



## A Comparative Study on Ancient Indian Buddhist Education System with Jainism Education System And Its Relevance in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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### Abstract:

*In ancient India, both formal and informal ways of education system existed. Indigenous education was imparted at home, in temples, pathshalas, tols, chatuspadis and Gurukuls. There were people in homes, villages and temples who guided young children in imbibing pious ways of life. The age of Upanishads witnessed spiritual unrest and revolt against the formalism and exclusiveness of the Brahmanical system leading to the rise of religious leaders like Buddha and Mahavira. When the Gurukula education system reached its pinnacle, it attracted several problems that were related to its consolidation. The early Indian society was changing fast in about 600 B.C. The history of Jainism in Southern India is primarily the history of religion in Karnataka. The profound impact of Buddhism's architectural marvels, such as stupas and monasteries, as well as its contributions to intellectual exchange, has resonated across cultures and epochs. Jainism has facilitated the cross-cultural exchange of ideas, promoting mutual understanding and shared values. As these teachings resonate with people from diverse backgrounds, they contribute to a global discourse on ethics, mindfulness, and spiritual fulfillment.*

**Keywords:** Ancient Education, Buddhist Education, Jainism, Mindfulness and Meditation, Reincarnation; 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Introduction:

In the past, tribal education was imparted in homes, temples, schools, toll booths and gurukuls. There were arrangements in homes, villages and temples to teach young children how to lead a religious life. In those days, temples were interested in spreading knowledge and temples were also a prominent place of education. Preparing students for the future was a special goal of 21st century education. To succeed in the world, students should be made creative, adaptable and have critical thinking skills, which is the ultimate goal of education. Also, the modern education system was student-centered. The history of Buddhist education was deeply connected with Gautama Buddha or Buddhism, which helped India gain international recognition.

Gautama Buddha rebelled against the Brahminical religion and education system that existed at that time with his thought. One of the main reasons for the rise of leaders like Gautama Buddha Mahavira was the formalism of the Brahminical system of the Upanishad era and A great deal of spiritual unrest and rebellion against monopolies. The Gurukul system of education had reached the pinnacle of the educational system in those days. This attracted a problem associated with consolidation. Around 600 BCE, early Indian society was undergoing rapid change. The history of religion in Karnataka is the history of Jainism in South India and there is no doubt that Jainism was a popular religion in Karnataka from the beginning of the second century to the end of the fourteenth century.

