

Difference Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements

The Bhakti Movement can be defined as the wave of collective social revival in Hinduism that dealt with love and devotion to the gods and goddesses through bhajans. The movement originated in southern India during the medieval era and spread to the north and east later in the 15th century.

Sufism is a practice in Islam that deals with attaining closeness to Allah through asceticism. Sufism isn't a sect of Islam; it is a religious practice that reinforces the love for Allah through initiating a personal experience by way of practicing it.

Key Difference Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements

We have highlighted the key Difference Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements below in table format.

Bhakti Movement	Sufi Movement
Bhakti Movement was adopted majorly by the Hindus of the country	The Sufi Movement targeted the Muslims of the country
The roots of the Bhakti Movement can be traced back to medieval India; it became prominent starting late 7th to early 8th century	The Sufi movement had its roots in the Arabian peninsula, and began in the 7th century, far earlier than Bhakti Movement
The Bhakti Movement involved hearty singing of Bhajans in devotion to the Hindu deities	The Sufi movement involves singing and dancing to religious Qawwalis dedicated to their god
The Bhakti movement is limited in its reach to India only	The Sufi movement covered many Islamic countries spread across continents
The scholars interpret Bhakti Movement as a wave of renewal and revival in the social, Hinduism setup of India	The Sufi Movement is a way of life and not a subset of Islam which is a common perception.

Some pioneers of the Bhakti movement are Kabeer Das and Meera bai.

Some pioneers of the Sufi movement are Moinuddin Chishti, and Amir Khusrau

Major Difference Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements

Sufi and Bhakti movements are both religious practices, but they are concerned with different religions and achieve different objectives. While the Bhakti movement aims to achieve social reforms through devotion to deities, Sufism is directed inwards into self-reform.

The Bhakti movement focused primarily on creating and sharing an emotional bond with the divine through devotion. The Sufi Movement concerned itself primarily with establishing disciplined and simplistic ways of life.

