

SIGNIFICANCE OF ARYA SAMAJ IN ERADICATING SUPERSTITIONS AND THUS SAFEGUARDING THE NATION

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ABSTRACT

Arya Samaj, a religious system was formed by Sanyasi Dayanand Saraswati in April, 1875 at Bombay. It was developed with a purpose of bringing about social reforms in the society and to inculcate the strong value and ethics system in youngsters. Academician and researcher D. Vable¹ mention that Dayanand Saraswati, a strong leader in Indian history, wanted to promote Vedas and Vedic way of life. Similarly, Dr. K.P. Jaiswal validated the concept and evolution of Arya Samaj. He laid stress on the foundation of the Arya Samaj. According to him “Arya Samaj brought the reformation in society by making vital changes in the societal concepts. This overhauling led to changes in the mindset of the people of India as well as followers of different religious and educational organization. This National movement was endorsed by the vast number of nationalists.

In the contemporary era, Arya Samaj has maintained the stance of strong Vedic culture in followers. In today's parlance, the well-educated people are also influenced by planetary positions and follow methods to overcome the ill effects of planets. Many a times, rituals are observed as a part of the tradition or out of fear; without trying to understand the need, cause or effect. Arya Samaj strongly objects to blindly following rituals without understanding or without any logic and scientific reasoning.

This research paper has been developed with a purpose of discussing the wider perspective of Arya Samaj in fighting the superstitions spread in society, in the form of societal norms. This paper aims to examine the following objectives: -

- The role of Arya Samaj in removing superstitions;
- The significance of the efforts made by Arya Samaj in safeguarding the nation; and
- Whether superstitions can be removed from the society through logical and scientific outlook. This is primarily a qualitative research paper based on secondary data and personal interviews with people associated with Arya Samaj, both as a believer as well as critique.

KEYWORDS: Superstition, Beliefs, Rituals, Vedic Culture & Scientific Outlook

1. INTRODUCTION: EVOLUTION OF ARYA SAMAJ

“A proponent of the Hindu reform movement, Dayanand Saraswati introduced the concept of societal reform by bringing up Arya Samaj. The organization worked towards reviving and popularizing Hinduism. Apart from that Dayanand was also known for inspiring nationalism in the minds of people.” Dayanand Saraswati was born on 12 February 1824 and he died on 30 October 1883. During these years he revolutionized Indian leadership and established Arya Samaj, with the mindset of reforming Hindu movement.ⁱⁱ. Dayanaad Saraswati was well known renowned scholar of the Vedic lore and Sanskrit

language. He was the first person to initiate the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians" taken up by Lokmanya Tilak in the year 1876,ⁱⁱⁱ.

Dayanand Saraswati denounced the worship of idols and motivated people to join Vedic ideology. He was a strong believer and a philosopher.^{iv}S. Radhakrishnan and Sri Aurobindo called him the "makers of Modern India",^v.

Dayanand lived the life of Sanyasi (ascetic) from childhood as well as a scholar. He had firm faith in the unerring power of the Vedas. Dayananda Saraswati fought for the doctrine of Karma and Reincarnation. He accentuated the Vedic principles of brahmacharya, He revived the faith in celibacy and motivated people to follow the God with belief rather than disbelief.^{vi}

Indian Society of 19th century was highly gripped in a vicious web of religious superstitions and dogmas. All religions in general and Hinduism in particular had become a multifarious of magic, animism, and superstitions. (Prashar, 2017).He made an important commitment by figuring out that India had inherited spirituality and cultural identity that was not only ethnic but also fundamentally superior to the creeds and cultures imported.

He encouraged and enabled his people to reawaken to their own inner sources of strength, and hold their heads high in the face of foreign invaders. He was the first to use the terms swadeshî and swarājya (Sita RamGoel, 1983)^{vii}

Among Maharshi Dayananda's contributions are his promoting of the equal rights for women, such as the right to education and reading of Indian scriptures, and his commentary on the Vedas from Vedic Sanskrit in Sanskrit as well as in Hindi.

