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## A Sociological Study of Secular Principles of Murughamat of Chitradurga

S. Ananda

Assistant Professor, Research Scholar,

Dept of Sociology S.J.M Arts, Commerce, Science College Chitradurga, Karnataka, India Davanagere University,

**Abstract:** Sri Jagadguru Murugharajendra Brihanmath is an outstanding institution in Religious History of Karnataka. The Math is situated on the western side of Chitradurga in a beautiful and calm location. With a celebrated tradition of more than three centuries. The Math, engaged itself in social, religious, educational and cultural activities, is rendering a yeoman service in the development of the state. Thus it is a great asset of the country and hence has acquired a high place. Though it is called in several ways live Murige Math, Muriga Math, Murugha Math, Vishala Math, Maha Math, etc., it is popularly known as Murugi Math. We affirm humanism as a realistic alternative to theologies of despair and ideologies of violence and as a source of rich personal significance and genuine satisfaction in the service to others.

**Key words:** Secular, Swamiji, Murughamath, Group marriage, Dasoha, Kayaka, Murugha vana, Murugesha.

### I. Introduction

The term 'Secularism' first used by the British writer 'George Holyoake' in 1851. Although the term was new, the general notions of free thoughts on which it was based on the existed throughout history. The term invented to describe views of promoting a social order separate from religion, without actively dismissing or criticizing religious belief.

**Meaning:-** All pursuit of good objects with pure intent is religiousness in the best sense in which this term appears to be used. A "good object" is an object consistent with truth, honor, justice, love. A pure "intent" is the intent of serving humanity. Immediate service of humanity is not intended to mean instant gratification, but "immediate" in contradistinction to the interest of another life.

**Chitradurga** district is an administrative district of Karnataka state southern India. Chitradurga gets its name **Chitrakaldurga**.

The population was 1,517,896 of which 18.07% were urban as comprising Kunchitiga, Vokkaligas, Nayaka, Golla [Yadava] Kuruba, Madiga, Lingayata, Bhovi & several other communities. Majority of the people In Chitradurga with Muslims comprising about 9% of the population.

In this Chitradurga it is intended to study the **Murughamath** and all of its secular outlooks. It is necessary to study the Math & the associated all caste's **Swamiji's** in order to understand the goals of **Mat**.



## II. Findings

### Murugesha

Gurusiddha Swamiji popularly known as Murige Swamiji II succeeded him and remained as the **head of Math up to 1729.A.D.** He was honored as the Raja-guru by the rulers Baramanna Nayaka and his son Hire Madakari Nayaka(1721-48.A.D). He was a profound scholar in both Kannada and Sanskrit and had poetic talent.

He has so many works in both the languages his credits. The Next successors Swadi Channabasava Swamiji, Sirahatti Siddalinga Swamiji, Nayakanahatti(Dodda)Gurupada Swamiji, Murusavirada(Sanna) Gurupada Swamiji, were treated with respect as Raja-gurus by Hire Madakari Nayaka, (Kasturi Rangappa Nayaka II (1748-54 AD) and the last Madakari Nayaka (1754-79AD) the rulers of Chitradurga in the year 1779 A.D.

The heritage of the Math continued. Within two or three decades after the establishment of the Math, hundreds of branch Maths were established in various parts of South India, due to the religious influence on the people.

The local public began to call the branch Maths as "**Virakta Maths**" and "**Murige Maths**", to show their devotion.

For these branch maths, the rulers like those of Keladi, Kodagu(Coorg), Sode(Swadi), Harapanahalli, Mattodu, Tarikere, Hagalawadi, Savanur, Sirasangi, Lakshmeswara, Mysore, Ummattur, Punganur, Kolhapur, etc., **including Muslim Nawabs and the subjects of all communities showed respect and released so many grants.**

**This clearly indicates the secularism and greatness of the Math.** Remarks of two western scholars of the past century and the beginning of the present century are also the clear evidences for the prominence and the high position of the Math.

**Edward P. Rice** author of "A History of Canarese Literature" states that "**Lingayatism** was the state religion of the early Wodeyars of Mysore and of Ummattur from 1399-1610 and of the Nayaks of Keladi (Ikkeri or Bednur) from 1550-1763. Their Principal Matha in the Mysore country is at Chitradurga".

**Edgar Thurston** who made a survey of "**Tribes and castes of South India**"., writing on the Lingayat Maths has pointed out that "Each Virakta Math is directly subject to the Murige Math at Chitradurga(Chitradurga), which has absolutely jurisdiction over all the Viraktas".

