. But people who dont know definitely make riddle of it(as i also one such prior knowing).

But today there are many practices carried out just by fearing people and for making money. To completely abolish such activities we need tougher laws. I too agree that intially people wont accept it but later with the awareness its definitely accepted. A prominent quote goes like this-”when something new is brought in,its first taken to task,later rediculed and finally accepted”.

Reply

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 6:34 pm (Edit)

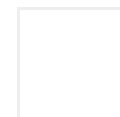


While i agree with most of your points, i don't find a rationale behind enacting another law.

Reply

Rekha

November 10, 2013 at 7:07 pm (Edit)



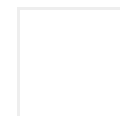
See today its grown so vast that the awareness alone cannot make it happen,so intervention is required by making laws.

One example is the media particularly tv,which is accessible even to remote areas is not playin the responsible role,as it only telecasts live programs of astrology.

Reply

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 6:31 pm (Edit)



Indian constitution provides right to express.Hence laws to deal with superstitions will look to general public or saying otherwise would be portrayed to them by fundamentalists as being restriction on their rights.Also they would be seen as suppressing of culture,their belief.

Thus,instead of legal ways,an intresting way would be to regularise the radicalism and anti-superstition element in the school curriculum as

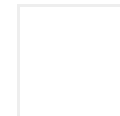
well as try to generate awareness regularly through helping hands and also govt. initiatives by some stage presentations,papers etc.appealing against those superstitious believes.

Yes,for few heinous beliefs like declaring a women witch and torturing sure there are legal laws as it would be treated a murder only.Also to incite superstition is also in my opinion attracts legal laws but could there be laws to stop people regarding that black cat crossing way.....certainly no help there.

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 6:38 pm (Edit)

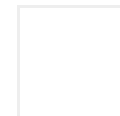


We already have many organisations which are spreading awareness like Jana vignana Vedika in A.P. what we need is an platform where all these ngos' get together and can act more effectively.

[Reply](#)

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:32 pm (Edit)

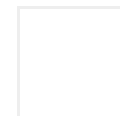


Yes thats precisely my ponit, that by introducing different laws to treat crimes under superstition, state defeats the very purpose of moral force behind justice, that is, the dignity of individual. So mu arguement is that state must treat such crimes under IPC and existing laws. that in a long run will bring the sense of rationality in blind believers of such so called godmen.

[Reply](#)

Agrata

November 10, 2013 at 6:36 pm (Edit)



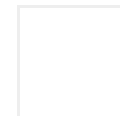
If we take law against untouchability, this law is Against Varnashrama Darma concept which was integrated in our culture in the past. But that law saved many people from loosing their dignity.

So in the similar case, tougher laws are required against superstitious acts too. Any culture is not the perfect one. So, we should constantly implement laws to fix the loopholes.

[Reply](#)

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 6:44 pm (Edit)



Yes but these laws could only deal with what is on the screen.

removal of untouchability should have meant even the shedding of commensal or interdining restrictions.

Anybody here sure regarding its eradication in this form even after the laws.

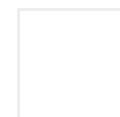
Even particular law regarding SCs and STs is framed.

But discrimination still prevails moreover in cities like Bombay and Calcutta.

[Reply](#)

Tuks

November 10, 2013 at 6:56 pm (Edit)

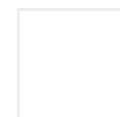


Yes...i totally agree with you....

[Reply](#)

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 6:40 pm (Edit)



Regarding scientists,even top officials and even best practitioners from the discipline an opposite to superstition medical science(a CMO recently)to a young rational,enthusiastic mind looks awkward but its root should be traced in society and its culture.

These are all living in society as social scientist Durkheim pointed out that collective living fosters solidarity and generates certain beliefs.According to him,to maintain this solidarity the collective belief must be upheld or society according to its solidarity level (mechanical

or organic)has its own laws to deal.

Hence living in society itself iss the cause of belief in these culture even from the one at the top.These belief are manifested in culture and thus ingrained in our minds.

To take these out an attack on culture is necessary but not by laws instead society's own instrument of inculcating these behaviour i.e.Socialisation process is to be used.

Family,school,surrounding,media,everybody could play its part in this.

[Reply](#)

Tuks

November 10, 2013 at 6:41 pm (Edit)



Recently due to jat panchayat..one man suicided...so there should be created awareness through education..

Firstly we should add these information in education curriculum...means next generation will be informed about supertitious issues.... then govt should make laws..

