INTEGRATION OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY WITH BUDDHISM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH

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Abstract   The Noble Eightfold Path is the core teaching of Buddhism that aims to guide individuals to Nibbana. Indian philosophies, such as dharma and moksha, have a major influence on shaping Buddhist core values, creating a rich spiritual and ethical foundation. However, the integration of the two requires a deeper understanding to meet the challenges in the modern context. This study aims to explain the integration of Indian cultural philosophies with Buddhism in the context of the Noble Eightfold Path and explore its impact on contemporary Buddhist practice. It uses a historical and philosophical approach through desk research to examine the influence of Veda values, including dharma, karma, and meditation practices, on the evolution of the essential elements of the Eightfold Path. The findings show that the integration of Indian cultural values enriches the Noble Eightfold Path in terms of ethics, spirituality, and wisdom. Its relevance extends to cross-cultural contexts and addresses modern ethical challenges. The study concludes that the integration of Indian philosophies and Buddhism not only strengthens the foundation of Buddhist teachings but also creates a moral framework that is relevant to modern life.

INTRODUCTION

The historical relationship between Indian culture and the Buddhist tradition is of profound significance with regard to the formation and development of spiritual values and culture across the region. As the birthplace of Buddhism, India played a pivotal role in disseminating this religion through trade routes and religious missions that extended to Southeast Asia and beyond. As demonstrated by Erokhin (2020), cultural interactions in the Kalinga region illustrate a process of Buddhist value assimilation into social and political structures, thereby fostering national cohesion through the principles of *dhamma* and tolerance. Furthermore, Raina & Singh (2023) delineated how Buddhism reinforced cultural

identity through the espousal of social harmony that transcended the caste system, thereby influencing art, literature, and politics in the Indian subcontinent.

As a nexus of spiritual transmission, Buddhism's contribution not only altered the social structure in Asia but also influenced the formation of local cultural identities, as evidenced by Pathak (2020), in a study of Sri Lanka. The Buddhist tradition supported not only political unification but also ideological consolidation, which brought peace and stability to different regions. Therefore, understanding the interaction between Indian philosophy and Buddhism is not only historically important but also relevant to unearthing a cultural legacy that continues to influence the development of education and morality in modern times.

The Noble Eightfold Path represents the fundamental tenet of Buddhist teachings, providing a path for individuals to pursue enlightenment and liberation from suffering. As a practical framework, the Noble Eightfold Path encompasses three main aspects: ethics (*sīla*), concentration (*samādhi*), and wisdom (*paññā*). These three aspects are interrelated and integrated into the spiritual life of Buddhists. As posited by Dhakal (2021), the eight elements of this path—right view (*sammā-diṭṭhi*), right intention (*sammā-saṅkappa*), right speech (*sammā-vācā*), right action (*sammā-kammanta*), right livelihood (*sammā-ājīva*), right effort (*sammā-vāyāma*), right mindfulness (*sammā-sati*), and right concentration (*sammā-samādhi*) —constitute a holistic method for overcoming human suffering and attaining Nibbana. The Buddha based his teachings on a profound comprehension of reality and introduced the Noble Eightfold Path as a means to conclude the cycle of rebirth and suffering.

As Bhikkhu Bodhi (2020) Elucidates that the Noble Eightfold Path represents the Buddha's distinctive contribution to the spiritual tradition. This path, which is not found in other religious systems, provides a practical guide to liberation that involves a combination of ethical discipline, mental training, and the development of wisdom. The elements of the Noble Path are designed to enhance an individual's relationship with the external world while fostering inner peace. This perspective reflects the universal relevance of Buddhism as an inclusive and solution-oriented approach to addressing human suffering. The Noble Eightfold Path is not only a spiritual path but also an ethical framework that strengthens morality and wisdom in everyday life. By examining the fundamental principles and objectives of these eight elements, we can gain insight into their influence on individuals and society as a whole while recognizing Buddhism as a universal foundation for peace and harmony.