Dayanand fought for the mission of human kind. He followed the path of Universal brotherhood through righteousness as suggested in the Vedas. According to him Hinduism and Hindu;s were misguided by the so called priests. To get rid of these evils,he established the Arya Samajpronouncing the Ten Universal Principles as a code for Universalism, called KrinvantoVishwaryam. The purpose of these 10 rules was to make the world aware of Arya's existence. OM is preconvinced by the Arya Samaj to be the principal and the nicest name of God.

The Soulful mission of Dayanand was to create awareness among the religious scholars and priests of the country. His arguments, knowledge of Vedas and Sanskrit led him in achieving the mission of popularizing the principles of the Arya Samaj.(V. Sundram,2016)^{viii}

During that period, Hindu Pandits instilled the fear amongst people. They use to encourage old rituals, such as bathing in the Ganges River and feeding of priests on death anniversaries, were necessary according to them. Dayananda pronounced these practices as superstitions or self-serving practices. He encouraged the nation to reject such superstitious notions with the aim of educating the nation to return to the teachings of the Vedas, and to follow the Vedic way of life.

He also urged the Hindu nationals to embrace social reforms, including the importance of cows for national development and the acceptance of Hindi as the national language for national integration. He encouraged the country to strive to Swarajya (self-governance), democracy, and spiritualism through his daily life routine, i. e. practice of yoga and asanas, lectures, preaching, sermons, and scriptures. He advocated equal rights and respect for females and implored that all children should be given the equal right of education regardless of their gender.

Dr. Parmanand, One of a renowned scholar and an Arya Samaj activist elaborated the facts of Swami Dayanand's life in 1981 in his book named "An Introduction To The Commentary On The Four Vedas" and remarked that 'Swami

Dayananda's supreme effort in life was to give back to the world the Vedas, and he described Dayanand as the treasure-house of Divine knowledge. He had taken a long and deep immersion into the perennial stream which quenched his thirst and filled his soul with indescribable solace. He had wandered long, far and wide in dismay before he envisioned the light of truth and Dharma, as revealed in the Vedas."

2. WHAT IS SUPERSTITION?

Superstition is a critical term used for any belief or practice that is considered irrational: for example, if it arises from ignorance, a misunderstanding of science or causality, it is a positive belief in fate or magic, or fear of that which is unknown. "Superstition" also refers to actions arising from irrationality.^{ix}

Superstition is a widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief. According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, "Superstition encompasses a wide range of beliefs and behaviors, most can be united by a single underlying property—the incorrect establishment of cause and effect: 'a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation'".

According to Vyse, Stuart A (2000) "The word superstition is often used to refer to a religion, which is not practiced by the majority of a given society, regardless of whether the prevailing religion contains alleged superstitions. It is also commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding luck, prophecy, and certain spiritual beings, particularly the belief that future events can correctly predict by specific (apparently) unrelated prior events. (Vyse, Stuart A 2000).^x

Superstitions are common phenomena in human society, especially in Asian cultures. Superstitious beliefs can have a negative impact on the social well-being of people in society because they are associated with financial risk-taking and gambling behaviors.^{xi}

Superstitions has been covered in various fields including popular psychology (Shermer 1998^{xii} Vyse 2000^{xiii};; When 2004),^{xiv} philosophy (Scheibe&Sarbin 1965)^{xv}, abnormal psychology (Devenport 1979^{xvi}; Brugger et al. 1994^{xvii}; Shaner 1999^{xviii} Nayha 2002^{xix}) and medicine (Hira et al. 1998^{xx}; Diamond 2001^{xxi}), which typically frame superstitions as irrational mistakes in cognition.

2.1 Popular Beliefs and Superstitions

Belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation. It is also known as an irrational abject attitude of mind toward the supernatural, nature, or God resulting from superstition. Certain superstitious beliefs have been in the Indian society for such a long time that they have been taken for granted and are no more considered as evil. People leaving everything to God and remaining idle is a common culture in the Indian society. (Hindu, 2013)^{xxii} Superstitious beliefs are the biggest obstacle in our journey to a healthy society. There has been a tendency to blame the government for eliminating the social evils and also to defend it. (Hindu, 2013)

Due to Superstitions, common people have been exploited by cunning Sadhus and Tantriks. They. Nurture the business for other religions and lead to discrimination among youth people, who practice the superstition as a shorter path to success, which further encumber the societal advancement.

