

Indian Knowledge System and Higher Education under NEP 2020: Reimagining India's Academic Landscape

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ABSTRACT

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 refers to the integration of new era education system. It is administered through Indian Government under the Ministry of Education, with the absolute aim of connecting new generation students to new and traditional Indian knowledge, culture, philosophy, arts, literature, agriculture, medicine, and technology into their roots and rich heritage. By this effort we want a newly transformed segment for our coming generation to succeed in their life.

KEYWORDS: *Indian Knowledge System, NEP 2020, Traditional Indian Knowledge, Arts, Culture, Philosophy, Literature, Agriculture and Technology etc.*

The Indian Knowledge System is called IKS refers to massive and primitive or ancient repository of practices, rituals, knowledge, science and philosophy of life carrying forward for coming generations. IKS is a well-structured system and a fine process of knowledge transfer rather than tradition. The Indian Knowledge System is based on the ancient Indian Vedic literature, the Upanishads, the Vedas, and the Upvedas. The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) recognizes this powerful and rich heritage and eternal ancient Indian knowledge and thought as a guiding principle. The Indian Knowledge Systems comprise of Jnan (Knowledge), Vignan (Science), and Jeevan Darshan (Philosophy of Life) that have evolved out of observation, experience, experimentation, precision and accurate analysis. This ancient legacy of validating and putting into practice has impacted Indian education, arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce. It includes knowledge from ancient India and, its successes and challenges, and a sense of India's future aspirations specific to education, health, environment and indeed all aspects of life.ⁱ

Our Indian education system has emphasized virtuous, substance, sacred, and intellectual values over its history, tracing back to the ancient Rigvedic era. Furthermore literary knowledge, the importance of physicalⁱⁱ work is highlighted in the Indian Knowledge System. In India, there existed renowned centers or universities of global fame. Takshashila was established by king Bharat, the younger brother of Shri Ram, who settled his son there. Subsequently, intruders ruined Takshashila and burned the rich libraries, which contained numerous texts in Sanskrit language. Following this, Shikshavid Acharya founded Nalanda Vidyapeeth. Later on, Nalanda too was destroyed by invaders. These Universities had Indian traditional life science, Vedas, Sanskrit literature, and scientific methodologies were studied, and they became famous as centers of Yoga and Ayurvedic science.

Through out history, Bharat has continuously imparted the world with knowledge of spiritual brotherhood, Yoga, and Ayurveda, which the international community continues to embrace today.

Indian Knowledge System proposes several thematic areas where extensive research and studies are required. This encompasses the exploration of health and well-being as well as the awareness of art and culture, mathematics, and astronomy. Community wellness and quality of life hold great significance for every individual, particularly in a swiftly evolving and technology-oriented society and world.

The main objectives of the Indian Knowledge System are to conserve and exhibit India's Finest and ancient knowledge for upcoming generations, highlight its practical use in solving problems, and decolonize the Indian mind by fostering critical reverence for its traditions. The Indian knowledge system seeks to assist and promote additional research to address current societal challenges across various domains, including Holistic health, Psychology, Neuroscience, Nature, Environment, and Sustainable development. The main goal of utilizing historical insights and integrating the Indian knowledge systems is to tackle the modern and evolving issues faced by India and the world by leveraging our ancient knowledge frameworks characterized by an unbroken tradition of knowledge transmission and a distinctive perspective (Bhāratīyū Drishti).ⁱⁱⁱ The vision of the IKS Division is to revitalization and establish Indian Knowledge Systems for the modern world.

Today all we have journeyed through three national education policies and arrived at the implementation phase of the 2020 policy through the 'Gurukul' method and 'Macaulay's education system'. The 1st Education Policy, introduced in 1968, was founded on the suggestions of the Kothari Commission. It included free and mandatory education until the age of 14, teachers' training and qualifications, a three-language formula, equal educational opportunities for all, and a 10+2+3 structure. In the 1986 2nd policy was enacted by Rajiv Gandhi. Policy aimed at providing equal educational opportunities for all, including women, scheduled castes, and tribes, establishing district education and training institutions, the swift implementation of the 10+2+3 pattern nationwide, guaranteeing proper access to food and a healthy environment in schools, as well as opening distance learning institutions and open new universities. It was revised in 1992 under the leadership of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao. A provision was made to establish at least one open university in every state. Common Entrance Tests were utilized for entry into professional and technical programs.^{iv}

In 1835, Thomas Babington Macaulay, a British historian, politician, and a member of the Supreme Council of India, suggested a change in Indian education policy, promoting English as the medium of instruction and Western education in place of traditional Sanskrit and Arabic studies. theory, primarily known as the 'Downward Filtration Theory' or 'Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education', advocated for a system where a select few upper-class Indians would be educated in English, with the expectation that they would then disseminate knowledge to the general populace.^v

Now In 2020, Modern India presented its 1st and most vast education policy of the 21st century. As the earlier education policy since 1986, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is tasked with tackling numerous crises within India's education system and it is introducing new schemes for students to their degree more valuable and dynamic and the NEP 2020 is indeed a groundbreaking document in every respect.

Some salient features of the NEP 2020 are –

- *Early Childhood Care and Education
- *Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

*Optimal Learning Environments and Support for Students:

*Quality Universities and Colleges: A New and Forward-looking Vision for India's Higher Education System:

*Equitable and Inclusive Education: Learning for All

*Towards a More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education

*Curtailling Dropout Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Levels:

*Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools: Learning Should be Holistic, Integrated, Enjoyable, and Engaging

*Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation

Above cited features are some examples that NEP2020 is how much vast and it is full proof to achieve all desired goals to make VIKSIT BHARAT.^{vi}

IKS AND NEP2020- It is truly said that the Indian Knowledge system has been since the beginning of the universe. Ancient sages used to do any work thoughtfully. Their research work was many times better than today. We were declining, After the British came to India, there were several differences in the field of education, including research. Although the research methods of Rishi-Muni have existed since ancient times, they are rarely seen today. Research is an integral and main composite of IKS. The NEP 2020 has emphasized that IKS will be incorporated in the curriculum and will be scientifically integrated.^{vii}

ENDNOTES

ⁱMandavkar Pavan, Indian Knowledge System (IKS), SSRN electronic journal, URL: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4589986

ⁱⁱⁱMandavkar Pavan, Indian Knowledge System (IKS), Research Gate

^{iv}https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Knowledge_Systems

^vNational Education Policy 2020, Ministry of Education, Government of India, 2021

^{vi}<https://iksindia.org/>

^{vii}. National Education Policy 2020, Ministry of Education, Government of India, 2021