

## **Introduction:**

Hinduism is very old religion of 900 million followers and 4000 years old this religion with Islam and Christianity its third largest religion about 95% Hindu live in India as it has no any founder it is difficult to tell about its original and his history it's not a single religion in fact this is mixture of many tradition and philosophies .Religion is a way of life . In hindu religion they called there religion Dharma ,whose full name is Sanaathaana Dharma . Sanaathana means BhagavathGeetha which means not destroy by any thing like storm water ,fire etc. These are the things when touch any thing destroy that due to its natural power but it can not damage . Dharma means way of life called as aacharas in hindi language which means customs and rituals .Hindu connect with rituals spiritually because they consider it is cause of prosperity by focusing on its practice Hindu connect their rituals spiritually because they consider it is cause of prosperity by focusing on its practice.

According to smruthies:

Achaaryaathpaadamaadattheapaadamsishyaswamedhayaapaadamsabrahmachaa  
ribhyaseshamkaalakramena cha

Inn holy book of hindusmruthiesits is given as advice ,which means a person get 1 quoter of knowledge from teacher which is called as Achaarya and one quoter of knowledge by analysing himself one quoter by discussing that knowledge while last part of knowledge by addition , deletion ,modification of already knowledge<sup>1</sup>

## **Hinduism Beliefs:**

Hindu has different believes it is considered that it is a mixture of different religion and their ideas for that it is called as way of life or family of religions. Some Hindu follow single deity called as Brahma but they also recognise other gods and believe on different gods with different views .They believe on life death and rebirth it's mean when they die they have to reborn they believe n doctrine of Samsara .They believe On they believe on soul called as atman which has to attain molshah then it become a complete soul . They consider that soul is part of supreme soul who is ever lasting. Their basic belief is that the thoughts and working or actions of people will determine your future and also there present life. In in Hindu animals are creature which are living are very Respected in the religion but cow is very sacred .Mostly Hindu are vegetarians and they do not eat beef as cow is very sacred for them. Hinduism is also related with other religions like Sikhism ,Jenniesem and buddhism.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/>

Two symbols are very important and Hinduism one is Om and other is swastika which is consider as symbol of happiness and good luck .<sup>2</sup>

### **Sacred literature of hinduism :**

Hinduism has four Vedas, the Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda. The Vedas are the main texts of Hinduism. They also had a enormous authority on Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Customarily the text of the Vedas was coeval with the world. Scholars have firm that the Rig Veda, the oldest of the four Vedas, was cool, calm and collected about 1500 B.C., and codified about 600 B.C. It is indefinite when it was to conclude devoted to writing, but this almost certainly was at some position after 300 B.C.

The Vedas enclose hymns, incantations, and rituals from very old India. All along with the Book of the Dead, the EnumaElish, the I Ching, and the Avesta, they are amongst the earliest holy texts still in survival. Moreover their religious value, they also give a exclusive outlook of daily life in India four thousand years back. The Vedas are also the a large amount olden widespread texts in an Indo-European verbal communication, and as such are helpful in the learn of proportional linguistics.<sup>3</sup>

### **Holy Books :**

Hindu sacred book isvedas which publish about 1500BC some important part of this book are

- The Rig Veda
- The Samaveda
- Yajurveda
- Atharvaveda

Hindu consider that this book has no beginning and no end.

### **Origin of Hinduism**

Hinduism has no Founder so it is considered as it is a mixture of different religion. when vedas start composing it is called as Vadic period . It start from indusVally and cosider that it originated between 2300BC and 1500BC.<sup>4</sup>

### **Gods of Hindu:**

Hindu believe more then one God and consider Brahma as supreme God how has powers on all things. But they also believe on Goddess. They believe that every God his also wife which is also very important for them .

Most dominant Gods are :

- Brahma who is the creator of whole universe and living things
- Vishnu : protector of Universe .

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.history.com/.amp/topics/religion/hinduism>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.religion-online.org/book-chapter/chapter-5-the-sacred-literature-of-hinduism/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hinduism>

- Shiva : the God specify for fist distroy and then create the universe
- Davi: Goddess who fight for there religion
- Krishna : God of love and affection the God who is consider as softhearted . The god of sympathy
- Lakhshmi: Goddess for lakhshmi means for money and wealth
- Saraswati : Goddess of music , art knowledge and learning.<sup>5</sup>

### **Goddess of hinduism :**

In Hinduism religion they have both male as well as female gods, on which they believe that, these are supreme powers of world, and all the main deities have both male and female counterparts. Hindu goddesses are the symbol of Shakti, the female foundation of control in the creation. They are extremely respected and authoritative and engage in recreation a vital function in the making, shield, and demolition of the world. In fallowing section I will explain about Hindu goddess:

