

SKBU JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
PEER REVIEWED

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S NEO- *VEDĀNTA* AND THE IDEA OF
UNIVERSAL RELIGION: RELEVANCE IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD

Lal Khan

Abstract

Swami Vivekananda's Neo- *Vedānta* constitutes a novel reworking of Advaita *Vedānta*, transforming it into a dynamic philosophy capable of addressing the problems posed by modernity and worldwide religious pluralism. His notion of Universal Religion posits that all belief systems are legitimate avenues to the same ultimate truth, providing a structure that honours diversity without succumbing to relativism. This dissertation rigorously examines Vivekananda's reinterpretation of Vedantic metaphysics, his prioritization of spiritual experience above doctrinal rigidity, and his promotion of interreligious cooperation. It contends that Neo- *Vedānta* offers a conceptual foundation for productive interfaith dialogue, universal ethics, and harmonious coexistence. In a world divided by sectarianism and cultural strife, Vivekananda's inclusive vision presents a pertinent and pragmatic method for promoting unity in variety, thus enhancing the development of a more humane and spiritually enlightened pluralistic society.

Keywords: Swami Vivekananda, Neo- *Vedānta*, Universal Religion, Advaita *Vedānta*, religious harmony, interfaith dialogue, global ethics