Few superstitions beliefs observed and collected from secondary data are as follows:

- The superstitious practice of placing a rusty nail in a lemon is believed to ward off the evil eye and evil in general.^{xxiii}
- Some cultures consider that black cats represent good or bad luck. Black cats crossing path are deemed unfortunate
- Beginner's luck" is the idea that newbies are unusually likely to win when they try out a sport, game or activity for the first time.
- According to folklore, breaking a mirror is a sure way to doom you to seven years of bad luck. The superstition seems to arise from the belief that mirrors don't just reflect your image; they hold bits of your soul.
- Bad luck can be reduced by knocking the wood.
- Bad luck is invited by opening the umbrella in the house, to avoid the bad omen people don't open an umbrella indoors.
- Standing brooms are likely to attract misfortune, if someone sneezes, while stepping out it is considered to be unlucky. A person suffering from long illness is taken to Pandit's and maulavis' for Jhada (Removing the BuriNazar). Similarly, some women burn red chillies to remove the evil eye from their kids.
- In the northern states of India, like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the evil eye or BuriNazar can be removed by using the charm bracelet, tattoo or other objects i.e (Nazarbattu), may be used to ward-off the evil eye.
- Some truck owners use the slogan to ward off the evil eye: "Burinazar wale tera muh kala" In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, people find the Buri Nazar to be harmful. To eliminate the Dosha, people follow several methods based on their culture/area They use Rock salt or Red chillies or oiled cloth to remove the evil eye. Some people hang the broom outside their house and others use lemon and green chillies tied together with a thread^{xxiv}
- In India, new born babies are safeguarded from the evil by applying the Kajal on the forehead to protect the child from BuriNazar because black color is known to protect people.
- Widows are observed as a source of bad luck because there is a general tendency that the life of their husband was curtailed due to bad karma's of Women. They are not included in religious gatherings and are kept separately and not treated respectfully. At times they expected to cook their own meals separately..
- Superstitious beliefs and complex rituals made life of commoners miserable by following the inhuman practices of (sati, female infanticide, child marriage, etc.) as well as Black Magic continues to be practiced from thousand years.
- On many occasions black magic has claimed the life of people and in the past Black magic ritual snuff out woman's life. Black Magic not only spoils the life of a person, but also leaves a big impact on the life.

2.2 How Astrology Supports the Belief System?

Astrology wants us to accept their feelings as evidence supporting their beliefs, Astrology is a handy crutch for those who are repelled by the more overtly reactionary, inhumane aspects of conventional religions, but are not yet ready to free

themselves from supernatural preordination systems.(Bufe, 1984)

Human beings have the tendency to know the prediction of their future. They want to peep into the future to judge the forthcoming events. People go to astrologers and palmist to show their patri and hand. Based on their Patri, they misguide people by making future predictions.This desire forces people to go to astrologers.

As a system of preordination, it gives believers a nice, neat means of interpreting reality and of tailoring their behavior and expectations to fit the prescriptions of their belief system. Astrologers admit that they maintain the stance Astrology "controls," "influences," or "can serve as a road guide. (Bufe, 1984)

It is an unfortunate for the youth to be misguided by the astrological myths and to hold the puja for relaxing the grah shanti path. They are misguided for attracting the fortune At time people change their names, according to numerology, they judge the planetary position to know their future and for all these superstitions astrology fits into the system of mythology and numerology.. (Hindu, 2013)

3 DAYANAND SARASWATI'S VIEWS ON ASTROLOGY AND SUPERSTITION

Dayanand criticized the practice of superstitions by creating an awareness about the reality. He motivated people to be led by the righteous act rather than relying on the fortune and past karma., He criticized sorcery, and astrology, which were prevalent in India at the time. On Astrology, he opinionated "The magic formula's cannot remove the misery from our life until we are guided by our own selves to follow the doctrine of karma.He made a clear distinction between jyotisha Shastra and astrology, calling astrology a fraud. 'He guided people to study the JyotishaShaastra - which includes Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Geography, Geology and astronomy and also to have practical training in these Sciences, learn the proper handling of instruments, master their mechanism, and know how to use them. But they should regard Astrology - which treats of the influence of stars and constellation on the destinies of man, of auspiciousness and non-auspiciousness of time, of horoscopes, etc. - as a fraud, and never learn or teach any books on this subject.

