



INTEGRATING THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM INTO SCHOOL EDUCATION: RATIONALE, CHALLENGES, AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Dr. Mandeep Kaur,
Assistant Professor
Khalsa College of Education, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, India

Abstract: India has a rich and diversified knowledge legacy that spans thousands of years, including mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, the arts and literature. These contributions are usually overlooked by contemporary educational systems, which prioritize a curriculum that is western-centric. IKS integration has the potential to develop balanced pupils who possess a strong foundation in both modern and traditional subjects by promoting a deeper knowledge of core subjects and the development of critical thinking skills. Integrating India's knowledge system into the school curriculum has the potential to boost national pride, improve holistic education, and bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern education. This paper delves into the rationale, strategies, and challenges associated with the integration of India's traditional knowledge into the contemporary educational framework.

IndexTerms – Indian Knowledge System, School Education

I. INTRODUCTION

Education plays a critical role in shaping national identity and intellectual growth. India's ancient knowledge system, as seen in Vedic mathematics, Ayurveda, Yoga, classical literature, and architectural sciences, has had a profound impact on global scholarship. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is an extensive repository of concepts from India's rich history and customs. It offers insights into several academic subjects, including arithmetic, science, technology, history, medicine, and farming. In addition to discipline-specific information, it offers insights into personal values and spirituality. IKS combines practical skills with spiritual and religious concepts, making it very intriguing. Furthermore, incorporating India's knowledge system into schools helps foster a greater awareness of sustainability, ethics, and well-being. Traditional traditions like Ayurveda and Yoga stress peace with nature and mental well-being, both of which are very important in today's fast-paced society. Integrating IKS with conventional topics may enhance students' understanding of the world. By promoting a more broad curriculum, students may understand the breadth of Indian contributions while also gaining essential global competencies. The importance of incorporating IKS into school instruction may be further demonstrated by the following reasons:

- **Stronger Foundations:** IKS provides a unique perspective on existing subjects such as science and mathematics. Integrating knowledge from Ayurveda, for instance, Integrating India's Ancient Wisdom into School students can gain a more holistic understanding of health. This cross-pollination of ideas can make learning more engaging and enriching.
- **Cultural Pride:** IKS is a treasure trove of India's rich heritage. Studying these systems helps students to reconnect with their roots and appreciate the outstanding achievements of earlier generations. Learning about traditional farming methods or fascinating stories from IKS can instil a sense of cultural pride
- **Innovative Thinking:** IKS offers a glimpse into ancient solutions to issues such as water conservation and construction techniques. By studying these time-tested approaches, students can be inspired to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to modern challenges. IKS encourages critical thinking and problem-solving from a unique perspective
- **Environmental Awareness:** IKS often emphasizes sustainable practices and living in harmony with nature. Students can learn valuable lessons about resource management, traditional agriculture and indigenous weather forecasting
- **Entrepreneurial Skills:** IKS can be a source of inspiration for young entrepreneurs. Traditional crafts, medicine and agricultural techniques can be adapted and developed into sustainable businesses

- **Improved Decision-Making:** IKS incorporates a holistic approach to problem-solving. By studying these systems, students can develop critical thinking skills that consider multiple perspectives before making decisions
- **Local Relevance:** Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) are frequently tailored to specific regions or ecosystems. Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the curriculum can enhance the relevance of learning to students' experiences and lives..
- **Intergenerational Learning:** Bringing IKS into schools can bridge the gap between generations. Students can learn directly from elders and knowledge keepers, fostering cultural and respect for tradition.
- Indian knowledge system helps to facilitate further research to solve the contemporary societal emerging problems of India and world by using our ancient knowledge systems represented by uninterrupted tradition of knowledge transfer and unique point of view (Bhāratīyū Dṛishti). According to Pawan Mandavkar (2023) issues in several fields such as health, Psychology, Neuroscience, Nature, Environment & Sustainable development can be tackled using IKS integration in education will help us in achieving NEP-2020's primary goal of creating a comprehensive education that would enable India to regain its status as a Vishwa guru.

STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATING INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- **Curriculum Revision:** Textbooks should include chapters on Indian contributions to science, arts, and humanities, ensuring an interdisciplinary approach.
- **Experiential Learning:** Schools should promote hands-on activities such as Vedic mathematics workshops, Ayurveda-based herbal projects, and classical music appreciation.
- **Teacher Training:** Educators must be trained in India's traditional knowledge systems to effectively impart this information.
- **Collaboration with Scholars:** Engaging experts from fields like Yoga, Ayurveda, and Sanskrit literature can provide authentic knowledge.
- **Use of Technology:** Digital platforms and AI-driven learning can help modernize traditional teachings for contemporary students.
- **Language and Literature Integration:** Schools should introduce Sanskrit and regional literature in a way that connects ancient wisdom with contemporary contexts.
- **Cultural and Heritage Activities:** Organizing field trips to historical sites, museums, and temples can give students practical exposure to India's rich heritage.
- **Ethical and Moral Education:** Drawing from Indian philosophical traditions, ethical studies can be included in moral science classes to build character and values in students.
- **Research and Innovation:** Encouraging school-based research projects on traditional knowledge can bridge the gap between historical insights and modern applications.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborating with cultural organizations, universities, and NGOs can enhance resource availability and curriculum development.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR INTEGRATING THE IKS INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- **Unavailability of written records:** One of the key barriers is the nature of IKS itself. IKS is mostly passed down orally from one generation to another, in comparison to Western knowledge systems. Meticulous examination is required to assure the accuracy and reliability of the information before it is included into the curriculum. Creating effective mechanisms for validating and documenting IKS processes is critical to preserving the integrity of this rich knowledge base.
- **Capacity building of Teachers:** Another key problem is providing instructors with the required abilities to properly incorporate IKS into their teaching techniques. Research emphasizes the need of providing teachers with proper training in both the content of IKS and the pedagogical techniques most suited for its implementation. Teachers must be able to bridge the gap between traditional and formal education systems, creating a positive and engaging learning experience for pupils.
- **Perception of Traditional Knowledge as Outdated:** Another key problem is providing instructors with the required abilities to properly incorporate IKS into their teaching techniques. Research emphasizes the need of providing teachers with proper training in both the content of IKS and the pedagogical techniques most suited for its implementation. Teachers must be able to bridge the gap between traditional and formal education systems, creating a positive and engaging learning experience for pupils.
- **Standardization Across diverse education Boards:** India has multiple educational boards with different curricula, making integration challenging. All boards must work together towards developing a common framework that allows flexibility while ensuring core traditional knowledge components in the education system.
- **Insufficient Government and Policy Support:** Policy frameworks may not prioritize traditional knowledge integration. Advocate for policy changes through research-backed recommendations and stakeholder engagement must be done emphasizing the long-term educational benefits.

II. CONCLUSION

Incorporating India's knowledge system into school curriculum would improve education by combining traditional wisdom and contemporary learning. This method not only promotes cultural pride and identity, but it also provides students with a

comprehensive view of knowledge and creativity. With careful execution, India can establish a balanced educational system that honors its legacy while educating students for the future.

III. REFERENCES

1. Amani, S. (2024). Integrating Indian Knowledge System: Revitalizing India's educational landscape. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)*, Retrieved from <https://www.ijfmr.com>.
2. K.K (2024) Indian knowledge system and NEP: A Brief Analysis. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research*, 11(1), 260-263.
3. Khan, S., & Sharma, M. (2024). An Overview on Indian Knowledge System. *Integrated Journal for Research in Arts and Humanities*, 4(4), 42-46.
4. Laxmi, V., & Kalluraya, S. (2023) History of the Indian Knowledge System. *EPR International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR)*, 9(12), 352-355.
5. Sharma, R., & Maheshwari, E (2024). Integrating India's Ancient Wisdom into School Education: Need, Challenges and way forward. *Adhigam*, 161-177
6. Thapliyal P. (2023), Indian Knowledge Systems in the Curriculum of Higher Education: A Proposed Model of a PG Course in IKS, *International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews*, 4(7), 3296-3301
7. Vaz. D. (2024). Integrating Traditional Indian Knowledge into the Education System. *Journal of Propulsion Technology*. 45(1), 3151-3158



