A Study of the Challenges in Integration of IKS in Current Indian Education System

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Abstract: 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 Government of India and educational institutions have taken several initiatives to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into mainstream education in a structured and academic manner. Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into modern education is valuable but complex. The existing curriculum is already dense. Adding IKS content without removing or restructuring topics can burden students and teachers. The Indian government has taken several key initiatives to integrate IKS into modern curricula. Like 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, IKS lessons on sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and ethical consumption can help individuals and institutions make decisions that support long-term ecological balance. IKS, 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.

Introduction:

The major significance of Indian Knowledge System is 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 **Sheng Lay (2024)**. 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. 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 **Sumit Sarkar (2016)**.

Objectives:

1. To discuss the initiatives by Indian government to integrate IKS into modern curricula.
2. To analyze how NEP 2020 sets a strong emphasis on integrating IKS into the curriculum.
3. To ponder as to how IKS lessons on sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and ethical consumption.
4. To analyze how education has the potential to generate indigenous knowledge and practice-based innovation.
5. To discuss the major strategies for implementing IKS into the Modern Education System

Hypothesis:

The initiatives are taken by Indian government to integrate IKS into modern curricula. NEP 2020 sets a strong emphasis on integrating IKS into the curriculum. IKS lessons on sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and ethical consumption. education has the potential to generate indigenous knowledge and practice-based innovation. The major strategies for implementing IKS into the Modern Education System has to be sketched out.

Research Methodology:

The present paper '**A Study of the Challenges in** Integration of IKS in Current Indian Education System **'** attempts to review the challenges in the way of Integration of IKS in Current Indian Education System. The reference of the were made**.** The conclusions were drawn accordingly.

Initiatives for Integrating IKS in Indian Curriculum:

The Government of India and educational institutions have taken several initiatives to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into mainstream education in a structured and academic manner. Key initiatives include:

1. NEP 2020 strongly emphasizes the inclusion of IKS in education. It encourages integrating ancient Indian knowledge in mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, medicine, architecture, and environmental science across all levels of education.

2. The Ministry of Education (MoE) and AICTE have set up a dedicated Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division to promote research, curriculum development, faculty training, and integration of IKS into higher education.

3. Many universities and IITs have introduced credit-based courses, electives, and MOOCs on IKS topics such as Vedic mathematics, Indian philosophy, Ayurveda, Yoga, ethics, and ancient Indian science and technology.

4. Regular FDPs, workshops, and training programs are conducted to train teachers in IKS-related subjects and interdisciplinary teaching methods.

5. Yoga has been integrated into school and higher education curricula to promote physical and mental well-being, aligned with India's traditional knowledge.

6. Government-supported research initiatives focus on documenting, translating, and digitizing ancient manuscripts and traditional knowledge texts.

7. Efforts are being made to promote Sanskrit and other classical languages, along with translations, to make IKS knowledge more accessible.

8.Platforms like SWAYAM, DIKSHA, and e-PG Pathshala host online courses and learning materials related to IKS.

9. NCERT has revised textbooks to include references to Indian contributions in science, mathematics, art, culture, and ethics.

10. Institutions encourage project-based learning, internships, and fieldwork related to traditional knowledge systems, crafts, agriculture, and sustainability.

These initiatives aim to create a balanced education system that blends India's rich traditional knowledge with modern scientific and technological education, fostering cultural pride, critical thinking, and holistic development among learners **Ato Quayson (2000)**.

Challenges of IKS Integration in Indian Curriculum

Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into modern education is valuable but complex. The existing curriculum is already dense. Adding IKS content without removing or restructuring topics can burden students and teachers. Many educators are not adequately trained in IKS disciplines such as ancient sciences, philosophy, Ayurveda, or traditional mathematics, making effective teaching difficult. IKS knowledge is vast, diverse, and region-specific. Creating a uniform, standardized syllabus that fits national education frameworks is challenging. A large portion of IKS literature is in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Tamil, and other classical languages, which most students and teachers cannot easily access **M.A.R. Habib (2013)**. Aligning traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods and ensuring academic rigor without misinterpretation or blind glorification is a major challenge. There is a shortage of well-researched textbooks, digital content, and reference materials on IKS suitable for school and university levels. IKS is sometimes seen as outdated or unscientific, while others may approach it emotionally rather than academically, affecting balanced integration.Designing appropriate evaluation systems that assess conceptual understanding of IKS rather than rote learning is difficult. Introducing IKS requires policy support, pilot programs, teacher training, and gradual implementation, which is time-consuming. Ensuring that IKS complements modern education rather than replacing or conflicting with contemporary knowledge is a sensitive task. A multidisciplinary, research-based, and inclusive approach is essential. Careful planning, teacher training, curriculum redesign, and critical engagement can help IKS enrich India's education system meaningfully. Research Oriented Challenges in IKS **Charles Peterson (2024)**.

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 **Stephen Morton (2007)**. 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 **Hiddleston, Jane (2012)**.

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 are made 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. Teacher training programs, workshops, conferences, online courses have been organized to promote IKS and its applications and its integration into the education system **M.S. Nagarajan, (2006)**.

Conclusion:

The Indian government has taken several key initiatives to integrate IKS into modern curricula. Like 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, IKS lessons on sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and ethical consumption can help individuals and institutions make decisions that support long-term ecological balance. IKS, 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. 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. The modern curriculum must contain elements of Indian knowledge systems that promote critical thinking, cultural literacy, and global citizenship.

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