— Under "The scheme of studies" Page 73 of English Version **Satyarth Prakash**

Several quotes from his book, Satharth Prakash on Superstition

"They should also counsel them against all things that lead to superstition, and are opposed to true religion and science, so that they may never give credence to such imaginary things as ghosts (Bhuts) and spirits (Preta)."- **Satyarth Prakash**

"All alchemists, magicians, sorcerers, wizards, spirits, etc. are cheats and all their practices should be looked upon as nothing but downright fraud. Young people should be well counseled against all these frauds, in their very childhood, so that they may not suffer through being duped by any unprincipled person."- **Satyarth Prakash**

Dayanand wanted to liberate man from the clutches of all superstitions. He therefore declared"I believe in a religion based on universal and all-embracing principles, which has always been accepted as true by mankind.which is above the hostility of all human creeds whatsoever. My sole aim is to believe truth and help others to believe in truth." (Swami Agnivesha, 2015)

Swami Dayanand challenged superstition on the one hand and pseudo-modernity on the other. He wanted to redeem the original knowledge of the Vedas, rejuvenate the society and point the way to a dynamic modernity through the constant renewal of education.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Arya Samaj schools and temples are found in almost all major cities and as well as in rural areas (especially in North region) of India. Some are authorized to conduct weddings. The Arya Samaj is associated with the Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) schools which number over two hundred.^{xxv} Arya Samaj is also active in countries including Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, Australia,^{xxvi} South Africa,^{xxvii} Kenya,^{xxviii} Mauritius^{xxix} and other countries where a significant Hindu Diaspora is present. Immigrants to Canada and the United States from Eastern Africa, South Africa, and the Caribbean countries form Arya Samaj for their communities in many Canadian cities including Toronto.^{xxx} Most major metropolitan areas of the United States have chapters of Arya Samaj.

Arya Samaj does spread religious thoughts about performing of Havan without any spiritual bonding. They make offering to the holy fire Havan^{xxxi} which can be performed without a priest in acts of personal worship. O3m (considered by the Arya Samaj to be the highest and sacred name of God. The Arya Samaj members recite the Gayatri Mantra^{xxxii} and follow meditation.

The Arya Samaj promotes the equality of all human beings and the empowerment of women and as an organization ensures periodical happening of mega events to bring reformation in the society. Arya Samaj adopts different means of organizing the awareness camps, publishing the articles in magazines, newspapers, etc. These magazines are widely available and are subscribed by the followers. Weekly, fortnightly, monthly and annual magazine's editions are available. An illustration on removing the superstition in an article is given for reference.



Illustration 01

The Arya Samaj is a voluntary organization working across the world for physical, moral, spiritual and professional education, eradication of superstition, inculcation of universal values, comparative study of cultures, religious and social systems, with open inquiry and debate for the propagation of truth. The organization is thoroughly democratic and works on the basis of the ten principles formulated by the founder. The principles are universal and have no tinge of sectarianism at all.

Awareness camps are organized periodically to sensitize the society. Our country is heading towards the plight of darkness due to fear of the unknown future. It is unexpected to hear excuses from a literate person. Due to fear of the uncertainty of being smacked by the bad omen and luck, a literate person also refrains from following daily hygienic chores i.e. cutting of hairs, nails, washing of clothes and not consuming meat on certain days. The fearful, cowardly acts make them the soft target of Pandit's and Tantriks'. Each branch of the Arya Samaj organizes different programs to awaken and enlighten the young generations. The illustration given below validates the organization of events. Generally, an event is attended by 400-500 attendees. The program structure is planned for the tenure of 2-3 or 4-5 days.




