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Indian Knowledge System (IKS): Importance in Indian Educational System in the Context of Modern Era

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Abstract: *The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) signifies a rich, diverse, and multifaceted body of knowledge that has evolved over thousands of years, includes a wide spread array of disciplines like philosophy, mathematics, science, arts, and ethics. IKS, which prioritized holistic, ethical, and spiritual development in addition to intellectual advancement, served as the historical cornerstone of Indian education. IKS, which has its roots in the intellectual and cultural traditions of ancient India, has had a significant impact on how knowledge was transmitted and adaptation took place within society. However, Western approaches have had a major influence on the Indian educational system in recent decades. Western educational approaches, which emphasize an organized, practical approach to knowledge, have largely influenced Indian education in the modern era. The potential of IKS to enhance modern education by promoting sustainability, cultural identity, and critical thinking has come back into prominence as interest in holistic education has grown. However, in this modern era, which is marked by fast technological development and globalization, it is more crucial than ever to integrate and preserve IKS inside modern educational systems. This research paper examines the significance of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the modern Indian education system, focusing on its importance and contribution to addressing the gaps in modern education. Moreover, it explores how integrating IKS into the current educational system might create learning environments that are sustainable, ethical, and holistic, fostering intellectual and personal growth.*

Keywords:

Indian knowledge system (IKS), Indian education system, Modern Education, Holistic Development

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Introduction

India has a centuries-old richness of knowledge that has influenced science, medicine, the arts, and commerce in along with contributing to the nation's cultural and spiritual core. The ancient knowledge, beliefs, and customs that have been passed down through the generations make up the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), which is crucial in forming the country's educational system. For centuries, India's legacy has been based on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), which encompasses a variety of philosophical, cultural, scientific, and educational traditions. IKS has historically played a significant role in the Indian educational system, with establishments like Gurukulas, Takshashila and Nalandaacting as learning centres. These centresoffered holistic, ethical, and spiritual education in

addition to academic instruction, with a focus on helping students become well-rounded individuals. However, Western approaches have had a major influence on the Indian educational system in recent decades. Interest in revisiting and incorporating IKS into the modern Indian educational system has grown in recent years.

One of the most important reasons for accenting IKS in modern education is its holistic approach to learning. IKS promotes a more thorough view of the world by highlighting the connections between many domains of knowledge, in contrast to the compartmentalized character of modern education. By encouraging balanced personal growth, Indian philosophies such as Vedanta, Yoga, and Ayurveda can enhance modern education by providing insightful information about mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. IKS also develops problem-solving and critical thinking abilities. Long before they were widely acknowledged in the West, ancient Indian intellectuals produced revolutionary discoveries in fields including astronomy, mathematics (such as the concept of zero), and medicine. Students can develop an appreciation for indigenous methods of inquiry and creative thinking by integrating IKS into modern education. Since that many traditional Indian traditions place a strong emphasis on ecological balance and respect for the natural world, this can also be extremely important in promoting sustainability. However, in this modern era, which is marked by fast technological development and globalization, it is more crucial than ever to integrate and preserve IKS inside modern educational systems.

Research Methodology

The research rotates around effective utilization of traditional components of IKS in the present circumstances. It involves deep study of various features of ancient education system prevailed in India. It acted as analytical and explorative in nature and therefore led to conduct qualitative research methodology. The study adopted exploratory approach to focus on the research problem. It observed all the traditional practices, traits and approaches and make deep observation of those which can be revitalized. Hence, it involved use of ethnographic research in order to conduct the in-depth observational research method. It enabled the study to comprehend the cultures, traditions, and legacies of ancient India. On the other side, it aided to understand the various constraints in revitalizing these features in the present context.

Objectives of the Study

- To explore the various important components of IKS.
- To analyze the significance of the Indian Knowledge System in modern education.
- To analyze the strategies for implementing IKS into the modern Indian education system.
- To evaluate the main challenges in integrating IKS into modern education systems.
- To outline the Major Initiatives taken by Government for the seamless incorporation of IKS in modern curricula.

Collection of Data

The research mainly relied on various literatures, extracts, records available to substantiate the traditional knowledge, NEP recommendations, endeavours taken so far to include IKS in the Indian education system. It therefore mainly relied on secondary sources of data collection. The source also included various books, magazines, articles, daily newspaper, literature, web references extracted on the concerned subject.