### **Buddhist Education System:**

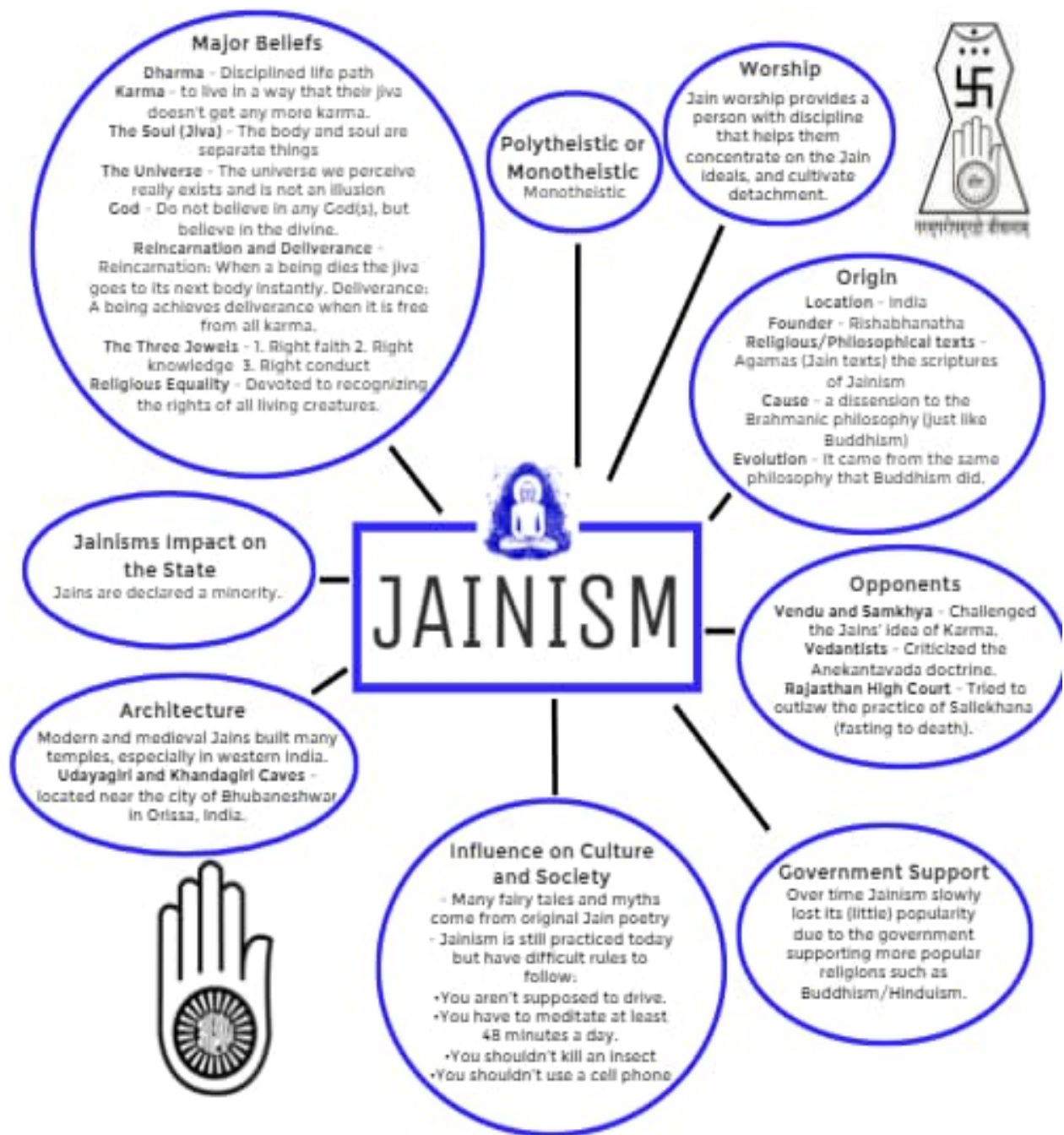
The primary monastic education was centered around all things Gautama Buddha. The primary monastic education included Gautama Buddha's views or doctrines, Gautama Buddha's discipline, and accounts of Gautama Buddha's previous births. Before the invention of writing, all education was conducted through the oral education system. Notable among these were the lecture method (stories, parables, reflections), research, dialogues, etc. There was no use of any books for teaching or learning. Students had to memorize Vinaya and Dhamma. During the course, there was unlimited debate and discussion with the hope of thinking, reasoning, and deciding for themselves on all matters of Vinaya and Dhamma.



### **Jainism Education System:**

Jainism does not emphasize the existence of consciousness in the existence of God, but rather believes in the pluralism of the soul. Jainism believes that there is a soul as well as a living being. Jains accept the existence

