



The Present Ways of Greetings with Special Reference to Latur District

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Indian society is decorated with variations in many things so, in our pledge, we say '...I am proud of its rich and varied heritage'' As there are many kinds of religions, cults, categories, cultures and thoughts. We can also see the difference in the obeisance methods.

Now a days there is a flow of varied obeisance methods. Though the varieties, which are mentioned in the present research article, are with reference to Latur District, they are also related to Maharashtra and National level.

Background of Latur District:—On 16th Aug. 1982, Latur was separated from Osmanabad and the new District Latur is borned. At that time, only five Talukas as. Latur, Ahamadpur, Udgir, Ausa, Nilanga were present. Then after renewed of Talukas, Renapur and Chakur were generated on 15th August 1992 and Devni, Jalkot, Shirur (A.) are generated on 23rd June 1999. Now, there are ten Talukas in Latur District having area 7157 sq.km². That is 2.32% of Maharashtra. In Latur District, there are 3 subdivision, 786 Panchayat Samiti's and 945 villages. According to census of 2001, the population of Latur was 20,80,285 with 935 female behind 1000 male.³

In this District there are many religions the Hindu, Muslim, Shikh, Jain, Christi, Bouddha etc. and there are also many categories, such as Maratha, Brahmin, Mahar, Mang, Dhor, Marwadi, Gujrati, Lingayat, Chambhar, Kumbhar, Gurav, Vanjaree, Banjara, Jangam, Kaikadi, Ghisadi, Mali, Koli, Tanboli, Yelam, Hatkar, Dhangar, etc. In this article, usual and main theme of obeisance is shown.

Symbols of Obeisance:—Obeisance is a part of formality which is used in rich-poor, sophisticated-unsophisticated, educated-uneducated etc. Obeisance occurs in each-other. It is not done between families like brothers, father-son, uncle-nephew, cousins etc.⁴ Young people touch the feet of elders to show Obeisance. Whereas elders give good blessings to youngsters. Besides it we can see obeisance anywhere. There are some symbols used in obeisance for Mother, Father, Teacher and God we use the respectful method in which we make obeisance to them with the prostration of

our whole body in front of them. This method is also used for any other respectful person or elders. We join our hands together for obeisance showing heartfelt respect. We make obeisance to our contemporaries by combining two hands or embracing each other.

This method expresses their loves and affection. There is also one method to make obeisance in which two persons shake their hands. The salutation in armies suggests to work without any care.

By bowing the head one can show his love and respect as well as he shows that his both hands are busy in work. Whereas in a hurry driver can make obeisance by raising one hand to others⁵. The different way to make obeisance are as follows.

1) Namaskar :-Namaskar is the most common system of obeisance. The word 'Namaskar' is made from the Sanskrit word. 'Namah'. Namah means to bow⁶. According to Juiology, 'Swawadhik, Utkrishtatva, Pratibodhk: Anukule vyapar kariya.' It tells - Namah means an activity which is done to show that you are greater than me by all qualities.⁷ Namaskar is done by combining two hands and bow head.⁸

Obeisance system Namaskar is probably seen in sophisticated people and in people living in cities. This obeisance method is not related to any category religion, cults or any class, group. The word Namaste is also instead of Namaskar in society.

2) Ram - Ram :-Ram - Ram is most popular obeisance system used in Maharashtra specially in Villages. People such as Maratha, Gurav, Vanjara, yelam.⁹ Brahmin society also use this obeisance system.¹⁰ But Sarmokadam M.S. writes, "The word which is used raising by the people other than Brahmin by raising one hand to homage others in Ramram."¹¹ we can see that this system is commonly used in the society anywhere.

3) Sharanarth :- This method of obeisance is mainly used in Lingayat society. Sharan plays an important role in Lingayat¹² and due to this Sharanrth obeisance system has arrived in the society. Sarmokadam M.S. writes, "A form of

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solution used by the Lingayat people on meeting.”¹³ It means when Lingayat People meet each other at that time they use this phrase Sharanarth.

4) Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening, Good night:- This method of obeisance is mainly used in educated class, the people living in cities, servants in the companies, officers, people having influence of English, English speakers. this method of obeisance is used in English Schools, between convent school, teacher and student.¹⁴

They says good morning at morning, good afternoon at noon time, (12.00 pm to 5.00 pm), Good evening at 5 pm to 9.00 pm and good night at night. This obeisance is also used in christian society.

5) Jai Jinendra :- When Jain people meets each other, they says, ‘Jai Jinendra’ in obeisance.¹⁵ Jeen means Jitendriya, or Jain saints.¹⁶ This method probably arrived due to respect and memories of Jinedra or Jain saints.

6) Jai Gurudev:- The people following ‘Art of living’ which is introduced by shri shri Ravishankar Guruji always says ‘Jai Gurudev’ to each other whenever they meet. According Miss Vidya Kulal, “Whenever Ravishankar Guruji explains the meaning of jai Gurudev, he always syas that.

