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Elements of belief system ppt

1. RELIGION AND BELIEF SYSTEM The Structure PATRONAGE OF MARY DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL (PMDS) | MELVIN MUSSOLINI ARIAS 2. REVIEW A Religion is a set of BELIEFS and PRACTICES that is often focused on one or more deities, or gods. 3. COVERAGES OF THE DAY: THE ETYMOLOGY OF RELIGION THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY CONCEPT OF RELIGION 4. COVERAGES OF THE DAY: CONCEPT OF SPIRITUALITY CHARACTERISTIC OF RELIGION ELEMENTS OF RELIGION WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEF 5. COVERAGES OF THE DAY: THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION SIMILARITIES OF RELIGION RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES COMMON ELEMENTS OF RELIGION 6. THE ETYMOLOGY OF RELIGION LATIN LATIN RELIGION OLD FRENCH RELIGIO (Obligation or bond) RELIGARE (To Bind) Life Under Monastic Vows LATIN 7. THE ETYMOLOGY OF RELIGION RELIGION Life Under Monastic Vows 8. THE ETYMOLOGY OF RELIGION RELIGION 9. THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION THE HUMAN QUEST FOR MEANING THE QUEST OF PURPOSE THE QUEST FOR SALVATION 10. THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION THE HUMAN QUEST FOR MEANING UNDERSTANDING our World and our Experience 11. THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION THE QUEST OF PURPOSE The motivation to live a life which promotes human wholeness in accordance with the meaning discovered. 12. THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION THE QUEST FOR SALVATION The search to be free from the feeling of disharmony deep within the human person. 13. CONCEPT OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY RELIGIONSPIRITUALITY Belief that the divine is within us Belief in a superhuman power outside of you, the creator of the universe. Personal Belief or Values System Dictated Belief or Conditioned Mind God is inside the heart God is inside the Mind 14. CONCEPT OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY RELIGIONSPIRITUALITY People's Inherit Goodness People's Inherit Sinfulness Spiritual Development Praise and Worship Authentic Self Conditioned Self Joyous Living Narrow Creeds 15. CONCEPT OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY RELIGIONSPIRITUALITY Spiritual Laws Based Faith Based Heaven is a state of mind Heaven is a place you go when you die Human Relationship/ Deed Brick or Mortar Temple 16. SPIRITUALITY CONCEPT OF SPIRITUALITY Belief within individuals Internal Focus Goal: Determine common principles, values, and ethics 17. SPIRITUALITY CONCEPT OF SPIRITUALITY Beliefs about what is Good, True, and Beautiful Unites People over Society 18. RELIGION CONCEPT OF RELIGION Expressly Stated; organized belief system External Focus and Formal Structure Goal: Salvation through one truth and one right way 19. THE LINK OF EVERY SYMBOL GOLDEN TEMPLE GANGES RIVER 20. THE LINK OF EVERY SYMBOL MECCA MOSQUE 21. THE LINK OF EVERY SYMBOL VATICAN BAPTISM 22. THE LINK OF EVERY SYMBOL 23. THE LINK OF EVERY SYMBOL 24. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION Most scholars agree that every religion has the same three basic elements: WISDOM OR CREED WORSHIP OR CULT WORKS OR CODE 25. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION Refers to the THEOLOGICAL BELIEFS and scriptures or HOLY WRITINGS of a religion. WISDOM OR CREED 26. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION A Creed is a SET OF TRUTHS that must be accepted and agreed to by those who wish to belong to the religion, those who choose to be a follower or disciple. WISDOM OR CREED 27. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION Briefly, a creed is a "Summary of the PRINCIPLE beliefs of a religion". WISDOM OR CREED 28. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION Refers to the way of worshipping, to the RITUALS that are practiced by followers of the religion. WORSHIP OR CULT 29. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION This is often a difficult element to describe, because it involves so many DIVERSE ELEMENTS. WORSHIP OR CULT 30. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION Refers to the ETHICAL VALUES and the system of Moral Practice directly resulting from an adherence to the beliefs. WORKS OR CODE 31. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION It is a set of MORAL PRINCIPLES and guidelines that must be respected and followed by those who would be identified as members of the religion. WORKS OR CODE 32. CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION A code, when used in a religious sense, is simply a summary of the principles and guidelines by which people choose which ACTIONS are good, and which to avoid. WORKS OR CODE 33. THE THREE ELEMENTS: To fulfill the three (3) parts of Human Soul: WISDOM/ WORSHIP/ WORKS Thought, Feelings, and Action Mind, Sensibilities, and Will Intellectual, Aesthetics, and Moral 34. PRACTICAL AND RITUAL OF RELIGION: PRAYER ASCETICISM POSSESSION The practice of the denial of physical or psychological desires in order to attain a spiritual ideal or goal. Spirit possession is a term for the belief that animas, aliens, demons, extraterrestrials, gods, or spirits can take control of a human body. As the means by which we receive supernatural help. 35. PRACTICAL AND RITUAL OF RELIGION: MODES OF DRESS PILGRIMAGE RITUAL Where religion is concerned, clothing can be divided into two categories often referred to as the sacred and the secular (or profane). A pilgrim makes to a sacred place to the purpose of venerating it or to ask for heavenly aid, and ultimately to come to know God better. A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order. 36. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Anthropological Structure of Religions 37. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Middle East (Western Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS JUDAISM CHRSTIANITY ISLAM 38. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Far East (Eastern Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS BUDDHISM TAOISM SHINTOISM HINDUISM CONFUCIANISM 39. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Middle East (Western Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Share a similar view of the world and concept because they both sprang from Judaism (Islam and Christianity) MONOTHEISTIC - believe in one God 40. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Middle East (Western Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Humans must enter into an Interpersonal Relationship with God. Morality is based on learning the will of God, understanding and living it out individually and as a Community. 41. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Middle East (Western Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Time is viewed as Linear, from beginning to end. The Bible (Christianity), Torah (Judaism), or Koran (Islam) are the Central books studied and lived by. 42. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Far East (Eastern Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Polytheism - belief in more than one god. Main concern is to live a good, happier, and have better life. Creation contains God within it. All elements of creation from plants to animals have an animated spirit. 43. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Far East (Eastern Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Meditation - is central to these faiths. Life is balanced. Holy Books are not central to the belief and practice. 44. WESTERN AND EASTERN BELIEFS Far East (Eastern Faiths): GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS Time is viewed in cycles. There is a belief in Reincarnations or Rebirth. Things can be made better or worse through Karma. 45. IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING RELIGION THE STRUCTURE OF RELIGIONS 46. IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING RELIGION UNDERSTAND DIFFERENCE and see Similarities between nations and culture both political and philosophical. Appreciate our own beliefs by seeing them alongside those of others. Work for Ecumenism through a meaningful exchange of ideas between religious groups. 47. SIMILARITIES OF RELIGIONS THE STRUCTURE OF RELIGIONS 48. SIMILARITIES OF RELIGION SIMILARITIES OF RELIGION Belief in a power greater than humans. Holy Places (Ex. Mecca or Vatican). Set of Religious Symbols by which the religion is identified. Having a liturgy or observance of Holy Days Having Sacred or Holy Writings, list of rules. 49. SIMILARITIES OF RELIGION SIMILARITIES OF RELIGION Number of important people, founders, prophets, missionaries, and historical people. Place of Worship Belief in a Golden Rule 50. RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES THE STRUCTURE OF RELIGIONS 51. RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES Their idea of sin or evil Their idea of salvation Their idea of priesthood Their idea of a personal God 52. COMMON ELEMENTS OF RELIGION THE STRUCTURE OF RELIGIONS 53. COMMON ELEMENTS OF RELIGION WISDOM WORSHIP WORKS Sacred writings and oral tradition. Rituals express the emotional experience to have the right attitude toward God and others. Holiness in action or daily lives, commandments to live by. 54. RELIGION AND BELIEF SYSTEM THE STRUCTURE PATRONAGE OF MARY DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL (PMDS) | MELVIN MUSSOLINI ARIAS 1 Religion & Belief SystemsSSF 1044 Introduction to Anthropology & Sociology 2 Religion: Anthropologist' Definition "...any set of attitudes, beliefs and practices pertaining to supernatural power, whether that power be forces, gods, spirits, ghosts or demons" (Ember, C.R. & Ember, M., 1992: 324) What is considered supernatural? ALL societies possessed beliefs that can be grouped under the term religion Religion is a cultural universal! 3 Sociologist's Definition Religion = cultural system of commonly shared beliefs and rituals that provides a sense of ultimate meaning and purpose by creating an idea of reality that is sacred, all-encompassing and supernatural (Durkheim 1965; Berger 1967; Wuthnow 1998) 3 key elements in this definition: Religion = a form of culture Religions involves beliefs that take the form of ritualized practices Religion has functions in society 4 Magic and Religion One important element of religion is magic. According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, "magic" means: a power that allows people (such as witches and wizards) to do impossible things by saying special words or performing special actions tricks that seem to be impossible and that are done by a performer to entertain people Huh??? But this is not anthropology's definition of magic!!! 