

# God, Growth, and Governance: The Intersection of Religion and Economic Development in India

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**Abstract:** Religion plays a complex and multifaceted role in shaping India's economic development. As a nation characterized by deep religious diversity and heritage, the influence of religious practices, beliefs, and institutions permeates multiple layers of socio-economic behavior. This paper examines both the positive and negative impacts of religion on Indian economic development, analysing how religion contributes to social capital, charitable activities, and ethical business practices, while also assessing its potential to hinder progress through sectarian conflict, discrimination, and resistance to modernization. A balanced perspective is presented, supported by empirical studies and theoretical insights..

**Keywords:** Religion, Economic Development, India, Social Capital, Religious Conflict, Education, Secularism

