



**Epitome : International Journal
of Multidisciplinary Research**

ISSN : 2395-6968

The Bhakti Movement: A Catalyst for Social and Cultural Transformation in India

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Abstract :

The Bhakti movement, which emerged in India during the medieval period, was a transformative social and cultural force. It transcended religious orthodoxy, challenged caste hierarchies, and contributed to the creation of a more inclusive society. Through its radical philosophy of devotion to a personal god, the Bhakti movement advocated for social equality, spiritual democracy, and the cultural synthesis of various regional practices.

*The **Bhakti Movement** was a significant religious and social reform movement that emerged in India between the 7th and 17th centuries. It emphasized **devotion (bhakti)** to a personal god and sought to transcend caste, ritualistic practices, and temple-*

centered worship. The movement called for a direct, emotional connection with God, bypassing intermediaries like priests and rituals. It also promoted equality, social justice, and a rejection of rigid societal divisions, particularly the caste system.

This paper explores the profound social and cultural transformations induced by the Bhakti movement, emphasizing its role in the rejection of caste discrimination, the promotion of gender equality, the development of vernacular literature, and its lasting impact on modern Indian society.

Key words: *The Bhakti Movement- saint poets-
medieval India-social transformation-cultural
transformation*

