

SKBU JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
PEER REVIEWED

**ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN PHILOSOPHY:
A DIALOGUE BETWEEN GANDHI AND AUROBINDO**

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Abstract

The ongoing environmental crisis, marked by climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and resource depletion, has underscored the need for ethical and philosophical interventions beyond technological or economic solutions. Contemporary Indian philosophy offers a profound framework for addressing environmental concerns, drawing on moral, social, and spiritual insights. This paper explores the environmental thought of Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo, presenting their ideas as a complementary dialogue in the field of environmental ethics. Gandhi's philosophy, centered on Ahimsa (non-violence), Sarvodaya (welfare of all), trusteeship, and simple living, provides a practical model for ecological responsibility. Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga and his conception of conscious evolution offer a spiritual and metaphysical grounding for environmental harmony, emphasizing humanity's role in the divine unfolding of nature. By critically examining their convergences and divergences, this study develops an Indian environmental ethic that combines ethical practice with spiritual vision. The paper also highlights the relevance of their ideas to contemporary ecological movements in India and their resonance with global philosophical currents such as deep ecology, ecofeminism, and Aldo Leopold's land ethic. The synthesis of Gandhian pragmatism and Aurobindonian spiritual ecology suggests a path toward sustainable, conscious living and a meaningful response to the planetary crisis of the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Environmental Ethics, Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo, Indian Philosophy, Sustainability, Conscious Evolution, Deep Ecology