[Reply](#)

Bhawesh

November 10, 2013 at 6:42 pm (Edit)



Freedom of belief, faith and worship is the basic element of our Constitution. Superstition is indeed unwanted in our society, we cannot bring laws to curb people following Vaastu and Astrology as it will affect the freedom of faith and belief. However, we need to bring laws to prevent the anti-social elements which tend to loot people by misleading them on the basis of such superstitions. Scientific temperament cannot be enforced on anyone and even following Science and its theories should be a choice to the people and not a mandate.

[Reply](#)

INSIGHTS





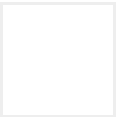
November 10, 2013 at 7:01 pm (Edit)

Good point made. Scientific temperament cannot be enforced. But then what alternatives can one think of if 'laws' are not the solution to curb superstition?

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 7:15 pm (Edit)



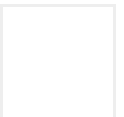
It will create chaos when we try to make laws for issues like superstition. What may be a superstition to one may not be to other. Tying amulets may be belief for someone, but many would find it as superstition. Belief or superstitions are individuals choice and we can't expect to control them by means of laws.

Creating awareness via media, conducting camps to show the trickery of charlatans, prosecuting those who cause 'harm' in the name of belief, educating children right from primary to think in a "rational", etc would surely bring a change.

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

November 10, 2013 at 7:44 pm (Edit)



“Creating awareness via media, conducting camps to show the trickery of charlatans, prosecuting those who cause 'harm' in the name of belief, educating children right from primary to think in a “rational”, etc would surely bring a change.”

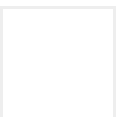
All have been done. Success has been limited.

Why not you Stick through legislation?

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 8:00 pm (Edit)



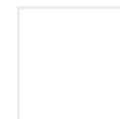
i'm afraid, there is nothing like being "done" when we're dealing with society at large. Yes, the success is limited. That should boost us to work even harder. As I've pointed out earlier where do we draw line between faith-based practices and superstitions? K'taka included paad pooja as superstition. I'm sure there are many who don't consider it bad far from being superstitious. There are many examples where religious beliefs may be termed as as superstitions.

What we need to inculcate in people is logic and leave it them. But yes what we can certainly do is to identify fake babas and mullahs and prosecute them.

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

November 10, 2013 at 8:04 pm (Edit)

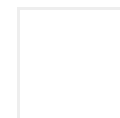


Do you mean what are the aspects the legislation should regulate is an issue to be dealt and discussed?

[Reply](#)

Aaru

November 10, 2013 at 8:06 pm (Edit)

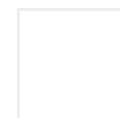


While i oppose enacting such law as whole, i'm highlighting the chaos it would create in bringing such law.

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

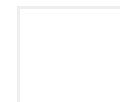
November 10, 2013 at 8:11 pm (Edit)



without law. Then , how do we realize Constitutional Fundamental Duty?

[Reply](#)

aaru



November 10, 2013 at 8:19 pm (Edit)

Well, the answer lies in your question itself. Fundamental duties are not legally enforceable but are expected to be followed by Indians.

Reply

chetan gowda

November 10, 2013 at 8:23 pm (Edit)

Ya, I agree but DPSP and Fundamental Duties were meant to state and also citizens respectively, so that progressive interpretation of Constitution remains. So, is it not time to give it a legal backing?

Dr. MD

November 10, 2013 at 6:45 pm (Edit)

Superstition and India have been bonded since times immemorial. Fear of mother nature and pleasing her to avoid her wrath was the belief amongst the ancient homosapiens. It has since then eaten many forms . The practice of sacrificing horses and bullocks in yajnyas, the cult of the paying the life of an innocent animal to please good and goddesses have stemmed it in our dna. This has exceeded in times to come and even sought to human sacrifice.

Is is important to understand why people are superstitions. superstitions are carried out on large scale though only today even amongst the educated populace. It's a channel to please the disturbed mind through seeking popular godmen and their like. The recent killing of a rational anti superstition propagandist has bought to the fore the hollow and deeply backward looking nature of our society.

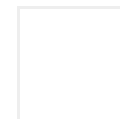
Tougher laws are a must but what is needed in the this time of the hour is a true scientific and intellectual revolution in our country. We need to placate the rituals and superstition s aside and look in the modern world banked on a rational and scientific fervor.

The recently passed ordinance against superstitions in maharashtra is a welcome step. We need to see such welcome steps with active role played by the civil society and the media

Reply

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 6:53 pm (Edit)



Yes sure a true scientific and intellectual revolution in our country is need of the hour but the question is what must be the ingredients and from where the start.

For me,its the family ,the basic unit then school,then religion,and finally whole society needs to adhere to radicalism.