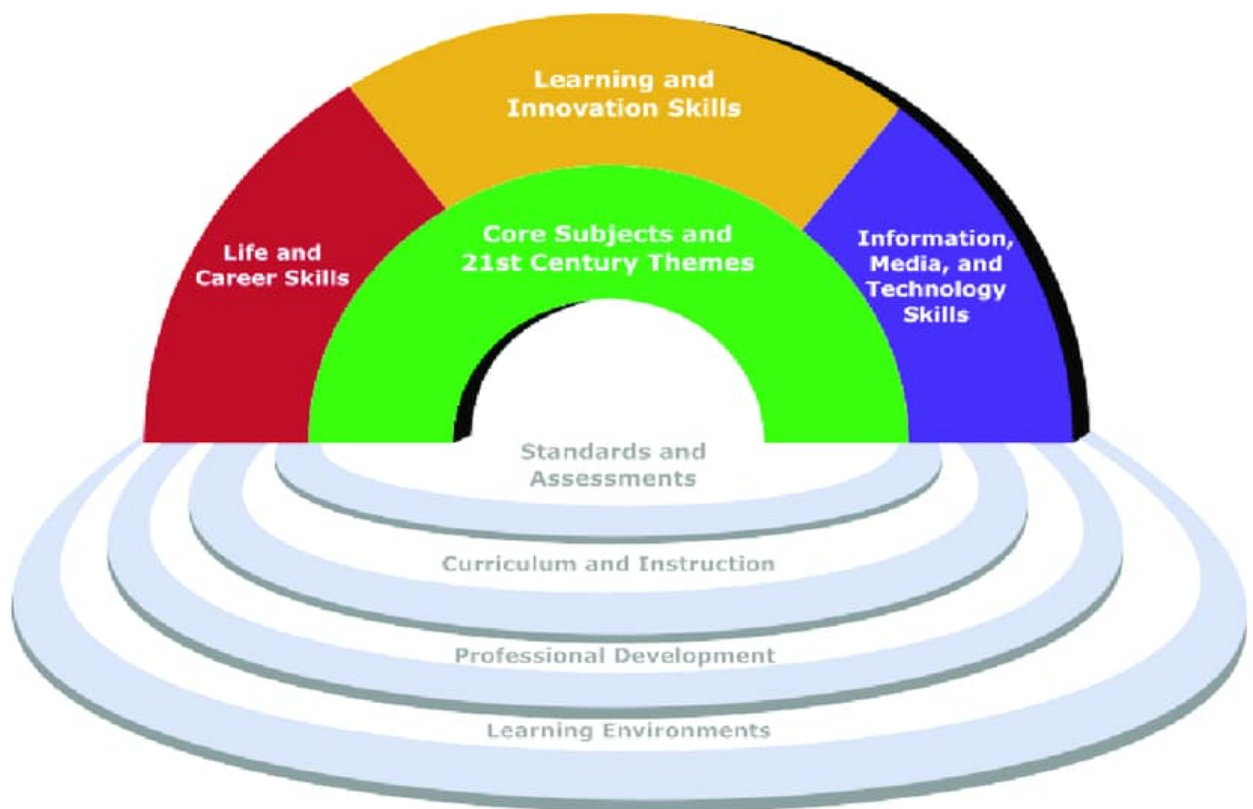
of a soul in animals and plants, with a distinction at the level of consciousness. Jains believed that each soul can achieve infinite consciousness, power and happiness by eliminating all karma or bondage. and happiness by removing all Karmas or bondages.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education System:

21st century education is about introducing students to new ideas of the world, adapting to them, and finding solutions to various problematic situations. In the context of the 21st century, students need to develop skills just as they need to practice skills, all of which becomes possible very easily through the 21st century education system. In the 21st century, just as people have focused on improving the education system, they have also focused on engaging research in education to provide the current society with an easy and affordable educated society.





### Objectives of the study:

- To find out the relevance of Ancient Indian Buddhist and Jainism Education in 21st Century.
- To Find Out the Similarities and Differences Of Ancient Indian Buddhist and Jainism Education System.

### Methodology of the study:

The present paper is an authentic study and theoretical research in nature. This research work is mainly founded on official documentary evidence and also various sources of information like books, e-books, journals, articles, websites, and reports of various organizations. The content analysis method was used by the researchers.

### The relevance of Ancient Indian Buddhist and Jainism Education in 21st Century:

**The relevance of Buddhist Education in 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** The central aim of the Buddhist Education system is to facilitate the all-round and holistic development of a child's personality, be it intellectual and moral development as well as physical and mental development.

Here are most prominent relevance of the Buddhist Education system in 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- According to Buddhist Education system is to achieve Nirvana and the entire Buddhist Education system goes according to this strategy.
- The type of education that was given in the Buddhist education system was mainly conducted by monks and was mainly given in Buddhist monasteries. An important part in India is the discussion of

the life journey of these monks. So many students from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet came to India to get education.

