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**Philosophical Studies on Contribution of Jainism to Moral, Value and
Holistic Education with Focus to Contemporary Educational Thought**

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ABSTRACT

The present philosophical study highlights that Jainism offers a profound and enduring contribution to moral, value, and holistic education, which remains highly relevant in contemporary educational thought. The educational philosophy of Jainism transcends the mere transmission of knowledge by emphasizing the harmonious development of the individual through intellectual, moral, spiritual, emotional, and social dimensions. Its foundational principles—Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Aparigraha (non-possessiveness), Anekantavada (the doctrine of multiple perspectives), and self-discipline—provide a comprehensive framework for nurturing ethical consciousness and responsible citizenship in modern society. The study demonstrates that Jain educational ideals are closely aligned with the objectives of holistic education, which seek to cultivate character, empathy, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. In this article; philosophical studies on contribution of Jainism to moral, value and holistic education with focus to contemporary educational thought was discussed.

Keywords: *Jainism, Moral, Value, Holistic, Education.*

INTRODUCTION

Jainism has significantly influenced moral and value education by prioritizing ethical conduct, self-restraint, non-violence, honesty, and spiritual growth. Its pedagogical philosophy aspires not solely to the attainment of knowledge but to the development of character, ethical awareness, and harmonious living. The tenets of Jainism continue to hold significant relevance in modern culture, especially concerning matters of violence, consumerism, ecological deterioration, and ethical decay. Jainism has significantly influenced holistic education by prioritizing the balanced growth of the individual across intellectual, moral, spiritual, emotional, social, and environmental aspects. Its pedagogical approach transcends mere knowledge acquisition, aspiring towards self-actualization, moral integrity, and the development of universal principles. Jain education advocates for the amalgamation of correct knowledge (Samyak Jnana), correct belief (Samyak Darshana), and correct behaviour (Samyak Charitra), collectively referred to as the Three Jewels (Ratnatraya), which underpin comprehensive human advancement. Jainism offers a deep and enduring contribution to current educational theory through its emphasis on ethical living, self-discipline, intellectual freedom, and holistic human development (Purshotam, 2014). The objective of the study is to explore the philosophical studies on contribution of Jainism to moral, value and holistic education with focus to contemporary educational thought.



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CONTRIBUTION OF JAINISM TO MORAL AND VALUE EDUCATION

Jainism plays a pivotal role in moral and ethical education by advocating universal human ideals that enhance personal integrity and societal cohesion. The essence of Jain ethical philosophy is the principle of self-purification via correct faith, accurate knowledge, and proper behaviour. These tenets offer a comprehensive structure for ethical advancement and pedagogical methods.

The doctrine of Ahimsa (Non-Violence) represents Jainism's most significant offering to ethical instruction. It instills reverence for all forms of life and fosters empathy, benevolence, acceptance, and harmonious living. Moral instruction rooted in Ahimsa promotes the avoidance of physical, verbal, and psychological damage, fostering empathy and social accountability.

Satya (Truthfulness) underscores the importance of honesty, integrity, and clarity in cognition, communication, and behaviour. Education in values, influenced by Jainism, encourages individuals to maintain integrity in their personal, scholarly, and vocational endeavors. Honesty fosters ethical choices and enhances relationships grounded in trust and responsibility.

Aparigraha (non-attachment) promotes temperance and liberation from undue fixation on material belongings. In an era characterized by materialism, this tenet advocates for sustainable lifestyles, minimalism, and conscientious consumption. Moral instruction based on Aparigraha promotes the ability to differentiate between necessities and wants, while nurturing satisfaction and ecological awareness (Kothadia, S.N. & Jain, R., 2021).

Asteya (non-theft) fosters equity, justice, and reverence for the entitlements and possessions of others. In addition to abstaining from larceny, it instructs individuals to avoid resource exploitation and the unjust benefit of others. This principle fortifies social ethics and encourages accountable citizenship.

Brahmacharya (Self-Control and Discipline) underscores the importance of governing one's passions and emotions. It plays a crucial role in character development by fostering self-discipline, emotional acuity, and psychological resilience. Academic establishments can leverage this notion to foster accountable conduct and enduring learning practices in students.

The principle of Anekantavada (Multiplicity of Perspectives) represents a significant offering of Jainism to the realm of value education. It fosters cognitive modesty, acceptance, and receptiveness to varied perspectives. In diverse societies, Anekantavada promotes discourse, analytical reasoning, and reciprocal respect among people from various cultural, religious, and ideological perspectives. It establishes the groundwork for democratic principles and tranquil dispute resolution.

