Jain Philosophy and the Development of Ethical Consciousness in Society

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Abstract: *Jain philosophy represents one of the most profound ethical traditions in Indian philosophical thought, emphasizing non-violence, truthfulness, self-discipline, and respect for all forms of life as the foundation of moral living. The teachings of Mahavira present a comprehensive philosophical system that seeks to cultivate ethical awareness and spiritual development in individuals and society. The present study examined the fundamental principles of Jain philosophy and analyzed their relevance to ethical thought and moral conduct. It further explored the core ethical values of Jainism, particularly Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (self-restraint), and Aparigraha (non-possessiveness), and their role in shaping moral character and responsible social behavior. The study also investigated how Jain philosophical teachings contribute to the development of ethical consciousness by promoting compassion, tolerance, self-discipline, and respect for the interconnectedness of all living beings. Through doctrinal and philosophical analysis of classical Jain texts and scholarly literature, the study highlighted the enduring relevance of Jain ethical principles in addressing contemporary social challenges such as violence, materialism, and moral decline. The findings suggest that Jain philosophy provides a valuable framework for cultivating ethical consciousness and promoting harmonious social relations in modern society*

Keywords: *Jain Philosophy, Ethical Consciousness, Ahimsa, Moral Values, Social Harmony, Anekantavada, Aparigraha*