



Indian Knowledge for Sustainable Futures

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ABSTRACT

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. The Vedic literature is considered the fountainhead of the India Knowledge Tradition. Upanishads, Vedas, and Upvedas are all part of the Indian Knowledge System. India talks about vasudhaiva **kutumbakam** – which is a phrase from the Hindu text the Maha Upanishad. We believe in **ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ।सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु ।मा कश्चित् दुःख भाग्भवेत् ॥ ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥**. 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. IKT's contribution is immense in almost all fields of intellectual inquiry and focused on sustainable development. Indian education system believes in the existence of life in all the things of the universe. Our Vedas treated nature as God where even plants like Neem, Tulsi, Peepel, and so on are worshipped and promote plantation. India is always been a hub of knowledge where the world's top universities like Nalanda, Thachhshila, and Magadh University were set up and all the disciplines were taught here. The Indian Knowledge Systems comprising Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan have evolved out of experience, observation, experimentation, and rigorous analysis. This paper talks about the Indian knowledge system and how it focuses on sustainable development so that we can serve the purpose of one earth one family and one future.

Key words- Indian knowledge system, SDG's,

Introduction

Human being are inherently knowledge generating in nature with unique capabilities. The Indian Knowledge system is a generic phase that included everything like archeology ayurveda and medicine astrology ,astronomy public administration economics and so on. IKS is not all about knowing ansestral knowledge only but also identifying the uniqueness of the IKS by utilizing for economic , social and global development . The Terms “Indian Knowledge” and “sustainable development” are correlated terms, with widely varying definitions and interpretations. till now we are following the macaulay's English education system. we have alienated ourselves from our root that become very problematic. In this paper I attempt to explore the notion set up by the Indian education system for sustainable development through avoiding overexploitation of natural resources and working for the welfare of earth.

Definition of operational key words

The NEP 2020 recognizes India's rich and eternal knowledge history. The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) is considered to be scientific including tribal knowledge and indigenous & traditional modes of learning. It intends to encompass topics such as mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, yoga, architecture, medicine, agriculture, and so on. Other key areas of focus include tribal ethno-medical practices, forest management, natural farming, etc. Tradition mentions 18 major vidyas, or theoretical disciplines; and 64 kalas, applied or vocational disciplines, crafts. The 18 vidyas are: the four Vedas, the four subsidiary Vedas (Ayurveda –

medicine, Dhanurveda – weaponry, Gandharvaveda – music and Silpa – architecture), Purana, Nyaya, Mimamsa, Dharmasastra and Vedanga, the six auxiliary sciences, phonetics, grammar, astronomy, ritual, and philology — these formed the basis of the 18 sciences in ancient India. As far as the applied sciences are concerned, there are competing enumerations of 64

Sustainable development - sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is also a concern for the environmental issues and climate change.

Research objective

To review the role of Indian knowledge system in sustainable development

To find out the reason of integrating Indian knowledge system in our education system

Delimitation

The researcher has used secondary data because of the limited time zone.

Research design

This is a descriptive research. The study was solely based on secondary data. The information was gathered from different related books, journals, the internet, newspapers, and personal collections. Data were collected according to the requirement of fulfillment of objectives. There is a lot of related data on websites. But the most important data were only incorporated here. Gathered experience and knowledge are also incorporated in this paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

India is a country with a long civilization history where all the world was uncivilized. Sustainability is not a new term in the context of India. We discuss four pillars of sustainability that are human, social, economic, and environmental.

- **Indian Knowledge System [IKS] and Human Sustainability**

Human sustainability aims to maintain and improve the human capital in society. IKS emphasizes the investment in education and health. The aim of education is not to share information but to develop rationalism and skill development. Our Vedas say ‘‘Arth kari sa Vidya’’ means education aims to develop the earning skills of humans for the sustainable development of society. our education policy has talked about vocational education for generating the employability of the people so that society could be more coherent.

Ancient Indians considered the body to be the first instrument for leading a satisfactory life by performing the right dates for the attainment of Purushartha. Therefore, health was considered an important aspect of life and according to Charaka, Ayurveda must be studied and practiced by every individual in the society. we give more importance to the health and wellness of our mind, body, and soul. Now we are celebrating World Yoga Day on 21 June. When the pandemic affected a major part of the world we were the least affected because of our food habits which we got from the indigenous tradition. we use different spices in our daily food like Tulsi, Neem Turmeric, cumin, black pepper and so on which also work as medicine. we are including millet in our food habits and promoting yoga and meditation to be psychologically fit.

With a long civilizational history, India has a rich body of knowledge and experience that has developed within the society from time to time, captured through a variety of literary works. On account of the diversity of people and issues discussed in the Puranic Repositories. Various stories like Panchatantra Ki Katha, Upanishad and Different epics like Ramayan and Mahabharata Were the source of knowledge about one’s responsibility toward one’s family, society and dharma that is Relevant to all the ages in the Indian tradition, these are especially taught to the children so that they can imbibe these ideas, values, and notions, while they are young, and they can make use of this wisdom all through their life. In the present scenario. Geeta is a Source of knowledge that enriches us with life, skill, and knowledge.

