



An article on Indian knowledge system (IKS) & its connect to Higher Education with special reference to National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey

Associate Professor, SSR IMR, Silvassa, Permanently Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author: Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey

Abstract

Education leads to the Holistic Development of individuals. Individuals sum up to be the group & groups lead to formation of the Society. A developed individual eventually becomes the base for a developed society. Education and Business have been knitted together. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) enhances the level of education and has a strategic impact on Businesses. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS), enables a holistic approach to education. IKS finds its roots in India's ancient wisdom; it integrates traditional values with contemporary knowledge. IKS has a notable influence on Higher Education as well. The Youth do get influenced by the Knowledge system. The Indian Higher Education model preaches Holistic Education for youth of the Nation, Ethics through Indian Ethos, inclusive workforce & social communities etc. By fostering collaboration between IKS practitioners and academic institutions, we can bridge the knowledge gap and leverage the potential of IKS to enhance human well-being. The current NEP 2020 advocates the IKS. This article attempts to understand the essence of IKS and study the connect between IKS & Higher Education with special reference to NEP 2020. The article encompasses the theoretical understanding on IKS, the same would turn up as literature for further studies. IKS can be witnessed and probably has the scope in the Educational environment and societal domain.

Keywords: Education, educational environment, IKS, Higher Education, NEP 2020

Introduction

IKS is the source of building the base for the education system. The NEP, 2020 recognizes this rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge. The ancient scriptures state that the Indian Knowledge Systems comprise of Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan that have evolved out of experience, observation, and experimentation. IKS has influenced languages of the Nation and has impact on textual, oral, and artistic traditions. IKS hence includes knowledge from ancient India and, its progress. Indian civilization is one of the most ancient civilizations in the world with a very rich history. The Vedas, Arth shastras and various philosophical texts provide a vast reservoir of knowledge on life, business and society. Certainly adopting the western principles blindly is not the solution.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) offers a vast repository of wisdom on health, agriculture, and social well-being. Education has always been a developmental strength for the mankind. The current era is hugely dependent on the educational inputs to human being and making them survive the life challenges. The education system and the implementation of the same has undergone the turmoil. The

knowledge system once implemented properly makes the human being reap the benefits. This exposure cultivates a deep sense of identity and pride, instilling in students a connection to their roots. Delving into ancient texts and philosophies within the curriculum offers a unique lens through which students can explore profound values and ethical principles.

Objectives of the study

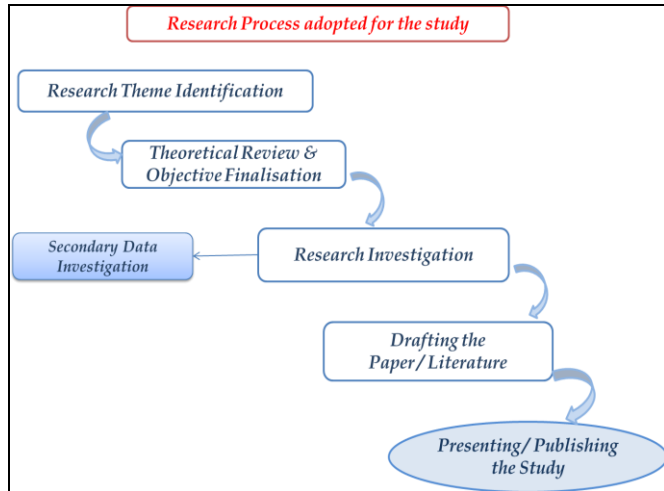
The Author has considered the following objectives for the study:

1. To understand the essence of Indian Knowledge System (IKS).
2. To study the connection between IKS & Higher Education with special reference to NEP 2020.

Research methodology & process

The article on IKS & its connect to Higher Education with special reference to NEP 2020 is a descriptive article attempted by collecting data through the Secondary sources. The Author through the article aims to understand the essence of IKS and further study the connect between IKS & Higher Education with special reference to NEP 2020.

This literary effort encapsulates the generation of further literature pertaining to the IKS domain and links the same with Higher Education. The author has discussed the IKS & Higher Education in general rather any specific course or programme of Higher Education which may turn up as limitation of the study. The inferences drawn from the study may be indicative in nature rather than exhaustive.



