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## Marx and Ambedkar on Religion: A Cultural Perspective



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### **Abstract :**

Religion, as a cultural anthropological construct, systematizes the beliefs and practices implicit in every culture. The notion of religion has been regulating the life of its believers in a specific way. Religion is basically a code of good conduct for human being but in recent time it has become very sensitive aspect which does not even permit the critical discussion in social life. Religion not only regulates the power structure and social structure but it works as the dominant ideology. It is undoubtedly a part of culture and at the same time culture is part of it. Means, religion and culture are interdependent aspects. Indian social milieu has been witnessing the hierarchized social structures sanctioned by religion. Here religion plays the role as a system of gradation which allows certain castes or groups at the top and rest at the bottom. Religion has

become the tool of domination and exploitation. But still religion and its functions have seldom been challenged and interrogated. If religion is necessary for the transformation of man into a good human being, then, there must be a socio-cultural audit to see whether religion has succeeded in it. If not, there must be the examination of religion itself.

Religion is a cultural product and vice versa. Religious practice and traditions are indispensable aspects of any culture. These practices and traditions strengthen the given culture. Every culture has certain religious practices which become the cultural identity of that religion. This cultural identity becomes an inseparable part of certain community. Without this identity it is impossible to survive for the member of that community. This is the reason why people adhere to their religion though it doesn't suit, most of the time, to their geographical and national needs. Religio-cultural identity has become, in recent time, the emotional aspect of people; hence, any debate and discussion of religion hurts the sentiments.

**Keywords :**

Religion, Cultural Studies, Buddhism, Christianity, Communism

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