

**PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM: INTEGRATING IDEAS AND IDEALS FROM
CONVENTIONAL PRACTICES AND CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

Education is one of the significant factors instrumental to the development of a country. It should be transformed to the needs of the time and changing scenario of the world. It provides an opportunity to critically reflect upon the social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. India needs more efficient and educated people to drive our economy forward. There are many Indians around the corner who are known for their capabilities and skills. To develop India as an education hub or to become a prosperous partner in global economy, India has to qualitatively strengthen education in general and higher education with research and development in particular.

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is a popular word at present throughout the world. It has been interpreted as traditional knowledge that indigenous people have brought down from earlier times via the oral tradition system. Indigenous knowledge defines world view of people and provides direction for their survival socially, economically, politically and spiritually. It explains the evolution of cultural behaviors that resulted from the efforts of people to adjust to their environment. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next throughout in India. It is a well-structured system and process of knowledge transfer, rather than just a tradition. The Vedic period thoughts and literature were considered as the foundation of the India Knowledge system. Upanishads, Vedas, and Upvedas, Ramayan, Mahabharata are full of spiritual and traditional knowledge as part of the Indian Knowledge System. India has a very glorious past where we were rich in all aspects whether it's art and culture, science or medicine, astrology or mathematics. These Indian Knowledge System are basic for Sustainable Development of the modern society.

It is further use in present situation for development of modern education, economics, politics, religion, sciences and technologies of modern world. This paper attempts to explain about the Indian knowledge system and how it uses on survival and development of present Indian society so that we can serve the purpose of one earth one family and one future.

This paper attempts to explain about the Indian knowledge system and how it uses on survival and sustainable development of present Indian society so that we can serve the purpose of one earth one family and one future.

Keywords: Indigenous, Traditional, Knowledge, Sustainable Development, Global Economy, Transmission, Natural Resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of natural resources and environment in human life is unique and without alternatives. Recognizing the importance of natural resources, Mahatma Gandhi said that nature can meet the needs of man but not the greed. However, today there is a fear that man-made development could lead to the demise of mankind, especially, economic development. Sustainable development is a process of development that promotes not only environment friendliness but also qualitative improvements in human life through environmental protection, conservation and minimising unwanted use of it. Development is a basic human right. Man is taking advantage of this right from other beings and making unlimited use of natural resources. It is causing huge damage to the environment, consequently, to himself. In the context of India, the concept of sustainable development needs to be developed in order to eradicate poverty, reduce environmental pollution, change lifestyles, improve the quality of health, and live in harmony with nature. Otherwise, while meeting the needs of today's society, future generations will have to bear the brunt of this development. Fintech services are the combination of use of technology and the socio-economic development of human beings by reducing the adverse effects on environment. These services reduce human interference with the nature, assure less harm to natural resources and accelerate economic and commercial developments by avoiding traditional and physical contents. It encourages, energise, and enlarge the socio-economic development in consonance with sustainability and restoration of natural environment.

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is a popular word at present throughout the world. It has been interpreted as traditional knowledge that indigenous people have brought down from earlier times via the oral tradition system. Indigenous knowledge defines world view of people and provides direction for their survival socially, economically, politically and spiritually. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next. It is a well-structured system and process of knowledge transfer, rather than just a tradition. India has a very glorious past where we were rich in all aspects whether it's art and culture, science or medicine, astrology or mathematics.

Indian knowledge system is an ancient and rich collection of beliefs, practices, and philosophies that have been passed down from generation to generation in India. It encompasses various fields such as science, spirituality, art, literature, and social norms, and has played a significant role in shaping Indian society and culture. The foundation of the Indian knowledge system lies in the ancient texts of the Vedas, which are considered to be the oldest scriptures in the world.

The perspective of IKS is visible through the benefits that IKS contains. The robust knowledge system of India enables the learners to engage in constructive avenues leading to productive results. India's journey towards revitalizing its education system through the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is fuelled by the recognition of its rich cultural heritage and intellectual traditions. Historically, British colonial policies had a detrimental impact on India's education system, leading to a decline in prosperity. The Indian Knowledge System is today well co-ordinated by the government and it enables a holistic education. India's ancient wisdom integrates traditional values with contemporary knowledge. IKS emphasizes on holistic development through various forms of education & activities. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) offers a vast repository of wisdom.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) stands as a great repository of wisdom collected over the period in the fields of Science, Health, Agriculture, social well-being, general commerce and overall education sphere. Key obstacles include the lack of awareness and understanding of IKS among educators and administrators, recording of IKS knowledge, resistance to change within educational institutions, and an inclination towards Western knowledge systems. The Globalized approach gave new perspectives to the Institutions in terms of curriculum development & delivery. Professional Development of the Teachers has become the need for the Institutions in order to cope up with the advancement in Education& adopting IKS. Education does lead to the Holistic Development of individuals. A developed individual eventually becomes the base for a developed society.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

