

# My RE Speech on conversion

Hello my name is ■ and I am going to talk to you about conversion and its reason. There are many reasons for conversion such as one person can be inspired from a religion that has rules which he or she believes or if that person is not happy with his or her religion, for example, being a vegetarian. There are two effects on how people can be changed - commitment and dedication.

We can also approach the reasons for conversion in two important ways, internally and externally. To approach this, we can use a famous role model such as Pandita Ramabai. Her life can be divided into events that are internal and external influences. For example, an internal influence was when Pandita gradually became increasingly dissatisfied of Hinduism. An example of an external influence that occurred in Pandita's life was when her parents died.

I think that one of the most important events was when Pandita was given a Bible in her own language. She was moved by Jesus' teachings in Luke's gospel. This inspired her to believe in the Christian message because she felt Hinduism didn't give an equal right to the poor. Conversion to Christianity made her more aware of the equality of women and the poor.

Culture is a big part of conversion, for example, a family background is an important factor. Pandita was born in a high caste, as a result she had a chance to be educated, therefore she could explore into different religions like Christianity.

Different people are affected differently by their conversion. For example one British Hindu businessman stopped selling pornographic magazines in his shop after his conversation because he felt that this would be showing more respect for women. Also he saw the value of respecting his parents and the value of prayer.

However, Pandita Ramabai became more interested in studying the bible and she grew more devoted in studying the beliefs. Her conversion led to the translation of the bible and the establishment of the Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission.

However someone's culture and their history can affect the nature of their conversion such as when Henry VIII stopped his religious relationship with the Pope and created the Church of England. He stopped the relationship as he would have more power and money. Also in India, the untouchables might be influenced differently because they're not permitted to sit or even socialise with the other castes and groups of a higher status even though many Hindus think the caste system should be abolished. They do all the hard, dirty, unthinkable jobs that a human would dislike.

As a result untouchables often say that they convert to Christianity because Christianity teaches that people should treat the poor equal to the rich and none of these groups have advantages, consequently these appeals to untouchables. Also they are permitted to socialise with anyone or have any job that they wish to have. Christianity gives them a chance to make a difference and to improve the society to a greater height of success.

Influences can sometimes be a good reason to convert such as, when a person such as Pandita Ramabai felt an internal influence and an interest in Christianity. However some influences can be bad because a person could be forced to converting such as, in the time period of Henry VIII he forced the normal civilians to convert to the Church of England. Also bad conversion could be when a person wants to convert but that person does not know the true understanding or meaning of his conversion and how it can affect him. A person could convert because they found some feature or rule in the religion that interested them; however as soon as they converted they might feel that the original religion suited the person best. As a result they might convert back which causes trouble in their life.

The reasons for conversion could change over time, such as, an untouchable felt that he was treated the same and this was his only reason for converting however once he has converted and that he has succeeded in a place in society, he might feel that his original religion has stronger roots than his new religion.