There are two minds (small and big) in a human being and he also admits that to say Jai Gurudev is a rotation of good mind, further he said that saying. ‘Jay Gurudev’ is the prasing phrase and it’s is a symbole to know the people of Gurudev’s fever.¹⁷

7) Sat - Shri - Akal :- When the followers of Shikh religion meet each other make obeisance by saying Sat-Shri-Akal.¹⁸ The pupose behind it is to remember the God.

8) Salam, Salam alaikum - Alaikum salam, Aadab:- Muslim people obeisance each other by saying salam or salam Alaikum and alaikum salam one after another.¹⁹ And they also use the word Aadab to make obeisance.

9) Jai Shrimataji:- The followers of ‘Shri Mataji Nirmaladevi’ greet each other by saying ‘Jai shrimataji’. The followers who always do Dhyana and Sahajyoga are said to be real followers with the help of Sahajyoga one awake his Kundilini power and that is real and whole progress of man. Sahajyogi’s believes in the power of Kundilini and real progress.²⁰

10) Jai Bhim :- Mahar, Navbaudha, Baudha and many catagrees used the word Jai Bhim to make obeisance system. They use Jai Bhim obeisance system to put Babasaheb Ambedkar uncommon work and his greatness in front of his followers. The leaders and activists of Republic part of India use this manner of greeting.²¹ Babu Hardas L.N. is the father of the word Jai Bhim (1936).²²

The word Jaibhim was first used in Marathwada by B.M.More (Sillod) in 1937. **11) Jai Anna :-** Anna Bhau Sathe had worked heartfully for Matang society. He gives uncomman things to society. In the memory of Anna, the

people make obeisance to each other by syaing Jai Anna. The main purpose behind it is to spread the thought of Anna in the society.²³

12) Jai Shriram:- When the leaders and actists of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha and Bhrtiya Janta Party meet they make obeisance to each other by saying Jai Shriram.²⁴

13) Jai Sewalal:- Saint Sewalal was the great saint of Banjara. In Washim, there is a monument build in the memory of saint Sewalal. He had worked for the progress of Banjara Society.²⁵ The purpose behind this obeisance is to spread his thoughts and memorable work for society. **14) Jai Siyaram:-** When the people related to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad meet they use the word ‘Jai Siyaram’ for obeisance.²⁶

The obeisance system ‘Jai Siyaram’ seems similiar to the ‘Jai Sriram’ system.

15) Jai Bajrangi:- When the persons belonging to Bajrang Dal meet each other they express their praising phrase. ‘Jai Bajrangi’²⁷ for God through obeisance besides that in vadar society. Tetre is also obeisance is done by saying ‘Jai Bajrangi’.²⁸

16) Jai Gopal :- Marwadi people mainy use the term ‘Jai Gopal’ for obeisance.²⁹ Gujrati people also says ‘Jai Gopal’. When they meet each other.³⁰

17) Jai Maharashtra:- The leaders and people related to the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and Shivsena party use the word ‘Jai Maharashtra’ for obeisance³¹ from it one can understand to which state they live belong to.

18) Johar :- Backword use the word ‘Johar’ to make obeisance³². Johar means Jaihar! Youdhar! people belonging to Mahar caste use Johar word for obeisance to elders and also with each other. Servants make obeisance to kings by bowing against him and praise him as ‘oh! king’ by saying ‘Johar’³³ but presently this system is going to downfall.

19) Hari Om:- When the followers of Aasaramji Bapu meet each other they says Hari Om.³⁴ Hari = A name of vishnu, or as considered to be the same deity of Krishna.³⁵ Om is a sacred or holy word.³⁶

Hari om = begining the any ritual starts with this word.³⁵ In short, the conversation between two persons begin with? the name of god. If an event occurs second time it is a tradition to say ‘Hari om’ again.

20) Suprabhat - Shubharatri:- When friends, Relatives meets each other in the morning time they use the word ‘Suprabhat’ to make obeisance.³⁸ Su = Good, Prabhat = Morning.

As the word ‘morning’ is mentioned in this obeisance, it is used in the morning time only. Khanolkar says, “Suprabhat means a happy morning.”³⁹ At the end of discussion at night people say ‘Good night’ to each other.

21) Jai Hind/ Jai Bharath:- When people specially political leaders of various parties give speeches before citizens,

they end their speech by the word 'Jai Hind' or 'Jai Bharat.'⁴⁰ In Police Department also the above mentioned system is used for obeisance.⁴¹

Besides that the word 'Thank you' is also used to end the speech. The NCC candidate and the Officers specially used the word Jai Hind to make obeisance system.⁴²

22) Jai Radhaswami:-The people working in Satsanga say 'Radhaswami' to each other when they meet.⁴³

23) Jai Malhar:-When Dhargar society people meet each other they use the words Jai Malhar to make obeisance.⁴⁴

24) Jai Rohidas:- Chambhar people says 'Jai Rohidas' to make obeisance for each other.⁴⁵ Saint Rohidas had contributed a lot of for Chambhar society.