India functions as a federal country, with 28 states and 8 union territories. Significant powers are allocated at state level for policy creation and implementation across all sectors. In 1976, education became a 'concurrent subject': the central and state governments both have responsibility for its development (NUEPA, 2014). In practice, this means that the central government develops overarching policy which the states adapt as necessary according to the context and create implementation plans. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has responsibility for education at the central level, with two departments: School education and literacy, and Higher education. To support these departments and the state governments, apex organisations have been established with specific responsibilities for different aspects of education.

It is widely agreed that the Indian education system has made significant progress in recent years – particularly in terms of access. Recognising the importance of education in national development, the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017), alongside a continued focus on expanding education, also included a clear focus on improving the quality of education and on ensuring that access to educational opportunities are provided to all sections of society.

One of the strengths of IKS lies in its holistic approach, which integrates multiple dimensions of knowledge, including empirical observations, theoretical frame- works, experiential wisdom, and spiritual insights. Furthermore, many elements of IKS have been validated through empirical research and scientific inquiry. For example, Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, has been subject to numerous scientific studies. Ayurveda offers holistic approaches to healthcare that emphasize preventive care, lifestyle modifications, and personalized treatment strategies.

Research Gap

After having in-depth review of literature, I have explored certain areas which have not been touched. This research paper explores the potential of traditional Indian knowledge systems (IKS) in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the framework of developing economies. It examines the intersection of ancient wisdom and modern challenges, analyzing how IKS, encompassing diverse fields like Ayurveda, agriculture, architecture, and governance, can offer sustainable solutions for contemporary issues. The paper analyzes existing literature, highlighting successful applications of IKS and identifying areas requiring further research and integration with modern scientific knowledge. It also addresses the challenges and limitations in leveraging IKS for sustainable development.

Importance of the study

Indian knowledge system, rooted in ancient texts and traditions, has shaped the country's spiritual, social, and philosophical beliefs and practices. At the core of this knowledge system are three key concepts are dharma, karma, and moksha that form the basis of Indian philosophy and way of life. The Indian knowledge system is deeply rooted in the concepts of dharma, karma, and moksha, which serve as the guiding principles for a virtuous and purposeful life. These concepts not only shape individual beliefs and practices, but also contribute to the social and cultural fabric of the country. They continue to be highly relevant in modern times and serve as a reminder of the rich spiritual and philosophical heritage of India. The present paper examines Indian Indigenous Knowledge system and its various uses for improve socio-economic development of India with human friendly environment in India. So this study would be beneficial for future research workers and policy makers.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study about the present Education system of India
2. It is also about the study of Indian Knowledge system for its sustainable development
3. To review the role of Indian knowledge system in sustainable development
4. To find out the reason of integrating Indian knowledge system in our education system

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The descriptive research methodology has been used for the study of the paper. The proposed paper would be completely depended on secondary data. To evaluate the overall Indian knowledge system, secondary data has been collected from various published sources like Government and Semi- government publications, websites of various agencies, books, journals, newspapers etc. The collected information would be processed and analysed for the meaningful completion of the study.

Indian Knowledge Systems in Conserving the Nature

The practical practicality of where they live proposed a model that was economically and ecologically viable and socially sustainable. The Vedic people recognize the importance of mutual dependence and coexistence with nature and other living beings. This is well documented and articulated in the numerous Headwinds in Rigveda on several aspects of nature. Man, and Nature. Have a strong relationship of mutual dependence. Living entities and non-living entities are also mutually dependent. Our ancestral wisdom and practices in everyday living seem to have understood this aspect and respected it. Numerous references convey the idea. For example, as we already saw in Santi Sukta, the well-being is not just the living entities but also the natural system is sought through prayer.