The notion of Syadvada (Conditional Predication) enhances reasonable and equitable reasoning by illustrating that truth may be perceived from several viewpoints. This philosophical perspective cultivates analytical skills and deters dogmatism, rendering it especially pertinent for modern educational methodologies that prioritize inclusive and critical learning.



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Jainism promotes self-examination and moral responsibility via techniques including meditation, contemplation, and atonement. These methods foster mental health, awareness, and ethical sensitivity in students. They enhance comprehensive education by incorporating the intellectual, ethical, emotional, and spiritual facets of human growth.

The ecological principles of Jainism offer significant perspectives for contemporary value teaching. Its veneration for all life forms fosters ecological stewardship, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable living practices. Programs rooted in Jain principles can proficiently tackle modern ecological issues while fostering a sense of global citizenship.

Moreover, Jainism underscores the need of educators as ethical role models who motivate students by their behaviour. From the Jain viewpoint, education is perceived as a transforming journey that cultivates wisdom, moral awareness, and social responsibility, rather than simply conveying knowledge.

In modern educational settings, Jain principles can greatly enhance peace education, human rights instruction, environmental studies, and character development initiatives. The tenets of non-violence, tolerance, self-regulation, and moral accountability are in harmony with international educational objectives aimed at cultivating ethically aware and socially responsible citizens.

Jainism provides an extensive structure for ethical and value-based education that endures through various eras and societies. Its focus on empathy, honesty, temperance, acceptance, and self-control offers lasting moral direction for confronting contemporary ethical and societal dilemmas. Incorporating Jain philosophical tenets into educational frameworks allows institutions to significantly foster the growth of ethical, empathic, and responsible global citizens (Jain, M., 2020).

CONTRIBUTION OF JAINISM TO HOLISTIC EDUCATION

The paramount objective of education in Jainism is the emancipation of the soul via rigorous study, introspection, and ethical superiority. The tenet of Ahimsa (non-violence) plays a crucial role in comprehensive education by promoting compassion, empathy, and harmonious living. It instructs students to honor all life forms and promotes emotional acumen, conflict mediation, and civic duty. In modern educational environments, Ahimsa can foster inclusive classrooms, diminish violence and discrimination, and cultivate ideals of compassion and collaboration among learners. The principle of Anekantavada (the philosophy of diverse viewpoints) enhances cognitive growth by promoting analytical reasoning, receptiveness, and acceptance. It conveys that truth possesses several dimensions and cannot be comprehended from a singular perspective. This philosophical perspective cultivates analytical skills, encourages democratic discourse, and equips students to value a variety of ideas, cultures, and beliefs. It strongly corresponds with the objectives of twenty-first-century education that prioritise creativity, problem-solving, and cooperative learning. Jainism further enhances moral and character education by promoting ethical practices like truthfulness (Satya), non-theft (Asteya), celibacy or self-restraint (Brahmacharya), and non-attachment (Aparigraha). These principles foster integrity, self-discipline, honesty, and accountable citizenship. Holistic education



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aims for academic achievement while fostering the growth of principled individuals who can make ethical choices in both personal and professional spheres. Self-discipline holds a pivotal role in Jain educational philosophy. Activities like meditation, self-reflection (Samayika), fasting, and conscious living enhance emotional equilibrium and mental health. These techniques assist students in cultivating focus, perseverance, fortitude, and stress-regulation abilities. In a day characterized by unease, diversion, and consumerism, Jain philosophies provide essential methods for enhancing mental well-being and inner peace among learners. The principle of Aparigraha (non-attachment or non-possessiveness) imparts significant insights for sustainable living and ecological education. It promotes temperance in consumerism, a minimalist lifestyle, and prudent utilization of natural resources. Jain philosophy fosters ecological awareness and sustainable development, hence enhancing environmental ethics, a crucial aspect of comprehensive education in modern society. Learners comprehend their relationship with the natural world and their obligations to subsequent generations. Jainism places additional importance on experiential and continuous education. Education is perceived as an ongoing journey of personal enhancement rather than simply a means to secure work. Acquisition of knowledge necessitates contemplation, moral conduct, and individual metamorphosis. This viewpoint corresponds with contemporary educational methodologies that promote continuous learning, autonomous education, and the cultivation of emotional and social skills in conjunction with scholarly success. The principles of social peace and universal brotherhood are significant aspects of Jain educational philosophy. The principles of tolerance, equality, compassion, and service inspire students to develop social awareness and make beneficial contributions to society. Jainism advocates for harmonious cohabitation among diverse communities and encourages reverence for cultural and religious diversity, therefore enhancing the social aspects of comprehensive education. In modern educational discussions, Jain ideas enhance the aims of value-centric education, peace education, environmental education, and social-emotional learning. The incorporation of Jain principles into educational methodologies can assist institutions in developing ethically sound, academically adept, emotionally stable, and socially accountable persons. The impact of Jainism on holistic education is rooted in an all-encompassing perspective on human growth that integrates knowledge, ethics, spirituality, emotional health, social accountability, and environmental awareness. The tenets of Ahimsa, Anekantavada, Aparigraha, and self-discipline offer enduring educational insights that are significantly pertinent to modern issues. Jain educational philosophy provides a significant framework for cultivating compassionate, introspective, and accountable global citizens by prioritizing the harmonious growth of intellect, physique, character, and spirit. Holistic education influenced by Jainism surpasses traditional learning frameworks and aims for the full actualization of human capabilities (Chakraborty, B., 2017).