5 Magic and Religion Magic = supernatural techniques intended to accomplish specific aims Magic involves the manipulation of the spiritual for good or evil purposes E.g. magical rituals to ensure good crops, to cure illness 6 Example: Iban Crocodile Earthmounds Previously used by the Iban in a ritual called "mall umai" It was believed that the crocodile spirits will protect the crops (hill paddy) from pests 7 Variations in Religious beliefs There is no general agreement among scholars as to why people need religion. Or how spirits, gods and other supernatural beings/forces come into existence. However, there is a recognition of the enormous variations in religious beliefs and practices. How do they differ? The kinds of supernatural beings/forces The structure and hierarchy of the supernatural beings How the supernatural interact with humans (prayer, trance, fasts/feasts, rituals, sacrifices) What happens to people after death? 8 Video: Strange Beliefs Edward Evans-Pritchard and his work on witchcraft among the Azande of Central Africa Besides that, pay attention to: The beginnings of Anthropology The link between Anthropology and Colonialism 9 QUESTIONS What do you think about Azande witchcraft? Are the Azande beliefs valid? What are some elements of Azande beliefs that are familiar to yours? Discuss and present your findings on next class. 10 How do social scientists think about religion? Not concerned with whether religious beliefs are true or false Concerned with the social organisation of religions View religion as major source of social solidarity Tend to explain the appeal of religion in terms of social forces instead of personal, spiritual or psychological factors 11 Functions of religion Supernatural beliefs and practices can help reduce anxiety Help societies deal with everyday matters beyond their control Religions offer emotional comfort, particularly when people face a crisis 12 Azande Witchcraft: Functions? Besides to explain the unexplained, witchcraft as social control and leveling mechanism The lengthy process involved in making an accusation acts to forestall hasty and emotional confrontations. Charges must have group support behind them and are not leveled carelessly. An individual's behaviour may be guided by the knowledge that wrongdoing might likely result in retaliatory witchcraft. Jealous or hostile behaviour might place one in a position of being suspected of using witchcraft. Individual with great wealth is likely to engender jealousy of other (others might use witchcraft against rich individuals) - in this way, witchcraft acts as a leveling mechanism, indirectly keeping wealth balanced. 13 Theories of religion To Durkheim, religion is not just about beliefs. Religion is important because of the cohesive functions it serves, especially in ensuring that people meet regularly to affirm common beliefs and values functionalism! To Weber, religion is important because of the role it plays in social change, especially the development of Western capitalism (impact of Protestantism?) To Marx, religion contains a strong ideological element: religion provides justification for oppression and the inequalities of wealth and power found in society Religion is "opium of the people" (= false consciousness) Prevent people from fighting oppression 14 Theoretical Perspectives Table 13.3 from Anderson & Taylor (2011) 15 Cultural ecology of religion How does behaviour motivated by beliefs in supernatural beings/forces help people survive in their material environment? 16 Religion and Adaptation Many anthropologists believe that religions are generally adaptive because they reduce the anxieties and uncertainties that people experience E.g. why is the cow sacred in the Hindu belief? 17 Ceremonial Feasts In many tribes/societies, intercommunity feasting is a levelling, redistributive mechanism, helping to even out imbalances in access to strategic resources 18 THE BIG QUESTIONS What is religion, and how is it organized? How do people choose their religions? Why are women and older people more religious than men and the young? Why do people kill each other in the name of religion? What is the future of religion? 19 Religion and Society A system of beliefs, rituals, and ceremonies Focus is on sacred matters Promotes community among followers Provides a personal spiritual experience for its members 20 The Great Transformation In communal societies, religion permeated all aspects of society. In contemporary industrial society, the institution of religion has become separated from many social and economic activities Max Weber The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism 21 Function: What Religions Do Durkheim emphasized believers' attitudes toward sacred objects, not the objects themselves What people believe is less important than that they have those beliefs in common 22 Integration Durkheim viewed religion as an integrative force in human society Gives meaning and purpose to people's lives Offers ultimate values and ends to hold in common Serves to bind people together