What happens in India,from start on we are learning that Gangajal is sacred.Look Nobody could be observed to have had brought the Gangajal from the sacred river in his home and then maybe using it to wash his Hands or hairs just for the sake he is not having water in his pipes.

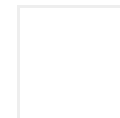
SORry,not intended to hurt anybody's religious sentiments.

But this is the case.We need to start from here.

Reply

Saurabh

November 10, 2013 at 6:46 pm (Edit)

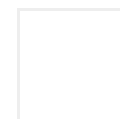


Yes socialisation can be a very effective tool but not sufficient enough. Because you see in a society if a belief,however unscientific that maybe, is held by the dominant group, then its very difficult for an individual to withstabd the social controls which sometimes turn out to be violence as in the case of Dhbhiolkar. so Legal protection by the state is necessary for an individual.

Reply

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 6:55 pm (Edit)



Without masses there cannot be a leader.I think Gandhi said it.

So if there is nobody to follow what will the fundamentalists do.

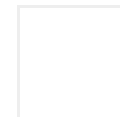
Or

to whom they would propagate their views.

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

November 10, 2013 at 6:47 pm (Edit)

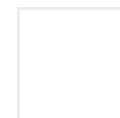


Every religion and culture holds high moral values. India being an ancient society with rich indigenous tradition which believe in malevolent and benevolent spirits -to guard their forest and children. However, Inculcating “scientific temper” (Art 51(A)) would be path. The role of the state is to realize these DPSP and Fundamental Duties into a judicialable part. So, I argue that legislation is necessary but not the sufficient step. The role played by the political parties, civil-society, education system makes even the antithetical to become acceptable in the longer run.

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

November 10, 2013 at 6:51 pm (Edit)



So, how to address the issue without making it antitheical? The aspect of reasoning needs to brought back to the FAITH and RELIGION, how?

[Reply](#)

INSIGHTS

November 10, 2013 at 6:56 pm (Edit)

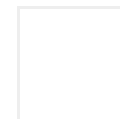


and what about Media? do we need its regulation too?

Today media is used by the influential, be it a politician or a godman, as a tool for propagation of their ideology.

[Reply](#)**Vijay Pateriya**

November 10, 2013 at 7:05 pm (Edit)



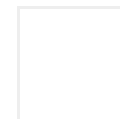
Surebut curbing media and putting restrictions on it are'nt the real tasks 'cause the media will show whatever people would prefer.

Now if we are not going to stick to a channel repeating the superstitious story again and again.....what they will gain by showing it. Second,if our angle of watching and analysing the superstition changes,we will surely see it and react in opposite.

Note-what media could do is possibly change the angle of perception this will benefit a lot.

[Reply](#)**Tuks**

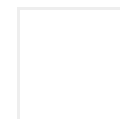
November 10, 2013 at 7:08 pm (Edit)



There is not necessary to regulate the media.....because the main role of media is to provide information regarding what is happening either it is bad or good....media never decides it is bad or good.....people decides it....and if media providing the information which was happened but it was bad.....from that information people shoud learn...people should become cautiois...becaz it mihjt haapen with me in future...finally i would like to say it depends upon individuals mind...how we think and how we take it...

[Reply](#)**chetan gowda**

November 10, 2013 at 7:13 pm (Edit)



We do have TV channels which run programs on vastu shatra , jyothishya in the early morning and again showing how in the name fake-doctors, “dongi-babs” treat. But, vastu-shatra owes its credibility as it claims itself “scientific”. Media is a complex, currently its educating the people on the other hand fueling superstition on another. Doing away with TRP dependency of broadcasters is the way out.Media regulation is more controversial especially programs of these sort are high in regional channels. The means of education

should be balanced not just with science but also sociology. A guideline could be issued so that MEDIA doesn't promote, instead it gives a balanced views.

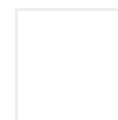
One cant control social-media!

The political culture, discourse, inculcating reasoning in education and role of family should pave the way forward.

[Reply](#)

jyoti

November 10, 2013 at 8:29 pm (Edit)



The media needs regulation..big time..especially channels like Indiatv who air full half an hour programme on such things almost everyday.

There's very thin line between superstitions and faith. Faith in almighty is a good thing but being superstitious and killing innocent animals to please God is not going to bring them any supposed good luck.

A mental and scientific revolution on part of society in whole is the need of the hour.

We shouldn't keep on following the tradition if they're irrational and can't be reasoned out.

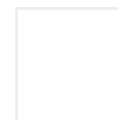
A rational and prudent approach on our part is required.

Everybody including media has to work towards this end. Media has to do a li'l more as it acts like a reflector of the society and must spread awareness regarding the scientific basis of things not spread the superstitions...