 <p>श्रीकृष्ण जन्माष्टमी त्यौहार 2 सितम्बर 2018 दाल बाजार, लुधियाना</p>	<p>Shri Krishan Janamashtmi 02-Sep-2018 To 02-Nov-2018 Dai Bazaar Ludhiana Ludhiana, Punjab, 141008 Stri Arya Samaj Dai Bazaar</p>	 <p>२१ वीं सत्यार्थ प्रकाश महोत्सव 6 से 8 अक्टूबर २०१८ नवतला महल, गुलाब बाग, उदयपुर</p>	<p>21st Satyarth Prakash Mohotsav 06-Oct-2018 To 08-Oct-2018 Navlakha Mahal Parisar, Gulab Bagh, Mahrshi Dayanand Marg, Udaipur, Rajasthan, 313001 Shrimad Dayanand Satyarth Prakash Nyas</p>
 <p>52वां स्थापना दिवस वार्षिकोत्सव 26 सितम्बर से 2 अक्टूबर 2018 बहादुरगढ़, हरियाणा</p>	<p>52nd Annual Function 26-Sep-2018 To 02-Oct-2018 Atmashudh ashram bhadurgadh Jhajjar, Haryana, 124507 Atmashuddhi Ashram Bahadurgarh</p>	 <p>दयानन्द मठ चम्बा ३८ वीं वार्षिक उत्सव 7 से 9 अक्टूबर 2018 चम्बा, हिमाचल प्रदेश</p>	<p>38th Annual Function 07-Oct-2018 To 09-Oct-2018 Chamba Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, 176310 Dayanand Math Chamba</p>
 <p>आर्य समाज मन्दिर, कृष्ण नगर, दिल्ली-51 मो: 9136314125 वेद प्रचार सप्ताह (दिल्ली और प्रतिनिधि सभा के सम्मेलन) सितम्बर 01 अक्टूबर 2018 से दिसंबर 07 अक्टूबर 2018 तक</p>	<p>Ved Prachar Saptah 01-Oct-2018 To 07-Oct-2018 Arya Samaj Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Delhi East Delhi, Delhi, 110051 Arya Samaj Krishna Nagar</p>	 <p>आर्य समाज की 100 वीं वार्षिक स्मृति 30, 31, 01, 02 अक्टूबर 2018 नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होगा</p>	<p>International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 25-Oct-2018 To 28-Oct-2018 Delhi New Delhi, Delhi Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha</p>
 <p>आर्य समाज, राधा पुरी, डी-26, दिल्ली-110051 (दिल्ली और प्रतिनिधि सभा के सम्मेलन) निर्भरता पत्र 63 वां वार्षिकोत्सव सितम्बर, दिसंबर 02 अक्टूबर 2018 राधा में होगा</p>	<p>63rd Annual Function 02-Oct-2018 D-26, Radha Puri, New Delhi, Delhi, 110051 Arya Samaj Radha Puri</p>	 <p>आर्य समाज की 100 वीं वार्षिक स्मृति 26 अक्टूबर 2018 आर्य समाज की 100 वीं वार्षिक स्मृति आर्य समाज की 100 वीं वार्षिक स्मृति</p>	<p>21st Arya Parivar Yuvak Yuvti Parichay Sammelan 26-Oct-2018 International Arya Mahasammelan -Swarn Jayanti Park, Rohini Sector-10 New Delhi, Delhi, 110085 Delhi Arya Pratinidhi Sabha</p>

Illustration 02

Illustration 03

It is not a separate religion, but a reform movement within Hinduism. The mission of the Samaj is to mold the lives of its members and all others, according to the message of the Vedas with reference to the circumstances of time and place. The event is organized for followers as well as the general public. It is promoted via word of mouth advertisements, public announcements and pamphlets, which are widely distributed. An illustration of an invitation is given for reference:

