

Relevance of Indian Knowledge System in Present Era

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ABSTRACT

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a vast and deep collection of knowledge developed over thousands of years, covering a wide range of subjects such as philosophy, mathematics, science, arts, literature, and medicine.

In modern times, IKS is gaining renewed attention as it engages with current scientific and technological progress. Despite this, there are major challenges in keeping this knowledge alive, promoting it, and connecting it with global academic and practical discussions. This paper looks into the Indian Knowledge System in the context of today's issues, focusing on its philosophical roots, the role of traditional knowledge in the modern world, the difficulties in preserving it, and how to include IKS in the global knowledge network.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Indian Knowledge System, also known as BharatiyaGyanPaddhati, refers to the long-standing intellectual tradition of India, which covers many subjects and spans centuries. This system is based on ancient texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, and numerous works on mathematics, astronomy, medicine (Ayurveda), and architecture (VastuShastra). It is an interdisciplinary tradition that brings together philosophy and practical knowledge, stressing holistic development, sustainability, and a connection with nature. In today's world, IKS faces both challenges and new chances. The rise of Western scientific ideas, globalization, and technological development have created conflicts between traditional knowledge and modern knowledge systems. This paper explores how IKS interacts with modern issues, including knowledge preservation, modernization, the commercial use of traditional knowledge, and the role of IKS in the global knowledge landscape.

2. THE FOUNDATIONS OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM**

Philosophical Underpinnings of IKS

At its heart, the Indian Knowledge System is based on the idea of dharma, which is a code of ethics and moral responsibility that guides both human behavior and our understanding of the universe. Unlike the dualistic approaches found in many Western philosophies, IKS promotes a holistic and non-dual view, especially in traditions like Vedanta, which highlight the connectedness of all beings and the universe. Important schools of Indian philosophy, such as Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, and Mimamsa, form the intellectual foundation of IKS. These philosophies are built on observation and logical thinking, influencing both religious practices and scientific studies. For example, the Vaisheshika school's method for categorizing the physical world can be seen as an early form of atomic theory.

Scientific and Technological Contributions

Throughout history, IKS has made great contributions to various fields of knowledge. Indian scholars like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, and Bhaskara made major advancements in mathematics, astronomy, and geometry centuries before their Western counterparts. Concepts such as zero, the decimal system, and early calculus were developed in India, which challenges the idea of a linear history of science. In medicine, systems like Ayurveda and Siddha offer valuable insights into health and

wellness. Ayurvedic texts such as the CharakaSamhita and SushrutaSamhita contain vast knowledge about human anatomy, surgery, and disease treatment, which are now being acknowledged for their importance in modern medical practices.

3.CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

Globalization and Westernization of Knowledge

The growth of globalization has brought both opportunities and challenges to the Indian Knowledge System. On one hand, IKS has the potential to connect traditional wisdom with modern science. On the other hand, dominant Western academic systems often overlook or disregard indigenous knowledge systems. Many aspects of IKS, such as Ayurveda and VastuShastra, are frequently misunderstood or reduced to commercial practices in the global market. The commercial use of traditional knowledge without recognizing its philosophical or cultural origins has led to a loss of its true essence.

Preservation and Documentation of Knowledge

A major challenge for IKS today is the preservation of its large and varied body of knowledge. Many ancient manuscripts and texts are at risk of being lost or damaged due to climate change, lack of care, and the absence of a strong documentation and archiving system. Digital efforts, such as those led by the National Mission for Manuscripts in India, have helped preserve many ancient texts. However, more work is needed to protect oral traditions, regional knowledge systems, and the living practices that form the heart of IKS.

Integration of IKS with Modern Science

One of the most important issues now is how to integrate IKS with current scientific methods. While some parts of IKS, such as Ayurveda and environmental practices, are recognized for their scientific validity, integration is often met with doubt due to a lack of empirical evidence or the perception that traditional knowledge is not scientific. There is growing interest in interdisciplinary research that explores the connections between IKS and modern science. Collaborations between traditional scholars and modern scientists could lead to new discoveries in areas like ecology, alternative medicine, and materials science, where IKS holds a rich store of knowledge.

3. CHALLENGES IN THE PRESERVATION AND APPLICATION OF IKS

Intellectual Property Rights and Commercialization

One major concern in today's world is the commercial use of traditional knowledge. India has tried to protect its intellectual property through laws like the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL). However, there is still a big challenge in making sure that the benefits from IKS are shared fairly. For example, the global market for herbal products has raised worries about how indigenous knowledge is being used without proper recognition or fair payment to the communities that have kept this knowledge alive for generations.

Educational Integration and Curriculum Development

Another challenge is including IKS in regular education. Even though there are efforts to bring traditional knowledge into school curricula in India, these efforts are often scattered and not deep enough. The current education system, which is mostly based on Western models, doesn't fully include the many intellectual traditions of India. It also doesn't encourage students to deeply examine or question traditional knowledge. A better approach to the curriculum is needed. This should not just focus on keeping IKS alive but also on critically analyzing it in the context of today's problems.

5.THE WAY FORWARD: BRIDGING TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration

To deal with the challenges facing IKS, there needs to be research that brings together traditional experts, scientists, and practitioners. This teamwork can help in studying, recording, and preserving IKS while also helping to connect it with modern science.

Revitalization of Traditional Education Systems

To bring traditional knowledge back into focus in a modern setting, the education system needs to be rethought. Schools and colleges should focus on encouraging critical thinking while including indigenous knowledge in their teaching. Supporting native languages, oral traditions, and local knowledge will also help in reviving IKS.

Policy Initiatives

Government actions should place a high priority on protecting traditional knowledge and using it fairly. Policymakers play a key role in supporting the rights of indigenous communities, creating proper systems for protecting intellectual property, and promoting discussions on traditional knowledge at the global level.

6 .CONCLUSION

The Indian Knowledge System is a rich and varied collection of intellectual traditions that can offer valuable insights to tackle current global issues. However, it faces major challenges in terms of keeping it safe, using it in a fair way, and integrating it into modern science. A strong effort to protect this knowledge, along with research and changes in education, can help ensure that the wisdom of IKS is preserved for future generations and fits naturally into the global knowledge system. By addressing these issues, India can make sure its rich intellectual heritage contributes to global knowledge, benefiting not only India but the entire world.

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