[Reply](#)

chetan gowda

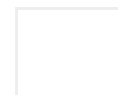
November 10, 2013 at 8:39 pm (Edit)



regulating media :wont it mean curtailment of "fundamental right under article 19" ?

[Reply](#)

Nikhil D





November 10, 2013 at 6:55 pm (Edit)

Modernization is termed as an age of reasoning. It seeks for scientific proof for existence of any event or matter. On the other hand, superstition needs no reasoning for proving existence of any event or matter. It is thoroughly based on faith and belief of the people.

The superstitions were developed in pre-modern world because of lack of scientific methodologies to prove existence of particular event or matter. The people linked unexplained events to the superstitions. The development of science gradually helped in withering away several superstitions. However, one should note that science in itself can never prove existence of all the events or matter in the universe. Science has got its limitations too.

Thus, it's extremely necessary that superstitions and science should go hand in hand. Now the question that pops out is what are the limits that should be set for existence of superstitions in the society.

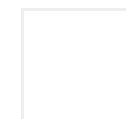
In most of the societies, superstitions and traditions are linked to one another. Thus, taking away superstition means ceasing the existence of that particular tradition. This might have disastrous effect on people and it might bring out social uproar against the law/government. Therefore, government should make laws only on ceasing those superstitions which have detrimental effects on the society (Eg. Superstitions causing crimes/poverty/atrocities on person or society as a whole). Rest of the superstitions, which are less detrimental to the society as a whole should be left untouched by law/government. Those left out superstitions will also eventually wither away with the modernization of the society through education and awareness.

Believing in superstitions will always be an individual choice, no matter how much science develops or laws forbid them. Like I said before, Science and Superstitions should go hand in hand, forever. The independent existence of either of them cannot prove beneficial to the society at large.

Reply

Vicky..

November 10, 2013 at 7:00 pm (Edit)



In my view, banning Godmen, Vastu Shastra etc are not feasible in today's era of coalition politics. India is seeking new dimensions in various fields and the attention should not be deflected to these issues. If done, superstitions and other not so important issues will be fired by political

parties. The notion of vote by development has started taking roots in our country. Hence banning such traditions will dilute the focus.

Focusing on Education and promoting rational thinking is a much more potent tool towards changing behavioral and thinking patterns of a mind. Imagine, If people like Ram Mohan Roy, Jotibha Phule etc could develop that rational temper by education and reasoning, despite huge cultural impediments prevalent then, then why not today. Taking my case only, I am a firm believer of god and his form supported by my religion. But I do not suspend science. If I am thanking the nature's grace or supreme power's grace in the form of observing some fast or worshipping Lord Krishna, then what is the harm in it. There is nothing wrong in that. And I believe that greater responsibility, intellect, recognition and rationality follow education automatically. Hence in my opinion education should be focused upon. Its quality should be enhanced.

But Yes the point of compromising human rights and detrimental superstitions like child marriage etc should be dealt with force. Traditions like Untouchability and Sati were undoubtedly cruel mis-perceptions of culture and religion.

In regards to scientists visiting temples. Again do not find anything wrong in such behavior. Even Westerner's before accomplishing their missions, pray to god or keep their fingers crossed. What if they do not visit temples, asking for luck and good wishes is a human tendency. It varies from place to place.

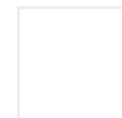
But yes, hard work and sensibility to correct thought should be advocated along with such traditions.

Banning superstitions will not stop them. Even if vastu shasta is banned, it will continue to be in force in people's mind.

Reply

Vicky..

November 10, 2013 at 7:10 pm (Edit)



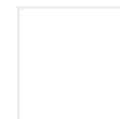
Another mention which I would like to make is of Kautilya. He practiced rationality and his works continue to hold relevance to this date as well. But he also believed in religion. Remember Voltaire's saying – It doesn't matter if god exists or not. What matters is everyone should invent a god or any form for himself, just to shed his/her ego.

Hence if a scientist wants to show his humility towards temples, then there is no wrong in it. A human being finds it very difficult to handle success and it often transforms into Ego.

Reply

Rekha

November 10, 2013 at 7:42 pm (Edit)



We didnt offer prayers or any other the day one we born. We picked it up slowly observing our elders rather initially we were made to follow and with time and maturity it developed into belief.

All this god etc and praying in the form or non-form everything is created by our ancestors which are now rooted in our culture. This is also a type of superstition but this doesnt harm anyone as this is very subjective.

But using this as a means to scare people saying if this pooja not done then your life is at threat etc and this is superstition which should be eradicated.

When it comes to scientists visiting temple,its their belief. Infact was suprised knowing that NASA also shares groundnut prior its every launch and its their belief.

