

Integration of Indian Knowledge System into Higher Education through NEP 2020

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Abstract: *The National Education Policy 2020 envisions a massive revolution in India's education sector, underpinned by Indian Knowledge System. India possesses an immense wealth of knowledge, with numerous manuscripts yet to be explored. Traditionally Indian Knowledge, described as the 14 Vidya (4 Veda, 4 Upveda, 6 Vedanga) and 64 Kala which encompasses philosophy, practical education, arts, skills, craftsmanship, agriculture, health and science. These traditions will be studied, added and integrated into modern life, heralding transformative changes in every sphere. The NEP 2020 recognizes this rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian Knowledge and thought as a guiding principle. The Indian knowledge systems comprise of Jnan, Vignan and Jeevan Darshan that have evolved out of experience, observation, experimentation, and rigorous analysis. This tradition of validating and putting into practice has impacted in education. So "Knowledge of India" in this sense includes knowledge from ancient India and its success and a sense of India's future aspirations specific to education, health, environment and indeed various aspects of life.*

Indian knowledge system aims to support and facilitate further research to solve contemporary issues. IKS is based on Vedic literature, Vedas and the Upanishads. Indian knowledge Systems aims to integrate the ancient traditional knowledge of India with the contemporary knowledge system. The implementation of Indian Knowledge System will not only transform education but also regenerate the Indian psyche and way of life. By infusing fundamental Indian thought, knowledge, tradition, art, skills, craftsmanship, and management into various sectors, India will undergo a philosophical revolution. This paper highlights strengths, weakness opportunities and challenges of integrating Indian knowledge System into higher education.

Key Words: *Indian Knowledge System, Higher Education and NEP 2020)*

1. INTRODUCTION:

India is a country with a primeval evolution history and practices that are known to mankind. It is expected to build up some knowledge throughout its reality. This ancient knowledge was conserved on palm trees and transferred from generation to generation verbally. But over time there were unexpected changes in the knowledge renovation process and this native knowledge was lost. The newly introduced education system has attempted to provide Indian Knowledge System to society as demanded. The National Education Policy 2020 envisions a massive revolution in India's education sector, underpinned by Indian Knowledge System. India possesses an immense wealth of knowledge, with numerous manuscripts yet to be explored. Traditionally Indian Knowledge, described as the 14 Vidya (4 Veda, 4 Upveda, 6 Vedanga) and 64 Kala which encompasses philosophy, practical education, arts, skills, craftsmanship, agriculture, health and science. These traditions will be studied, added and integrated into modern life, heralding transformative changes in every sphere.

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Concept of Indian Knowledge System:-

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) comprises three words namely: *Indian, Knowledge, and System*. **Indian:** It refers to Akhanda Bharata i.e. undivided Indian subcontinent. **Knowledge:** Knowledge refers to the unstated knowledge and it lies in the wisdom of knowledge seekers. It is gained by insights into personal experiences, through observations, facing real-life problems, and solving them. **System:** System means a well-organized methodology and classification scheme used to access a body of knowledge. The classification is based on the need, interest, and capacity of the knowledge seeker so that he may access the inherent knowledge. The IKS is the systematic transfer of ancient and modern knowledge from one generation to another. It covers ancient knowledge from various domains to address current and future challenges. In the view of Kautilya, Education should aim at three outcomes such as, Vidya-Creation of new Knowledge, Vivek -Wisdom to use the right knowledge in right time and place for right purpose, and Vichashaknata – the skill set to get the proper results of knowledge in real life. These outcomes are possible only when the education system is properly balanced with the integration of knowledge and skill in an appropriate manner. In today's education, organization of knowledge content "what to know" has taken over the best of knowledge seeking "inquiry" i.e; "how to know". The entire Indian Knowledge System has always focused on "how" rather "what".

2. INDIA'S PROSPERITY AND ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM:

The BhāratīyaJñānaParamparāVibhāga or Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) is a division of the Government of India's Ministry of Education which supports to promote indigenous Indian systems of knowledge, located in the AICTE Headquarters was established in Oct. 2020.

One of the key pillars of India's ancient knowledge systems is the Vedic literature. The Vedic texts, comprising the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda, hold immense importance in Indian culture and spirituality. These texts contain a vast storehouse of knowledge, encircling various disciplines such as philosophy, science, mathematics, linguistics, astronomy, and more.

The Vedic literature serves as a guiding light, providing insights into the reflective understanding and wisdom of ancient Indian sages. It offers thoughtful philosophical teachings, decent principles, and practical knowledge that have shaped the Indian way of life for millennia. The hymns, rituals, and philosophical concepts found in the Vedas have influenced diverse fields, including literature, arts, music, architecture, and governance. The National Education Policy (NEP), as enacted in 2020, emphasizes the inclusion of IKS into curriculums at all levels of education, in line with this, the National Credit Framework (NCF) has made it possible for students to earn credit in courses relating to Ancient Indian Sciences and arts. IKS is also being included under the *Vision 2047 for BharatiyaRasayanasastra* initiative.

Under University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines, it is advised that 5 per cent of a student's total credits should be in IKS courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The UGC aims to train 1.5 million teachers in IKS by 2025, and has launched an online IKS MOOC course.