The Vedas gave reverend to the Sun, the Moon, the stars, planets, comets, etc, to flora and fauna around, to the forests, deserts, rivers, seas, and oceans, to the mountains, and so on. The Vedic people recognize the importance of mutual dependence and coexistence with nature and other living beings but today the world is facing the problem of natural calamity, famine, floods, mass migration, etc. because of the overexploitation of resources. The world has understood the need to preserve nature The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which provides an overarching policy framework for all climate actions. It comprises of eight core Missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Green India, sustainable

agriculture, and strategic knowledge for climate change. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a national-level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. These action plans focus on city-specific short/ medium/long-term actions to control air pollution from sources such as vehicular emission, road dust, burning of biomass/ crop/ garbage/ Municipal Solid waste, landfills, construction activities, and industrial emissions. Now environmental studies became part of curriculum to sensitize the students toward nature. Now we realise “Living in harmony with Nature”.

Sustainable Social Relationships

Social cohesion has been the key to survival for many indigenous cultures. Food gathering and hunting depend on mutual support and co-operation, and disharmony within a part of the group is dangerous to the whole. In many cultures men and women have developed complementary and other social arrangements that benefit the entire community have often been incorporated into indigenous cultural traditions. Marriage, for example, can also ensure political stability for the community and continuing harmony with the spirit world.

Sustainability invites us to think systemically. It is defined in various ways but often it emphasizes the need of ensuring today's quality of daily life while not compromising the well-being of future generations. Sustainability accentuates the necessity to answer present needs while making sensible use of the environment and natural resources without damaging prospects for future generations. The assumption is that every daily act anywhere – at home, at work, or at school, accumulates into a large transformation of the environment for the benefit of all. In this article I apply the term sustainability in the social context. It is suggested that dialogic realities ensure sustainable communities of optimal prosperity and well-being for the long-run. Sustainable relationships guarantee transformation and on-going formation of new realities in an open, creative manner. Taking the relationships perspective does not eliminate the individual, but rather it focuses on the relationships between the individual and the community. Emphasizing relationships is necessary for fostering organizations' sustainability. Organizations or communities will thrive only if they cultivate healthy relationships.

Natural Remedies and Medicines

In many parts of the world, indigenous societies classify soils, climate, plant and animal species and recognize their special characteristics. Indigenous people have words for plants and insects that have not yet been identified by the world's botanists and entomologists. Of the estimated 250,000 to 500,000 plant species in the world, more than 85% are in environments that are the traditional homes of indigenous people. Nearly 75% of 121 plant- derived prescription drugs used worldwide were discovered following leads from indigenous medicine. Globally, indigenous peoples use 3000 different species of plant to control fertility alone. Some scientists now believe that indigenous knowledge may help them to discover important new cures for diseases such as AIDS and cancer.

Spiritual Relationship with the Land

For indigenous people, the land is the source of life - a gift from the creator that nourishes, supports and teaches. Although indigenous peoples vary widely in their customs, culture, and impact on the land, all consider the Earth like a parent and revere it accordingly. The idea that the land can be owned, that it can belong to someone even when left unused, uncared for, or uninhabited, is foreign

to indigenous peoples. In the so-called developed world, land is in the hands of private individuals, corporate investors, or the state and can be sold at the will of the owner. According to indigenous law, humankind can never be more than a trustee of the land, with a collective responsibility to preserve it.

4. CONCLUSION

The Indian knowledge system is an incredibly rich and diverse collection of ancient wisdom and practices that have stood the test of time. It is a system that emphasizes the holistic understanding of the self, nature, and the universe, and seeks to create harmony and balance in all aspects of life. From the early Vedic period to the modern era, Indian knowledge has evolved and adapted to the changing times, but its core principles remain deeply ingrained in the culture and society of India. Its teachings have influenced not only the development of India but also the world at large, through its spread and adoption by other civilizations. The Indian knowledge system is a treasure trove of wisdom that continues to inspire and guide countless individuals. As we move towards a more interconnected and fast-paced world, the principles and practices of this ancient system can serve as a guiding light for a more conscious and balanced way of living. Let us continue to embrace and celebrate this rich legacy and use it to create a better and more enlightened future for ourselves and generations to come.

Evidence-based research has confirmed that traditional Indian agricultural practices are sustainable and offer valuable lessons for addressing contemporary challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and food insecurity. For example, conventional Indian agricultural techniques, such as mixed cropping, crop rotation, rain water harvesting and organic farming, align closely with modern sustainable agriculture practices to preserve soil health, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate climate change impacts.

By integrating IKS with modern scientific knowledge, the potential to develop innovative and holistic approaches to agriculture that promote environmental sustainability, food security, and rural prosperity is immense. It is essential to recognize that integrating IKS into education, we can ensure that the richness and diversity of India's knowledge traditions are preserved and appreciated for generations to come.

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