

Chapter-30

Indian philosophy and its influence on modern thought

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the significant impact that Indian philosophy has had on contemporary thought, focusing on the ways in which it has impacted the spiritual, scientific, and socio-political landscapes around the world. Non-dualism (Advaita Vedanta), karma, ahimsa (non-violence), and dharma (duty/righteousness) are some of the Indian philosophical principles that have made their way into current conversations in the fields of ethics, spirituality, science, and politics. One of the defining characteristics of Indian philosophy is its emphasis on interconnection, which has struck a chord with contemporary spiritual searchers and thinkers, hence promoting holistic awareness and increased spiritual development. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact that Indian philosophy has had on contemporary science, specifically in the fields of consciousness studies and holistic health approaches. Additionally, the paper highlights the contributions that thinkers such as Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and Sri Aurobindo have made to the dissemination of Indian philosophical ideas across the world. The conclusion of the study is that the rich traditions of Indian philosophy continue to affect modern thought. These traditions provide insights into reality, ethics, and the existence of humans, as well as a holistic framework for tackling contemporary concerns. Indian philosophy, with its long and varied traditions, has had a significant impact on modern thought, shaping the spiritual, scientific, and socio-political landscapes all over the world. Non-dualism (Advaita Vedanta), karma, ahimsa (non-violence), and dharma (duty/righteousness) are some of the key ideas that have emerged as a result of India's intellectual history. These ideas have had an impact on contemporary discussions in the fields of ethics, spirituality, science, and politics.

1. Introduction

Significant contributions to modern thought have been made by Indian philosophy, notably in the area of highlighting the interconnection of all things. Adi Shankara is the proponent of the non-dualistic Vedanta philosophy, which holds that the ultimate truth, known as Brahman, is an undivided consciousness that encompasses everything. This concept has struck a chord with contemporary individuals who are interested in spirituality and intellectuals like as Ramana Maharshi, Deepak Chopra, and Ken Wilber, and it has influenced movements that advocate for holistic interpretation and spiritual development. There are echoes of the Vedanta notion of maya, which translates to "illusion," in contemporary discussions about the nature of reality, notably in regard to quantum physics and the idea that perception moulds our view of the universe.

The concepts of karma and rebirth, which have their origins in conventional Indian thinking, have had a significant impact on contemporary conceptions of morality and personal responsibility. These ideas imply that certain actions have repercussions that extend beyond the immediate outcomes, and they have an impact on the ethical frameworks that are utilised

in both Eastern and Western communities. Whereas the concept of reincarnation has had an impact on New Age spirituality and conversations about the meaning of life, the concept of karma is prevalent in contemporary psychology and is associated with discussions about the impact that one's activities have on their mental and emotional well-being.

The notion of ahimsa, which can be translated as "non-violence," holds significant importance in Indian philosophy. This is especially true due to the fact that Mahatma Gandhi adopted it as a guiding principle during India's fight for independence. Gandhi's ideology of non-violent resistance served as an inspiration for civil rights movements all across the world, notably Martin Luther King Jr.'s fight for racial equality in the United States. The concept of ahimsa continues to be a significant factor in discussions concerning ethics, animal rights, and the preservation of the environment.

In addition, Indian philosophy has had an impact on contemporary science, particularly in the fields of consciousness research and holistic health interventions. In Ayurveda and yoga, the concept of prana, which can be translated as "life force," functions similarly to contemporary talks about energy medicine and integrative health. There is a strong resonance between the systematic perspective of the cosmos that is found in Indian writings such as the Rig Veda and the modern systems thinking that is used in ecology and quantum physics.

Philosophers such as Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and Sri Aurobindo have been instrumental in the dissemination of Indian philosophical concepts around the world. Vedanta and yoga were brought to the Western world by Vivekananda in 1893, when he delivered a speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions. This speech had a significant impact on the development of spiritual groups and philosophers such as Aldous Huxley and Christopher Isherwood. The integral philosophy of Sri Aurobindo has had an impact on contemporary spirituality, psychology, and conversations regarding the nature of what constitutes human consciousness. Generally speaking, the focus that Indian philosophy places on interconnection, compassion, and inner growth continues to be immensely relevant, providing a complete framework for resolving the difficulties that are present in the modern world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the rich and varied traditions of Indian philosophy still have an effect on modern thought, giving us new ideas about the nature of reality, ethics, and what it means to be human. Indian philosophy's focus on interconnection, compassion, and personal growth is still very important today, as the world deals with difficult problems. It offers a complete way to look at modern problems.

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