- There were many reasons behind the introduction and support of the Buddhist education system, which were not present in the Brahminical education system. Just as in the present era, it is said that education should be provided under the same umbrella, regardless of caste, religion, or caste, similarly, the same steps were taken in the Buddhist education system, which were not present in the Brahminical education system.
- Regional and Philosophical education were given importance along with Secular education.
- The teacher-student relationship takes place in a disciplined environment, which was also the case in the Buddhist education system. A reflection of respect could be observed in the teacher-student relationship. In this way, a good relationship between the student and the teacher was developed.
- All the skills that are important in a student's life, which are very necessary for them to move forward in their life, those general skills were developed in the Buddhist education system. And the skills were kept in the curriculum for the individual like Spinning, Weaving, Drawing, Medicine etc.
- Lecturers , questioning and discussions were used in the process of learning in Buddhist Education System.
- The Buddhist system of education places great importance on the clear , orderly solution of all the problems that arise in the way of the student's progress in life.
- An important goal of the Buddhist education system is to bring all people under one roof through knowledge, meditation and self-introspection and to educate them to reach the peak of human satisfaction.
- According to the Buddhist education system, absolute knowledge or “Anuttara sāmyaka sambadhi” is not something that can be achieved, but rather it is a search for the inner being of the individual by entering into the inner realm of the individual's nature.
- The popularity of this educational system of Gautama Buddha spread across the country and continent because the core of this educational system was said to be providing education to people of all castes. To achieve the overall development of the students, to reach the pinnacle of knowledge, and to immerse them in a state of equality of knowledge.
- The aim of the school of thought in the Buddhist educational system was to bring about the harmony essential for all forms of progress in society and to provide a well-organized and effective educational system that would influence society in modern times.

**The relevance of Jainism Education in 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** The teachings & principles of Jainism continue to hold significant relevance in the Modern world. It transcend time and cultural boundaries. These Ancient Indian religions Impact can be observed in various domain like ethics, mindfulness, social harmony environmental stewardship.world.Their timeless wisdom and Their capacity to address contemporary challenges sere underscored by their enduring relevance..

**Ethical Guidelines:** Truthfulness, non-violence, complex moral dilemmas, the right to negation, etc. are the ethical principles of Jainism. All of these provide a moral guide for individuals. These principles of Jainism

resonate with the global concern for human rights, social justice, and responsible consumption. The emphasis on compassion and empathy inspires efforts to create a world.

**Mindfulness and Meditation:** Their mental and emotional wellbeing benefits have gained widespread recognition by the practices of mindfulness and meditation, central to both traditions. In modern psychology, stress reduction techniques and holistic health practices the resonance of the principles of being present, cultivating inner awareness and transcending the fluctuations of the mind have found.

**Inner Transformation and Well-being:** The teachings of Jainism bring about an inner transformation in the lives of the students and show them a path to wellness. They encourage individuals to confront their various aspirations, addictions, and habits in life. And by managing these teachings of Jainism, they develop a strong sense of peace amidst the stresses and challenges of life.

**Interfaith Dialogue and Harmony:** Along with ethical behavior, it emphasizes compassion and the recognition of shared human experiences, contributing to interfaith dialogue and harmony. Jainism is a religion that, from promoting understanding between religious traditions, also provides a basis for promoting cooperation for common goals such as social justice and environmental sustainability.

**Environmental Ethics:** The principle of nonviolence extends beyond human relationships to include all living things and the environment. This perspective has also had a profound influence on modern environmental ethics.

**Social Responsibility:** Jainism encourages individuals to take responsibility for their actions and their impact on the world. These teachings encourage moral leadership and the promotion of social welfare, along with engaged citizenship. They inspire people to make positive contributions to society and work towards a more just and compassionate world.

**Global Impact:** This global spread of Jainism in the Indian context has facilitated the exchange of cross-cultural ideas, encouraging mutual understanding and shared values. We know that because these teachings resonate with people from diverse backgrounds, they contribute to a global discussion on mindfulness and spiritual and ethical fulfillment.

