RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Hijab Imposition · From the reporting archive

Why the Bindi Comparison Fails in the Hijab Debate

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The authors argue that a bindi is an accessory that can be worn for nonreligious reasons, while a hijab changes the school uniform. They cite a principal who said students could wear hijab outside classrooms and point to protest photographs and a banner showing burqas alongside demands for hijab.



Bindi is not an outfit.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Ravivarma Kumar pointed to bindis, bangles and crucifix pendants to argue that the classroom rule singled out the hijab among religious symbols.
- The authors group bindis and bangles with accessories such as a tabiz or Allah locket. They argue that the hijab and burqa change the uniform itself.
- At one institution, the principal said students could wear the hijab in corridors and canteens. The protesting students wanted to wear it inside classrooms too.
- The authors cite women wearing full-body burqas at protests whose placards called for hijab. They question whether the demand would stop at the headscarf.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in February 2022. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.