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**Middle School: 3rd place
winner**



IndiaFEST 2010– Essay Contest

Cricket in India, a Religion?

I think that cricket can never be a religion. I would like to show why it can't be. I am going to compare different aspects of cricket and religion to show that why they cannot be the same.

The first controversy between cricket and religion is the places of their practices. We all know that places of practice for religion are temple, mosque, church, and synagogue. The place where you practice cricket is ground field.

Every religion has a book and some unique principles that people follows. Hindu religion has Gita, Muslims follow Quran, Christians have Bible, and Jewish people have Torah. Cricket may have a manual to follow.

The Cricket has rules and regulation while religion has principals' moral values and a guide line to leave honest and cultural life. I can't imagine the world without religion. But Cricket can easily be illuminated. As a matter of fact in some nations Cricket is not even being played.

Sometimes my mind tells me that some people go crazy about sports. They bat money for the winning team. For that reason many people in India are bankrupted. In some religion there is no money involved.

Cricket has players, and religion has prayers. In a religion there is specific time prayers should be done. Players always practice they never pray. After they are athletes they would spend most of the time practicing. In a religion people gather to celebrate a festival every month.

People go to temples to do prayers whenever they have time and there is no fixed time. Unlike the Cricket players who have a schedule to play and they can't choose any time they want to play. They have a season and they can't show up at any time. Some time people have to go to the temples at a certain time because the temple is open for specific hours. Some prayers have to be done at a certain time in a day.

There are so many religions in the world. I only know four to six religions. Mean while there are 1800 sports in the world. I only have played ten of them. People can't compare one sport to 1800 other.

In some religions wearing shoes inside a temple is a biggest insult. One would not be able to play sports without shoes. Many athletes get paid a lot of money for wearing a current type of shoes from that particular company. Athletes are also used to advertise an object.

There is a flag representing a symbol for each religion. There is no such thing for Cricket. They have a uniform representing their team and also a number in the back of the uniform to notice that athlete.

As the topic of this essay is debatable I would like to write about the similarities between cricket and religion.

The cricket is being played approximately among 100 teams in the world; religion is being practiced by different groups of people which can be viewed upon as teams. Religions have wars which is similar to matches in cricket. Cricket has 11 players per team while religion has masses of people in each group or each team.

Each religion has a person to explain the principles of each religion. And they are called "Guru, Priest, Mullahs, etc. while Cricket has captains who control Cricket on the ground.

The bad side of Cricket is the betting and the bad side of the religion is fighting and killing. I haven't come across any killing in Cricket.

Playing Cricket is lot of fun and is full of sportsman spirit. While religion has lot of tension and destruction.

To wrap it up, Cricket is a great sport and everybody should play it. They should play it but not pray it. There are many sports in the world and one should play sports to have fun and exercise.