If we interpret the above incidences-to do anything one should have confidence which will come when we are prepared with everything,ie small minor rituals also include to boost or retain confidence else may end up other way.

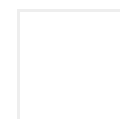
To make it cleat let me give an example-during final exams or some important exams people use a particular pen/wear particular dress etc,all this boosts his/her confidence and chances are more that they perform better. For the other person who hears this may laugh saying its superstitious ofcourse it is but in the context of that exam writing student its not because it gives them confidence and chances are that if nt followed this activity of them with that mind set they may not perform better which they consider it because of nt wearing particular dress or not carrying particular pen etc. But in actual reality its purely pschycological issues. Since it doesnt harm anyone so much heed for such activity is not given.

But imposing such activities on others forcefully by making them fear is whats wrong and such should be banned.

Reply

Vicky..

November 10, 2013 at 9:13 pm (Edit)



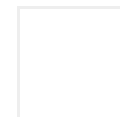
I agree with your point. Forceful acceptance is wrong.

But our constitution itself guarantees this freedom of thought to every citizen. It is just lack of awareness and education of rights, which lead to such acceptance of ill-superstitions. So that is what I am keeping for. Educate them. Let their intellect develop. And let people make their own choice after they know they freedom of thought and conscience.

[Reply](#)

Naveenjot

November 10, 2013 at 7:03 pm (Edit)

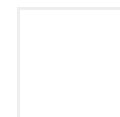


As swami vivekananda has said that you cannot separate religion from india...which is indeed a truth we cannot imagine an indian without religion which has become an integral part of their life. from their birth till death a normal indian follows all the customs as dictated by their religion which unite them in the same sociocultural fabric. it is true that there has been an exploitation of this institute more than any other for some vested gains but all of a sudden you just cannot dictate the people to stop practicing what they been doing from so many centuries..... their is a very thin and vague boundary btw superstition and belief.....and making the ppl know about this boundary can certainly led them understand that what should be followed and what is to be rejected;]

[Reply](#)

Ananya Basu

November 10, 2013 at 7:06 pm (Edit)



the anti superstition bill is highly misunderstood.dr dabholkar strived all his life to promote rationality and not oppose any religion or culture.there is a thin line between faith and blind faith and he wanted(all rationalists for that matter)us to appreciate it. is there a justified explanation for sexual harassment of women telling them they will have a male child if they submit to the demands of a particular godman?or looting innocent people by scaring them by unreasonable predictions and demands?

the 12 things prohibited by this bill are-

1) do exorcism by beating the affected person,giving him /her water used to wash shoes to drink,tying the person to the ceiling,burning his body by hot rods.giving him human urine to drink,uprooting hairs etc.

- 2)financial looting by fraud.
- 3)to do dangerous or immoral activities in the name of possessing supernatural power.
- 4)no sacrificing human life
- 5)to fool people by claiming that some heavenly power has possessed the body of the one who cheats.
- 6)to outcast a person who is supposed to be performing black magic.
- 7)to beat a person in a naked state believing them to be possessed by evil powers.
- 8)to prevent a person from taking medical help by telling them they have been possessed by a spirit and could not be cured medically.
- 9)to terrorize people by death threats and financial loss by playing with their faith.
- 10)to claim sex change of a fetus by just playing with the fingers on the pregnant lady's stomach.
- 11)to demand sexual favours for spiritual and religious ones.
- 12)to harass a mentally retarded or differently abled person by claiming that he/she possesses supernatural powers.

these points give a brief idea if not complete about the well intentioned activism of the rationalists towards humanity in general.they are not against faith,religion ,culture and belief but against the abuse of people by few people(with vested interests) in the name of faith.in my personal opinion scientific temper does not take you away from faith but towards it and at the same time we should not tolerate nonsense in the name of religion.so anti superstition measures should not be treated as something which threatens our culture and heritage but as something which strengthens it.

p.s.- correct me if i am wrong 😊

Reply

simran

November 10, 2013 at 7:11 pm (Edit)



Superstious is something which we think doesntexist but as per other opinion its exist. There is many thing on which we dont belive only bcz of this reson doesnt mean that those thing doesnt exist.

As per me superstious regarding godmen or spirit not getting to be belived till something not happend wid u till.

And blameing to the India that tradition and culture is part of superstious is not wright .

For eg

In India if we doing a prayer in our manner and in other countries where christan are more they prayer in church by blowing a candle in front

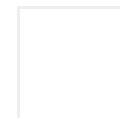
of jesus. If blowing candle is not a supersitious and praying in india of sungod or lord shiva and many more god and godess is kind or part of superstitious only bcz we r indian. Well if any one say to me that your god doent exist and no one can see them even u doesnt see them so then i replied even u too doesnt see ur jesus u beleive on them bcz to feel that or ur elder taught so.

