

# FOSTERING THE ROLE OF MORAL VALUES AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN ANCIENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

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## Abstract

*The current study fosters the role of moral values and ethical principles in ancient educational systems in India. Moral values serve as the backbone of life. They are in control of a person's total development. Values define a person's personality, attitude, behaviour, mission, and vision. Values form the foundation of any nature, religion, society, or country. Moral principles can influence a higher standard of living, a pleasant environment, sustainable growth, and peace in today's society. Education based on moral values was typical in ancient India. It is good knowledge that teachers have duties that involve handling moral barriers and ethical problems. The ancient educational system has impacted every educational system in the world. Admissions policies, a monitoring system, a low teacher-to-student ratio, a healthy learning environment, free high school and college education, compassionate treatment, the role of punishment in discipline, and rules governing student life are some of the elements of our ancient system that are missing from our modern one. Education now plays a vital role in the world's social, intellectual, and political transformation. For a very long time, parents, communities, and the state have turned to schools to produce persons who will make a difference in the society in which they live. The responsibilities of educators become more significant and demanding when it comes to teaching children moral values. Due to their well-defined procedures and functional roles, classroom teachers can execute these concepts successfully. Moral values are guiding principles that impact our worldview, actions, and mental patterns. However, deals can either be implanted or learned. With the aid of value education, everyone can strengthen and implement their personal value system. Various ethical principles, such as societal, cultural, international, and unique, must be upheld daily. The values one keeps shaping their personality and the future direction of their family, society, country, and humanity. The ancient Indian educational system effectively maintained and developed its language and culture even without the help of writing abilities. The invasion did not affect the language; only the temples and monasteries were destroyed. Due to outstanding cultural transmission and preservation, the immense continent maintains a strong sense of cultural consistency despite its vast size. Moral values and an awareness of one's obligations became embedded in the school system. All of the goals of the ancient educational system were achieved with success in India.*

**Keywords:** *Fostering, Role, Moral Values, Ethical Principles, Ancient Educational Systems, and India*

## INTRODUCTION

Morality is based on a set of principles known as ethics. They control every aspect of a person's growth. A person's character, perspective, activities, and aspirations can all be inferred from their core values. Individual vigour, robust belief systems, thriving communities, and prosperous nations all spring from shared values. The path to moral rectitude leads to peace, happiness, longevity, and societal harmony. India has maintained its beliefs and educational system from one generation to the next. Sermons were India's primary method of establishing moral principles due to the nation's religious and geographical diversity (Kapur, R. 2018). Parents and educators are not doing what they can to instil moral ideals in the next generation, so society is disintegrating. That is why we must take firm measures right away to help restore moral values in today's young. I hope this study will help readers understand why ethical principles are relevant today. Any conversation about moral values and ethical principles in the modern world will raise questions about their relevance. This is partly because of the widespread belief that upholding moral principles can help mould a person into a better version of themselves by instilling qualities like integrity, self-control, respect, responsibility, and loyalty in them. The instillation of moral values and principles of ethics was a primary focus of traditional Indian education. Discussions of moral values and ethical dilemmas belong in the classroom. Education is more vital than ever if we are to affect a global shift in mindset and political structure. Parents, communities, and governments have long relied on schools to help mould students into responsible citizens. Stories, displays, skits, one-act plays, and classroom debates are all established methods for instilling moral values in young people. It cannot be easy to figure out how to adjust to the shifting responsibilities of teachers in the digital age.

The latest results in pedagogical research and how technology has been implemented into the classroom appear necessities for today's teachers—preparing future educators with the background, values, and skills to effectively educate their students. In India's traditional educational systems, teachers have a more challenging time instilling these ideals in their students but are rewarded more handsomely when they succeed. Each person develops their sense of right and wrong in the context of their own moral and ethical tradition (Reiss, 1999). Liberal democracies thrive when their inhabitants embrace a shared moral code (Althof & Berkowitz, 2006). Technology still has far-reaching effects on modern society while shaping and being moulded by contemporary culture. The rising level of complexity in today's society, spurred on by rapid advances in technology and science, only highlights the importance of upholding moral values and ethical principles in ancient educational systems in India.

## ETHICS IN ANCIENT INDIA

The ultimate goal of education is to help pupils gain a rich perspective on life. Education is essential since the values we establish in our children will shape the future of our diverse society. When your behaviours align with your values, you will have a better chance of reaching your goals. Our internal moral compass directs our daily actions. The ancient Indian civilization was founded on a set of shared beliefs. The Brahmacharya was at the top of the human rung ladder, followed by the Grihastha, the Vanaprastha, and Sanyasa. The Dharma emerged as a set of principles for living by. A group of fundamental tenets underpins our existence.