Radha:

Radha is approximately for all time portrayed beside Krishna. She is also recognized the same as Radhika or Radharani. It is supposed that Radha and Krishna are imperfect exclusive of each other, and Radha is the buddy and colleague of Krishna, who represents his own heavenly authority and the Shakti. Radha is measured to be superior to Rukmini (the spouse of Krishna, and the living form of the supernatural being Lakshmi) and not the life of Lakshmi (the partner of Vishnu) herself. Radha is identified for her huge loyalty towards Krishna, which reflects the desire of each follower to be cohesive with the absolute. It was from end to end the influence of her fidelity that she was bright to attain the position of divinity and become worshiped by a great figure of devotees.

Kamadhenu:

Kamadhenu is the project of all cows and the deity of abundance. She is skilled of rewarding the warm requirements of her devotees. Her iconography explores her as a cow with the top of a woman and breasts, or as the cow with different deities surrounded by her. Kamadhenu emerged in the practice of the immense samudramanthan, which was the churning, and addition of the great bushel by the deities Asuras and Devas. Cows are honored in Hinduism because of the goddess Kamadhenu. every element of Kamadhenu's body carries representative meaning. For illustration, her four legs stand for the four Vedas, the horns represent the gods, and the humps accept the Himalayas. Hindu worship cow because they consider it there mother because cow gave them milk that is require for mature.

Tulsi:

Tulsi is the deity worshiped and admired in the shape of herb plant. The aromatic plant has remedial as well as legendary significance in Hinduism. The tale of Tulsi is over and over again linked with Vrinda and Jalandhar. Jalandhar, who was born from end to end the third eye of Lord Shiva, became very authoritative and endangered the subsistence of the gods. His control was also a consequence of the attachment and loyalty of his spouse Vrinda, who was an dedicated supporter of Vishnu. In sort to kill Jalandhar and save the earth and the gods from his rage, Vishnu firm to take the appearance of Jalandhar and approach Vrinda, therefore leading her to give faithlessness. This disadvantaged Jalandhar of his powers achieved all the way

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.dummies.com/religion/hinduism/hindu-gods-and-goddesses/>

through the loyalty of his spouse. After realizing that it was Vishnu, Vrinda cursed him to be born as a rock which is known as the Shaligram. She ultimately threw herself into a pyre and was reborn as Tulsi.

Ganga:

Ganga is the representation of the River Ganga and is a trendy goddess in Hindu tradition. She is the offspring of Parvat Raj Himalaya or Himavan and sister to the goddess Parvati. She ascended to paradise to purify the sins stretch by Tarkasur, one of the evil spirit kings. She descended back to world to wash gone the sins of human race at the demand of Shiva.

Sita:

Sita, also identified as Janaki, is the living form of Lakshmi. She is the offspring of Janak, the sovereign of Janakpur. Her name Janaki comes from her place of birth, Janaki Mandir, which is situated at Janakpur in Nepal and is devoted to Sita She is also remembered and well-regarded for the Agni Parikchya, or examination by fire, that she holds on Ram's information to confirm her chastity. Sita is the symbol of womanly supremacy and desirable quality.

Kali

Kali is the severe illustration of Shakti. She is also identified as the cause of death or the one who liberates the spirit and provides moksha or illumination. She is an living form of Parvati/Durga. Kali was born to conquer the devil Raktabeech, who it was supposed possibly, will create new, authoritative demons from every drop of his blood that touched the ground. Thus Kali is seen as a violent and annoyed goddess with swag of skulls, a penknife and a bowl in her hands.

Saraswati:

Saraswati is the deity of knowledge, song, and education. She is also notorious as Sharada. She is the spouse of Brahma. Saraswati is one of the goddesses of the Hindu Tridevi, which is the female matching part of the Tridevs. Her vehicle is the swaggar or goose. Her iconography shows her with four hands, two of which grasp the veena, a melodic instrument. Saraswati Puja is practical on the day of Basant Panchami, which is also the first day of mechanism. Devotees come around up early in the morning and give respect at her temples eager to be holy with understanding and acquaintance.

Lakshmi:

Lakshmi is the well-known deity of prosperity, great quantity, and fruitfulness. She is worshiped throughout the celebration of Deepawali, or the event of glow. It is supposed that the cleanest and the most gorgeous house will be selected by Lakshmi on the night of the fair. Thus, devotees spotless and ornament their houses with illumination and garlands of flowers throughout the carnival.