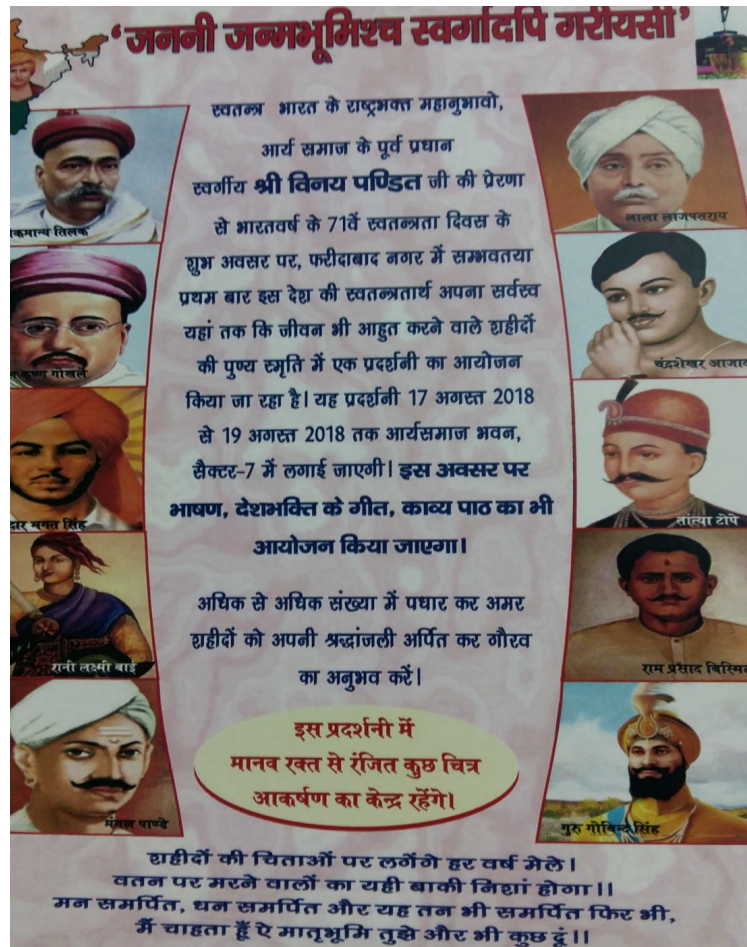


Illustration 04

Arya Samaj was built on a strong belief and with a view to promote social welfare. This is particularly true for changing the mindset of people and encouraging freedom in decision making. Arya Samaj believes in equality and does not promote discrimination of any kind in the society. Arya Samaj is also engaged in giving the support for love marriages, which are not supported by the family members. The marriages are performed in two hours and marriage conducted by the Arya Samaj is well accepted by our law system

4.1 Significance of Arya Samaj in eradicating the Superstition

The research work has been undertaken with a twofold objective; first is to make the scholars and laymen aware of the prevailing conditions of superstition in the digital era. It is disappointing to observe when the kundli and astrology prevails over humans before beginning of a new/auspicious occasion i.e. Marriage. The Second purpose is to furnish the general people with the reality of superstition which may motivate them to unfollow the path of superstition and astrology in day to day life.

This study is being taken with the purpose to bring the truth about the miracles as well as to remove the misconceptions about the Bengali Baba's and to bring out the truth related to Tantra-mantra programs have been organized by the Arya Samity to spread superstition, country and society.

“Delhi Arya Samaj organized awareness campaigns against superstition through various Arya Samajs, Arya Institutions, Schools, and Parks etc. in the capital. The purpose was to curb the social evils of this country and the crimes

arising out of it. Under the aegis of the Delhi Arya Sammelan, Magician Rajtikilji was invited from Udaypur for conducting special programs on superstition and anti-piracy. He performed the tactics of magic to make the people aware of the superstition, which was witnessed and observed by the huge gatherings. The purpose of organizing this workshop was to spread awareness regarding the black magic; which is generally used to mislead the educated as well as illiterate people. The program was witnessed by huge gatherings where the awareness camp was conducted to represent the truth of black magic such as burning lemon, taking out uradanda black cloth from the whole coconut, making blood spots with clean hands, and showing the truth of their magic. The crowd was surprised to see the reality of different magic's conducted by Magician Rajtikilji." (thearyasamaj.org, 2018)