Moreover, Hunt (2020) Asserts that the Noble Eightfold Path retains its relevance in the contemporary era, particularly in addressing global challenges such as environmental crises and social conflicts. The path not only aims to address individual suffering but also promotes social and ecological balance. This Buddhist approach demonstrates its flexibility and adaptability in different contexts, making it a powerful tool for self-reflection and transformation in the face of the complexities of modern life.

This research is important to map the relevance of cultural integration in creating inclusive ethical guidelines, both in spiritual and social contexts, and to explore how these values can be applied in modern society to create greater harmony. The integration of Indian cultural philosophy and Buddhism, particularly in the context of the Noble Eightfold Path,

represents a pressing area of inquiry, given its significance and universal applicability in addressing contemporary global challenges. This tradition provides not only a profound philosophical framework but also an ethical and spiritual approach that is applicable across cultures. As Bhikkhu Bodhi (2020) asserts, the Noble Eightfold Path represents a distinctive contribution of the Buddha, devised to address human suffering through the integration of moral, mental, and wisdom values. In the modern context, this framework has the potential to serve as a transformative tool in addressing the increasingly complex social and moral crises that have emerged in recent times, including issues of social injustice and cultural inequality.

Dhakal (2021), emphasizes that the Noble Eightfold Path synthesizes fundamental tenets from Indian philosophical traditions, such as dharma and karma, to establish a comprehensive framework for understanding human existence. This is crucial for fostering harmony across cultures, as the integration of these values can facilitate the creation of a shared understanding that transcends civilizational conflicts. In the context of globalization, the significance of this study lies in its capacity to provide ethical solutions that are firmly grounded in traditional wisdom yet remain pertinent to contemporary realities.

Moreover, as Hunt (2020) It is posited that this cultural integration has considerable implications for enhancing cross-cultural understanding and fostering social cohesion. In the context of a world grappling with challenges such as environmental crises and social polarization, this philosophy proffers an alternative perspective for addressing collective suffering, underscoring universal values such as compassion, generosity, and balanced wisdom.

This study is important to understand how elements of Indian philosophy enrich Buddhism, creating a spiritual path that is not only relevant for religious practice but also makes significant contributions to global philosophical and ethical discourse. The objective of research on elements of Indian philosophy integrated into Buddhism is to gain a deeper understanding of how Buddhism draws on the philosophical foundations of Indian traditions to form a unique framework for ethics, meditation, and wisdom. Prasad (2023), asserts that Buddhism incorporates the concept of pramāṇa-epistemology from Indian philosophy to construct a theory of knowledge that encompasses perception and inference. This approach enhances the Buddhist tradition through the advancement of critical logic and a profound comprehension of reality while also demonstrating the manner in which Indian philosophy contributes to the fundamental tenets of the Buddha on liberation from suffering.

Moreover, research by Snuviškis (2020), indicates that Indian philosophical texts, such as the Vaiśeṣika, were frequently adapted by Buddhist philosophers to align with the objectives of the Buddha's teachings. This illustrates the dialectical relationship between the Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions, whereby values such as dharma were adapted into the framework of the Noble Eightfold Path to provide a more inclusive and universal ethical guide.

Mukherjee (2023) further underscores the significance of this study by noting that the impact of Indian philosophy on Buddhism has contributed to the formation of a robust cultural and spiritual identity in South Asia. This integration is not only historically

pertinent but also offers insights into how traditional values can be adapted to address contemporary challenges, such as social discord and the necessity for global harmony.

This research offers novelty by focusing on the integration of Indian philosophical elements in Buddhism through an in-depth philosophical approach, in contrast to previous studies that have focused more on educational implications. As outlined by Prasad (2023), Buddhism adapts core concepts from Indian pramāṇa-epistemology, such as logical inference and direct perception, to create an integrated wisdom framework. This approach shows how the Buddhist tradition enriches the understanding of knowledge and human liberation by applying critical methodologies from the Indian philosophical tradition.