Every is diff and ur this difference make u different and unique by them. So nothing is superstitious this word exist till something not happend wid u good or bad.

[Reply](#)

SS

November 10, 2013 at 7:15 pm (Edit)



superstition may be part of culture and tradition of India but any thing that is against humanity is unethical and it is must to eradicate it from the society.

practice of sati, child marriage, untouchability etc all were part of tradition of India but it was the requirement of time to eradicate them so eradicated. superstition just a malpractice not a tradition for the benefit of anti social and heartless elements and the people who are trying to defend them they are only thinking about themselves and they never faced such kinds of thing thats why they are supporting it.

[Reply](#)

INSIGHTS

November 10, 2013 at 7:15 pm (Edit)

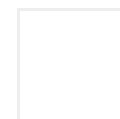


Karnataka Government recently formulated a draft 'anti-superstitious practices Bill'. But it was outrightly opposed by many legislators saying that it would infringe on religious beliefs. What should be other alternatives, to find a solution to this issue?

[Reply](#)

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 7:23 pm (Edit)



Yes thats what precisely my first point was that if tried to put in legal shackels.be ready for retaliation and when legislators oppose it surely

it becomes much more complex issue as now it is politicised.

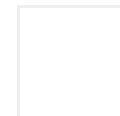
Only way out is laws for only what trespasses the realm of belief and reflects itself in mirror of crime but real deal lies in awareness generation....the so-called socialisation process.

Make a dent on the root...tree will fall by itself.....

[Reply](#)

Jasmin

November 10, 2013 at 7:32 pm (Edit)



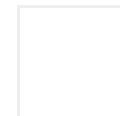
Sir forcefully we cannot eradicate superstition by stricter laws. It should be developed from people by making them understanding through quality education.

Also all religious practices are cannot be considered as superstition. Even many well known scientist who helped humanity to get present day knowledge are atheist and followers of their own religion. So we should allow the freedom of expression and right to follow their religion. Superstitious practices and the godmen will automatically disappear once our education become good enough to inculcate values, morals and minimum necessary scientific temper to the next generation.

[Reply](#)

Jasmin

November 10, 2013 at 7:19 pm (Edit)



Government enacted laws should curb only illegal superstitious practices that harm the interest general public and state. But forcefully prohibiting practices like Astrology, Vastu shastra or godman will not help in any positive way.

Also being aesthetic and following religious practices are fundamental right of the every Indian citizen under Right to freedom of religion. Any laws prohibiting religious practices will be contrary to these basic features of our constitution.

The awareness against the superstition can be inculcated only with the quality education from childhood of our next generation. Our old

education system is not good enough to inculcate morals, values more inclined towards evaluation and employment opportunities. We can observe this fact, in a billion numbered world second populous country with more than 50% under their age of 25, only very few universities are coming under 500 rankings in various global surveys. Even-though these rankings are debatable, importance of improving our education system and quality of education repeatedly stressed by our President, PM and various visionaries.

By providing quality and free education to every child only create our growing population as useful human capital and strengthen the scientific temper in the people as enshrined by our law makers in our directive principles of the constitution. Along with this various mass awareness programs should be initiated to get a favourable result in mean time.

[Reply](#)

kiran g

November 10, 2013 at 7:21 pm (Edit)

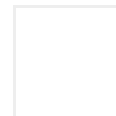


India is a land of different culture and different religion. People practice different religion and culture. These superstitious belief is not followed from 19 or 18th century. It is followed from aryan age removing it completely by enforcing tougher law is not possible. In this 21st century also people believe superstitious. Already a superstitious law as been passed in maharastra but it didnt bring down the superstitious practices in maharastra. instead of enforcing tougher law we need to educate the people from grass route by educating them we can bring down the superstitious practices in india

[Reply](#)

Vijay Pateriya

November 10, 2013 at 8:35 pm (Edit)



“The most outstanding example of belief in superstition is to be seen in the planning of the most modern town of Chandigarh. This town is without a doubt the most modern town planned in this age of India’s scientific growth.

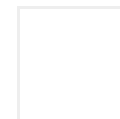
This town has forty seven Sectors and, in these forty seven Sectors, the so called unlucky thirteen number Sector is missing. This goes to prove that even the most modern planners architects and technicians do believe that number thirteen is an unlucky number. Thus, believe it or not, we, still, in the subconscious mind at least, give plenty of weight age to superstitions.”

This is the hold of superstition.....now what could laws help...