The accumulated effect of these circumstances is more than the sum of its parts—the time we have wasted between now and when we want to be called for immediate action. To encourage critical thinking in their students, teachers should be willing to think beyond the box (Singh, S., 2015). Ethical thought aims to clarify the nature of proper and immoral conduct. Arts and social sciences could be read into the sentence as well. Formal ethics education and training benefit medical, financial, commercial, legal, and other professionals. Terms like ethics and morals arise regularly when people attempt to figure out what they should do with their lives or their standards of living. The mind is better prepared for learning when it engages in activities like learning a new language and reading works by authors from different cultural backgrounds. Everyone can benefit from regular meditation and internal reflection, especially when ethical values inform them.

There is a possibility that the languages presently in use will play a pivotal role in the evolution of human society. This study examines how ethical ideas have shaped India and its culture. The Upanishads, Aaranyakas, Ramayana, Bharatha, and Bhagavatam are only a few of the literature that chronicles pivotal moments in the evolution of Indian thought, culture, and ethics. This study (Karpavithra et al.; S., 2017) uses a combination of introspection and reflection to examine the emergence of moral and ethical concepts in Indian writing and thought. A small number of factors have shaped Indian ethics. This is why it is so essential for people to learn about and engage in several cultural activities. Influence over public opinion and global incidents is growing. We will always keep Indian values and morals in mind in our efforts to preserve and share India's cultural heritage. However, the capacity of various people, places, schools, firms, etc., to build India's culture determines the scope and growth of India's technology. The ancient Indian philosophers addressed current ethical challenges. The veda, one of the earliest written writings, is used to illustrate the ideas it presents. Based on the Vedas, cosmic order signifies peace in the physical and social worlds. The here refers to a philosophical force that rules over not just the material universe but also the social order of human beings. Interfering with the peace and order of human society is a sure-fire recipe for tragedy. This is the force that maintains order in the natural world. Most Indian ethical philosophy does not have a direct translation into conceptual and intellectual frameworks produced by Western philosophers. Reason, custom, faith, and the imaginative process were all seen as intertwined with religion and philosophy in ancient India. In light of their deference to tradition and other illogical forms of authority, modern Western philosophers tend to dismiss Indian principles of ethics in outdated educational systems in India.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF MORAL VALUES IN EDUCATION

Education is a means of supporting another person's development by disseminating knowledge in a structured way. Our educational system serves its students' mind, body, and spirit equally well. Educating children about right from wrong is essential. When we talk about moral values, it refers to the ideals a parent should instil in their child from an early age. Traditionally, education has been intended to foster its students' intellectual and moral growth. Children need access to moral education to grow up to be good people.

Formal education is intended to help young people mature into responsible adults. For the sake of future generations, education assists in preserving the best of the past while integrating the best of the present (Vars, 1998). However, very little research has been done on how teachers incorporate discussions of social and moral issues. Who is responsible for teaching children right from wrong will be a topic of conversation. In reality, this research set out to answer the age-old question, "who gives the child his moral education?" Teaching children about good and evil is a joint effort between parents and educators (Kaur, S., 2015). A person's moral values are the criteria by which they measure and choose their behaviour. An individual's peers, one's neighbourhood, one's

church, and one's introspection are all potential sites of ethical education. The ancient educational systems of India can be adapted to the changing times and cultures of the modern world if its guiding principles are codified at the governmental and social levels. An individual's moral values are the criteria by which they evaluate their actions. There are numerous approaches one can take to studying ethics. When ethics are codified at the government or societal level, they are subject to revision when new cultural norms develop. One's moral values should always serve as a guide for their behaviour. One can learn about right and wrong through introspection, the study of sacred texts, or even just by witnessing the actions of those around them. Formalizing values at the societal and political levels would help people better adapt to a variety of cultural contexts. Instilling moral values in one's youth is a primary goal of education. Moral education refers to the process through which institutions like schools instruct their students on the difference between right and wrong. Promoting academic success was considered less important than instilling a sense of morality in students. Recent incidents have highlighted the need for communities and schools to teach young people moral standards. We must define moral values with precision. As per Kaur S. (2015), this word defines the norms to which individuals from a specific culture must comply. Students identities are profoundly impacted by the moral beliefs they uphold. There is no need for conflict or tragedy if everyone acts responsibly. Therefore, efforts to promote morality are crucial for building peace and harmony, which was the function of moral values and ethical principles in ancient Indian educational systems.