Moreover, Snuviškis (2020), notes that the adaptation of Indian philosophies in Buddhism is not just a passive transfer but a creative process that results in a new value system. By reviewing philosophical texts such as the Vaiśeṣika, the author shows how non-Buddhist elements were reconstructed to support the goals of Buddhism. The study illustrates the dialectical dynamics between the Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions, thus expanding the insights into how this integration creates a more universal philosophical foundation.

Mukherjee (2023), enriched this research by highlighting the modern relevance of the integration of Indian culture and Buddhism. The study explains how values such as dharma and karma are adapted to address contemporary social challenges, providing a new perspective on the influence of Indian traditions on the development of Buddhism across different cultural and historical contexts. As such, this study offers a profound new contribution to understanding how elements of Indian philosophy were integrated into Buddhism, going beyond the boundaries of traditional discussions that focus on education.

METHODS

This research utilizes a combined historical and philosophical desk study approach to understand the integration of Indian cultural philosophy into Buddhism in the context of the Noble Eightfold Path. Primary data sources in the form of Buddhist canon texts such as the Tripitaka and traditional commentaries were used to ensure the authenticity of the analysis. In contrast, secondary data sources, in the form of journal articles, books, and previous research, enriched the interpretative framework and provided relevant contemporary context. For example, Gupta & Verma, (2021) Examined the spread of Buddhist values in Southeast Asia.

As outlined by Dyadyk (2020), a hermeneutic approach is essential in the interpretation of Buddhist texts to identify historically and functionally relevant ethical and spiritual values. Introspective methods are also used to explore the elements of meditation and consciousness development that are central to the Noble Eightfold Path.

Additionally, research by Urbanaeva & Loshchenkov (2023), highlighted the importance of systematizing classical Buddhist texts such as the *Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras* and Madhyamaka in understanding the integration of Indian philosophy into Buddhism. This study shows that a descriptive and interpretive approach can connect the historical dimension with the philosophical framework to produce a holistic understanding.

Through this approach, the study not only describes the historical journey and evolution of Buddhist philosophy but also provides a solid philosophical foundation for understanding the relevance of Buddhism in the modern context.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Integration of Indian Cultural Philosophy with the Noble Eightfold Path

Ethics (Sīla)

The Influence of *Dharma* and *Karma* on Buddhist Moral Values

The integration of Indian philosophy, especially the concepts of *dharma* and *karma*, plays a key role in shaping Buddhist morality, as seen in the Noble Eightfold Path. In the Buddhist perspective, *dharma* describes the universal moral law that serves as the foundation of ethics, while karma explains the cause-and-effect principle of human actions. According to Phuntsho (2023), *karma* is the core of Buddhist ethics, which states that every action of the body, speech, and mind has direct consequences on the life of the individual, both in this life and the next. This principle creates deep moral responsibility and encourages individuals to develop good habits through ethical discipline.

Kim (2021), further explains that in Theravada Buddhism, the accumulation of positive *karma* through the practice of generosity and moral observance not only creates worldly happiness but also serves as a path to liberation from the cycle of rebirth. In this regard, the *dharma* acts as a practical guide to creating harmony in society through righteous behavior, reflecting the core values of the Noble Eightfold Path.

Nguyen (2023), highlights that the concept of selflessness, rooted in *dharma*, reinforces the Buddhist dimension of morality by directing individuals to let go of selfish desires and develop compassion towards all beings. This teaching, supported by karma as the law of causality, encourages individuals to adopt an altruistic attitude to life, which is at the core of Buddhist ethics. Thus, the integration of *dharma* and *karma* in Buddhist morality not only builds individual responsibility but also provides an ethical foundation that supports social harmony and spiritual liberation.

The Principle of *Ahimsa* (Non-Violence) in *Sīla*

The principle of *ahimsa* or non-violence is central to Buddhist ethics, particularly in the practice of sīla as part of the Noble Eightfold Path. This concept encourages the avoidance of all forms of violence, whether through physical action, speech, or thought, towards all living beings. According to Borah (2020), ahimsa is a key foundation of Buddhism that emphasizes respect for the right to life of every being, as well as abstinence from behavior that can cause suffering. The Buddha not only called for respect for human life but also for animals, which is a reflection of the Buddhist view of the equality of life.

