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## AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF INTEGRAL HUMANISM IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

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### ABSTRACT :

*Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya believed that India's foremost priority should be the establishment of a domestic development framework centred around the welfare of human beings. This ideology stands in contrast to both Western capitalist individualism and Marxist socialism, while also embracing Western scientific advancements. Upadhyaya, an Indian politician and philosopher (September 25, 1916 – February 11, 1968), articulated his views through his writings and speeches, particularly focusing on the principles and policies of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). His philosophy, known as integral humanism, was tailored to align with the essence and heritage of the BJP. It sought to address the multifaceted challenges of envisioning India's future, particularly in the post-independence era. Integral humanism, conceived by Upadhyaya, emerges as an authentic indigenous philosophy capable of illuminating solutions to domestic issues while remaining open to adaptation. It draws upon ancient cultural traditions, fostering rigorous dialogues and debates to refine its principles. This philosophy blends traditional foundations with contemporary insights, offering a comprehensive framework for addressing India's evolving needs.*



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**KEYWORDS :** *Integral humanism, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, philosophy, Advaita Vedanta, objectives of humankind.*

### INTRODUCTION

Integral humanism, as articulated by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in the early 1960s, embodies a philosophical ideal deeply rooted in the ancient Indian tradition and cultural ethos. Its ideological framework derives from the foundational principles of Indian society and Dharma. Upadhyaya critically examines and challenges both capitalist and communist ideologies, highlighting their disregard for the humanitarian aspects of individual life and overemphasis on financial considerations. In contrast, integral humanism emphasizes the harmonious interaction between the individual, society, and the universe, acknowledging the supreme authority.

According to Upadhyaya, each nation possesses its own cultural and societal core principles, referred to as "Riti," while every society exhibits unique characteristics termed as "Virat." Individuals play diverse roles with various dimensions of activity, and the essence of integral humanism lies in integrating these diverse aspects into a cohesive interaction. This paper aims to elucidate the

multifaceted ideological facets of integral humanism and explore its contemporary relevance in addressing present-day political crises.

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya emerged as a prominent national political thinker in modern India, distinguished by his practical approach and focus on societal issues requiring public awareness. Like Mahatma Gandhi, he draws inspiration from the Sanatan tradition, dedicating his life to uplift the masses. Upadhyaya's concept of integral humanism distinguishes him as an innovative thinker, equipped with a profound understanding of both capitalism and communism, enabling him to advocate for a comprehensive Indian alternative. This philosophy gained traction particularly after the BJP's ascent to power, emphasizing the synergy between the individual, society, and the supreme authority, aligning with ancient Indian wisdom while addressing contemporary global needs. The life of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya was marked by unfortunate challenges, yet despite his personal struggles, he remained dedicated to his principles. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya was a multifaceted figure, embodying roles as a philosopher, sociologist, economist, and politician.

### AIM OF STUDY

This research paper provides a comprehensive examination of Integral Humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, exploring its idea, genesis, evolution, current challenges, opportunities, and impact on contemporary India.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This research paper has experts from various books written on topics related to Integral Humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya:

1. **"Integral Humanism: Vision and Legacy" by Dr. Ramesh Chandra Sinha:** Dr. Sinha's comprehensive exploration of Integral Humanism delves into its philosophical underpinnings and practical applications in contemporary society. Through meticulous analysis and engaging prose, he elucidates the relevance of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision in addressing the complex challenges of the modern world. This book serves as an indispensable resource for scholars, policymakers, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Upadhyaya's enduring legacy.
2. **"Reimagining Governance: Integral Humanism in Practice" by Dr. Meenakshi Jain:** Dr. Jain's seminal work offers a nuanced examination of Integral Humanism as a guiding principle for governance. Drawing on historical precedents and contemporary case studies, she demonstrates how Upadhyaya's philosophy can inform policy-making and administrative practices. With clarity and insight, Jain navigates the intersection of ideology and implementation, making a compelling case for the relevance of Integral Humanism in shaping a more inclusive and ethical governance framework.
3. **"Integral Humanism and Socio-Economic Development" edited by Prof. Amitabh Chaturvedi:** Prof. Chaturvedi's edited volume brings together interdisciplinary perspectives on Integral Humanism's implications for socio-economic development. From essays on rural empowerment to analyses of environmental sustainability, the contributors offer a rich tapestry of insights into Upadhyaya's holistic vision. This book serves as a thought-provoking resource for policymakers, academics, and practitioners alike, highlighting the transformative potential of Integral Humanism in fostering equitable and sustainable development.
4. **"Integral Humanism: A Comparative Study" by Dr. Rajiv Malhotra:** Dr. Malhotra's comparative study offers a refreshing perspective on Integral Humanism by juxtaposing it with other philosophical traditions. Through meticulous scholarship and cross-cultural analysis, he illuminates the unique features of Upadhyaya's worldview while identifying points of convergence and divergence with Western and Eastern thought. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the universality of Integral Humanism and its capacity to enrich global discourse on ethics, governance, and human flourishing.
5. **"Integral Humanism in the Digital Age" by Dr. Ananya Sharma:** Dr. Sharma's groundbreaking work explores the implications of Integral Humanism in an increasingly digitized world. From