### INTEGRATING MORAL VALUES INTO STUDENTS' LIFE

A person's moral values are the principles by which they evaluate themselves and others and guide their actions and those of others. Persons with solid morals show courage, compassion, understanding, loyalty, sympathy, and affection. No matter how old they are, a child's family will always be more significant to them than any school or teacher. Every parent hopes their offspring will grow up with a solid education, health, and moral background. Today's youth owe an outstanding debt to society for the values it instilled in them as youngsters. Teachers and parents work together to shape the development of their students. Regarding morality, parents serve as their children's primary educators and role models. Teachers have a responsibility to instil in their students a healthy respect for the rights of others. Integrity, loyalty, and good behaviour are just a few values educators should instil in children. Teachers are inspirational people because of the moral lessons they teach their students. Teaching morality to today's children is a daunting challenge (Kaur, L., 2016). Moral issues can be discussed in the classroom. Individual and critical growth is something that teachers should encourage in their students. They have made valuable contributions that can be used in many other fields of study. By what they teach, how they teach it, how they treat their students, how they punish their students, how they reward excellence, and so on, teachers have a responsibility to establish moral principles in their students.

Several studies suggest that a classroom can be interpreted as an act of morality (Bryk, 1998; Goodlad, 1992; Hansen, 1993; Strike, 1996). We must first define moral values to highlight the significance of imparting moral values in young people's thoughts. Since morals have a social component, they are frequently chosen over values. Good and evil are central to any discussion of ethics. Therefore, when evaluating people, we give more weight to their positive impact on society than their morality. You can call someone immoral, but there is no name for someone who cannot act following their ideals. In moral terms, upright people are immune to peer pressure and other forms of influence. This concept can guide a person's behaviour. The highest ideals of the human soul are reflected in our fundamental beliefs. Our sense of what is good and evil, right and wrong, and essential and unimportant is shaped by the values we hold. Decisions can be made more quickly if the relative importance of several factors is understood (Sari, N., 2013). Educating students about values is one way to help them develop social and emotional skills. A student's academic success is strongly correlated with their level of emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence describes a wide range of competencies, such as the capacity for moral reasoning, problem-solving, social competence, self-awareness, and academic accomplishment. This is why it is so important to integrate moral values into young minds (Saphiro, 1999). I believe that the development of individual children and the welfare of society depends on the success of India's traditional educational systems in imparting values and ethical principles to young children.

### PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN TEACHING-LEARNING

Teaching is more challenging than ever in today's diverse and evolving society. How society has been organized, how much information is available, and how technology has developed all affect the society in which we currently live. Continuous teaching-learning is a survival strategy as well as an inventive idea. There are both teaching-learning. Teachers usually have the highest social positions because they use their expertise and skills to convey knowledge. The ability of teachers to pass on knowledge also evolves along with the world. The content is widely accessible, enabling everyone to become educated. It is widely accepted that educational professionals play an essential role in developing the development of humanity.

Respect for teachers is an ongoing trend from ancient times to the present. Teachers play an essential role in establishing in future generations of children a love of learning and a respect for moral and ethical values (Saxena

et al., A. K, 2020). A teacher's undivided attention must be on their students and the lesson at hand. Conduct in the classroom can take many forms, including but not limited to discrimination, disagreeing with the teacher, being dishonest, not engaging, and being offensive. There must be complete openness in the utilization of any resources. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that their lessons are engaging and challenging for students of any level of ability. The faculty serves as the institution's first line of defines.

Knowledge sharing and efficient teaching are both their respective duties. This can only be provided by someone who is informed, current on developments in their field, and ethical. Relationships between teachers, the students they teach, and the community are mutually advantageous (Gurtu, A, 2019). Today's educators have expanded responsibilities beyond the classroom. The challenges teachers face today are far more than in the past. Teachers encounter academic, professional, and ethical challenges in the classroom. In addition to being educated in their fields, teachers are responsible for modelling and refraining from ethical conduct in the classroom. As an outcome of societal diversity, today's teachers must engage with various students, families, and communities. People tend to disagree because of the wide range of their contexts in society and culture, racial and ethnic identities, educational backgrounds, and life experiences. Teachers may find their regular behaviour unacceptable or tolerated while interacting with different student groups and parents. When they want to be taken seriously as professionals in the field they teach, teachers today confront more review and critique from the general public.

