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Moral Values in Indian Children's Literature

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Abstract: *Children's literature plays an important role in shaping the moral and ethical development of young readers. In India, children's literature has a long and rich tradition rooted in ancient storytelling practices, folklore, myths, and religious texts. These narratives not only entertain children but also convey moral lessons such as honesty, kindness, courage, respect for elders, empathy, and social responsibility. From traditional stories like those found in the Panchatantra and Jataka Tales to modern writings by contemporary Indian authors, moral values remain a central theme in children's literature.*

This research paper examines the representation and significance of moral values in Indian children's literature. It explores how stories influence children's character formation and social behavior. The study focuses on selected texts from both classical and modern Indian literature to analyze the moral messages conveyed through narratives, characters, and themes. The research also investigates how cultural traditions and social norms shape these moral teachings.

The paper adopts a qualitative research methodology based on textual analysis of selected children's stories and books. It studies how moral lessons are embedded within narratives and how these lessons contribute to children's understanding of ethical values. The analysis highlights recurring moral themes such as honesty, cooperation, justice, compassion, and respect for nature.

The findings of the research suggest that Indian children's literature serves as an effective medium for moral education. Through engaging storytelling and relatable characters, authors successfully communicate ethical principles to young readers. These stories help children understand right and wrong while also nurturing imagination and creativity. Therefore, children's literature in India continues to play a vital role in moral development and cultural education..

Keywords: Children's Literature, Moral Values, Indian Literature, Ethics, Character Development, Storytelling, Cultural Values