3. NEP 2020 AND INTEGRATION OF IKS:

The NEP 2020 has emphasized that IKS will be part of the curriculum and will be included scientifically. IKS along with tribal knowledge will be included in mathematics, engineering, philosophy, yoga, medicine, sports, games literature, languages, and various other domains. NEP has paying attention on precise courses in tribal ethno medicinal practices, forest management, and natural farming. Under NEP, IKS will be taught as an elective course for secondary school students. These inputs will be delivered through modern technologies, fun games, and cultural exchange programs among different states. NEP focuses on multilingualism and the IKS storehouse has many languages. Under NEP students will be delivered curriculum in their native languages and Sanskrit the most ancient language will be taught to all. By learning different languages, they will know the rich and miscellaneous civilization of the country. The multi-language formula will cover up the aspects of Constitutional provisions and it will create unity and veracity across the nation ("**National Education Policy 2020**"). It would be easy to include the history of Indian mathematics in normal math classes. The same could be done for architecture, philosophy, and Ayurveda. This is the goal of the NEP, but it will have to be done slowly.

4. INTEGRATION OF IKS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION:

In designing teaching methodologies for Indian Knowledge Systems, it is crucial to draw insight from India's chronological methods of knowledge distribution. An ideal model is the 'Gurukula' system, which emphasized a reflective bond between the teacher (Guru) and the student (Shishya), laying the foundation for effective learning and personal growth. Implementing such methodologies has the probable to promote critical thinking, creativity, and a holistic understanding in students, better preparing them to confront modern challenges. To successfully integrate these teaching methodologies, it is crucial to:

- Develop well-structured courses that highlight key aspects of traditional Indian Knowledge Systems.
- Provide training for educators in the principles and techniques of these systems to ensure effective teaching.
- Promote interdisciplinary learning by establishing connections between traditional Indian knowledge and modern subjects.

The inclusion of Indian Knowledge Systems in higher education is paramount for the holistic development of the nation. This approach not only revitalizes the education system but also contributes to the preservation and endorsement of Indian languages, arts, and culture. The National Education Policy of 2020 underscores the significance of these systems and advocates for their integration into higher education institutions. By doing so, India can nurture a new generation of students possessing a deep understanding of their cultural roots. These students can then apply this knowledge to effectively address modern challenges, thereby contributing to the progress and development of the nation.

5. OPPORTUNITIES:

Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the mainstream education system can have numerous benefits, including fostering a better understanding of India's rich cultural heritage and providing innovative solutions to contemporary challenges faced by the country. The main objective of integrating IKS into the education system is to ensure that India's ancient knowledge systems, such as Ayurveda, Yoga, and traditional arts, are preserved and promoted for future generations. By revitalizing the Indian education system through the inclusion of IKS, students can develop a deeper appreciation for their nation's unique history and cultural identity.

6. CHALLENGES:

One of the primary challenges is the lack of adequate resources and infrastructure to support the integration of IKS into the curriculum. Additionally, resistance from educators and policymakers who may be doubtful about the significance and value of traditional knowledge in the modern world can pose a significant barrier to the successful implementation of IKS in the education system. Furthermore, there may be concerns about the potential loss of the unique cultural context and practices associated with traditional knowledge systems if they are integrated into the mainstream curriculum. There are certain challenges when it comes to integrating IKS with NEP. There is a lack of awareness among the community and stakeholders about the importance of IKS. IKS is generally present in non-literary form and it has been passed verbally from one generation to another. It makes difficult to develop and realize IKS-based courses and programs in educational institutions. There is no clear-cut curriculum about IKS. Many stakeholders may see it as irrelevant or outdated. As IKS is available in different languages it may create barriers to those who are not well-versed with these languages. Moreover, the colonial system of education has created a bias against the IKS in the Indian Education system. The Indian education system is largely focused on the Western knowledge system and it can create difficulty in accepting this system. There is also a deficiency of well-qualified teachers to teach the IKS because it is not widely adopted yet.

7. MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN FOR INTEGRATION OF IKS:

Several measures can be adopted to promote Indian Knowledge System (IKS) through education:

- Offering courses on Indian history, philosophy, arts, and literature.
- Encouraging the study of regional languages.
- Organizing cultural events and activities that celebrate Indian traditions.

Strategies to promote research and development using Indian knowledge systems include:

- Encouraging interdisciplinary research that blends traditional knowledge with modern scientific approaches.
- Establishing research centers dedicated to studying ancient Indian knowledge systems.
- Providing funding and support for projects exploring the practical applications of Indian Knowledge System across various fields.

8. CONCLUSION:

India's journey to regenerate itself through Indian Knowledge System is on the frame to bring about significant changes in the country by implementation its rich cultural heritage. The renovation of the education segment, guided by IKS, will play a crucial role in this revitalization, in a new era of mental freedom and intellectual empowerment. As India progresses, its ancient wisdom will find practical application, benefiting not only its citizens but also the worldwide community. The inclusion of IKS in India may help the stakeholders to know their cultural heritage and they may develop a deep understanding of the environment. As IKS is based on implied knowledge it can help students to face and undertake the challenges they are going to face in their real life such as challenges of environment change and food security. But this inclusion of IKS has certain challenges and these challenges need to be addressed before inclusion. The Indian government has taken a step under NEP to integrate IKS into the curriculum. There is an emergent need for proper training of the teachers so that they have proper knowledge of IKS and can deliver it in a meaningful way. The data available about IKS needs to be rationalized with the help of information technology and making it available as per the needs and capacity of the stakeholders. This cannot be done overnight as the Indigenous Knowledge Systems have evolved in India over thousands of years. It will be replaced gradually over time.

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