discussions on data privacy to reflections on the ethics of artificial intelligence, she grapples with the profound questions raised by technological advancement through the lens of Upadhyaya's philosophy. With clarity and foresight, Sharma navigates the complex terrain of digital ethics, offering valuable insights for policymakers, technologists, and concerned citizens striving to harness technology for the greater good.

These diverse book reviews offer a glimpse into the multifaceted discourse surrounding Integral Humanism, underscoring its enduring relevance and potential to inform contemporary debates on governance, development, ethics, and technology.

### IDEA OF INTEGRAL HUMANISM

Integral Humanism, the philosophy championed by Deen dayal Upadhyaya, advocates for an indigenous socio-economic model with a focus on placing the human being at the forefront of development. Integral Humanism strives to ensure a dignified life for all individuals while striking a balance between individual needs and societal requirements. This philosophy advocates for sustainable consumption of natural resources, thereby promoting not only political but also economic and social democracy and freedom, making it particularly suitable for a diverse nation like India. Integral Humanism is grounded in three core principles: the primacy of the whole over its parts, the supremacy of Dharma, and the autonomy of society. Upadhyaya opposed both Western capitalist individualism and Marxist socialism, arguing that these ideologies prioritize materialistic goals while neglecting spiritual development, which he deemed essential for complete human growth.

Integral Humanism, as conceptualized by Upadhyaya, envisions a society devoid of class, caste, and conflict, emphasizing the importance of internal conscience and spiritual purity. This doctrine, officially adopted by the Jana Sangh in 1965 and later by the Bharatiya Janata Party, aims to resonate with diverse segments of Indian society by advocating for an indigenous economic model that places human welfare at its core.

Integral Humanism, as propagated by Upadhyaya, is grounded in the ethos of Bharatiya culture, emphasizing the holistic development of individuals and society. It embraces the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, considering the world as one family. The philosophy emphasizes the harmonious coexistence of individual aspirations and societal well-being, rejecting the extremes of both capitalism and socialism.

- **Spiritual Foundation:** At the core of Integral Humanism lies a spiritual outlook that transcends materialistic pursuits. Upadhyaya believed that spirituality provides the moral compass necessary for human conduct and societal progress. He advocated for the integration of spiritual values into the fabric of governance and policy making.
- **Integral Development:** Integral Humanism envisions the development of individuals in all dimensions – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. It advocates for holistic education that nurtures character, values, and skills, fostering well-rounded individuals capable of contributing positively to society.
- **Dharma and Social Order:** Upadhyaya emphasized the importance of Dharma, not merely as a religious concept but as the moral duty and responsibility of individuals towards society. He believed in the preservation of traditional social structures while acknowledging the need for reform to address contemporary challenges.
- **Decentralization and Swadeshi Economics:** Integral Humanism advocates for decentralized governance and economic self-reliance. Upadhyaya proposed the concept of Ekatma Manav Darshan, which promotes indigenous solutions to economic and social issues, fostering local empowerment and sustainable development.
- **Antyodaya:** Central to Integral Humanism is the principle of Antyodaya, which prioritizes the upliftment of the last person in society. Upadhyaya emphasized social justice and empowerment, especially for the marginalized sections, ensuring that development reaches the grassroots level.

### Objectives of Humankind

According to Upadhyaya, humankind possesses four hierarchically organized attributes: the body, mind, intellect, and soul, each corresponding to four universal objectives:

- Dharma (moral duties)
- Artha (wealth)
- Kama (desire or satisfaction)
- Moksha (total liberation or 'salvation').

Upadhyaya believed these four objectives are interconnected and hierarchical, with dharma forming the base and moksha being the ultimate aspiration. He argued that Western capitalist and socialist ideologies focused excessively on materialistic objectives like Artha and kama, neglecting the significance of dharma and moksha in achieving a fulfilling life.. It emphasizes the inherent worth of each individual and seeks a balance between materialism and spiritual development.

