

# Superstitious Belief and Indian Society

**Asma Easmin**

Assistant Professor, Lakhipur College

## **Abstract:**

Superstitions are common phenomenon 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 highly associated with financial risk taking and gambling behavior. Superstitious beliefs have probably been present among us since the beginning of time and have been passed on through the centuries, culturally shared and transmitted from generation to generation.

**Keywords:** Superstition, source of Superstition, Superstitious belief, reason, Indian Society.

## **Methodology:**

The present study of superstitious belief and Indian society looks at the effects of different types of superstitious belief. This Paper is mainly presented in descriptive method through personal experience and other secondary data collecting sources.

## **Introduction:**

A superstition is a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance or a false conception of causation or an irrational object attitude of mind towards the supernatural nature or God resulting from superstition. Often it arises from ignorance, a misunderstanding of science or causality, a belief in fate or magic, or fear of that which is unknown. It is commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding Luke, prophecy and certain spiritual beings particularly the belief that future events can be foretold by specific (apparently) unrelated prior events (Stuart 2000) superstitious beliefs and practices often vary from one person to another or from one culture to another.

The word 'Superstition' is often used to refer to a religion not practiced by the majority of a given society regardless of whether the prevailing religion contains alleged superstitions. Identifying something as superstition generally pejorative items referred to as such in common parlances are commonly referred to as folk belief in folkloristic (Essay on superstition Msrblog)

The word superstition derives from Latin word Super and Stitio which when put together reveal the meaning of standing still over or 'one who stands in awe'

(Subramuniya Swami 2002)

## **Source of superstitious belief:**

Superstition in India is not a single day occurrence. It has come down to us from ancient time, In ancient time people were not scientifically developed like today, during that period people considered the Sun, the Moon, fire, water, Storm etc. as supernatural power. They could not find out the reasons behind this nature's routine process and considered them as supernatural object. Again ancient people believed that disease are caused by evil spirits.

### **Superstitious beliefs in Indian society:**

Superstitious beliefs magical thinking and other paranormal activities have existed in a variety of cultures since the beginning of time (Jahoda 1969) and can be divided into three types: Religious, Cultural or Personal.

Superstitious rituals or beliefs are generally invoked either to keep away bad luck or to bring about good luck and even if a lot of superstitions have cultured and social connotations and are passed on from one generation to another, other

comprise more peculiar beliefs or rituals (Superstitions superstitious beliefs and their effect theology religion essay)

In Indian society there are many superstitious beliefs are seen in various States. Common examples of superstitious beliefs in India include: a black cat

crossing the road symbolized bad luck, a crow cawing indicates that guest are arriving or some mournful incident will happen. Drinking milk after eating fish causes skin disease and itchy palms mean that money is coming your way.

- India has a long history of ancient superstitions based on popular and religious beliefs that people still believe in and not only in rural areas.
- Some of them are not saying goodbye to someone or tell them something when they are going out the door, since saying their name is bad luck them. If you do so they will be unlucky in whatever activity they are about to undertake.
- It is believed that if the first customer of the day buys something the store owner will sell a lot the rest of the day.
- Hanging a string at the front door with a lemon or lime and several chillies as a symbol of protection against the evil eye, not wearing any new clothes on Saturday, not cutting hair and nails on Thursday or Saturday so as not to provoke the wrath of planet Shani (Saturn), not cleaning the house of night for fear of scaring off the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi.
- If you see there lizards coming towards you it means you are going to get married soon or you will have a lucky marriage but things turn sour if there is an extra lizard. Four lizards coming at the same time are associated with an untimely death.
- As in other cultures spotting a black cat means you will have bad luck but in India there is a way to prevent it from affecting you upon seeing a black cat one should take three steps back and spit.
- If you are on your way somewhere and a crow shits on you it's considered good luck. This Indian superstition is based on a belief that if you suffer an inconvenience you'll have good fortune in return.
- Giving cash as gift is common practice in various Indian occasions ranging from birthdays to weddings and festivals. A one rupee coin is added to the total amount for its considered auspicious. In some part of India it is believed that if you give round figures like INR 500/1000 it signifies an end but the added one rupee to continue to get wealthy.
- The evil eye is a big deal in India therefore Indians use different methods to avoid it. In order to prevent unfortunate accident a lot of infants in India have a small spot of Kajal on their forehead or cheeks. This is supposed to ward off the evil eye.
- One of the most common Indian superstitions is to have a spoonful of curd with a little sugar before going out or embarking on a new journey to guarantee good luck. It is believed that the sweet

starting note makes any task Shubh or good and the goes well. The roof of this Indian superstition of having Dahi-Shakkar or curd with Sugar might be related to the tropical climate where eating curd has a cooling effect on your digestive system, which the sugar adds energy.

- According to the Indian superstition eye twitching is related to your destiny but it also depends which eye twitches as well as your gender. A twitching right eye brings good luck for man while a twitching left eye brings good news for women.
- According to Indian superstition, observing the Sun during a solar eclipse should be avoided. Doing so many cause retinal burns or eclipse blindness, pregnant women are advised to remain indoors during the entire time as well.
- Peepal trees are quite notorious in the Indian society. There are many who believe that if you sleep around this tree at night the ghosts will kill you.
- It is believed that when the funeral rites are performed on the body of the deceased, it can be home to any kind of bacteria or infection, during this rites the infection can spread in the air. Hence it is advisable in Indian customs and traditions to take bath soon after attending a funeral to wash off unnecessary infection.
- According to this superstition if a mirror breaks it means seven years of bad luck. The curse can only be nullified if one takes the pieces outside and buries them under the moonlight, also if an disturbed mirror in a house suddenly falls and smashes it mean that there will soon be a death.

### **Conclusion:**

Superstition are impulsive believes in supernatural powers that do not have any acceptable explanation. Superstition is a worldwide paradox but superstition in India is a serious worry for the development of the country. This is the age of science and technology, yet many primitive superstitions continue endlessly.

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