Parvati:

She is one of the goddesses of the Tridevi. She is also acknowledged as Gauri. She is the spouse of Shiva and the look after of Kumar and Ganesh. Parvati is the recreation of Sati, who was one time the spouse of Shiva but was plunged into the flames due to her father's rude performance towards her spouse. Parvati was instinctive as a corporeal to Parvat Raj Himalaya.

Durga:

Durga is possibly one of the nearly everyone well-acknowledged manifestation of Shakti. She is one of the most important deities worshiped for the period of the festivals of Dashain/Navaratri, one of the most chief Hindu festival. The event also

celebrates the death of Mahisasur, one of the most dominant devil gods. Mahisasur was made well-known by organism killed by a womanly divine being, Durga.<sup>6</sup>

### **Worship place:**

Worship place of hindu called as mandir means temple . They visit it many time a day . They also have specific portion in there house called as Mandir . Where they perform puja where they place some idols or picture of idols

Hindu also present gifts to there God oil flowers some of them also gave there offsprings .

### **Holidays :**

Hindu has different religious holidays some of them are discuss here

- Dewali : this name show that it is festival of Devas on that night people enlighten there houses with light
- Navaratri: it is nine days festivals on which they fasting and it is consider a fight between divil and Davi Durga . It is autumn festival .
- Holi : on this colours are spread and different games are played .
- Krishna Janmashtami : it is celebration of birth of God Krishna
- Mahashivratri :it is celebrate this festival by doing worship of their God Shive who is destroyer of whole Universe.<sup>7</sup>

### **Rituals and Customs :**

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- Rituals and custom are the those things through which a religion express . Different religion have different rituals and customs. It is a social behaviour to attain specific culture . It includes gestures , words and object which is performed by a society and these are set by a society . It is said that a widely accepted something by a society ,time and place and adopt it is called as customs and rituals .

- Hindu religion adopted different Rituals some of them are discuss here :

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### **Fasting in hinduism :**

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- Fasting is consider as divine grace which help to purify mind and body like Muslims Hindu also fasting but there is different reason behind it .Hindu fast on Monday and called it as SomvarVrat and they fast this for their God Shiva . Lord Shiva is consider as destroyer of evil of word . They believe that when they fast on Monday there God shower blessings on that person . Hindu also fast on festivals like janmastmikarvacuath , Navratri etc .
- Kurwacauth fasting is by women for there husbands long life . On this fast they do not drink water or food start from sunrise to moon rise . When moon rise they fist of all do puja of moon . After that they drink water but not eat until there husbands come back to home.
- On fast of Navratri they fast for nine days . They consider that nine days as very holy and eat before 9 days and not eat during that days as they believe that on these day it is fight between devil and LordessDurga. After that fast they first do poja of Durga and then eat food.

<sup>6</sup><http://www.religionfacts.com/hinduism/goddesses>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.britannica.com/topic/Navratri>

- Janmastmi 's fast is to remember the Lord krishana who born on that day. They give up all thing in fast but not fruits ,milk and water and exact 12 o clock do poja to celebrate the birthday of krishna. In fast of ram mavami they do poja and after fast they can eat fruits and drink milk and water only.

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#### **Touch the feet of elders:**

It is also include in Hindu To touch the feet of elders show respect and love and suppress his ego by this way the show respect for aged person. And elders in return just in your prayers and wish them a good love and long life.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Ominous in hinduism :**

Ominous are those thing which people blindly believe without any reason and evidencesome of them are discuss here:

#### **Number 3:**

Number 3 is consider as ominous in Hinduism they consider it bad as represent or it is number of there God Shiva who is called as world destroyer as first number is for Brahma and second for Vishnu and third for shiva . They think that if they chose this number it will destroy them as it is number of God Shive so hindu avoid To Choosing this number . Hindu show bad attitude towards this number .

#### **Breaking of Glass:**

If glass break they consider it as apshagonmean it show misfortune that means so wrong thing is happening . If glass of Their God pic break they consider it bad omen and stop doing that work by think that some evil is surrounding them which is disturbing there work.

#### **Black cat in hinduism :**

Cat is consider as bad omen if it cross your path while going any where specially black cat is consider very bad . If very important discussion is going on they stop it . They believe that some one is remembering them in bad wordsPoor black cats. They are blamed just for being black (no racist joke here). It's a popular belief in the west too that, if a black cat crosses your path, it's a bad omen. For the west, the origin of this superstition came from Egypt. Egyptian culture believed that black cats were evil creatures, whereas the Indian explanation is that black represents Shani and therefore brings bad luck. It is said that if a black cat crosses your path, then your day's tasks get delayed or postponed. Which reminds me, when we were kids and went for our exams, and if a black cat crossed, never once was the exam delayed or postponed

#### **Cutting nails and hair on Saturday:**

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<sup>8</sup>[https://www.academia.edu/39621352/RITUALS\\_IN\\_HINDUISM\\_AS\\_RELATED\\_TO\\_SPIRITUALITY](https://www.academia.edu/39621352/RITUALS_IN_HINDUISM_AS_RELATED_TO_SPIRITUALITY)

Hindu believes that and when they cut their hair and nails on Saturday it will create a bad effect and bring bad luck although it's a bit less superstitious some people cut their hair and it will not produce or bring any bad luck for them .