**Starting from Sri Murige Swamiji-I to the present Sri Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, twenty pontiffs have adorned the religious seat of the Math.**



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**The Math, engaged itself in social, religious, educational and cultural activities, is rendering a yeoman service in the development of the state.** Thus it is a great asset of the country and hence has acquired a high place.

Though it is called in several ways live **Murige Math, Muriga Math, Murugha Math, Vishala Math, Maha Math,** etc., it is popularly known as **Murugi Math.**

We affirm humanism as a realistic alternative to theologies of despair and ideologies of violence and as a source of rich personal significance and **genuine satisfaction in the service to others.**

We believe in optimism rather than pessimism, hope rather than despair, learning in the place of dogma, truth instead of ignorance, joy rather than guilt or sin, tolerance in the place of fear, love instead of hatred, and compassion over selfishness, beauty instead of ugliness, and reason rather than blind faith or irrationality.

The Murugha Math practiced Group Marriage system since 27 years. It is support to control of marriage costly expenses, control of caste discrimination, removing of gap between poor & rich, control of dowry, support to removing of untouchability, & support to establishment of equality in society.



More than 1 lakh couples married in this system who different **caste, religion, family background, places, villages, regions**. It is invited the interested couples in every month. The marriage took place in 5<sup>th</sup> of every month at 10-30 a.m. in Anubhava Mantapa of Murugha Math.

**The date & time not considered any full moon day & new moon day, Lunar eclipse, planetary conjunction.**

Every month the marriage going on under the chairmanship of honorable **Dr.Sri Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru**, & some popular guests on stage. The marriage consisted so many couples relatives, friends, comrades, & voluntary workers or Shramadanis [self voluntary workers].

At the time of marriage ceremony **no Vedic mantras or hymns, priest hood**, the bridegroom tying a sacred thread to his bride neck with speaking of some Vachanas of Lord Basavanna. Then the honorable Sharanaru blessings to new couples with sparing a flowers & giving a teaching about future life. After marriage the Murugha Math provided sweet lunch to all peoples without discrimination.



The secular principles identified in Murugha Math not only a Group marriage. We may observing social service of Dr. Sharanaru. Who collected the donation from publics on public places, streets, bus stands, & other merchant areas for the help to Nepal Earthquake peoples.





Dr.Sharnaru solved the so many problems in society like formers, illegal mins, protection of forest, environment compains.

Giving a suggestions to formers to leading a life & create awareness about formers suicide. Many time The Math provide help to suicide commited family, through the adapting his childrenen provide free education & hostel facilities, without any caste or religion discrimination.



Provide help to former suicide family with different Swamiji

The Murugha Math are concerned with securing justice and fairness in society and with eliminating discrimination and intolerance & cultivate the arts of negotiation and compromise as a means of resolving differences and achieving mutual understanding.

The Math attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, and strives to work together for the common good of humanity.

The **Murugha Math** believes in supporting the disadvantaged and the handicapped so that they will be able to help themselves. Provide help from available source to poor & needy peoples.



The Math practised “Sharana Samskrti Utsav” which means fair of Math that is going 7 days in month of October of every year. In this function all topics discussed on stage in front of devotees under the chairmanship of Swamiji along with populer guests of different field. This is second Dasara Festival of Karnataka & middle Karnaaka Dasara Festival function. It is also conducted by all castes, religions, leaders & devotees of Math.



The Math feeding of food on common flat form to publics along with Swamiji without any discrimination. The Math provides common food items to all there is no discrimination under the feeding like V.I.P, V.V.I.P. all are equal under the food items.





**Dr. Sharanaru** loved all beings when he interest then he enjoy with birds & animals friendship. The nature invited the Swamiji for the focused its blossoms of happy. The Math believes in enjoying life here and now and in developing our creative talents to their fullest.



The Math has more agriculture land they have more crops & the food grains reserve for the “Dasoha” which means donate of food to visitors & arphons, school students, hostels. Other hand the donars are also giving a donate through the cash things & foodgrains. All things spend to publics with out any discrimination & the donation als collected by all types of peoples.



The Math has its own “Devine Park” **Murugha vana** the park consisted all concepts of secular thoughts. We may observing in park all religious spiritual masters statue and philosophy explained in that situation.



### **Conclusions**

We believe in the common moral decencies: altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility. Humanist ethics is amenable to critical, rational guidance. There are normative standards that we discover together. Moral principles are tested by their consequences.

The all societies must adopt these concepts shore the every society can developing under its own secular thoughts.

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