In addition, research by Riasat et al., (2023), shows how *ahimsa* shapes social practices such as vegetarianism in Buddhist communities. In the Theravada tradition, although there are certain exceptions regarding meat consumption, the principle of *ahimsa* remains a key ethical guideline that directs Buddhists to minimize harm to living beings. The Mahayana tradition is even stricter, rejecting any form of consumption of animal products as an expression of commitment to *ahimsa*.

According to Patil and Joshi (2022), the principle of *ahimsa* not only guides individual actions but also serves as the basis for creating social harmony and global peace. In this

view, *ahimsa* contributes to efforts to create a more just society by reducing conflict and promoting the values of compassion and mutual respect. Thus, *ahimsa* is not only a core principle in Buddhist ethics but also provides a universal moral framework that is relevant in dealing with social and environmental challenges in the modern world.

Meditation (Samādhi)

The Inspiration from Veda Meditation in the Development of *Samatha* and *Vipassana*

Meditation practices in Buddhism, such as *samatha* and *vipassana*, have strong roots in the ancient Veda meditation tradition, which exerted significant influence on Buddhist meditation techniques and goals. Veda meditation, which focuses on deep concentration and mind control, provides the foundation for the development of samatha, or tranquility meditation, which aims to achieve mental stability through mindful focus. According to Galewicz (2020), the Veda meditation tradition not only reflects ritual practices but also emphasizes mind control through concentration, which was further adapted in Buddhism as an essential element of mental discipline.

In the practice of *vipassana*, or insight meditation, the Veda influence is seen in the way Buddhism uses mindfulness of the body and mind to understand the nature of reality, including the concepts of impermanence (*anicca*), suffering (*dukkha*), and no-self (*anatta*). As described by Verma (2023), *vipassana* allows practitioners to investigate the relationship between mind and body in a way that is rooted in ancient Indian introspective traditions, bringing profound insights that can change the way one views life.

Chattopadhyay (2022), adds that Veda meditation practices, such as breath observation and full concentration on internal objects, provide the basis for the spiritual transformation achieved through Buddhist meditation. This underscores how early meditation techniques found in Veda texts were integrated and refined by the Buddha to support the goal of spiritual liberation. As such, Veda meditation provided important inspiration for the development of Buddhist meditation techniques, creating a framework for exploring the relationship between body, mind, and reality, which is at the core of the Noble Eightfold Path.

Meditation Practice as a Means of Spiritual Transformation

Buddhist meditation, particularly *samādhi*, serves as a key tool in spiritual transformation, bringing individuals to enlightenment by purifying the mind and developing deep awareness. Rahmani & Busro (2023), explain that meditation practices involving full concentration and introspection help individuals let go of negative thoughts, calm down, and face life's challenges with a more positive perspective. This transformation not only occurs at the mental level but also impacts the emotional and spiritual balance of Buddhists who practice it regularly.

Shaw (2021), emphasizes that meditation as part of *bhāvanā* (mental development) has a transformative effect through an interdisciplinary approach, where every aspect of meditation-whether walking, sitting, or other mental exercises-is designed to strengthen the connection between body and mind. This process results in a deep awareness of reality, preparing the practitioner to reach the ultimate goal of spiritual liberation or *Nibbana*.

According to Verma (2023), *vipassana* meditation provides a path to transformation through deep self-observation, helping practitioners to let go of worldly attachments and understand the true nature of existence. This transformation not only provides spiritual benefits but also creates psychological and social balance, making meditation a universal tool for human well-being. Thus, meditation is not just a religious ritual but also a transformative tool that can help individuals achieve spiritual enlightenment, mental well-being, and social harmony.

