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# The Role of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the Development of India: A Study in Light of NEP 2020

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## Abstract

*The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a visionary step taken by the Government of India to reform the Indian education system. One of its important focuses is on reviving and promoting the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). Indian Knowledge Systems include our ancient and traditional knowledge in areas like mathematics, astronomy, medicine (Ayurveda), yoga, philosophy, art, music, language, and many more. These systems reflect the deep wisdom and scientific thinking of ancient India. This paper studies the role of IKS in the overall development of India, especially in the light of NEP 2020. The policy encourages the inclusion of IKS in school and higher education to help students understand our rich heritage and apply this knowledge in modern times. IKS can help in building a strong national identity, promote creativity, and provide local solutions to global problems. By including Indian values and traditional learning methods along with modern science and technology, education can become more meaningful and connected to Indian roots. The paper also discusses how IKS can promote sustainable development, self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), and cultural pride. This study is based on secondary data and aims to highlight the importance of Indian Knowledge Systems in shaping a strong, confident, and developed India. NEP 2020 gives a golden opportunity to bring back this wisdom into our classrooms and minds. Thus, understanding and using IKS in education and society will play a big role in India's journey towards holistic development.*

**Keywords:** Indian Knowledge Systems, NEP 2020, Ancient Education, Economic Growth, Ethical Values, Social Development, Gen-Z, Future Initiatives

## Introduction

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) have played a crucial role in India's civilization, influencing diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, medicine, governance, and education. Ancient centers of learning like Takshashila and Nalanda attracted scholars from around the world, reflecting India's intellectual leadership. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to revive IKS by integrating it with contemporary education, ensuring a balanced approach between tradition and modernity. This paper examines the significance of IKS in NEP 2020 and its potential to contribute to India's prosperity.

## Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the importance of IKS in NEP 2020.
2. To explore the contributions of ancient Indian education systems to India's growth.
3. To identify challenges in integrating IKS with modern education.
4. To suggest future initiatives for making IKS relevant for Gen-Z.
5. To assess the economic, ethical, and social impact of IKS on modern India.

## Literature Review

The study reviews literature from ancient texts, modern research papers, and policy documents related to IKS and NEP 2020. References include:

- “The Discovery of India” by Jawaharlal Nehru
- “Ancient Indian Education” by Radhakumud Mookerji
- “The Beautiful Tree” by Dharampal

- NEP 2020 Document by the Government of India
- Various scholarly articles on the role of traditional Indian education systems

**Historical Data on Ancient India:** The following table provides an overview of different aspects of ancient India, including trade, education, economy, and administration.

Time Period	Trade & Commerce	Education	Economy	Administration
Vedic Period (1500–500 BCE)	Barter system, early trade routes	Gurukuls, oral learning, Vedic texts	Agrarian economy, cattle as wealth	Tribal republics, early monarchy
Maurya Period (321–185 BCE)	Extensive trade with Greece, Persia, and China	Nalanda, Takshashila, Buddhist and Jain learning	Standardized currency, taxation system	Centralized administration under Chandragupta Maurya
Gupta Period (319–550 CE)	Flourishing trade, Silk Route connections	Universities like Nalanda and Vikramashila, Astronomy and Mathematics advancements	Golden age of economy, coinage system	Decentralized governance with regional autonomy
Chola Period (850–1250 CE)	Maritime trade with Southeast Asia	Temple-based education, Tamil literature flourished	Thriving agrarian economy, irrigation development	Strong naval power, local self-governance

## Importance of IKS in NEP 2020 and India's

**Overall Development:** IKS has the potential to transform India’s educational, economic, and social framework. The NEP 2020 has focused on the traditional knowledge with contemporary subjects to promote holistic learning and vocational skill development courses. Some key aspects of include:

### 1. Education:

- Revival of Gurukul-based learning methodologies.
- Incorporation of Indian philosophical traditions in modern curriculum.

### 2. Economic Growth:

- Promotion of indigenous knowledge in agriculture, medicine, and architecture.
- Encouragement of entrepreneurship based on traditional Indian sciences.

### 3. Ethical and Social Values:

- Reinstating moral education inspired by Indian scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita, Veda.

- Strengthening community-based learning to promote social wellbeing and prosperity.

## Challenges in Implementing IKS

Despite its potential, several challenges hinder the implementation of IKS:

- Lack of awareness about IKS among educators and students.
- Limited research and documentation of ancient knowledge in an accessible format.
- Resistance to change from the existing Western-centric education model.
- Need for standardization and certification of IKS-based courses.

**Suggestions and Future Initiatives:** To make IKS more relevant for today’s youth, the following initiatives are suggested:

1. **Digital Integration:** Development of apps, e-learning platforms, and gamification techniques for IKS-based subjects.

2. **Skill-Based Learning:** Vocational training in traditional Indian practices such as Ayurveda, yoga, and Vedic mathematics.
3. **International Collaborations:** Promoting Indian traditional knowledge on global platforms.
4. **Incentivization:** Scholarships and grants for research in IKS-related fields.
5. **Community Engagement:** Establishing IKS hubs and museums for experiential learning.
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10. Various articles and research papers on Indian Knowledge Systems and NEP 2020.

### Conclusion

IKS serves as a bridge between India's glorious past and its promising future. The NEP 2020 provides an excellent framework to integrate traditional wisdom into modern education, ensuring India's progress in all spheres. By addressing challenges and implementing strategic initiatives, IKS can significantly contribute to India's economic, ethical, and social development, making it a global knowledge powerhouse once again.

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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