

Temple official objects to Christian, Hindu boys playing together; Video viral on social media

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In a shocking video, an official of a temple in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district is seen objecting to Hindu boys playing with Christian friends at a playground in the premises of the place of worship.

Sullia (Karnataka, India): It is reported that the authorities of a temple near Jayanagar here objected to a Christian youth playing with Hindu boys in the temple playground. The authorities also reportedly advised the Christian boy to play in the church premises. The man representing the temple, identified as Praveen, forced him to leave, it is reported. He also questioned Hindus why they are playing with people following other religions.

In the video, Praveen is seen arguing with a group of men who play cricket in the temple ground. "Isn't he an SC? He is here playing. But you are playing with people who are not Hindu. Why are you playing here?," asked Praveen pointing his finger at one of the men.

The Hindu boys however, supported the Christian boy, duly questioning why religious matters are being brought in the matter of playing.

The incident has drawn strong reactions in the social media. Many questioned the double standards followed by the concerned, who seek good English schools run by the Christians to study and jobs in Christian or Muslim dominant countries but when it comes to small things, they raise the issue of religion. Some of them appreciated the Hindu youngsters for opposing the advice of the temple representative to shun the Christian boy.

There were others who thought that the incident displays lack of inhuman religious intolerance.

Speaking to TNM, Praveen said, "We will not allow people of other faiths to play here."

According to activist Suresh Bhat Bakrabail of the Karnataka Communal Harmony Forum, there have been 51 communal incidents in the district till June 30 this year including 14 incidents of moral policing by Hindu vigilantes.

- DW, TNM