### **The Similarities and Differences of Ancient Indian Buddhist and Jainism Education System:**

#### **The Similarities of Buddhist and Jainism Education System:**

**Rejection of Vedas:** The authority of the Vedas and the priestly class were rejected by Buddhism and Jainism along with the notion of grand rituals.

**Founders:** Mahavira Jain was born into a royal family, a contemporary of Gautama Buddha. And both of them gave up their comfortable royal lives to pursue enlightenment.

**Animal Rights:** The principles of nonviolence against animals was stressed out by Buddhism and Jainism and the animals should receive the same amount of respect as much as one gives to a fellow human being.

**Karma:** The concept of karma was believed in by both Jainism and Buddhism. Karma refers to a person's karma, their belief in karma, their connection to spirituality, and their connection of positive and negative energies to the soul. Just as effort is required to completely purify the soul, past lives carry this energy forward.

**God and Scripture:**No religion believes in God as the creator of the universe. They accept all creation as part of the divinity of the universe, so their sacred texts are not considered the words of any god or sacred story.

**Reincarnation:** Reincarnation refers to the rebirth of the soul into a new body after the death of the previous body. This concept of reincarnation was believed in by both Buddhism and Jainism.

### **The Differences of Buddhist and Jainism Education System:**

- In Buddhism rebirth is one of the principal benefits. It is thought that by attaining Nirvana (Enlightenment) the endless cycle of birth and rebirth can be broken.

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Jainism believes that until liberation is achieved the cycle of rebirths and deaths will continue due to good and bad deeds.

- In Buddhism scriptures like Tripitaka, which is a vast text consisting of 3 sections. Those 3 sections are The Discipline, The Discourse and The Commentaries.

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In Jainism the religious texts are called Agamas.

- The principal of Buddhism teaching is that life is suffering. To escape from suffering (end cause of desire) one should dispel ignorance by practicing the Eightfold Path and realizing the Four Noble Truths.

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Jainism emphasizes respect for all living beings in the world. According to Jainism, liberation from the inextricable cycle of rebirth can be achieved by taking the five vows and following the principles of the Triratna.

- in Buddhism Sin is not a Concept

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In Jainism Sin is defined as harm to others.

- Buddhism is divided into two major sects upon the death of Gautama Buddha. They are the Mahayana and the Theravada.

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two major sects of Jainism are “Svetambara and Digambar”.

- There are some beings in heaven but they are bound by “samsara” as it is said according to some Buddhist texts. They have not yet attained liberation and they suffer less.

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Deities in Jainism are known as “Tirthanekas”. But they are not worshipped in the conventional sense as they are regarded as wise teachers whose teachings must be followed.

- In 6th century B.C Buddhism was founded in modern-day Nepal by Prince Siddhartha.

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Scholars of Jainism in the past generally believe that Jainism originated in North India in the 7th–5th centuries BCE. Mahavira, also known as Vardhman, was the 24th Tirthankara (spiritual teacher) of Jainism. The first was Rishabh Muni.

- Apart from India, Buddhism is also found in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet. In addition, followers of Buddhism are found in places such as Japan, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

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Mainly in India Jainism followers are found. lower Asian subcontinent throughout, and America and Small groups exist in most countries.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the profound impact of Buddhism and Jainism on ancient Indian society and their enduring relevance in the modern world underscore the timeless wisdom embedded within these ancient religious traditions. These two distinct yet interconnected paths emerged in the 6th century BCE, challenging prevailing norms and introducing revolutionary philosophical ideas. Their legacy has left an indelible mark on various aspects of human civilization, from ethics and culture to art and philosophy. Buddhism, with its Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, offers a roadmap to alleviate suffering and attain enlightenment. The emphasis on mindfulness, compassion, and ethical living continues to guide individuals on their personal journeys towards inner transformation and well-being. The profound impact of Buddhism's architectural marvels, such as stupas and monasteries, as well as its contributions to intellectual exchange, has resonated across cultures and epochs.

The impact of Buddhism and Jainism extends beyond their places of origin. Their teachings have spread across continents, inspiring individuals from various cultures to seek inner peace, ethical living, and spiritual growth.

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