

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

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58. Spirituality and Corporate Ethics: Insights from Indian Philosophy

Prof. Dr. Yogesh Kumar Gupta _____ 321 – 327

59. Spirituality and Corporate Ethics: Insights from Indian Philosophy

¹Dr.G.IIakkia, ²Mr.Siachin.M _____ 328 – 331

60. Moral Leadership in Public Life: Teachings from the Gita

¹Mrs. S. Shajitha Banu, ²Dr. A. Ramya _____ 332 – 335

61. The Bhagavad Gita and the Moral Psychology of Human Actions

Mr. R. Suresh^{1*}, Ms. R.P. Harshini² _____ 336 – 339

62. Emotional Intelligence In The Light Of the Bhagavad Gita: A Journey from Emotional Competence to Spiritual Wisdom

¹S.Vasanthan, ²Dr.J.Manimegalai _____ 340 – 344

63. Ethics, Emotion, and Action: A Moral Psychological Perspective on the Bhagavad Gita

Dr. S.Poongodi _____ 345 – 348

64. Ethical Leadership and Indian Spiritual Thought: A Corporate Perspective

Dr. P.Jayanthi _____ 349 – 352

65. Integrating Bhagavad Gita and Advaita Philosophy in Modern Education: A Pathway to Holistic Enlightenment

Dr. P. Nirmaladevi _____ 353 – 355

66. Indulging the Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Bhagavad Gita in Human Actions – Philosophical Thoughts on Bhagavad Gita's Dharma, Karma and Yogas

Dr. T. Vijaya Chithra _____ 356 – 360

67. The Gita for Navigating Life Challenges

Dr.P.Gomathi Devi _____ 361 – 364

68. Bhagavad Gita and Gandhian Ethics: A Comparative Study

¹Dr. R. Senthil Kumar, ²U. Krithya Ist M. Com CS _____ 365 – 369

69. Ethical Foundation in the Bhagavad Gita

¹Ms.P.Anitha, ²Ms.D.Saranya _____ 370 – 374

70. The Bhagavad Gita: A Sacred Synthesis of Indian Religious Thought

Nithyadevi R _____ 375 – 379

71. Ethics in public life: lessons from Gita

Dr.P.Archanaa _____ 380 – 383

72. Generational Wisdom: The Bhagavad Gita's Enduring Legacy for Learning.

Authors

¹Dr. S. Mohanraj, ²Ms. K. Anu, ³Ms. A. Krishna Shruthi _____ 384 – 387

64. Ethical Leadership and Indian Spiritual Thought: A Corporate Perspective

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Abstract

This paper explores the intersection of spirituality and corporate ethics, drawing on foundational concepts from Indian philosophy. In a time when ethical lapses in corporate sectors continue to raise concerns globally, Indian spiritual traditions like Vedanta, Buddhism, and Jainism offer timeless principles of dharma (righteous conduct), ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truth), and aparigraha (non-possessiveness). These values, deeply embedded in Indian thought, can act as guiding frameworks for corporations seeking to foster ethical cultures. The study conceptualizes how Indian philosophical ideas can translate into responsible corporate behavior, highlighting practices such as self-regulation, social responsibility, environmental care, and authentic leadership.

Keywords: Spirituality-Corporate Ethics-Indian Philosophy-Dharma-Business Responsibility

Introduction

Corporate ethics and spirituality are increasingly recognized as essential elements of sustainable business practices. Indian philosophy, with its deep-rooted spiritual traditions and ethical teachings, provides a rich foundation for developing a value-based corporate culture. In the modern business world, ethical scandals and profit-maximization models often clash with the broader ideals of human welfare. Spirituality, particularly from Indian philosophical traditions, emphasizes internal transformation, duty, and interconnectedness. When integrated into corporate culture, spirituality may nurture ethical behavior not just as compliance but as a deeply rooted value system. This study seeks to understand how these spiritual principles can be relevant and applicable in today's corporate governance.

Review of Literature

Krishna & Sengupta (2019) discuss the relevance of Vedantic ethics in leadership models and highlight the role of "selflessness" (nishkama karma) in decision-making. **Chakraborty (1998)** proposed models of transformational leadership inspired by the Bhagavad Gita and advocated for value-based management. **Tiwari & Raj (2020)** examine Buddhist principles and their potential to reduce workplace stress while enhancing corporate social responsibility. **Rao (2017)** focused on the Jain principle of aparigraha and its implications for sustainable business practices and minimalistic consumption.

Statement of the Problem

Despite codified corporate governance standards, ethical failures persist. Regulations alone have not prevented malpractices. Can deeper, inner value systems derived from Indian spirituality address this issue? Is there scope for Indian philosophical wisdom to shape modern corporate ethics?

Objectives of the Study

- To explore spiritual concepts from Indian philosophy with relevance to corporate ethics.
- To examine how values like dharma, satya, ahimsa, and aparigraha can shape ethical corporate behavior.
- To suggest a spiritual-ethical model for responsible corporate governance

Research Methodology

The paper is conceptual and qualitative in nature. It employs interpretive analysis of primary Indian philosophical texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Dhammapada, and Tattvartha Sutra, along with secondary literature on business ethics and spirituality. A thematic approach has been used to draw correlations between philosophical principles and corporate applications.