- **IKS and Social Sustainability -**

An ideal society is based on values and inclusivity irrespective of caste color and gender. our ancient society was occupation-based. In Ramayana, we come to know about how King Rama gave regard to Shabri and Khatik. Our Indian knowledge system includes all the Vedas Vedangas upunished Purans and so on From the various resources we find that our society was based on gender equality and inclusive setup. Gargi Vachaknav Maitreyi, Nalayini, Savitri, Kaikeyi, Sita, Mandodari, and Ahalya, were the greatest women scholars who kindled the light of knowledge. According to *Manu 3-56*

“ Where women are honored, there the gods are pleased; but where they are not honored, no sacred rite yields rewards.”

Our philosopher and education policymaker has emphasized inclusive education at various stages to reduce inequalities by promoting international and domestic support for decent work and job creation, quality education, and universal social protection.

- **IKS and Economic Sustainability**

India is a country of economic richness in technology and arts and crafts. Ancient India's contribution to metalworking and in more general terms to metallurgy and material science are noteworthy. Ancient India has been extracting iron and gold, zinc and copper from their ores. Town planning and architecture are very significant in India. We have a very rich cultural heritage that is still reflected in the present time. The Arthashastra is one of the world's oldest treatises on the economic administration of the state, using detailed financial planning, the three main types of economic activity, agriculture, cattle rearing, and trade, which is still significant in the present time, the main source of our income based on these three aspects. The healthy reserve in the treasury and a strong army are the two pillars that the king can bring under his control both his people and the enemy. That is still reflected in the present scenario of our country. Our strong army protects us from our neighboring countries, and Terrorism which is the greatest concern on the global front. The Treasury helps the government for the betterment of the people and the development of the country.

- **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 Hymns in Rigveda on several aspects of nature. Man and Nature. Have a strong relationship of mutual dependence. Living entities and nonliving entities also are 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 of not just the living entities but also the natural system is sought through prayer.

The Vedas gave reverence 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 are realizing “Living in harmony with Nature”,

- **Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction**

The town planning practice of ancient India was very systematic having a community hall and sufficient water reservoir within the city. In Jaipur, Bikaner and Kutch, we can see the systematic approaches of town planning where the people do rain harvesting. Today we are also promoting and teaching the people to do water harvesting to avoid water scarcity and making dams for irrigation purposes.

The Manusmriti, where Chapter 7 dealt with statecraft, organization, and function of the army, description of forts, and firearms in the Shukraniti, authored by sage Shukracharya; and the Puranas like Agni Purana, Brahma Purana, and Brahmanda Purana which deal with diplomacy and warfare. There has been a push

towards “Indianisation” of the Indian military and at the Combined Commanders Conference held in Kevadia, Gujarat, in March 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed greater indigenization in the national security apparatus, including in the doctrines and customs of the Armed Forces. Chanakya has initiated to unite the country and today our government is also slogans for ‘EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT’

Conclusion

Ancient knowledge is the accrued knowledge over several generations and preserved in formal and informal means. Sadly, ancient Indian knowledge has been relegated to millions of palm manuscripts lying scattered all over the country, and it is gathering dust. While several scholars are engaged in the process of bringing the hidden knowledge out of these manuscripts by researching and republishing such works, it does not match the scale required to make a meaningful impact. Other hand, the oral tradition. in some, rural pockets are at threat of becoming extinct for want of patronage. The question in front of us is, “Does any society need to preserve, protect, and pass on the ancient knowledge to the future generation”? the thinking pattern and the repository of knowledge created by the forefathers in any society enabled the current generation to understand the thought process and framework of the previous generation. It will allow them to analyze the received wisdom in a contemporary context and identify new opportunities to assimilate the accrued wisdom and synthesize new knowledge. Therefore, keeping the current generation in the dark about the contribution of the ancestor is an inefficient and assorted Cited. Option for society. Ancient knowledge serves multiple roles in society. The ancient knowledge brought to society is the identity it provides to fellow members of the society. The social practices and norms have continuity as most of them are transmitted from one generation. Relation through practices and supporting knowledge. Culture has several dimensions. In a direct sense, it is the manifestation of human intellectual achievement, regarded as collectivity by society over time. Knowledge and innovation are on a continuum. If the underlying knowledge system is abruptly withdrawn from society, the culture will be jolted. New knowledge creation in any society is path-dependent. When the benefit of prior knowledge and the thought process is lost by society, it will lead to reinventing the wheel, making innovation and new knowledge creation efficient. In this contest, ancient knowledge plays a valuable role in received wisdom and provides a head start to a society to March on the highway of innovation and new knowledge creation. On the compelling argument in support of the ancient knowledge system has a huge potential to offer from an economic value standpoint, the emerging world order puts greater emphasis on knowledge society. The prevailing military power will give way to knowledge. Power and such notions that demonstrate the superiority of knowledge tradition are bound to lead the rest of the world. Transforming knowledge into economic value has been fully formalized with the global intellectual property rights regulation and patent law. Therefore, the ancient knowledge system will be beneficial to a country like India and lead to the sustainable development of the nation.

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