Trustee, State, and Stakeholder: Hindu Temple Management in Contemporary India, 1957-2012

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The literature related to temple management in colonial and post-colonial India includes reports of studies that specifically examine the dominant role of trustees and the effects of state intervention. By contrast, this study was conducted through examination of the management history of the Rani Sati temple during 1957–2012 to ascertain the importance of the role of stakeholders in temple management as a bridge between the trustees and the state. After explanation of the historical background of this temple and its managers, the Marwaris, the second section presents analyses of the temple management form from the 1950s to the 1970s and the judicial cases against traditional temple stakeholders, then the chief priest and his family members. Because of the national controversy over *sati* in the late 1980s, public interest groups emerged as the new stakeholders of the temple. Finally, this paper clarifies state intervention in the temple management according to the influence of new stakeholders. By particularly addressing the role of the stakeholders, this report describes how state intervention can be initiated by the stakeholders. Moreover, it presents the possibility of temple management transformation.