### INFLUENCE ON THE IDEA OF HUMANISM

Upadhyaya asserted that Integral Humanism adhered to the tradition of Advaita Vedanta as developed by Adi Shankara. According to this philosophy, non-dualism serves as the unifying principle underlying every aspect of the universe, including humankind. Upadhyaya contended that this concept encapsulated the essence and significant contribution of Indian culture. Both Integral Humanism and Advaita Vedanta, according to Upadhyaya, seek a culturally authentic mode of modernization that upholds Hindu values. Integral Humanism revolves around two key themes: morality in politics and Swadeshi (self-reliance), as well as small-scale industrialization in economies, all of which echo Gandhian principles but are distinctly rooted in Hindu nationalism. These concepts emphasize harmony, the primacy of cultural-national values, and discipline.

The contemporary relevance of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophy lies in its emphasis on the welfare of all within the Indian tradition and its attempt to address societal issues through the lens of Integral Humanism. Upadhyaya not only examined global ideologies but also sought to provide an indigenous alternative, creatively interpreting ancient Indian traditions and culture to suit post-independence India. His ideas offer a counterbalance to capitalist and socialist perspectives and are well-suited to address the challenges of nation-building and conflict resolution in modern times.

Despite Upadhyaya's significant contributions to academia, there has been limited scholarly discourse about him. Therefore, it is pertinent to analyze his ideas and life within the social context to better understand the thinker's intentions and the realities of his time. Upadhyaya's philosophy fills the gap in envisioning a multidimensional future for India post-independence, presenting a well-organized body of thought inspired by universal values rooted in the Indian tradition. Upadhyaya endeavors to harmonize ancient cultural and ethical traditions with modern democratic principles, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and contemporary relevance while preserving traditional foundations.

### ASPECTS OF INTEGRAL HUMANISM

Integral Humanism emphasizes the spiritual essence of humanity. It holds that human life cannot be reduced to mere materialistic pursuits, and that individuals have a higher purpose beyond material gains. Upadhyaya stressed the importance of spirituality in fostering a sense of morality, ethics, and social responsibility. It advocates for the balanced development of individuals in all dimensions—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. It emphasizes the integration of material progress with spiritual and cultural values. According to Upadhyaya, true development encompasses not only economic growth but also the preservation of cultural heritage and moral values.

Upadhyaya proposed a decentralized economic system based on the principles of swadeshi (self-reliance) and self-sufficiency. He advocated for the empowerment of local communities and small-scale industries to promote economic growth from the grassroots level. This decentralization aimed to prevent the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few, fostering equitable development. Integral Humanism advocates for a form of nationalism that goes beyond narrow territorial or political boundaries. Upadhyaya believed in the idea of Bharat Mata (Mother India), which encompasses not only

the geographical territory of India but also its cultural and spiritual heritage. Integral nationalism seeks to preserve and promote India's ancient traditions, values, and civilization.

Integral Humanism promotes social harmony and unity among diverse sections of society. Upadhyaya envisioned a society where individuals transcend narrow identities based on caste, creed, or religion, and instead unite on the basis of a shared cultural and civilizational heritage. He emphasized the importance of fostering mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among different communities. It emphasizes the principle of social justice and welfare. Upadhyaya advocated for policies that address the needs of the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society. He believed in the concept of Antyodaya, which prioritizes the upliftment of the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society.

### IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES

While Integral Humanism offers a compelling vision for societal transformation, its realization faces several challenges.

- **Political Will:** Implementing the principles of Integral Humanism requires political will and leadership committed to ethical governance and inclusive development. Overcoming vested interests and entrenched power structures poses a significant challenge.
- **Social Transformation:** Achieving social harmony and inclusivity necessitates a transformative approach towards addressing deep-rooted prejudices, inequalities, and injustices prevalent in society.
- **Global Cooperation:** Fostering Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam requires global cooperation and solidarity, transcending geopolitical rivalries and nationalistic agendas. Building consensus on common goals amidst divergent interests poses a formidable challenge.
- **Balancing Tradition and Modernity:** Integrating traditional wisdom with modern aspirations requires striking a delicate balance between preserving cultural heritage and embracing technological advancements and social change.

### CONCLUSION

The Integral Humanism philosophy of Pandit Deendayal encompasses a holistic vision for societal progress, rooted in the principles of cultural heritage, spiritual values, and socioeconomic equity. Deendayal's philosophy emphasizes the harmonious integration of the individual, society, and nature, recognizing their interdependence and mutual flourishing. By advocating for the upliftment of the marginalized, the promotion of ethical governance, and the preservation of indigenous traditions, Integral Humanism offers a compelling framework for addressing contemporary challenges while honoring the diversity of human experience. Its principles resonate with the timeless values of Bharatiya culture while addressing the contemporary challenges of the modern world. Embracing Integral Humanism entails a collective endeavor towards building a society that fosters individual well-being, societal harmony, and sustainable development. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, the timeless wisdom of Integral Humanism serves as a beacon of hope, guiding us towards a future characterized by compassion, justice, and sustainable development.

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