

## **COVID-19 AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS: IS RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MORE IMPORTANT THAN LIFE?**

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COVID 19 Pandemic, which is a threat for the humankind. Every Country of the globe is wrestling with it and started scrambling against it. For Curbing, this situation, the government has taken many initiatives, they are doing what they can do, and they are also observing the situation whether we talk of central government or of state government. Both were performing their duties respectively at their levels.

However, I want to put a question for the citizens of India. Whether we the people of India have some duties or not? If, yes then, the next question is whether we are performing our duties or not?

As we know, our country has a constitution, of which we always talk about. Whenever we have any issue, we are questioning the government, that we have rights and the government should protect our rights and courts should enforce our rights, if violated. But sadly, and honestly, I tell you that no one in this country talks about their duties. So as long as, we not started taking note of our duties we can't be a developed nation. A nation can't get developed by the government we choose. But as far as my opinion is concerned, To be a developed nation every citizen of that nation have to understand their duties. Before I write anything about *Covid 19 And Duties of Citizens* I want to make a clear distinction that I am neither encouraging nor intended to encourage Islamophobia or neither wants to hurt anybody religious sentiments. However, I only want to highlight the situation the country is facing and activities in its response.

As I think religion has given us many things such as spiritual strength, peace in mind etc. But we cannot deny that religion often caused harm to humankind and humanity. Whether in form of damages to rivers or ponds by filling it with "religious waste" or turning the densely populated and congested Nizamuddin area into Covid 19 spot for the sake of Islamic gathering.

Tablighi Jamaat, an Islamic reformist group, had a large gathering of more than 3000 people on 13<sup>th</sup> March in Nizamuddin with foreign nationals from many other countries of the global such as Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia, a hot spot for the deadly Covid 19 virus.

In fact, in Malaysia, in the month of February, the Jammatt gathered and due to this, has also been held responsible for spreading this virus to many nations.

As Reported by union Health Ministry that a third of all the confirmed case of Covid -19 in India is linked to this event. Till day, on 18 April 2020, 4291 confirmed cases of Covid -19 were link to this congregation. A cluster spread became apparent in the following days as cases traced back to the event were reported in several states. In Telangana, five people who attended the event died on 30 March. Dozens of people in other states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As of 3 April, more than 950 confirmed case we're detected across 14 States and union Territory in the country. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 97% of the total cases confirmed in the country had linkage with this event of Tablighi jamaat (647out of 664) .

Tamil Nadu the worst affected state, as 364 of the 411 people who tested positive had attended the event. 259 out of 386 cases in Delhi and 140 out of 161 cases in Andhra Pradesh were linked to the event. All nine deaths reported in Telangana until 2 April were of people who had returned from the congregation. The Srinagar man who died on 26 March was identified as a super -Spreader as he travelled by Road, Rail and Air from Delhi to Srinagar via Uttar Pradesh, as official feared that he may have spread it to several other along way.

Aftermath, On April 2 , the Home Ministry identified a 960 foreigners who took part in the event and blacklisted their visas for violation of The Foreigners Act, 1946 (violating Visa norms by entering India with a tourist visa and indulging illegally in missionary work) and The Disaster Management Act, 2005 .and argued the DGP'S of Respective states and union Territory to initiate legal action against them.

However, the main question which arises out of this is that, as we know, many people or say more than 80% of the people are Indians in that congregation. And they are from almost 20

States of India as claimed by few news channels. Now After the news, came in light and the country is under lockdown. Should they inform the authorities or not? Whether they should go to hospital for their own or not?

The Tablighi Jammāt Congregation is not the sole instance of Religious activity in this country which is one of the reasons for spreading Coronavirus in this country. There are few more in the list. “FUNERAL OF MOOLI” in Madurai village in Tamil Nadu. It was a somber day in Muduvapatti, when hundreds of villagers gathered for a special farewell for “Mooli” a beloved bull that has won medals and awards at Jallikattu events in the hinterlands of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, leading violation of social- distancing norms amid Covid 19 pandemic.

As we Remember, there was a large protest for the bull sport Jallikattu in 2017, the love for the bull have grown manifolds. The Demise of “MOOLI”, thus, left the town shaken. Village elders had arranged for a final display of the bull right outside the temple and the event drew people in droves. The final procession was an extravagant affair with firecracker bursting into the sky. Aftermath, The Tamil Nadu police have filed Multiple cases under relevant charges against at least 3000 people who took part in the procession on charges of violating rules of the lockdown. Madurai is one of the cities that are badly hit by Coronavirus infection in Tamil Nadu.

However , It is very painning me ,and sadly I can say that they have not done their duties and due to their irresponsible behavior, they not only put their life in danger but they also put other's life in danger and I strongly tell you that they have not performed their duties. I have heard since my childhood that, one who has not performed his duties, should not ask for his rights. Since both comes as a package. Rights and duties are complete package. One should have right meant he must have some duties. So kindly prohibit this inherent practice of asking of your rights and try to learn to perform your duties carefully. If every person performs his duties carefully than no person needs to ask for his rights.

We need to understand that speaking against a wrong committed by an orthodox religious group doesn't mean you are stereotyping them. Ironically, I have seen that few people came and started giving irrelevant explanation of that congregation and questioning administration and government. I welcome their words of criticism but I strongly oppose their silence on the social and moral responsibility of the Tablighi jammāt and I also request, the lovers of

constitution and country to not give this a communal colour. And there is proverb “it’s never too late to start, “jab jaga tabhi sabera”. So kindly stop blaming others and try to perform your duties carefully and honestly. If possible kindly stay at your home and save yourself. If everybody save himself, then the whole world will be saved.