Source: Author’s Study

Fig 1: Research Process adopted for the study

Indian knowledge system (IKS): Perspective and Agenda

The perspective of IKS is visible through the benefits that IKS contains. The robust knowledge system of India enables the learners to engage in constructive avenues leading to productive results. India's journey towards revitalizing its education system through the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is fuelled by the recognition of its rich cultural heritage and intellectual traditions. Historically, British colonial policies had a detrimental impact on India's education system, leading to a decline in prosperity. The Indian Knowledge System is today well coordinated by the government and it enables a holistic education. India's ancient wisdom integrates traditional values with contemporary knowledge. IKS emphasizes on holistic development through various forms of education & activities. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) offers a vast repository of wisdom. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) stands as a great repository of wisdom collected over the period in the fields of Science, Health, Agriculture, social well-being, general commerce and overall education sphere. Key obstacles include the lack of awareness and understanding of IKS among educators and administrators, recording of IKS knowledge, resistance to change within educational institutions, and an inclination towards Western knowledge systems. The Globalized approach gave new perspectives to the Institutions in terms of curriculum development & delivery. Professional Development of the Teachers has become the need for the Institutions in order to cope up with the advancement in Education& adopting IKS. As one refers to the fact that the Higher Education attracts higher responsibility at the end of both Teachers and Students, so understanding the multifaceted Education system is essential. Education does lead to the Holistic Development of individuals. A developed individual eventually becomes the base for a developed society.

IKS & national education policy (NEP)

The New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates the fundamentals of IKS. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to address the growing development educational need of the Nation. The Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, NEP 2020 promotes active pedagogy, development of core capacities and life skills, including 21st century skills, experimental learning at all stages, low stake board exams, holistic progress card, transformation in assessment to promote critical and higher order thinking among students, mainstreaming of vocational education and reforms in teacher education. The National Education Policy is the improvised way of structuring the education system leading to nurturing the Talent in Nation. It is an initiative that gives importance not only to the weak students but also to the creative minds of this new generation. The NEP 2020 is a wonderful opportunity to revamp the Education system and progress further with affordable and quality Education for All.

Table 1: Highlights of the Education Policy over the Years

Sr. No.	NEP/NPE	Key Highlights of the Policy
1	NPE 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st National Policy on Education - recommendations of Kothari Commission Free & Compulsory Education 10+2+3 Pattern of Education Focused on multiple languages for education
2	NPE 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Equalize educational opportunities especially for Women & different castes +2 encouraged to be part of Schools Primary, Secondary sections & Higher Secondary establishment Open Education and Distance Education Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya’s
3	Rev. 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of 1986 Policy by the Ramamurti committee 1986 policy was updated in 1992 during P V Narsimha Rao Government Special Schools with hostels, arrangement for vocational training, Education for Specially abled
4	NEP 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOUR Sections for focus: School Education, Higher Education, Other Key Areas & Implementation 5+3+3+4 school system, with board exams in 12th Multidisciplinary Education Multiple exits at Graduation level, potential of 4 years Graduation with 1 Year PG after Graduation. Early PhD enrolment with no scope of M Phil Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts, and Culture

Higher education & IKS

The Higher Education plays an important role in shaping the career of the citizens. The youth of the nation is facing this dilemma of choosing between higher studies and job. There are several factors that influences the choice for higher studies i.e., the economic factors, personal factors, family background, financial factors etc. Having said that Higher education in the Nation is flourishing, thanks to the efforts of the government, local bodies, NGOs etc. In India there

are approximately 920 Universities which includes State Universities (404), Deemed Universities (126), Central Universities (50) & Private Universities (340) (www.ugc.ac.in). Approx. 40000 Colleges and around 10000 Stand Alone Institutions in the Nation explain the mammoth strength of the higher education.

The youth has various avenues to seek education now as against the past. Post schooling, the university level education is essential for citizens. Whether education leads to success or not, may be debatable yet the importance of education doesn't diminish. Education eventually adds to the development pace of the society. Higher Education develops the society in terms of providing the perspective towards advancement and progress. The agenda of the Higher Education is pretty clear in terms of enhancing Learning and Innovation Skills in youth. Proactively instil the Creativity and Innovation Skills among students. The agenda continues with creating opportunities of leaning towards Media, Information management and Technology Skills. Higher Education develops the momentum towards Life and Career Skills. The avenues of higher education have evolved over the years, the number of courses, number of colleges & Institutes have flourished. The massive attention has to be on meeting the defined agenda of education and creating an ecosystem of development through Education.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is deeply rooted in Vedic literature and aims to address contemporary societal issues through a structured approach. It encompasses traditional wisdom from the Vedas and Upanishads, fostering interdisciplinary research and education. Efforts include syncing IKS courses with digital platforms, training educators, and promoting innovation through competitions and collaborations. IKS Centres in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will serve as hubs for research and outreach. The goal is to disseminate authentic knowledge, create employment opportunities, and showcase Indian heritage globally, contributing to national pride and cultural awareness.