[Reply](#)

rpk

November 10, 2013 at 8:57 pm (Edit)



what we feel today as superstitious may general rules of conduct and discipline to maintain order and functioning of society in those ancient days. ofcourse definitely many of these are useless and some are even dangerous in the present society at large. the people should understand this view. education in a right and purposeful way can do the magic i feel.

now a days learning become a means for employment.

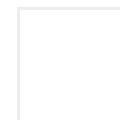
the student world is sinking in the sea of science and maths leaving far behind the social sciences.they are treated as subjects to byheart and reproduce.science with out morals and ethics is harmful to the society.

in the schools the views on social science should be changed.the teachers need to be given training to educate children history polity morals in a scientific method there by students can be grown up understanding the evolution of religion, the essence of being good citizen etc.it is a slow and gradual process changing minds.cannot be revolutionary.

[Reply](#)

dv

November 10, 2013 at 9:06 pm (Edit)



Unless people change their attitude themselves, laws will not help in anyway to shun this meaningless practices. In most cases it is not possible for the scientific community to disprove the rationality behind such beliefs. so with out a mass participation nothing significant has ever been achieved. Considering the fact that most of the beliefs are centuries old, it needs a lot of awareness and sensitization camps on the part of the government to address these issues rather than the merely drafting new laws.

[Reply](#)

sanjhi

November 10, 2013 at 9:16 pm (Edit)



Religion is a way of life in many south Asian countries. It influences our beliefs and sometimes defines who we are and what we do. This reality is recognized by the Constitution of India as well which guarantees the freedom to profess, practice and propagate one's religion as a fundamental right.

There is no inherent conflict between being religious and having a scientific attitude at the same time. Faith is the backbone that keeps religion alive, in a similar manner, faith also keeps science going in many cases. For instance, we do not know if the Mars Orbiter Mission will actually reach Mars in September 2014. But we have faith in our technical capability.

The problem arises when religion is used as a veil for personal profiteering motives like in cases of some godmen. This is where superstition becomes problematic. Gross human rights violation and rampant violation of the criminal laws cannot be justified in the name of religion. This is where we need tougher laws.

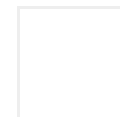
Article 51(h) of the Constitution lays down a fundamental duty for all citizens to develop a scientific temper. Hence, it is the responsibility of our education system to instill a rational bent of mind in young Indians. However, at the same time, we have to realize that our culture is deeply infused with our religious beliefs, whichever religion it may be.

We therefore need to find a harmonious balance between the need to develop a scientific attitude and the personal need to follow our religion.

[Reply](#)

Leelan

November 10, 2013 at 9:57 pm (Edit)



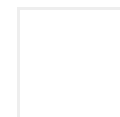
Doesn't turning towards specific direction and praying superstition? Does the same people who snub vastushastra , tell their fellow brothers " Its superstition"? We don't know about the validity of vastushastra, but the question is biased criticism of one religion.

The more subtle question is whether we are criticising only one religion in the VEIL of superstition?

[Reply](#)

gw

November 10, 2013 at 9:59 pm (Edit)

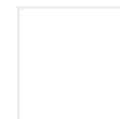


1. Many times lenient laws in the name of protecting the superstition , can be misused to commit crimes

Reply

van

November 10, 2013 at 10:35 pm (Edit)



HI everyone

first clarification => in india , superstition and belief system is not a natural component of great indian tradition and culture ,but it has been forcibly and wrongly included as a part of our tradition;

india tradition is not based on belief system , bec belief arises from suspicions.(for eg if a small child breaks anything unknowingly to his mother .///and when the mother questions repeatedly about that (in a suspicion),,,,,,at last child would say that “believe me ” i never did that.....

suspicions gives rise to belief our tradition is purely and solely based on rational principles —which if interpreted properly,even the much claimed rational world(largely western world) would be surprised about our rationality.(how i say it is rationalplease read further..

second clarification =>superstition is not based on acts we do (ie it is not about visiting holy places before doing any act,it is not about following astrology,it is not about following certain practises of any religion.... ..) but superstitions is all about motive behind the act(ie in simple words for eggoing to religious places before writing UPSC exam is not at all a superstition,,,,,,but going to such places ,,with the motive that

=>if i go i would be helped by god

=>i would get easy questions(not at all possible atleast in upsc) ,

=>his face is so lucky for me .,or if i wear this shirt i would be successful(man ,god has a lot work to do man ,,,,,,,)

this is what is purely irrational and i call it to be an inconsistent

belief.....so if bring any law constricting such practises, it would not amount to the purpose

=>no brings rationality

=>roots out irrationality

third=> how rational is our culture ;

our culture – important component is religion and it suggest various practises.....these practises are not based on belief system but based on experiences(similar to WHAT NEWTON EXPERIENCED UNDER AN APPLE TREE ,MADE HIM GIVE US THE LAW) ..but what happened

in due course of time while our forefathers did the right thing of making us follow the practises ,,,,they made a blunder of not educating the rationality behind the pretisesand instead the wove it with belief system to make the generations follow and even threatened with the help of god (saying god is up above the world so high, he is watching u,he will punish uthis that ,,,,make us think that god is a person.....)(do u think, god has no other job other than finding mistakes and punishing us ..?)

