

Pankaj Srivastava

Religiosity as Lived Experience: Affective Life, Axiological Structures, and the Formation of Believer Subjectivity

Religiosity is a multifaceted concept encompassing an individual's emotional connection to objects of faith, such as Divinity, the Holy Spirit, or a personal God. I will explore religiosity by analysing the influence of emotions in shaping believers' subjective perceptions. Then I will classify different types of believers based on their goals in worldly and spiritual pursuits. Additionally, I will investigate the subjective and objective aspects of believers' consciousness from a phenomenological perspective, highlighting the interaction between emotions and perceptions in their lived experiences.

While religiosity involves both emotional engagement and cognitive perception shaping believers' faith and worldview, I will contrast the subjective, emotion-driven inner experiences with the objective, ritualistic external realities of religious practice, emphasising how different types of believers prioritise material or spiritual aspirations within this dual framework. Ultimately, I aim to clarify believers' perceptions by analysing the axiological and aesthetic dimensions of their subjectivity.

Introduction

Religiosity is a complex idea shaped by how followers think and feel. These thoughts and feelings are influenced by emotions, their strength, and the qualities of what they believe. This belief is often seen as the highest good, and believers focus their emotions on it. They express these feelings through religious activities, such as rituals, ceremonies, prayers, customs, and moral rules, which are shaped by culture. Therefore, how people express their religiosity differs and depends on their cultural and emotional backgrounds. While religiosity is often shaped by shifting emotional and cultural conditions, the *Bhagavad Gītā* offers a systematic typology of believers.¹ The