Findings

1. Understanding Spirituality in Indian Philosophy

Indian spirituality transcends religious rituals and emphasizes inner transformation and self-realization. Key philosophical traditions that offer ethical guidance include:

Vedanta: Focuses on the unity of existence and the divinity of the self (Atman). It encourages detachment from selfish desires and service to humanity.

Bhagavad Gita: Advocates Nishkama Karma—selfless action without attachment to results. It is a cornerstone for ethical leadership.

Jainism: Promotes non-violence (Ahimsa), truthfulness (Satya), and non-possessiveness (Aparigraha), all vital to ethical business conduct.

Buddhism: Emphasizes the Noble Eightfold Path, which includes right speech, right action, and right livelihood—principles relevant to corporate governance.

2. Spirituality and Corporate Ethics: The Connection

Spirituality in the corporate context is about aligning business actions with higher values. Indian philosophy provides a framework for:

Leadership with Integrity: Inspired by Dharma (righteous duty), leaders are expected to act ethically, even in competitive environments.

Self-regulation: Indian traditions emphasize Swarajya (self-rule), promoting inner discipline over external enforcement.

Service Orientation: The idea of Seva (selfless service) encourages businesses to serve society, not just profit motives.

3. Application of Indian Spiritual Concepts in Corporate Ethics

Indian Concept	Corporate Equivalent	Practical Application
Dharma (Duty)	Ethical Responsibility	Adhering to legal, environmental, and social responsibilities.
Karma Yoga	Ethical Action	Performing work with integrity without obsessing over outcomes.
Ahimsa (Non-violence)	Non-exploitative Practices	Respect for labor rights, animal testing bans, and environmental sustainability.
Aparigraha (Non-hoarding)	Anti-greed Ethic	Ethical profit margins, resisting monopolistic tendencies.
Satya (Truth)	Transparency	Honest marketing, truthful reporting.

4. Benefits of Integrating Spirituality into Business

Enhanced Employee Morale: A values-based culture fosters trust and purpose.

Sustainable Growth: Ethical practices lead to long-term stakeholder trust.

Better Decision Making: Leaders grounded in spiritual values are more likely to make morally sound decisions.

5. Challenges and Considerations

Misinterpretation: Spiritual values may be misused to mask unethical behavior.

Cultural Differences: Global companies must balance Indian ethics with international norms.

Authenticity: Spirituality must be practiced genuinely, not just as branding.

Suggestions

- ❖ Include Indian philosophical ethics in corporate training modules.
- ❖ Promote meditation and mindfulness programs for employees.
- ❖ Develop HR policies based on compassion, fairness, and transparency.
- ❖ Foster a culture of internal accountability over external policing.

Conclusion

Indian philosophy offers timeless insights into ethics and purpose. Integrating spirituality into corporate ethics doesn't mean religious imposition—it means cultivating awareness, compassion, and responsibility. A spiritually grounded business contributes to not just profit, but also people and the planet. Indian philosophy offers a rich reservoir of spiritual wisdom that, when applied to

corporate ethics, can transform business practices from mere rule-following to value-driven conduct. The integration of dharmic principles into the corporate realm fosters authenticity, responsibility, and harmony with society and nature. This holistic approach can help build organizations that are not only successful but also sustainable and respected

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65. Integrating Bhagavad Gita and Advaita Philosophy in Modern Education: A Pathway to Holistic Enlightenment

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Abstract

The Srimad Bhagavad Gita and the Advaita Vedanta of Sri Shankaracharya represent two monumental pillars of Indian philosophical thought. While the Gita emphasizes moral action, devotion, and self-realization, Shankara's Advaita focuses on the non-dual nature of reality and liberation through knowledge. This article explores the intersections of these two philosophies in light of India's New Education Policy (NEP), advocating for an educational framework rooted in spiritual wisdom, ethical clarity, and intellectual inquiry. By integrating the universal messages of the Gita with the metaphysical rigor of Advaita Vedanta, education can evolve to foster inner growth, cultural identity, and global responsibility.

Introduction

India's New Education Policy envisions a shift from rote-based learning to a more holistic, value-oriented model. This presents an opportunity to revisit indigenous philosophies like the Bhagavad Gita and the Advaita Vedanta of Adi Shankaracharya. Both traditions offer timeless wisdom that can guide ethical decision-making, critical thinking, and self-realization core values for learners in the 21st century.

The Gita's Educational Relevance

The Bhagavad Gita offers profound lessons on self-discipline, duty, resilience, and spiritual development. It aligns with the NEP's emphasis on character building and the cultivation of emotional intelligence. By promoting values such as karma yoga (selfless action) and gyan yoga (the pursuit of knowledge), the Gita encourages students to remain focused, equanimous, and purposeful. Its psychological insights such as the analysis of desires, attachment, and self-identity mirror contemporary approaches in psychotherapy and holistic wellness.

The Gita also breaks religious and social boundaries, speaking to the universality of human struggles and aspirations. It promotes action without attachment to results, a principle that aligns with developing intrinsic motivation and ethical integrity in education.