

UNRAVELING THE THREADS OF SECULARIZATION IN SRI LANKA: EXPLORING THE DEMISE OF DISCRIMINATION IN A DIVERSE NATION

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The research explores the possibility of a broader international discourse on secularization's potential to address discrimination, offering valuable insights for diverse societies worldwide. Sri Lanka, known for its rich cultural legacy and multiethnic population, has long struggled with inter-communal conflict. This research examines the impact of secularization on reducing discrimination in the nation. By exploring the shift towards secular values and its potential role in fostering social cohesion, the study aims to promote unity. Discrimination based on language, religion, and ethnicity has persisted throughout history, perpetuated by the integration of religious organizations into social structures. Consequently, understanding the influence of secularization in mitigating discrimination becomes crucial for fostering a unified nation. The main goal of this study is to determine the role secularization has played in Sri Lanka's decline in prejudice. The research investigates historical events, contemporary cultural views, and governmental changes associated with secularization to illustrate the possible advantages of encouraging a secular society. Employing a literature Analysis, the research systematically reviews academic journals, books, and relevant publications to analyze historical contexts of religious and ethnic diversity in Sri Lanka focusing on the influence of religion on social norms and previous studies on secularization and ethnic conflicts, highlighting the significance of secular identity in countering discrimination. The findings reveal a gradual shift towards inclusive values as secularization gains propulsion in Sri Lanka. According to the study, as religious influence decreases, discriminatory practices decline, fostering a more tolerant society. By nurturing a secular identity, Sri Lanka can continue its journey toward a united nation, embracing its diversity while fostering equality for all citizens. The study emphasizes the importance of reinforcing legal frameworks and policies that uphold secularization to promote unity among diverse communities. Policymakers, civil society organizations, and advocates can utilize these insights to counteract discrimination effectively and design targeted campaigns.

Keywords: Secularization, Discrimination, Social cohesion, Unity, Sri Lanka

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