

A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF RELIGIOUS AND RELATED ATTITUDES OF THE STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS IN SOUTH INDIA

THESIS SUPPLICATED FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
TO THE ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY UNDER THE KIND SUPERVISION AND
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ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY,
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P R E F A C E

India is an interesting and 'live' laboratory for the study of religious interactions, attitudes and antipathies. Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism are all in active operation in this country. There has been a good deal of rivalry as well as the practising of a "good neighbourhood" policy in religious matters. Also considerable inter-religious experimentation at the cultural level offset by heated controversy at the doctrinal level. Many popular beliefs are current regarding the place and effect of religion on the life of India, e.g. that a study of Science leads to secularize which needs further examination. This investigation has been undertaken to examine some of the factors involved in the present day religious scene in India, using psychological techniques. It is an effort to bring in some objectivity into a field where beliefs and opinions have been held for long as almost axiomatic without adequate examination. All that is claimed for it is merely the credit of being a pioneering study yielding certain interesting inductions which seem to be worth further investigation.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. S. P. Adinarayan, Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology, Annamalai University, under whose guidance this work was undertaken for his much valuable help and encouragement.

I also tender my sincere thanks to many of _____ have helped me in collecting data for this various places of the four states [Andhra, Mysore] and to Mr. M. Rajagopalan, Lecturer _____ University for his cooperation and help in cal.

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