

**BHAGAVAD GITA AND INDIAN ETHICS PREACHING OF
GREAT PHILOSOPHER ADI SANKARA**

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Abstract

This research paper explores timeless leadership principles embedded within the Bhagavad Gita, a revered ancient Indian scripture, and examines their applicability to contemporary leadership challenges. The paper outlines the Gita's core philosophical teachings, including selfless action (Karma Yoga), adherence to duty (Dharma), emotional equanimity (Samatvam), and ethical decision-making. Through a qualitative textual analysis employing hermeneutical principles, the study demonstrates how these concepts offer a holistic framework for effective and purpose-driven leadership in today's complex organizational environments. The analysis draws parallels with prominent modern leadership theories such as Servant Leadership, Ethical Leadership, and Transformational Leadership, positioning the Gita not merely as a historical text but as a foundational source for conscious, values-driven leadership that transcends transactional approaches. The findings suggest that cultivating inner transformation and moral righteousness, as advocated by the Gita, is a prerequisite for external leadership effectiveness and sustainable organizational success.

Keywords: Bhagavad Gita, Leadership, Karma Yoga, Dharma, Selfless Action, Equanimity, Ethical Leadership, Servant Leadership, Transformational Leadership, Hermeneutics, Decision-Making, Conflict Resolution, Self-Mastery.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Bhagavad Gita: An Ancient Text for Modern Times

The Bhagavad Gita, a seminal ancient Hindu scripture, is presented as a profound dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, forming a pivotal part of the epic Mahabharata.¹ Comprising 18 chapters and approximately 701 verses, it serves as a condensed spiritual essence of the Vedas and Upanishads, offering a rich tapestry of philosophical and practical wisdom.³ Despite its composition dating back between 2500 and 3000 years ago, with the oldest preserved parts from around 400 BCE, the Bhagavad Gita has been revered for millennia as a source of timeless guidance for self-management and living a fulfilling and meaningful life, making it profoundly relevant for both personal and professional development.⁴

The text addresses fundamental themes such as duty (dharma), self-discipline, detachment, and self-realization, which are universally applicable human concerns.⁴ The enduring relevance of