Important Components of Indian Knowledge System (IKS)

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) signifies a rich, diverse, and multifaceted body of knowledge that has evolved over thousands of years. It includes a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy, mathematics, the arts, science, medicine (Ayurveda, Unani), and management (as found in texts like the Arthashastra). IKS has contributed to the intellectual and spiritual advancement of Indian society by being maintained and transmitted through writings, scriptures, and oral traditions.

Key Components of Indian Knowledge Systems

- **Education and Pedagogy:** The Gurukula system and other traditional Indian educational institutions placed a strong emphasis on intellectual freedom and critical thinking while transferring knowledge through dialogue, discussion, and experiential learning.

- **Philosophy and Spirituality:** Deep insights into ethics, morality, and metaphysics can be gained from ancient Indian philosophies such as Vedanta, Sankhya, Yoga, and Nyaya. Indian ethical and philosophical theory is based on ideas like Dharma (righteousness), Artha (wealth and well-being), Kama (pleasure), and Moksha (liberation).
- **Science and Mathematics:** The concept of zero, Aryabhata's astronomical work, Ayurveda, and surgical methods represent just among the examples of India's substantial contributions to mathematics, astronomy, and medicine.
- **Ayurveda and Medicine:** A holistic system of medicine that focuses on balancing body, mind, and spirit through herbal remedies, diet, and lifestyle practices.
- **Architecture and Urban Planning:** Vastu Shastra, temple architecture, and ancient urban planning, including cities like Mohenjo-Daro with advanced systems of drainage and layout.
- **Ethics, Governance, and Law:** Concepts like Dharma (righteousness) and texts like the Arthashastra and Manusmriti, which guide governance, laws, and social conduct.
- **Ecology and Sustainability:** Traditional knowledge of sustainable agriculture, water management, and reverence for nature, including sacred groves.
- **Textual Tradition and Manuscript Preservation:** Preservation of vast knowledge through texts and manuscripts, passed down over generations.
- **Arts and Literature:** The emphasis of classical Indian music, literature (in Tamil and Sanskrit), and the arts is on expression, creativity, and cultural values.

IKS is a holistic framework, integrating intellectual, emotional, and spiritual dimensions, making it unique among global knowledge systems.

Significance of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Modern Education

The major significance of IKS being Holistic Education Approach; Ethical Foundations and Value-Based Learning; Sustainability and Environmental Awareness; Self-Reliance and Innovation. One of the primary flaws of modern education systems, particularly in the West, is an overemphasis on academic knowledge and technical abilities while frequently overlooking emotional intelligence, ethical decision-making, and mental well-being. IKS takes a more comprehensive and holistic approach to education, nurturing the mind, body, and soul. Yoga and meditation improve attention, self-awareness, and emotional resilience, all of which are necessary for a healthy life in today's environment. The Indian educational tradition emphasizes virtues such as honesty, self-discipline, and reverence for nature. Integrating these ideals into modern curricula can help students develop both intellectual talents and ethical consciousness. Concepts like as Dharma (righteous duty) and Karma (action and its consequences) are critical in developing responsible citizens.

Traditional Indian wisdom emphasizes the value of coexistence between humans and environment. This concept is becoming increasingly important as the globe deals with climate change and environmental deterioration. IKS lessons on sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and ethical consumption can help individuals and institutions make decisions that support long-term ecological balance. Indian knowledge systems, particularly in Ayurveda, arts, and architecture, encourage self-reliance. Integrating these systems into education has the potential to generate indigenous knowledge and practice-based innovation. For example, Vastu Shastra (ancient architecture) principles may be used to inspire modern building designs that are sustainable and energy-efficient.

Strategies for Implementing IKS into the Modern Indian Education System

The major strategies for implementing IKS into the Modern Education System includes Curriculum Development, Teacher Training, Use of Technology, Research and Innovation and Promoting Interdisciplinary Learning. Firstly, the modern curriculum must contain elements of Indian knowledge systems that promote critical thinking, cultural literacy, and global citizenship. For example, incorporating parts of Sanskrit literature, yoga, and meditation, as well as ethical precepts from the Bhagavad Gita, into business education might significantly improve the learning experience. Secondly, the teacher training programs can benefit from incorporating elements of Indian pedagogy, which emphasizes moral growth, experiential learning, and the development of emotional intelligence. Teachers may be trained to include IKS into their lesson plans, making education more dynamic and student-centered.