Wisdom (Paññā)

The Synthesis of Indian Philosophy (Dharma & Moksha) with Buddhist Concepts (Anicca, Dukkha & Anatta)

The integration of Indian philosophies, such as *dharma* and *moksha*, with core Buddhist concepts, such as *anicca* (impermanence), *dukkha* (suffering), and *anatta* (no-self), creates a unique wisdom framework. According to Nguyen & Chinh (2020), *moksha* or liberation in the Indian tradition is rooted in the attainment of spiritual freedom through mental and physical discipline, which is then refined in Buddhism through a focus on three universal characteristics: impermanence, suffering, and no-self. This integration reflects the transformation of traditional Indian values into a more practical and introspective Buddhist view.

Chalise (2022), highlights that *moksha*, as described in Hindu and Buddhist literature, is a process of transcendence from worldly suffering to enlightenment. However, Buddhism provides a unique approach through meditation and deep observation of reality, which guides practitioners to let go of attachment to material existence and achieve *Nirvana*. This shows how traditional Indian values have been modified to support Buddhist spiritual goals.

Moreover, Denis (2022), in his study of *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga*, asserts that the synthesis between *dharma* philosophy and the concept of *anicca* in Buddhism creates a foundation for understanding the relationship between conventional reality and absolute reality. This reinforces the Buddhist view that true wisdom involves a deep understanding of dependent origination and voidness (*śūnyatā*). Thus, the synthesis of the values of *dharma* and *moksha* with *anicca*, *dukkha*, and *anatta* enriches the Buddhist wisdom framework, providing ethical and spiritual guidance that is relevant across traditions.

The Role of Indian Logic and Epistemology (*Dignāga* & *Dharmakīrti*) in Shaping *Paññā*.

The logic and epistemology developed by Dignāga and Dharmakīrti played an important role in shaping *paññā* or wisdom in the Buddhist tradition. Their contribution is seen in the development of the theory of validity of knowledge (*pramāṇa*), which includes direct perception (*pratyakṣa*) and inference (*anumāna*), which became the foundation for wisdom in Buddhism. According to Prasad (2023), their theory combines logical and analytical approaches to overcome suffering (dukkha) by understanding reality through valid cognitive processes. This approach links logic with spiritual goals, making wisdom a means of liberation.

Lysenko (2021) states that Dignāga's work on yogipratyakṣa (meditative perception) expands Buddhist epistemology by integrating meditative experience as a valid tool for

understanding the Four Noble Truths (*Cattāri Ariyasaccāni*). It shows how cognitive approaches can be geared towards generating spiritual insights through deep meditation.

Kukkamalla, 2020), adds that Dharmakīrti's analysis of logical inference creates a distinction between the fallacy of reasoning and the validity of arguments. This not only contributed to the development of Buddhist philosophy but also helped broaden the scope of paññā by providing an analytical framework for understanding reality more profoundly and reflectively. Thus, the logic and epistemology developed by Dignāga and Dharmakīrti not only strengthened the intellectual foundation of Buddhism but also enriched the spiritual dimension by making wisdom a transformative tool for liberation.

Philosophical Analysis: Integration and Significance of the Noble Eightfold Path
Integration of the universal values of Indian philosophy in Buddhism

The integration of the universal values of Indian philosophy in Buddhism reflects a significant process of cultural and philosophical transformation, particularly through the adaptation of the principles of dharma, moksha, and loving-kindness into the Buddhist framework. As outlined by Arimbawa (2022), Buddhism establishes universal values that transcend religious and caste boundaries, creating an inclusive, ethical approach to liberate humanity from suffering. This approach shows how the core values of Indian culture became an important foundation in the spread of Buddhist philosophy across different traditions and global societies.

Hong (2022), adds that Buddhist ethical values rooted in compassion and universal benevolence come from the Indian tradition, which is rich in moral concepts such as non-violence (*ahimsa*) and selfless service. This philosophy teaches how social harmony can be achieved through the development of loving-kindness towards all living beings.

Sharma-Gautam (2022), also highlighted that Buddhist philosophy, as an application of universal values, offers a practical middle way to promote peace, compassion, and sustainability. By emphasizing reality and loving-kindness as key pillars, Buddhism is not only a spiritual guide but also a relevant philosophy of life for social and ecological sustainability in the modern world. Thus, the integration of universal values from Indian philosophy in Buddhism not only enriches the Buddhist tradition but also contributes significantly to building universal harmony in a multicultural society.

