(Abstract)

Religious and Historical Paradigms of the Sikh Identity

1. Introduction

Study of identity and its reflections are becoming important in social sciences especially in religious study. Due to the recent developments in different religious groups and communities the study of identity has come in academic focus. The main problem of this study is to understand the nature and development of Sikh identity and to find out the connections in its religious and historical paradigms.

2. Concepts

2.1. Identity

According to the Oxford Dictionary, identity is the characteristics, feelings or beliefs that distinguish people from others: a sense of national / cultural / personal / group identity. As a sense of uniqueness, a feeling of continuity over time and a sense of ego completeness. And fourth characteristic demands identification with the ideals of some group that affirms the sense of self that is the final achievement of a healthy sense of identity. In this research work we purpose to identify the uniqueness of Sikh identity and its religious and historical paradigms.

2.2. Paradigm

The word ‘Paradigm’ is derived from Greek word ‘Paradeigma’ that means explanation of a pattern. In this research we are applying concept paradigm as a methodical framework to study the representative religious and historical patterns of the Sikh identity.
2.3. Religious Paradigm

Religious paradigm of identity is a matter of religious identification or declaration. Those who believe or follow the specific doctrines of a particular faith are generally referred to as religious community. Every religious community has a specific identity that bonds their own faith. In this research we want to explore the distinguish feature of Sikh faith.

2.4. Historical Paradigm

Almost every identity links with the history of his group, caste, tribe, class, nation and community because that attaches with these in the object of conscious and unconscious mind. According to J.S.Grewal, ‘It is based on peculiar doctrines, institutions and social attitudes - including sense of commitment to matters temporal as well as spiritual. It necessary to take into account the approaches and the views for a comprehensive treatment of the subject. The historiographical perspectives have been presented to be examined in the light of understanding the subject’. The purpose of this research is also to understand the historical development of Sikh identity.

3. Objectives: The main objectives of this study are: -

1. To understand the nature and emergence of Sikh identity.
2. To understand the religious paradigms of the Sikh identity.
3. To understand the historical paradigms of the Sikh identity.
4. To understand the connections of religious and historical paradigms of the Sikh identity.
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