Teachers must have a firm grasp of their responsibilities to be effective in their roles. This highlights the need for teachers to maintain strong ethical principles. The development of relationships takes a back seat to professionalism in the classroom. It is how they keep society's confidence from being seen as harsh by the general populace (Mantiri, O, 2011). To overcome gender and physical bias in school, a code of ethics should be written to declare the teacher's identity. By cooperating with strong coalitions and connecting with worldwide groups, local entities can grant teachers a more robust voice over their careers and a more significant say in shaping the profession's definition in the twenty-first century. These societies have used teacher ethics to bring the teaching profession together on the role of moral values and ethical principles in ancient educational systems in India.

## ROLE OF MORAL VALUES IN THE MODERN SOCIETY

Morality is the conduct attendant upon a theory, method, and perception of right and wrong (Churchill, 1982). A person's perspective is like a cocktail; it comprises a specific blend of experiences and beliefs (Rennie, 2007). A society's morals and ethics are influenced by its spirituality, culture, and feeling of community (UNESCO, 1991). Today's Children must hold to the moral ideals they were taught to flourish in a world where everything changes. Civilizations are constantly adapting to the current developmental trends. Groups that take themselves seriously try to stay true to their original ideals even while the world changes around them. Because so many adults have abandoned ethical principles in pursuit of worldly gain, today's youth may find it challenging to maintain a stable moral compass.

People who cheat or deceive their way to the top of the economic world are rarely looked up as role models. Regardless of their background or current situation, young people today have the power to mould the future. Even if people keep doing pointless things, it will not change anything. People everywhere hold those who refuse to compromise their values in the highest regard. Most sane people would agree that human life has no monetary value. If you want to succeed in life, you must keep returning to basics. A society's values are the principles or standards of conduct that are respected and admired by its members, as stated by Hareesha, J. et al. (2012).

There are three distinct ethical points of view to consider. Since both morality and ethics are concerned with a set of norms that decent people should adhere to without doubt, they have a lot in common. The discipline of philosophy concerned with investigating reasons for ethical principles is known as ethics. In the end, professional ethics are not an overarching ethical framework but rather a set of standards that professionals in particular fields are supposed to follow. A person's dedication to a code of professional ethics is where the idea of vocation first arises (Kovac, 1996). A person's moral compass can point them in good or bad ways. Since morality is personal, its ultimate meaning is difficult to define. Ethical principles are more akin to norms that evolve over time and among different cultures. Both are essential if you want to make ethical choices and keep the peace in your relationships. A person's background greatly influences who they become and what they value. Young children can benefit greatly from being taught right from wrong early on. When a child needs help, he or she usually goes to a parent or other trusted adult first. Our morality has its roots in religious teachings. We aim to impart these values to our children around town. The foundations of every nation's future can be found in India's ancient education systems.

## CONCLUSION

The role of moral values and ethical principles in ancient are inherently integrated into all actuation outputs. Value theory seeks to analyse, forecast, and elucidate the causal links between values and behaviours. It is an unpleasant reality that you may have to give in to your ideals to maintain harmony. Some interests must be prioritized higher than others in every given decision. Most of our actions result from trying to strike a balance



between several demands. Their hard work and concentration paid off. When we can put something to use straight away, its value increases. The value of an item corresponds to how well it performs its designated function. Both the personal and public realms have their codes of conduct. Integrity, loyalty, good faith, and responsibility form the bedrock of decisions and judgments.

The rule of law is essential for preventing widespread unrest and ensuring everyone is treated fairly. When deciding whether an action is moral, social morality considers how it might affect society. Teachers should act professionally and personally maturely as role models for children. Dependable, ethical, and supportive teachers can make an enormous impression on their students. In any case, there is more to this than meets the eye. The outcomes of being moral could be disastrous. Opportunity, equity, and educational quality may all be put at risk. Without a shared set of values, school students and teachers are more likely to engage in inappropriate conduct. Students learn responsibility and support one another's development when they share their thoughts and feelings openly. Increasing access to education and enhancing the quality of instruction ought to be moral priorities—guidelines for controlling the actions of one's students in the classroom. A number of problems could reduce a union's efficacy, including an inability to enforce ethical norms in the teaching profession, low member interest in union operations, inadequate training, and a lack of services for students with complaints against professors. Investing in teachers' moral education can significantly impact their students. All teachers, not just those just starting out, need to discuss ethics as part of their formal education. Professionals can win over more members of the public if they follow principles of ethics that highlight the positive impact their employment has on society. Relating firmly to moral values is the only way to improve education. The capacity to motivate children is an essential ability for teachers. Very strong ties exist between the two social groupings. Classroom time could be used to instil these moral lessons. Teaching in ancient India focused on precedents set by historical individuals who represented moral values and ethical principles in the modern educational systems.

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