



# EXPLORING JAIN ETHICAL VALUES IN BUSINESS: A PATH TO HARMONY AND TRANSPARENCY

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – Jain dharma is an ancient religion. Jainas have a core scientific base and ethical practices. In day-to-day routine/schedule praxis of Jain values fabricate an okay business ethical structure. This study analyzes how Jain values/philosophy guide or we can say mould businesses in ethical way because businesses face various ethical challenges i.e. unethical practices.

**Design/methodology/approach** – This research paper is based on secondary data which is available on Jain religion.

**Objectives** - The following study highlights the Jainism perspective on businesses through ethical conduct by emphasizing non-violence, truthfulness, integrity, and self-discipline.

The paper will also discuss that Jain values emphasize on satya (Truthfulness) which promotes transparency and integrity in business dealings.

**Findings** – The research concluded by highlighting that ethics in business found in Jain values. Jainism theory or principles gives special guidance as well as direction to the business in modern world. Jain system of strong ethics in business can bring out a compatible blend in the modern management style to show a peaceful, transparent and gratified economy.

**Research limitations/implications** – Jainism is deeply rooted with the ideas on ethics but the study is limited to *five vows* in Jainism such as ahimsa, satya, asteya, aparigraha and brahmacharya.

**Practical implications** – The robust implementation of ethics in business will generate a new structure of ethical business which may bring good harmony as well as transparency in the modern world if applied in businesses.

**Keywords** – Ethics, Jain, Business, Jewels, Value, Harmony, Transparency

## Introduction

Jainism is an archaic dharma which is renowned for its emphasis on ethical conduct like non-violence, veracity. It endows a peerless philosophical structure for ethical behaviour and moral with its tenets that are rooted in non-harming, non-attachment etc. Jainism preaches on ethical conduct enlightens that truly cognoscente is one who recognizes all well-being and endeavors to let up the attachment, greed and so on. In the modern world where businesses work in intricate and moral cannot be momentousness. In today's

globalized and interconnected world, businesses face various ethical challenges. Unethical practices such as corruption, exploitation, and environmental degradation have resulted in social, economic, and environmental crises. Jainism values provide a comprehensive framework that can guide individuals and organizations towards ethical decision-making and responsible business conduct. The tenant of non-violence lies at the keynote of Jaina dharma. In the interpretation of business ethics non-violence stimulates the thought of lessen harm to all beings, including employees, consumer, societies and the environment. This teachings or philosophy of Jainism promotes businesses to siphon impartial trade practices, enhance safety at workplace, upgrade inclusivity and ponder the ecological influence of their operations.

## Business Ethics

Business ethics is the combination of two words business and ethics, where business means an enterprising activity in the production, sale, or exchange of goods / services to accomplish exigency and wants of customer with the elementary objective of generating mileage (profit) and on the other side ethics means the perusal of what is good or bad and virtuous or non-virtuous. It search or we can say unearth questions about the ethos of morality, ethical reasoning and the application of ethical tenets to human behaviour and decision-making. Thus business ethics is a steppe of study and praxis that scrutinize the ethical principles, materiality and norm of conduct that mentor individuals and organisations in the business world. Business ethics embrace the adspection and evaluation of ethical abeyances (doubt) and decisions that arise within organisations, as well as the amenableness that businesses have towards their stakeholders, including consumers, shareholder, employees and the society.

## Jainism and Business Ethics

The ethical framework of Jainism has some good points for handling modern business problems and dilemmas. An organization can create a culture of ethics and responsible management if it includes the Jain principles in its operations thus encouraging equitable and sustainable economy.

### 1. Nonviolence in Business

In the context of the business world, nonviolence means creating a working environment that values everybody's welfare and respects their rights. This involves establishing secure working conditions, paying fair wages to employees, treating them with respect and adopting ecologically sustainable practices which are not harmful to ecosystems or wildlife.

### 2. Satya and Transparency

Ethical conduct requires truthfulness and transparency. Businesses can create trust with stakeholders over the long-term by following satya principle thus building their credibility based on honesty and integrity. It is important for organizations to communicate openly about what they do, why they do it as well as how well or bad they have performed vis-à-vis set standards so that those affected can hold them accountable.

### 3. Asteya and Fairness

The principle of asteya emphasizes on recognizing other people's rights to own property or intellectual capital. For businesses this means respecting contracts; refraining from plagiarism or stealing ideas; treating staff members equally and ensuring that suppliers/competitors are treated justly too. A competitive but still ethical market can be nurtured through observance of fairness principles alongside other related virtues like honesty etcetera.

### 4. Aparigraha and Sustainability

The philosophy of Aparigraha suggests that businesses should follow the ideas of moderation and sustainability by avoiding overconsumption as well as generation of waste beyond what is necessary. These companies can achieve this objective through adopting resourcefulness, waste management techniques such as recycling among others while ensuring they only get their supplies from ethical sources thus reducing environmental impact and improving long-term planetary health.

## 5. Brahmacharya and Ethical Leadership

Ethical leadership plays a vital role in creating an honest accountable work environment within an organization. Leaders who practice brahmacharya exhibit discipline humility honesty while making decisions that affect others' lives either positively or negatively. When top-level managers act rightly towards all junior staff members then trustworthiness among workers will be enhanced thereby increasing loyalty which may lead to commitment even during difficult times.

## Research Methodology

This research paper employs a qualitative methodology, drawing upon secondary sources such as books, scholarly papers, and online materials, to examine the intersection of Jainism and corporate ethics. This study aims to examine the relationship between Jain ideals and ethical business practices by conducting a comprehensive assessment of existing literature and developing theoretical frameworks based on these findings.

## Findings

This research has shown that Jain ethics plays a major role in guiding businesses towards ethical behavior. It offers strong grounds for honesty, openness as well as long-term survival in businesses which are based on non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (asteya), non-attachment or greedlessness (aparigraha) and celibacy or control over senses especially sexual desire (brahmacharya).

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, Jainism provides deep moral guidance for contemporary business enterprises because it recognizes many-sidedness inherent in them today. Businesses need to blend values found in Jainism like non-violence truthfulness non-stealing non-possessiveness celibacy into their operations so as foster transparency sustainability. Therefore implementing strong Jain principles could bring about peace prosperity throughout commercial establishments besides creating fairer economic system with higher moral standards for all

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