

Spirituality and Technology: A Hindu Perspective

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CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Connected existence.
Responsible action.

Five guiding ideas for examining technology through Hindu philosophical perspectives.



Read the research

01 Background and question

Technology changes relationships, work and human experience. This chapter considers how Hindu worldviews can inform the interpretation and ethical use of technology, including AI, through interconnectedness, life goals and responsible action [1].

RESEARCH QUESTION

How do Hindu understandings of existence and action inform the development and use of technology?

02 Conceptual framework

Existence

Integral unity and interconnectedness

Action

Life goals, detachment and embodied knowing

The first two guiding ideas concern the existence of technology; the remaining three concern how people act with it [1,2].

03 Evidence and method

A conceptual synthesis draws on Hindu texts, philosophical schools, cultural practices and a historical reading of industrial revolutions. Representative examples illuminate the argument; the chapter does not report an experimental or survey study [1,3].

04 Five guiding ideas

The chapter’s conceptual structure, summarised for the poster. Ideas 1-2 address existence; ideas 3-5 address action [1].

Integral unity

Diverse forms of existence share an underlying unity.

Interconnectedness

Consequences extend through relationships among entities.

Holistic life goals

Material and spiritual purposes are considered together.

Non-attachment

Action need not be centred on personal reward or doership.

Embodied knowing

Understanding is connected with lived experience and practice.

Conceptual summary based on [1].

05 Findings and contributions

A Technology belongs within a worldview

Material artefacts and technological systems are interpreted through broader ideas about reality, consciousness and relationships [1].

B Responsibility remains contextual

Dharma and karma connect choices with duties and consequences. The same technology can support or undermine human well-being [1].

C Retain human meaning and care

Applications should be assessed through holistic life goals and relationships, including the place of human interaction in care [1].

06 Discussion

The framework broadens technology assessment beyond efficiency to purpose, agency and interconnectedness. The chapter acknowledges plurality within Hindu traditions; views about AI consciousness and its spiritual status remain interpretive [1,2].

07 Limitations and next steps

The analysis offers philosophical perspectives and illustrative applications. It does not empirically establish machine consciousness or measure the outcomes of the proposed ethical orientation [1].

CONCLUSION

A Hindu philosophical lens places technological choices within relationships, responsibilities and holistic life goals [1].

SELECTED REFERENCES

[1] Bindlish, P., & Nandram, S. (2024). Spirituality and Technology: A Hindu Perspective. In J. Marques (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Spirituality. Springer. doi:10.1007/978-3-031-32257-0_199-1.

[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: From How We Do Things to Why We Exist. Inaugural lecture, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.