The Noble Path as a framework for attaining Nibbana (liberation)

The Noble Eightfold Path is the core of Buddhist teachings aimed at bringing individuals to Nibbana, or liberation from the cycle of birth and suffering (samsara). As explained by Bhikkhu Bodhi (2020), the Noble Eightfold Path includes not only ethical discipline and meditation but also profound wisdom, making it the only path that can achieve the highest goal in Buddhism. In Pali texts, this path is described as the "unique discovery" of the Buddhas, which any other spiritual path cannot replace.

According to Dhakal (2021), the structure of the Noble Eightfold Path integrates three main pieces of training: ethics (*sīla*), concentration (*samādhi*), and wisdom (*paññā*), which synergistically create a holistic path to achieve liberation. This combination not only assists practitioners in overcoming existential suffering but also creates harmony in daily life through moral discipline and mind control.

Hunt (2020a), highlights that the Noble Eightfold Path is relevant in the context of modern life, both in human relations and in dealing with the environmental crisis. The path not only offers practical guidance to achieve serenity and wisdom but also teaches universal values such as compassion and wisdom, which are necessary to face global challenges. Thus, the Noble Eightfold Path serves not only as a spiritual guide to achieving *Nibbana but also as an ethical and practical framework relevant to* modern life to create a more peaceful and harmonious world.

The relevance of the Noble Path in a global and cross-cultural context.

The Noble Eightfold Path has significant relevance in a global and cross-cultural context as an ethical and spiritual framework that bridges the different cultures, religions, and values of modern society. Habito (2022), explains that the principles in the Noble Path can be applied as a strategic approach to global healing, addressing world challenges such as ecological degradation, intercultural conflict, and social inequality. By adapting Buddhist practices to address contemporary challenges, the Noble Path serves as a universal guide to sustainable and harmonious living in a global society.

Hunt (2020b), adds that the Noble Path is designed to be relevant not only in personal life but also in social relationships, work, and environmental care. The path offers a practical framework for achieving peace, wisdom, and compassion, making it a powerful moral guide in the face of various global crises, such as social polarization and environmental degradation. The study also highlights that the Noble Path can be adopted in various cultures as an interfaith approach to creating universal peace. Elements such as right speech, right action, and right livelihood have global appeal and are universal values that can be applied to create a more ethical and sustainable society.

In addition, research conducted by Dipak (2020), the Noble Path was also analyzed as a cross-cultural paradigm that supports modern leadership competencies. The research found that the principles of the Noble Path can integrate cross-cultural values to enhance social sustainability in the 21st century. The research carried out by Kafle (2022), outlines the application of the Noble Path in maintaining peaceful and harmonious international relations, showing its relevance for improving cross-cultural approaches.

Integration Excellence
Harmony of Indian and Buddhist cultural values within the framework of ethics, spirituality, and wisdom

The integration of Indian and Buddhist cultural values within the framework of ethics, spirituality, and wisdom offers a harmonious foundation for the development of a balanced life. According to Hong (2022)Buddhism, rooted in universal Indian values such as compassion and love, has become a symbol of humanist ethics relevant to the modern context. It creates a blend of values that not only promotes social harmony but also strengthens the spiritual connection with all living beings.

(2020) mentioned that ethical-spiritual values such as *moksha* and *dharma*, which are at the core of Indian philosophy, make a significant contribution to Buddhism by harmonizing the goals of worldly and spiritual life. This process involves developing

balanced wisdom through the practice of meditation, moral discipline, and deep reflection, which makes Buddhism cross-culturally relevant in various modern contexts.

Kramer (2020), added that the influence of Indian cultural values on Buddhism creates a spiritual framework that enables individuals to overcome suffering through wisdom and a deep understanding of human and environmental relationships. This integration helps humans achieve personal harmony while contributing to global peace and well-being.

