The role of religion and beliefs in society:

Religion and beliefs have been an essential part of human life for centuries. They provide moral guidance, bring communities together, and influence culture, while also sometimes creating challenges. In this lesson we will explore how religion and beliefs influence society.

1. **What is religion?**

(a) Definition:

Religion is a structured system of faith or worship that connects people to divine powers, provides moral guidance, and explains life's purpose.

(b) Key elements of religion:

Sacred texts: Like Quran, Bible, Torah

Rituals and practices: Acts like: prayer, fasting

Community: Faith-based groups that provide support in religion

Faculty of social and human sciences   **Instructor: Ms. Dehamcha Samira**

Module: English
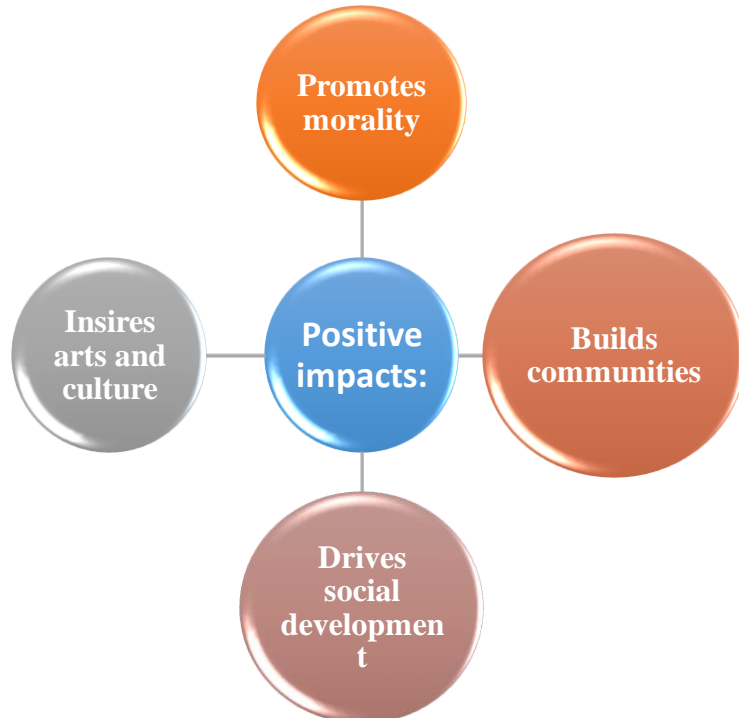
3rd year LMD

2. What are beliefs?
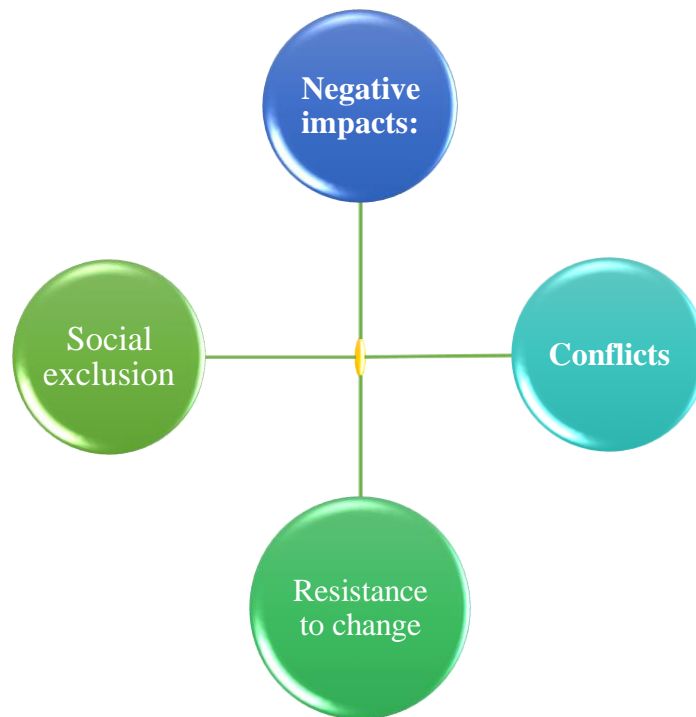
(i) Definition:

Beliefs are the personal collective convictions about what is true or meaningful,

influencing behaviour and worldviews.

(ii) Types of beliefs:

- **Religious beliefs:** based on faith in higher power

- **Secular beliefs:** related to values or ideologies without religious influence.

3. How religion and beliefs influence society:

Negative impacts:

Social exclusion

Conflicts

Resistance to change

4. The role of religion in social development:

- **Education:** religious institutions like missionary schools improve literacy

- **Charity:** faith-based charities assist during crises (e.g., Zakat in Islam)

- **Justice and reform:** religious leaders have fought for justice (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr. in civil rights movement)