

TOWARDS GORAKSHA: THE SOCIO ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE OF COW PROTECTION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Religion is an important part of Indian culture. The major religion of India is Hinduism. It has been said that the Goraksha or Cow Protection is one of the major religious activity of Hinduism. India has many experiences of religious tensions with the issue of cow protection. In this article, I have tried to pinpoint that Cow Protection was started in a certain social need in an emerging cultivating society, not as a ritual practice. Cattle killing and beef eating was a part of Brahminism and the cow protection was started by Non-Hindu sects Buddhism and Jainism, latterly supported by some lower caste of Hindus. A cow was very useful animal in the pre-modern agricultural society, where the modern technology of plough does not exist. After getting involvement into cultivation due to royal land grants, Brahmins disapproved cattle killing.

KEYWORDS: *Cattle Killing, Cow Protection, Agriculture, Royal Land Grant, Brahmin*