The workshops Conducted by Arya Samaj will prove to be knowledgeable and it will strengthen the fact that how superstition cannot be removed from society? Removal of superstition will protect the nation from self-imposed biased interest of priests and in long run it will safeguard that nation. General population of India must not confuse superstition with tradition and culture. "The Arya Samaj is a revolutionary movement whose main objective is a worldwide movement to overcome the superstition of various types of hypocrisy, vote-caste, caste-fauna, various types of saints, etc. spreading in the society, its creator Maharishi Dayananda Saraswati." (शर्मा, 2018)

Arya Samaj can be rightly described as a protestant form of Hinduism because they completely reject the science of astrology as practiced today. They call it falitjyotish and describe it as a pakhand. The Arya Samaj completely rejects idol worship and all other forms of rituals without knowing their significance. They believe in vedapath as a means to reach. Arya Samaj followers believe that gyanyogai.e. vedapath only can show the path to God. Followers are far away from bhaktiyoga, but firmly believe in karmayoga." (Sahu, 2018)

4.2 Significance of Arya Samaj in enhancing the Patriotism in Young Generation

Arya Samaj has been conducting various activities to keep the patriotism alive among the young generation. Recently, **Saheed Chitra Pradrashni** along was organized by the Arya Samaj sector 7, Faridabad (Haryana) from 17th August to 19th August, 2018. School children, Different Arya Samaj committee members, Acharyajee and many more eminent scholars were invited. As the name depicts, self-explanatory pictures of all the freedom fighters along with the citations were displayed for three days. The pictures represented how our freedom fighters struggled to liberate our country from foreigners. During the Independence movement our freedom fighters have laid down their life, and proved that our people are our nations' main strength. Many such programs of singing and dancing are generally organized to showcase the freedom activities as well as patriotism.

In the modern era when the younger generations believe in spending most of the time on their mobile gadgets and are not willing to adapt to the outer world. Generation Y or Millennials are generally lost in their own world. Arya Samaj ignites the patriotism and inspires nationalism in the minds of people.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Arya Samaj is making a tremendous effort for religious, spiritual and social awakening. The Arya Samaj's commitment to positive change by bringing people together peacefully under the umbrella of one and the only religion in the human kind is going to happen eventually (Kumar, 2012). Few philosophies of the Arya Samaj can be summarized as:

- There is a scientific evidence for every cause. Necessity being the mother of invention proves this fact. Young

generation should refrain themselves from superstition and must eradicate its existence. It is a cause of concern for developing India if the Indian youths keep following the path of superstition rather than following the progressive career path of their own choice.

- An Insecure person will always choose an easy path of superstition because of low self-esteem. It can be deterred by improving the literacy rate and upgrading the knowledge to make it an acumen cure. 80 per cent of our population lives in villages and half of them are illiterate. As per an article published in the daily newspaper "The Hindu" "Highly educated youth must keep themselves away from superstitious beliefs.
- The shadow of superstition is not only harmful, it is dangerous too for the young India. Superstition leaves the lasting impact on society and must be curbed Bhuvana Shanker^{xxxiii} elaborated that if the society is impacted by Superstition, they will stop developing themselves and will follow the karmkand and other mode of superstition. Superstition is a stigma and must be removed

SUGGESTIONS

As observed by the Supreme Court advocate N. Vyas, "superstition, belief system is deep-rooted in every religion, the only solution was achieving 100 per cent literacy". Therefore, providing opportunity for education to all strata of the society is very important for eradication of superstitions and mindless rituals.

Unless the blind faith among the people is not removed, India would not be able to achieve development. Therefore, the entertainment industry has to behave responsibly by not representing the myths like kala jadoo, ichadharinagin and other superstitious horror TV serials to young generation.

It is not a fight for one organization, but a challenge to be taken up by every educated individual of the society.

To get rid of this evil the education fraternity has to take the lead, to make India an ideal India of their choice where the skilled youth are not impacted by the spell of astrology and superstition.

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