Challenge
Authentic understanding and application of teachings

The authentic comprehension and implementation of Buddhist teachings are confronted with considerable obstacles, particularly within the context of globalization and cross-culturalism. As Regan (2021) Notes, these challenges entail the challenge of conveying the full richness of the Buddhist tradition while also facilitating practical engagement and promoting transformative learning. Buddhist pedagogical approaches necessitate a balance between reverence for traditional teachings and adaptation to contemporary requirements, which is frequently challenging to attain in non-monastic teaching or practice.

Additionally, Habito (2022), posits that this challenge also arises from the necessity to adapt Buddhist teachings to modern realities without compromising their spiritual essence. In an effort to align Buddhist teachings with the needs of contemporary society, there is often a reduction or distortion that results in the loss of the depth of philosophical and core value-based teachings that are intended to be preserved.

Furthermore, Palitsky et al., (2023), demonstrate that meditation, a pivotal Buddhist practice, frequently encounters tensions between religious and scientific perspectives in Western contexts. This can be not very clear for practitioners, obscuring their comprehension of the spiritual purpose of meditation as part of the larger Buddhist journey. Therefore, ensuring an authentic understanding and application of Buddhist teachings necessitates a meticulous and comprehensive approach that strikes a balance between fidelity to tradition and applicability in a modern context.

Future Research Directions
Further study of the impact of this integration on modern Buddhist societies.

Further study on the impact of the integration of Indian cultural philosophy and Buddhism on modern Buddhist societies can provide new insights into the relevance and adaptation of Buddhist teachings in a global context. Mukherjee (2023), posits that Buddhism has played a pivotal role in the formation of cultural and social identities across diverse communities, establishing it as a foundational ethical and spiritual tenet in the modern era. The integration of these values serves to reinforce social harmony and guides navigating contemporary challenges.

As Habito (2022) notes, Buddhist principles such as universal compassion and mindfulness have been effectively employed in a range of cross-cultural initiatives, providing a robust moral foundation for addressing contemporary social, environmental, and spiritual concerns.

Furthermore, Tian et al., (2023) Have identified that Buddhist concepts such as paticcasamuppada (dependent causality) can be employed in the resolution of social and environmental issues through the implementation of practical applications, including the reduction of waste and the conservation of the environment. This study demonstrates that Buddhist teachings have the potential to impact various levels of society positively. Consequently, future research should investigate how this integration can foster a harmonious, ethical, and sustainable modern Buddhist society.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights that the incorporation of Indian philosophical traditions and Buddhist teachings has considerably enhanced the scope and depth of the Noble Eightfold Path. The Indian philosophical concepts of *dharma* and *moksha* provide ethical and spiritual foundations that are aligned with the core Buddhist values of *sīla* (ethics), *samādhi* (concentration), and *paññā* (wisdom). This integration not only enhances the comprehension of the Noble Eightfold Path as an ethical and spiritual framework but also enriches its applicable dimensions in the modern context, such as social harmony, individual development, and ecological balance.

The significance of this integration lies in its capacity to offer a cross-cultural perspective that is pertinent to Buddhists in the context of globalization. The values adopted from the Indian tradition serve to reinforce the philosophical foundations of Buddhism, thereby rendering it more comprehensive and better equipped to address contemporary challenges. To illustrate, the concept of *ahimsa* (non-violence), when considered in conjunction with paññā, provides moral guidance for the resolution of social conflicts with wisdom and compassion.

The philosophical implications of this study include the necessity to gain a more profound understanding of Buddhism, not merely as a religion or philosophy but also as a dynamic guide to life. This integration provides the opportunity to explore new dimensions of Buddhism that can be adapted to modern social, cultural, and spiritual contexts while maintaining the integrity of its original teachings. This conclusion corroborates the continued relevance of the Noble Eightfold Path as a universal guide that endures and evolves.

Further research could investigate the impact of this integration on the practice of Buddhism in global society, fostering harmony among people and addressing the spiritual and ethical challenges of the 21st century. This integration highlights that ancient wisdom can continue to adapt to create a more peaceful and sustainable world.

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