### **Number 13:**

Hindu consider number 13 very bad as there is no as such evidence or explanation about this but avoid it .They avoid from thirteen floor building for hotels .

### **Onion and knife under pillow**

They believe that if they place onion or knife under their pillow it will prevent them from Badluck and from the bad -dreaming.The mostly place knife and onion under the pillow of a new born baby

### **Adding one rupees in a gift**

It is consider very good if hindu gave gift of money in which they add one rupees extra . If they have to gave that some sacrife for there God they gave 101 rupees instead of hundred rupees .<sup>9</sup>

### **Literature Review:**

Literature review is basically all or some works that already done on the research topic . There are many scholars that work on religion Hinduism and I will explain few of the. Wendy Doniger who is professor at University of Chicago Divinity .She is a person who do an alternative study on hinduism.She start study on this by india and study there culture ,tradition rituals and custom very deeply .

She study many books of religion at Chicago . She studied about Indian culture and different aspect in Oxford and Harvana.

On 2007 Jnawali work on hinduismreligion . In this he study Its sector Buddhism and global peace .According to him Buddhism has many Techniques to create peace in the world this world is full of corruption and violence so it tell about the things which is about nonviolence and very effective for Peace .techniques to create peace in the world this world is full of corruption and violence so explain about the things which is about nonviolence and very effective for peace .

Gumucio in 2008 work on hinduism .He work on interculturalism on international level . He explain the culture is very important to express a religion .So any religion can be express through its religion.

In 2009 Perkins work on this . He clinically observe all . In 2011 Roehlkepartainwork on this religion and study about spiritual identity .

### **Conclusion :**

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<sup>9</sup><https://epdf.pub/contemporary-hinduism-ritual-culture-and-practice.html>

In the end I will conclude my topic by telling some things on it. Hinduism is actually religion of Hindu it has no prophet or saint like other religion Islam or Christianity. Real name of Hinduism is Samathana Dharma which mean an ancient ethics. Hinduism is mixture of different religion . It is a polytheistic religion due to lots of God .They believe that for different work they have different Gods .They think there is specific God for specific work . Like DeviLakshmi is specified for lakhshmi which is word of there language means money .As such they have no Divine messenger that bring there religion guidelines so they have no Divine book but they consider Vade as holly book it is not Divine book but they consider it very sacred. There worship places are called as temples where there worships there idols . They called their worship puja . They have different holiday like Muslims ,as we have eidshabratsetc they have Dewliholi,jammashmtmi etc. Hindu has lots of differentrituals . Which are there daily routine practices and that consider as very acceptable by society. Hindu rituals are very important as it express the religion . They spiritually attach with their rituals.They feel very relax and happy to adopt their religion .

In India the most popular term for Religion is Dharma. Literally Dharma connotes that which has to be 'adhered to'. Religion is practical aspect of philosophy, which is rational aspect of all religions. Hindu religion is a way of life. It governs all the development of Hindu-life. Religion is basically associated with a code of morality, creed, and culture.

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Gandhi believed that, "By religion I do not mean formal religion or customary religion but that religion which underlies all religions"<sup>2</sup>. He was believer of Adishankara's teachings of Advaita (Monism). He himself advocated, "the essential unity of God and Man for that matter of all that lives". And he believed that, "I am a part and parcel of the whole, and I cannot find him apart from the rest of community".

The most significant feature of Gandhi's Religion, that "Truth is God' is thus, the expression of a comprehensive vision of reality; it is essentially a religion of service for him. Religion or spirituality is not a mere matter of knowing scriptures and engaging in philosophical discussions. For him, true spirituality is practical application of spiritual values in actual life. In Gandhi's thought Ahimsa (Non-violence) is a positive virtue of expressing selfless love towards living creatures which is the true expression of consciousness of absolute unity of all living being. Ahimsa and Truth is really not a new ideal developed by Gandhi, Both virtues are ancient Hindu ideal. He said, "I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and Non-violence are as old as the hills". Truth is permanent existence. Truth alone exists, while everything else is changing. Truth is the absolute spiritual reality behind the relative moral world. Satyagraha lies in the practical expression of Truth and Ahimsa. Self-purification is another name for Satyagraha.