JAINISM AND CONTEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT

The educational philosophy of Jainism is rooted in the ideals of non-violence (Ahimsa), non-possessiveness (Aparigraha), truthfulness (Satya), self-restraint, and the cultivation of wisdom via critical inquiry and self-realization. In contemporary education, where students are anticipated to get



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knowledge alongside cultivating ethical awareness and social accountability, Jainism offers a significant philosophical foundation. Contemporary education increasingly stresses value-based learning, environmental consciousness, emotional intelligence, and global citizenship—all of which resonate powerfully with Jain values. The principle of Anekantavada (the philosophy of multiple viewpoints) promotes receptiveness to various perspectives, acceptance of diversity, and analytical reasoning, rendering it particularly pertinent in multicultural and democratic contexts. It encourages discourse rather than rigid beliefs and instructs students to value the intricacies of truth, therefore cultivating intellectual modesty and inclusivity. In a similar vein, Syadvada, the principle of conditional predication, fosters analytical thought by acknowledging that knowledge is frequently contextual and multifaceted. These philosophical ideas closely correspond with contemporary educational methods that emphasize inquiry-driven learning, introspective thought, and cooperative knowledge creation. Jainism also promotes self-discipline and character training as fundamental components of education. The nurturing of qualities like compassion, integrity, patience, and simplicity fosters the emergence of accountable individuals who can positively impact society. In a time, characterized by materialism, consumerism, and ecological decline, the Jain doctrine of Aparigraha advocates for sustainable lifestyles and conscious consumption, imparting significant insights for education aimed at sustainable development. Additionally, Jain educational philosophy promotes perpetual learning and personal evolution, perceiving education as an ongoing journey of ethical and spiritual enhancement rather than solely a vehicle for financial progress. Its focus on experiential learning via self-reflection, meditation, and ethical conduct aligns with modern issues around mental health, emotional wellness, and mindfulness in educational settings. By integrating ethical ideals with intellectual growth, Jainism fosters the formation of learner-centered educational environments that nurture both personal excellence and social harmony. Thus, Jainism remains highly relevant to contemporary educational discourse by offering a holistic vision of education that seeks to harmonize knowledge, values, and human flourishing in an interconnected world (Gorisse, M-H., 2017).

CONCLUSION

Jainism advocates self-realization through knowledge, right conduct, and ethical living, thereby offering valuable insights for addressing contemporary educational challenges such as moral decline, intolerance, excessive materialism, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation. Its emphasis on compassion, respect for diversity of viewpoints, and sustainable living enriches present-day discourses on value-based and transformative education. Furthermore, Jain philosophical principles complement contemporary educational paradigms that prioritize learner-centred approaches, inclusive education, peace education, environmental ethics, and social-emotional learning. The doctrine of Anekantavada, in particular, promotes intellectual humility, dialogue, and openness to multiple perspectives—qualities that are indispensable in pluralistic and democratic societies. Similarly, the practice of Ahimsa extends beyond physical non-violence to encompass ethical relationships with fellow human beings, animals, and the environment, thereby supporting



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global educational goals related to peace, sustainability, and human development. This study also establishes that moral and value education cannot be effectively separated from holistic human development. Jainism envisions education as a transformative process that cultivates wisdom, self-restraint, ethical responsibility, and spiritual awareness. Its educational philosophy encourages individuals to become morally grounded, socially committed, and environmentally conscious contributors to society. Such a vision aligns closely with contemporary efforts to integrate ethics, values, and well-being into educational policies and pedagogical practices. In conclusion, Jainism offers a timeless and universal educational philosophy that bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary educational needs. Its contributions to moral, value, and holistic education provide meaningful philosophical foundations for developing compassionate, ethical, and reflective learners capable of responding constructively to the complexities of the modern world. The continued exploration and integration of Jain philosophical insights can significantly enrich contemporary educational thought and contribute to the creation of a more humane, peaceful, and sustainable educational paradigm for future generations.

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