in times of crisis and confusion 23 Social Change Max Weber sought to understand how religion might also contribute to social change The Weberian Thesis Protestant work ethic: disciplined commitment to worldly labor driven by a desire to bring glory to God, shared by followers of Martin Luther and John Calvin Argued this provided capitalism with approach toward labor essential to its development 24 Social Control Marx on Religion Argued religion inhibited social change People focus on otherworldly concerns Religion drugged masses into submission by offering a consolation for their harsh lives on earth Religion's promotion of social stability helps to perpetuate patterns of social inequality 25 Social Control Gender and Religion Women have played fundamental role in religious socialization, but generally take subordinate role in religious leadership Most religions are patriarchal, and reinforce men's dominance in secular and spiritual matters Women compose 12.8 percent of U.S. clergy, but account for 51 percent of theology students 26 Characteristics of Religion Beliefs Ideas, based upon faith, that people consider true The sacred and profane Sacred: that which has supernatural qualities Profane: that which is the ordinary Rituals Routines that reinforce the faith Moral communities People who share a religious belief Personal experience Grants meaning to life 27 Americans Believe in 28 Components of Religion Religious rituals: practices required or expected of members of a faith Religious experience: feeling or perception of being in direct contact with ultimate reality or of being overcome with religious emotion 29 Components of Religion Community Ecclesia: religious organization claiming to include most or all the members of a society; often recognized as the national or official religion Denomination: large, organized religion not officially linked to the state or government 30 Components of Religion Community Sect: relatively small religious group that has broken away from some other religious organization to renew what it considers the original vision of the faith Sects are at odds with society and do not seek to become established national religions Established sect: religious group that is the outgrowth of a sect, yet remains isolated from society 31 Components of Religion Community Cult or new religious movement (NRM): small, alternative faith community that represents either a new religion or a major innovation in an existing faith Similar to sects since they tend to be small and are often viewed as less respectable than more established faiths Unlike sects, may be totally unrelated to existing faiths 32 Components of Religion Comparing Forms of Religious Organization Ecclesiae, denominations, sects, and new religious movements have different relationships to society Best viewed as types along a continuum 33 Religious Organization Church A formal religious group well established and integrated into society Ecclesia a system by which a religion becomes the official religion of a state Denomination A religion that maintains friendly relations with the government but does not claim to be the only legitimate religion 34 Sects and Cults Sects: Cults Loosely organized religious group Non professional leadership 35 Actively rejects social environment Breaks away from a larger religious group Cults Non-conventional religious group Social conditions demand separation Members required to withdraw from normal life Full-time communal obligation for members 36 Christianity World's largest religion Three main branches Roman Catholic Protestant Luther breaks away from Roman Catholic Church in 16th century Orthodox Christian Division of Christianity in 10th century Serves eastern Europe 36 Islam Second largest religion in world Significant beliefs and practices Only one god that all must recognize Daily prayer, share wealth, pilgrimage No centralized authority Local clerics rule often with close state ties Two major sects Sunni Shiite 37 Judaism Numerically smallest of world religions Important beliefs: God's chosen people Torah: first 5 books of the Bible; oldest truths from God Major divisions Orthodox: strictly traditional Reform: liberal and worldly Conservative: middle ground between Orthodox and Reform 38 Hinduism Largest of the Eastern religions Important beliefs Concentrated largely in India Important beliefs Dharma: special force makes daily demands and sacred obligations Karma: spirit remains through life, death, rebirth Organization Caste membership 39 Buddhism Large religion throughout Asia Includes southeast Asian countries and China Based upon teachings of the Buddha, the enlightened one Monks and lay people spread his teachings Important beliefs To relieve human suffering one must follow a path that ultimately leads to enlightenment "Right" thoughts and actions must be daily performed and evaluated through meditation 40 Confucianism Originated with Confucius attempting to solve practical problems of daily living Wisdom summarized guides management of society Jen: human sympathy that binds people in 5 basic relationships Sovereign and subject Parent and child Older brother and younger brother Husband and wife Friend and friend Proper etiquette and ritual help these relationships 41 Religion