



ROLE OF HOME GUARDS IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNAL HARMONY

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Abstract: *There are different social organizations which are functioning in the society to maintain its law and order sub as police, military court, prisons etc. Home Guards Organization is one such organization which is shouldering its responsibility along with police organization all over the nation to Guard and maintain the social harmony.*

Home Guards are a group of strong willed people drawn from all walks of life, high and low without any discrimination of caste and creed or community. The name itself indicates Home means House where in the family lives in guarding of the home. It is nothing but guarding of society. Home Guards are volunteer and disciplined organization ever ready to meet only emergency and crises, both with strength and with popular appeal. They fight against anti social elements, communal forces helps to bring peace and happiness in the society.

Home Guards organization has some important objectives. They serve as an auxiliary to the police for maintaining law and order in the society. Home Guards support as a civil emergency organization in times of natural and manmade calamities such as floods, earthquake, fire, volcanic, eruptions, bomb explosions, collapse of building etc. To work as an additional wing of the Government in furthering Social welfare schemes such as adult education, health hygiene and more importantly to work as a team to take on other duties assigned to them by the state Government of common dent General.

Key words: *Home Gaurds, Religions & Communal Harmony.*

We should be happy peace and harmony in the welfare state of India. The allround development of India depends not only on economic, political educational factors but also on communal harmony which is swelling in importance. Communal harmony is becoming a very complex and sensitive problem (issue) in India. India is known for truth, non-violence, love brotherhood sacrifice, patience, cooperation and staygraha principles of Gandhiji. These principles of "Gandhiji got independence from slavery of British rule in India. In such country, communal conflicts have become frequent and common which is fatal to the peace of India. Society has become unhealthy laws and rules have become ineffective, loss of lives property and honour is too much fear, faithless and intimidation among different religions have become permanent. India is known for its unity in diversity. People have faith and respect for different religions, Guest are treated as God. Majority of the people are Christians in USA and

England. Similarly majority of people in Islamic Countries like Iran, Iraq, are Muslim. But the uniqueness of India is that, Hindu, Muslims, Christians, Bhddhists, Jains and Sikhs are living together in India.

People belonging to different races, religions, languages of India are living with brotherhood, peace and unity and we are role models to the world from ancient times. At present India is burning with the problems. Communal disharmony. Under such circumstance maintaining religious communal harmony and establishment is essential Govt. is making many efforts to maintain communal harmony, here active participation of institutions and associations is essential. Under such backdrop, role of Home Guards in bringing communal harmony may be emphasized.

The home Guards, based on sincere service principle, which all the while is rendering service to people finds its birth on 06-12-1946 during Second

World War in Mumbai. Under the leadership of late Prime Minister ShriMoraraji Desai. The special feature of this association is that it includes people from all classes.

Besides working in complementary to police Department in maintaining law and order, it also helps in protection, and rehabilitating people who are hit hard from man made or natural disaster.

Dove is the symbol of peace. The Home Guards is having its symbol as dove Bagalkot in Karnataka ranks second in India as far as celebration of Holi festival is concerned. Previously holi festival in Bagalkot was used to be celebrated for 5 days, but no it was restricted to days. When the rumour of pelting of stone on masjids, damage of idols of gods in Hindu temples was used to spread like wild fire during Holi festival, Ganesh festival, Ramzan festival, Id-e-milad, Bakrid march of R.S.S. tense situation is created in Bagalkot city. Innocent people become victims. People used to talk why these festivals are celebrated. It was very difficult to maintain communal harmony by police. Under such circumstances Home Guards played a very crucial role in Bagalkot to maintain communal harmony.

Home Guards in Bagalkot District worked neck to neck police personnel in maintaining law and order, balancing communal harmony and disaster management. Role of Home Guards in Bagalkot is like oasis in desert to city public and police personnel.

Home Guards are used to be posted for duty very veysensitive areas after realizing the importance of these people who worked without expecting any rewards-especially at the above said festival celebrations.

Home guards used to submit secret information to police about the people who disturb social peace. Home Guards working in different professions render yeoman's service to the nation by protecting society from anti-social and anti-peace people. They build social harmony by building confidence among people with understanding.

Service of Home Guard is appreciable at the time of attack on churches in Bangalore, Mangalore and Hubali. They worked continuously for 5 to 6 months in said place just to maintain peace.

The role of Home Guard in maintaining religious communal harmony, protecting interests of all section of society especially religious minorities like Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and downtrodden people. i.e. SC, ST is commendable in turn, they help government in administration.

In the back drop of above said circumstances a social survey about the role of Home Guard in Bagalkot district is undertaken. The aim of the survey is who among Home Guards are sincere in rendering social service? What are the problems and aspirations of those people? The present study is made keeping in mind the above said questions.

Home Guards is recognized as the institution which renders coluntary social service without expecting any reward and further protecting social interest preserving religious social harmony by curbing anti social elements and always being in front to work for the social welfare. It is an institution which in cooperation with Police in rendering social service.

This institution was started first in Europe countries, particularly in Great Britian in 1940 as voluntary association. It became popular in may 14th 1940 as Local Defense Volunteers. Later Winston Churchill named Local Defense Volunteers as Home Guards.

This institution with 5, 73, 793 Home Guards has been working for rendering service communal harmony and law and order in all states and union territories of India except Kerala state. There are 27, 140 Home Guards in Karnataka state out of which 2518 are women Home Guards. There are 1400 Home Guards in Bagalkot district. Out of which 1344 men Home Guards and 56 are women Home Guards. There are 19 Home Guards units in Bagalkot district. 172 Home Guards are working in Bagalkot City.

Goal of Home Guards		Selfless Service
Aim of Home Guards		Service is prime importance and aim
Proclamation of Home Guards	–	I am an Indian Indian is My Country I believe in my responsibility And duties I (respect) adhere my country

Every Home Guard takes an oath. The oath is “I promise that I (do) will discharge my duties in accordance with Indian consultation without fear favour. Further I will side no one, discharge my service and duties in maintaining peace and protecting life and properties of people”.

Previously, elite class, i.e. intellectuals, socially educationally and economically upper classes i.e. doctors, engineers advocates, professors used to work as Home Guards in rendering service to society believing that it is a matter of prestige and feeling

sacrifice. Recently, there is change in attitude of people who want to join as Home Guards. Now, socially, economically, educationally & backward people are joining Home Guards. There is no feeling of sacrifice and service among Home Guards. They join for the remuneration and not for service. Feeling of selfless service is found only in some Home Guards personnel. We conclude with the point the majority of the Home Guards are not satisfied about the help and facilities provided to them by the government.

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