With the use of modern technology to disseminate ancient Indian knowledge can bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern education. Digital platforms can be used to create accessible resources for learning ancient Indian sciences, philosophies, and arts. From the point Research and Innovation; encouraging research in fields related to IKS such as sustainable living, mental health, and ethics can lead to practical applications in education, science, and society. Lastly, for Promoting Interdisciplinary Learning; IKS is inherently interdisciplinary, covering subjects like ethics, governance, economics, and natural sciences. Educational systems can encourage cross-disciplinary learning, allowing students to see the connections between different fields of knowledge.

Main Challenges in Integrating IKS into Modern Education

The foremost challenge for implementing IKS is Curriculum Rigidity. Most educational systems have a set framework that concentrates on disciplines such as arithmetic and science, leaving little room for IKS. Changing the curriculum to integrate indigenous knowledge is challenging owing to regulations, bureaucracy, and institutional resistance. The second challenge being Limited Awareness of IKS. Many teachers do not know much about IKS. This leads to doubts about its relevance in modern education. Western teaching techniques are dominant, making it difficult to detect and incorporate indigenous knowledge. Awareness campaigns and training can assist solve this problem.

Language Barriers is also the major challenge for integrating IKS. Many IKS works are written in ancient or regional languages like as Sanskrit and Pali, making them difficult to access for modern students. Because most schooling takes place in languages like as English and Hindi, untranslated indigenous books are out of reach. Many indigenous customs are also oral, making documenting challenging. Translating and modifying IKS into commonly spoken languages can help bridge the gap. The last major challenge for integrating IKS is the Need for Scientific Validation. Modern education is built on evidence-based learning, making it difficult to include IKS without empirical support. While many indigenous techniques, such as Ayurveda and traditional farming methods, have proven successful, they require further scientific investigation to obtain widespread adoption. Collaboration between scholars and indigenous communities can contribute to the credibility of IKS in modern education.

Major Initiatives Taken by Government for the Seamless Incorporation of IKS in Modern Curricula

The Indian government has taken several key initiatives to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into modern curricula. Like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 sets a strong emphasis on integrating IKS into the curriculum by supporting interdisciplinary learning and promoting disciplines like Vedic knowledge, Sanskrit, Ayurveda, and Indian philosophy. The Ministry of Education has set up an IKS Division to promote and integrate IKS into the education system; the IKS is to be incorporated in scientific manner in the school and higher educational curriculums. IITs and IISc have been collaborating to develop courses and programs that integrate IKS with modern science and technology. Efforts by the Ministry of AYUSH to incorporate Yoga and Ayurveda into curricula and healthcare education. Ayurveda and yoga have been included in medical education to promote holistic health and wellness. The Indian government has established IKS research chairs in universities and institutions to promote research in IKS. The government has provided funding for research projects that focus on IKS and its applications. Innovation hubs have been established to promote IKS-based innovation and entrepreneurship. For Capacity Building and Training: Teacher training programs, Workshops, conferences, online courses have been organized to promote IKS and its applications and its integration into the education system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it may be said that The Indian Knowledge System is significant in modern Indian education because it has the ability to provide a more equitable, well-rounded, and culturally appropriate method of learning. We can create an educational paradigm that fosters moral values, ethical consciousness, and holistic development in addition to academic abilities by incorporating IKS into the Indian educational system. Indian education may foster a deeper comprehension of both local and global knowledge by incorporating IKS with modern curriculum, which would help students grow intellectually and personally. Additionally, India can create a more sustainable and well-balanced educational system that can meet the many demands of students and get them ready for the challenges of today's modern world. In addition to being important for conserving India's rich cultural legacy, IKS offers crucial solutions to modern problems including sustainability, global collaboration, and leadership. IKS integration has the potential to improve the present educational paradigm and result in a more thorough, moral, and balanced approach to education in India.

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