



# REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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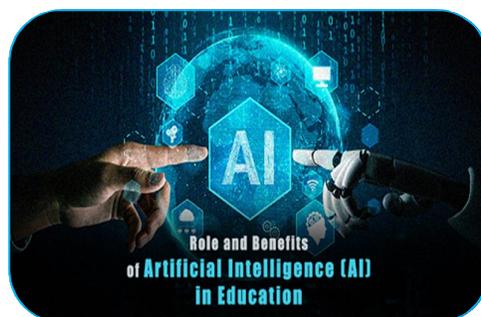
## AN INSIGHT ON AN EPIC OF INDIAN VALUES AND DHARMA: "THE RAMAYANA"

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### ABSTRACT

*The most revered Epic in Hinduism is 'The Ramayana' and Valmiki was the Seer who wrote it. There are two men in the Ramayan- King Ravana of Lanka and Lord Rama. The two are the apostles of evil and good respectively. Hindu mythology holds that Lord Rama is the most ideal human being, while Ravana is infamous for his evil demeanor throughout human history. Both the positive and negative sides of the coin are represented by the characters in the Ramayan. Moreover, the bad characters bring about the end of the world and the good characters demonstrate the way of justice of Dharma; and his wife Sita is a representation of the ideal Hindu woman. The Ramayana is not just a Hindu Epic; it is a global icon that teaches us how to live a holy life in spite of adversity.*



**KEYWORDS:** virtuous, pious, adverse, circumstances, considered.

### INTRODUCTION:

One of India's great seers Rishi Valmiki, is credited with creating the most beloved Ramayana. It is the most amazing work and the primary source of ideas, motivation and interest for individuals of all backgrounds worldwide. It explains India's amazing civilization and culture. We are aware that India has two major Epics: The Ramayana and The Mahabharata. These epics serves as a testament to Indian civilization in the past. We learn about the obligation of Dharma from the Ramayana and the duty of Karma from the Mahabharata. Everyone, whether they are the from the palace or the countryside, enjoy the tale of the ideal woman (Sita) and the duty of Dharma (Ram). The Epic of Ramayana guides us to the road of morality, or Dharma, and teaches us to always remember your responsibilities to your parents, spouse, sibling, son and society at large.

Many scholars have attempts to trace the origins of the Ramayana, and the great followers of the Hindu religion who live in India and abroad family believe that drama is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu and that Rama is the ideal Hero of the epic. As a model for all future generations, Rama is shown as an ideal man who performs all of his responsibilities with great devotion, sincerity, and respect, demonstrating all of his noble attributes. According to the Ramayana, Lord Rama is a magnificent monarch, a devoted son, a loving brother, and a caring husband. He carried out his tasks with honesty and earnestness, and he never spoke lies. His primary concern is to always do what his father says and to walk the path of morality. The king of Ayodhya ,Dashratha , ordered him to go into exile, but he complied with his father's request out of respect for him. Conversely, Lord Dasharatha desired Rama to ascend the throne of Ayodhya the following day; nevertheless, he did not violate Kaikei's promise and

was thus obligated to exile Rama. The majesty of Lord Rama is exemplified by his silence towards his stepmother and his voluntary exile for fourteen years that is why he is referred to as "maryada purushottam".

It is apparent that the Ramayana has a strong influence on humans. However, it has had an impact of literature as well. That is why the majority of paintings, sculptures, and other forms of art are based on the Ramayana's narrative and scenes. Lord Rama's entire life is an example of excellent living, and it teaches us how to restore Dharma on earth. Lord Rama is a paragon of love, peace, and inspiration in Indian mythology. He possessed all of the attributes of moral character and virtue.

The Ramayana depicts the triumph of good over evil. No other work of literature has had as a profound impact on the human mind and soul as Ramayana. It demonstrates religious austerity and a human being's moral values in society. Religion is essential to the formation of a cultural society. Lord Rama's utterances reflect noble and sublime values that distinguish him from other figures in Indian mythology.

The gods were thought to be enraged by Ravana's tyranny over demons and rakshasas. He was not a typical demon. He had excellent powers as a result of his asceticism and service to God. He had ten heads and twenty hands, but he utilized his power for offensive purposes. He used his authority to insult rishis and saints by disrupting their sacred rites. Ravana's entrance terrified the saints. When Lord Vishnu discovered his nefarious plans, he resolved to take action against him, Lord Vishnu was perplexed as to what to do and how to restrict Ravana's activities after he received a boon. Lord Vishnu decided to take on human form. Everyone knows that Lord Rama is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu may then destroy Ravana in his manner.

All characters, not just Rama, are destined to be the ideal. If Sita is a perfect wife, Laxman is an excellent brother. Hanuman's function represents the pinnacle of devotion and worship. Sita has many wonderful attributes. When Ravana attempted to captivate Sita, she remained on the right path and calmly waited for her husband. On the other hand, when her husband abandons her during her pregnancy, she faithfully does her tasks. In truth, she is a part of natural beauty that exists in balance and tranquility with nature. She is the embodiment of Dharma. Rama and Sita lived quietly in the wilderness, with no grudges or complaints.

The main characters of Bharata cannot be disregarded. His dedication and sacrifice cannot be underestimated. He is the ideal brother and a man of great virtue. He grew extremely unhappy, when his mother planned against Lord Rama's coronation and reserved her son's kingdom. He refused to take the crown and immediately withdrew to the wilderness, imploring Rama to govern.