Implementation of IKS in higher education

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) holds immense potential to develop society at large, but its implementation faces challenges. Lack of awareness, undocumented knowledge, and resistance to change within education systems hinder the integration of IKS. The key elements potentially to be considered for the implementation of the IKS in Higher Education are:

- Launch targeted campaigns to educate stakeholders, including educators, administrators, policymakers, and the public, about the value of IKS.
- Offer introductory courses on IKS for educators and administrators.
- Foster collaboration between college faculty and IKS practitioners (experts, knowledge holders) in curriculum development.
- Develop digital repositories for storing documented IKS knowledge, including audio recordings, transcripts, videos, and multimedia resources.
- Organize workshops for faculty to explore strategies for integrating IKS into existing courses.
- Design interactive learning experiences that engage

students directly with IKS. This can include field trips to observe traditional practices (herbal medicine gardens, organic farms), workshops with IKS practitioners and project-based learning where students apply IKS knowledge to real-world problems.

- Advocate for curriculum frameworks that allow for flexibility within IKS integration.
- Document and share success stories of colleges that have successfully implemented IKS education initiatives. This can serve as inspiration for other institutions and highlight the positive impact of IKS on student learning and well-being.

Conclusion

IKS holds a strong base in the Education system and NEP 2020 advocates the same. In the contemporary world, education is key to human development leading to societal development. Despite education being vital for national development, India faces challenges in providing high-quality education universally. IKS does face its share of challenges in implementation. Key obstacles in the implementation of the IKS include the lack of awareness and understanding of IKS among educators, resistance to change within educational institutions, and the inclination towards Western knowledge systems. IKS advocates the fact that Education & Learning has been a never ending process. A person learns the best of the possible experiences in life. The experiences consist of personal life, professional life, environmental exposure, socio – cultural learning, civic sense, political know-how etc. All such avenues contribute to the true education in life. It is important that we regain the comprehensive knowledge system of our heritage and demonstrate our way of doing things. This certainly attracts more of training & developments of citizens at large, who will demonstrate the performance and prove to the world a way of life that goes beyond just materialistic way out and aims to eternal success. The integration of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into educational frameworks holds immense promise for improving human well-being.

References

1. Government of India. National Education Policy. 2023 Jan 25. Available from: www.education.gov.in.
2. University Grants Commission. Salient Features of National Education Policy. 2023 Jan 10. Available from: www.ugc.ac.in.
3. Indian Knowledge System (IKS). Indian Knowledge System: A Comprehensive Overview. 2023 Oct. Available from: <https://iksindia.org/>.
4. Indus University. How Students Can Benefit from the Indian Knowledge System. 2024 Apr. Available from: <https://indusuni.ac.in/how-students-can-benefit-from-the-indian-knowledge-system.php#>.
5. Government of India. National Education Policy: Indian Knowledge Systems. 2024 Apr. Available from: <https://www.education.gov.in/nep/indian-knowledge-systems>.
6. Chandel DN. Indian Knowledge System and NEP. Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research. 2014;1(1):1-5. Available from: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf.

7. University Grants Commission. Salient Features of National Education Policy. 2023 Jan 12. Available from: https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5294663_Salient-Featuresofnep-Eng-merged.pdf.
8. Indian Knowledge System (IKS). Indian Knowledge System. SSRN Electronic Journal. 2023.
9. Jyoti S, Rajesh P. A Study on Development of Higher Education and Professional Development of Teachers in Indian Context. Global Online Education and Innovative Research Journal. 2023;1(2):45-60.
10. Pandey R. A Study on Adult Education and Life Long Learning in Indian Context. Global Online Education and Innovative Research Journal. 2022;1(1):30-40.
11. Pandey R. Higher Education - A Force to Social Change. Global Online Education and Innovative Research Journal. 2023;1(3):15-25.
12. Tiwari DS. IKS as a Significant Corpus of Resources Useful for Personal and Professional Development. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI). 2023;12(4):100-105.
13. Vaz DD. Integrating Traditional IKS into Education System. Tuijin Jishu/Journal of Propulsion Technology. 2024;15(1):50-60.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. This license permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.