

Further Reading

PRINCIPLES OF HRE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HRE IN KENYA

The historical development of Hindu Religious Education in Kenya has been deeply influenced by the arrival of Indian immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly those from the Indian subcontinent who arrived during British colonial rule. These immigrants were primarily brought to Kenya as indentured laborers for the construction of the Uganda Railway, while others came as traders, professionals, and artisans. As they settled, they brought with them their religious practices and educational systems, which have since evolved into the Hindu Religious Education system in Kenya.

The historical development of Hindu Religious Education in Kenya reflects the journey of the Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities from its early establishment in the late 19th century to its status as a vibrant part of Kenya's multicultural fabric. From informal family-based practices to the establishment of religious schools and institutions, Hindu Religious Education has been instrumental in preserving the culture, traditions, and spiritual practices of the community. With an emphasis on continuity and adaptation to modern challenges, Hindu Religious Education in Kenya is likely to continue to evolve, fostering a deeper understanding of the four faiths and their role in Kenyan society.

Significance of HRE in Kenya

1. **Curriculum Integration:** HRE is included in the curriculum alongside Christian and Islamic Religious Education. This ensures that students learn about multiple religions, promoting religious tolerance and understanding.
2. **Minority Religion:** Faiths in HRE are minority religions in Kenya, with about 0.13% of the population identifying as Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs. Despite this, these communities have a significant presence, especially in urban areas like Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret and Kisumu.
3. **Educational Framework:** The Basic Education Curriculum Framework in Kenya aims to develop engaged, empowered, and ethical citizens. HRE contributes to this by nurturing students' understanding of different religious beliefs and practices.
4. **Community Involvement:** Organizations like the Hindu Council of Kenya, ISKCON, Sikh Council of Kenya and the Hindu Union of Mombasa play a vital role in promoting HRE and organizing public events and welfare programs.
5. **Cultural Preservation:** HRE helps preserve and promote culture and traditions among the younger generation, ensuring that they remain connected to their heritage.