The first prime minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru, commented on his views on the great epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, saying, "They deal with the early days of the Indo-Aryans their conquests and civil wars when they were expanding and consolidating themselves, but they were composed and complicated later. I do not know of any books anywhere that have exercised such a continuous and pervasive influence on mass mind as they two.

The Ramayana impacted many later poets in India. The great poets of the subsequent age copied Alamkara's portrayal of nature, subject matter, narrative building. Several renowned Indian authors have adopted the Ramayana concept for their productions. Kalidasa, the brilliant and eminent Sanskrit poet known as India's Shakespeare, created his play 'Raghuvansham' on the theme of the Ramayana. Bhavabhuti, a promising poet, wrote the play. This demonstrates that the Ramayana had a wide-ranging influence of literature.

The Ramayana's success is attributed to Rama's ideology. In contrast, in the Hindu society, Lord Rama is revered as the personification of the inner self or Atma, which is why his intellect and behavior are free of contaminants. He is the ideal of God. Rama's principles, as well as the ideas of Dharma and virtue. Sita represents wisdom, spirituality, intellect, and devotion. Sita, a faithful wife, was usually busy with her affairs without speaking up. Sita understands Lord Rama's deepest emotions as well as his strength.

Indeed, The Ramayana epitomizes Hindu culture. There is no doubt that constancy, patience, dedication, sincerity, and traditions were present in Indian culture for a long time. Ritual ceremonies and the pursuit of noble ideas became the people's primary activity. Rishi Valmiki depicted every detail

of each legendary character, including, Lord Rama , Sita, Laxman, and Hanuman. As a result, the Ramayana provides a comprehensive view of Indian culture and civilization.

The significance of Karma and Dharma is Lord Rama is also evident in Kalidas's classic drama, 'Raghuvansham'. The ideal royal Rama was able to regulate his senses. The image of Lord Rama as Raghu represents the unstoppable figure who stands between the disputes of Karma and Dharma. The elevated traits of kinship that 'Kalidas' heroes possessed entitled them for the title of 'royal sages'. The term 'royal stage' (Rajarshi) denotes that the king's spiritual might equals his worldly strength and superiority. He resembles a sage, guarding the area of holy sacrifice.

Sita's character represents ideal womanhood; however, her function is a feminist perspective is viewed differently in modern culture. People believe that Sita's character is an example of female servitude in Hindu society, and that molding Sita as a normal Hindu bride demonstrates the original male hegemony and female slavishness. It is also assumed that Sita's temperament arises from domestic abuse in India.

An instance from the Ramayana that depicts the ideal Sita is described in Ayodhya Kanda. The scenario begins when Rama approaches Sita and tells her, "At my father's request, I am now going to the forest 14 years" (ll.26.19) she says, "I am going to without hesitation. Because he is unsure that a delicate lady like Sita will be able to handle the hardships of forest life, Rama is surprised by her response and tries to persuade her by explaining the horrors of the jungle. Rama makes another attempt to persuade her of the forest's awfully precarious existence. Sita, the figure of the Ramayana, embodies many qualities of an Indian Hindu woman who is always willing to carry out her Dharma duty. As a kshatriya woman, Sita displays her bravery in Ayodhya by speaking to Rama with audacity. "What frightened you? What fears do you have that would make you reject me when you have no one else on earth to rally around? Despite the fact that I am your wife, you ignore me, what happened to your moral courage? Sita's perfect example of Dharma, never forgets her responsibilities to her husband and the Kingdom. Sita's ability to analyze situations intellectually never deviates from her commitment to Dharma and purity.

R.K.Narayan , the great Indian English writer, expresses his ideas on Dharma in his novel Ramayana. He depicts Rama's ideal Dharma life in vivid detail. He informed us that Rama, being a dutiful son, obeys his father's orders and prepares to depart with Rishi Vishwamitra. In the first chapter of the book, he describes all of Rama's hardships and challenges in accomplishing his duties. His father Dasharatha adored Rama and refused to send him into exile, but Kaikeyi's pledge compelled him to do so. Dasharatha begged Rama not to leave. But Kaikeyi asked Rama, "it is your responsibility to help your father fulfill his commitment; else, he will doom himself in this and other realms. In Hinduism, 'pran jaye par vachan na jaye' . Narayan recalls several of the difficult situations that Rama put upon them during their exile. Rama never became irritated and never shown any signs of rage on his face. He carried out his Dharma responsibilities to the best of his ability.

It is the story of love and exile Rama. Lord Vishnu's incarnation was brought to earth to rescue the world from Ravana's tyranny because God Brahma promised Ravana that he would not be beaten by any God. So, Vishnu took the form of a man, Rama on earth. In this way Valmiki's Ramayana is an essential source of inspiration for every age of century. Rama is the actual embodiment of established rules for promoting prosperity and happiness in society. In fact, if we want to make our lives better, we should follow Rama's example of integrity and honesty.

As a result, the Ramayana is an ancient story that is still very relevant in Indian religion. It depicts social and theological perspectives on life in Indian culture; the entire Epic is built on the path of Dharma, which is a key idea in Indian faiths. It is rich with heroes and virtues. Without a doubt, Rama, the personification of Dharma, Pursues the road of righteousness for the benefit of the people. Rama was Brave and virtuous, and Sita was lovely and gentle. Sita's life is devoted to the obligation of Dharma and dignity. On the other hand, Hanuman fulfills his obligations to his brother and sister-in-law, Sita. He stands behind Rama as a formidable warrior, carrying out his responsibilities with tremendous courage and respect. He just considers his brother's safety. Each character leaves a mark on the reader's mind. indeed, The Ramayana teaches qualities to people of all ages.

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