This method of obeisance is used in the memory of saint Rohidas.

25) Jai Mulniwasi :- The obeisance system 'Jai Mulniwasi' is particularly used in BAMSEF workers Vidarbha is mostly influenced by this system.⁴⁶

They think themselves to be the proper residents of Vidarbha.

26) Jai Joshaba:-Jo=Jotiba, Sha = Shahu Maharaj, Ba=Babasaheb Ambedkar. By using the initial letters of the three, great man - we get term 'Jo-sha-ba.'. The people who are inspired by the works of these three respectful men use 'Jai Joshaba' for obeisance⁴⁷

27) Salute : According to Sally Wehmeir, "The action of raising your right hand to the side of your head as a sign of respect especially between Soldiers and Officers."⁴⁸

Salutation suggests that one should forget ourselves for nation. In the BSF sub centre at Chakur military man used this obeisance system.⁴⁹

28) Pranam :- Some people use the word like Pranam. Pranam Gurudev, Pranam Sriman when they meet elders or teachers. In Armies and NCC, also the work Pranam is used.⁵⁰

29) Hi - Bye:-College students mostly use this obeisance system. when they meet they says 'Hi' and when they depart they say 'Bye Bye' to each other.⁵¹

30) Teshitale:-In the Gandhi chowk of Latur, there are some woolen shops of Tibetan people.

They open their shops only in Winter. But in other seasons they live in Latur. They says 'Teshitle' obeisance system to each other.⁵² when they meet other people they use the word 'Namaste.'

31) Dandam:-The people who believe in Chakradhar Swami and also the people of Mahanubhav cult. use 'Dandam' system of obeisance.⁵³

Conclusion:- Obeisance is a part of formality which is used by poor-rich, sophisticated - unsophisticated, educated -uneducated people.

Thus, the obeisance system is used in all types of people. Obeisance is done two times that is when we meet and take leave.

Therefore on T.V. and radio, we see that the speaker always uses the obeisance at beginning and end of the news. Obeisance is also used at the time of lightening the lamp (especially at the evening time).

In Indian society obeisance is not done in the relatives (i.e. father-son, uncle-nephew, brother-brother, sister-sister etc.) Even though there is special system of obeisance for elders in which obeisance is made with prostration i.e. to grovel before someone.

And then elders give blessings to younger. In various countries, categories, religious, cults, castes, groups, political parties there is diversity in obeisance.

Namaskar and Ram Ram are the two main systems of making obeisance which are found everywhere. Besides that Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening, Good night, Jai Jinendra, Sat-shri-Akal, Salam, Salam alaikum - Alaikum salam, Aadab, Sharmarh, Jai shri Mataji, Jai Bhim, Jai Aanna, Jai Shri Ram, Jai Sewalal, Jai Siyaram, Jai Bajrangji, Jai Gopal, Jai Maharashtra, Johar, Hari-Om, Suprabhat - Shubhratri, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat, Jai Radhaswami, Jai Mhallar, Jai Rohidas, Jai Mulniwasi, Jai Joshaba, Salute, Pranam, Hi - Bye Bye, Teshitle etc are the various systems of obeisance at present in society.

Some systems indicate religion through it whereas some systems indicate the state. Political party, category, cults, culture or family form it.

Besides it some systems express the praising phrases for their God and great persons, through obeisance system.

Now a days people express the praising words for the great figures, belonging to their caste or religion through their obeisance system.

We should not only praise our God or great persons but also follow their thoughts and that is the main purpose behind the praising.

There is no compulsion to anybody for using any of the obeisance system. One can make obeisance with another by any of the systems he likes.

We should not only make obeisance to our elders or respectful persons but also with any person wherever we go like schools, colleges, offices, conferences etc.

We should respect the people who help us and make obeisance to them. Through the obeisance we can get out external work done easily by anyother people.

An American seller of medicine always used to make obeisance with smiling face to other.⁵⁴

Because of this he could sale most of the things from his shop.

It means his smiling obeisance is the main reason behind his success. In 'Dasbodh', Samarth Ramdas explain the benefits of obeisance he says,

**Namaskare linata ghade /
 Namaskare vikalp mode /
 Namaskare sakhya ghade /
 Nana satpatranshi /
 Namaskare dosh jati /
 Namaskare annyaye Kshamati /
 Namaskare modili Jodati / Samadhane.**

Then why do we regret to obeisance? There is no need of money for obeisance. We need nothing for obeisance except love and respect.

Obeisance is the part of social traditions and formalities. Through the obeisance, we are able to know the qualities and the performance of the great persons and then we follow their path in our life.

It increases our nobility and decrease Igo and also, from such obeisance one can change himself. so obeisance is the most important factor in our life. Even though there are varieties in obeisance system, it gives only one meaning.

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