

Een hindoeïstisch perspectief op technologie

Sharda Nandram · Puneet Bindlish
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam · English summary of the Dutch article

CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Holistic prosperity.
Human connection.

A Hindu perspective on technology, humanoid robots and spiritual care.



Read the research

01 Background and question

Machines and humanoid robots raise questions about the good life and the future of spiritual care. The article interprets technological change through a Hindu worldview in which material and spiritual dimensions of life are interconnected [1].

RESEARCH QUESTION

When does technology support holistic prosperity, and how should its role in spiritual care be assessed?

02 Conceptual framework

Dharma

Responsibility within one’s role and context

Karma

Actions and their interconnected consequences

Hindu sources are used to discuss integral unity, embodied knowing, non-attachment and the relationship between material and spiritual life goals [1-3].

03 Evidence and method

A conceptual article interprets selected Hindu texts and philosophical perspectives. It discusses industrial revolutions and care-related examples to explore the implications of technology. The supplied copy is an English translation of the Dutch publication [1].

04 Technology in the care relationship

An interpretive summary of the article’s care discussion, linked to its wider Hindu philosophical framework [1].

Purpose

What human need or life goal does the technology serve?

Experience

How does it affect agency, meaning and embodied experience?

Relationship

Does it sustain room for human attention and interaction?

Responsibility

Who remains accountable for the choices and consequences?

Conceptual summary based on [1].

05 Findings and contributions

A Context shapes the evaluation

Technology is understood in relation to its purpose, the people involved and its wider effects on the good life [1].

B Examine what technology supports

Convenience and efficiency are considered alongside meaning, sensory experience, responsibility and relationships [1].

C Sustain the human element in care

The article discusses robots as possible support for care, while stressing space for human interaction and spiritual guidance [1].

06 Discussion

The care example moves the debate towards the quality of relationships and the client’s search for meaning. Hindu perspectives offer a vocabulary for considering technology as part of everyday life and responsibility [1,2].

07 Limitations and next steps

These are philosophical reflections written in 2023, not findings from a trial of robots or AI in care. Technology-specific claims and practical effects need further investigation [1].

CONCLUSION

Technology in spiritual care should be assessed through human meaning, responsible action and the quality of relationships [1].

SELECTED REFERENCES

[1] Nandram, S., & Bindlish, P. (2023). Een hindoeïstisch perspectief op technologie. Tijdschrift Geestelijke Verzorging, 26(110), 38-46.

[2] Bhawuk, D. (2011). Spirituality and Indian Psychology: Lessons from the Bhagavad-Gita. Springer.

[3] Nandram, S. S. (2019). Integrative Spirituality in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Inaugural lecture, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

[4] Swarupananda, S. (2016). Srimad Bhagavad Gita. Advaita Ashrama.