((((((((((((((((extra point(here irrelevant) :please,,,, god is not a person who gives us what we demand IRRATIONALLY))))))))))))))))

so i have said ;

=>no use in banning practises :

so how to bring rationality in our system

=====>one and only way ” go back to grandma s technolgy ”

ie we should use science in determinig the rationality of the traditionally followed practises(not the practises which we in due course of time created-such as blaming animals and things for thing going wrong). BY THE WAY (dont imply science to be few equation,law ,,,,,,,science is not a study ,,,,but it is a practise)with firm mind , fear of no one ,,,,,,question each and every practises we do

=>who is god

=>why i need to pray to him,follow practises saying that god likes them

=>why we bow our head to god ,elderswhat necessity

, this is what is our culture and tradition

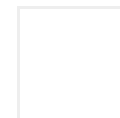
OUR CULTURE HAS GIVEN FULL PERMISSION AND AUTHORITY TO QUESTION AND EVEN VOCIFERROUSLY ARGUE =====SO AS TO REACH A WELL JUSTIFIED CONCLUSION (bec only when mind accepts , we can truely follow things)

humble suggestion: “DONT EVER BELIEVE GOD , BUT EXPERIENCE GOD”

[Reply](#)

Anand

November 10, 2013 at 11:02 pm (Edit)

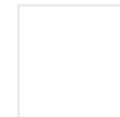


cultural beliefs and practices are deeply imbibed and routed in the mind of people. so,in order to persuade them,first we need to aware them for inclining more towards scientific temperament using an utilitarian approach through education,mass media etc.

[Reply](#)

shree

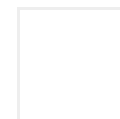
November 11, 2013 at 4:59 pm (Edit)



everyone has his right to follow once own ideas but this doesnot mean it should heart other life so the the superstition law should be made at such level where it will not heart others life and also the emphasis to be given on spreading on scientific education which will build a scientific temperament and will help to strengthen a young generation as indias population is going to be young

Reply**prasanna**

November 17, 2013 at 10:02 am (Edit)



interpretation, evolutionary changes to already interpreted one, beliefs created on influence of certain personalities, throwing wrong statements to effect its glory, lack of complete knowledge, unable to grasp the core principle behind the practice just like regulating prana while performing rituals got totally changed its such purpose these days, caste ism,etc are the basic factors which changed our real meaning of the indian culture.

From ancient to the present situation there are n numbers of visible disabilities performed by man to satisfy his personal deeds. all these unknowingly are knowingly we are practicing as co stems. Unfortunately some of them are directly or indirectly superstitions so now we need to judge them for scientific rationality before that, one should completely delineate what are superstitions on proven rationality and which are blind beliefs. for that we should not ask any person to judge them because man has limitations and his interpretations will be questioned by other interpreters leading to an good stuff to start blame debut. instead our culture evolved primarily leaving scriptures as reference point so we need to grasp the content which falls inside that circle rest should be left to this blame preachers. so question: why the tradition of looking women as weakest when scriptures say sakti is superior to all gods. question why intermediate babas to reach god when real god is within you in the form athma which can panish u for your goods and bads. question the rationale behind the rituals which are seasonal based instead of showing interest on the quantity you have spend for that. really god expects only quality sit and meditate with concentration which he really feels you did more to him. cook nayvedya submit to god and distribute it not inside but outside the temple people who are sitting next to your slippers god definitely pour his total love on you. at last stop blaming god for human mistakes and start questioning yourself and make your mind in that lines. if you feel that you r right and your stand is not going to harm anyone then one should not bother others. in doing so superstitions cannot be remove it all together by restriction which results only hostility instead ask every person to think with minimum sense

and make them self responsible for their deeds because no one asked to do, yourself stopped there. And one more thing doing things is not only the mistake but also not questioning when others are committing is also accountable mistake. Only solution proper education education education. Think before your perception before questioning. Education that gives character, self standing self believing, good personality. I don't know correctness of this part, which is my complete personal view based on my experience, why our social reformers made us to look at western scientific knowledge instead of repairing and following the old tradition of scientific knowledge prevailed in our hands.