and Functionalism Religion, as a major social institution, provides many important functions Cohesion Reduce social isolation Increase social solidarity Social control Authority over significant events Social violations become moral offenses Purpose Reduction of anxiety regarding the unknown 42 Conflict Perspective and Religion Religion is a tool of the ruling class Focus on "otherworldly matters" detracts from this world concerns Passive acceptance of misery True rewards will come in afterlife Inequality and domination is legitimate A false consciousness is created Liberation theologian critique Religion can be a powerful agent of social change Counter ruling class power 43 Symbolic Interaction and Religion The creation of a social identity A religious identity is a main element in certain social interactions Others who keep religion private still find it creates an important part of their personal identity Radical religious changes may lead to a fundamental shift in identity Important agents of religious socialization Family: earliest religious learning Schools: separation of church and state issues 44 Sociological Perspectives on Religion Early sociologists sought to provide a science of society that would tap the ways of knowing built into the scientific method and apply them to society They recognized significant role religion had played in maintaining social order, and believed it essential to understand how it had accomplished this 45 Secularization The declining influence of religion in daily life Combines with increasing influence of science Religious groups see social decline Problems can be solved through renewed religious influences 46 Civil Religion The quasi-religious beliefs that link people to society and country Countries confer sacredness upon non-religious aspects of life Patriotism ceremonies Crimes and moral violations are equated "blue laws" Civil religion reinforces core values and strengthens communal bonds 47 Religion Today The Megachurch All-inclusive church draws large audiences Several hundred exist in U.S. Largest concentration found in Southwest Approximately half are nondenominational Church becomes daily-life center 48 Social Change Liberation theology: use of a church in political efforts to eliminate poverty, discrimination, and other forms of injustice from a secular society Adherents contend that organized religion has a moral responsibility to take strong public stand against oppression of the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, and women 49 What is religion, and how is it organized? QUESTION 1 What is religion, and how is it organized? 50 Key Beliefs Among Today's Youth Smith: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life God wants people to be good to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most religions The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to solve a problem Good people go to heaven when they die MTD Moralistic Therapeutic General 51 Sociological Understanding of Religion Comte: Religion of humanity Weber: Ascetic form of 19th Protestantism critical in development of capitalism Durkheim: God basically represented community or society Weber: Argued that the ascetic form of Protestantism that flourished in nineteenth-century America was critical in the development of full-blown capitalism 52 Sociological Understanding of Religion: Defining Religion Sacredness Durkheim "we-ligion" (Demerath 2006) Symbolic boundaries between certain people, objects, times, places, other things and world events Supernatural Stark and Finke General explanations of existence Definition Scared: Those things worthy of awe and special treatment 53 Sociological Understanding of Religion Fluidity of religion Religion defined by behaviors, beliefs, and commitments of people of group or society Doctrine is only part of working religion Religion is viewed as fluid. 54 Sociological Understanding of Religion Major religions of the world Christianity Islam Hinduism Chinese Syncretism Nonreligion 25 religions listed in Table 14.1 See Table 14.1 55 Religion as a Social Institution What is the function of the religious social institution? Promotion of social order Central mechanism for social control over behavior of people Definition: Theology: Discussions of interpretations of religious matters. Social institutions: Structured and enduring practices of human life built around well-established rules or norms, or centered in important organizations ((like the government, courts, churches, schools, or military). Religious pluralism: Acceptance of many different religions, or all religions, as legitimate. 56 What role do denominations and congregations play in organizing religious activity? Organized religious group with at least a few distinguishing religious doctrines Frequently provide "correct" doctrine and model liturgies Congregations Specific church or temple or mosque that people actually attend Most important level of organization 57 Large and Small and Everything in Between In U.S. About 335,000 religious congregations About 300,000 Protestant and kindred churches, and 22,000 Catholic and Orthodox churches About 12,000 non-Christian religious congregations Congregation size from

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