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ENHANCING ETHICS AND VALUES THROUGH INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT
Indian Knowledge System aims to encourage individuals for interdisciplinary knowledge exploration to solve contemporary and emerging problems by using ancient knowledge system of India. Incorporation of Indian Knowledge system into education can preserve India's intellectual heritage and offers a unique perspective on human development. The integration of ethics, values in education through Indian Knowledge System has the potential to promote sustainable, equitable, and overall development of human being. The Indian Knowledge System emphasizes on the interconnectedness of various disciplines to enhance intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of human beings. Thus, it has great contribution to create a more harmonious and peaceful world. This paper explores the relevance of Indian Knowledge System in modern periods and highlights the significance of ethics and value-based principles of Indian Knowledge System. This paper also demonstrates how the establishment of Indian Knowledge System can foster overall or holistic development of human beings.
KEY WORDS: *Ethics, Values, Indian Knowledge System*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Indian Knowledge System encompasses the rich and diverse body of knowledge, various philosophies, and practices that originated and evolved in the Indian subcontinent over thousands of years. The Indian Knowledge System plays a significant role to form sustainable Indian society. Now a days, the Indian Knowledge System considered as a vibrant blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific advancement (Mandavkar,2023). The Indian Knowledge System has a vast impact on daily life in India. As an example, various Hindu rituals, customs, and practices like yoga, meditation, and Ayurveda, which originated from ancient Indian texts. The practices of these ancient Indian text gain immense popularity all over the world. Indian education system significantly influenced by colonialism. During this colonial period, British rulers disseminated western language, knowledge and cultural norms to fulfil their personal and administrative needs. Thus, traditional Indian education systems were marginalized. So, the Indian National Education Policy 2020 emphasize on inclusion of Indian Knowledge System as foundational component of the curriculum. The Indian Knowledge System not only provide insightful opinion to enhance contemporary education but also emphasis on the holistic development of all living beings.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To explore the relevance of Indian Knowledge System in Modern periods.
- To explore the significance of ethics and value-based principles of Indian Knowledge System.
- To study the role of Indian Knowledge System to foster holistic development for human beings.

3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study has made on a descriptive theoretical analysis. It is based on secondary sources like journals, expert written opinion, websites and other reliable sources.

4. INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

Indian Knowledge Systems is an innovative cell under the Ministry of Education at AICTE, New Delhi. Its' initial intention is to promote interdisciplinary research on the various aspect of Indian Knowledge System. The IKS basically based on the concept of Vedas, Upavedas and Upanishads and spread India's rich heritage. The systematic transmission of knowledge from one generation to next generation is only possible through the establishment of Indian Knowledge System. The new generation will be aware about the traditional knowledge in the field of arts and literature, science, technology, agriculture, architecture and economics etc. Indian Knowledge Systems, despite their immense value, have been neglected in mainstream education, which Favors Western

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perspectives, leading to a fragmented understanding of knowledge and disconnection from cultural heritage, emphasizing the need to preserve and integrate these systems for inclusive, holistic, and culturally relevant learning (Wolk, 2021). The Indian knowledge system has a diverse and rich history that spans various fields of knowledge such as literature, philosophy, mathematics, science, and more.

4.1. Aims of Indian Knowledge System

- Indian Knowledge System aims to encourage individuals for interdisciplinary research to solve contemporary and present real-life problems by using ancient knowledge system of India.
- To preserve and transfer traditional knowledge of India from one generation to the next generation.
- To provide holistic education through the integration of various disciplines which emphasize intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of human being.
- To establish values and ethics for contributing overall well-being of society and ensure social harmony,
- To engage individuals with global collaboration by sharing knowledge and ideas which helps to experience collective knowledge.
- To provide in-depth knowledge about the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of harmonious living with nature.
- To encourage individuals for innovation with traditional wisdom to make balance between adaptation and continuity to changing circumstances.
- To promote diverse forms of cultural expression including arts, music, literatures and other essential components of IKS.
- To emphasis individual's scientific knowledge and technological advancements besides traditional knowledge.

5. RELEVANCE OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN MODERN PERIODS

The Indian Knowledge System plays a significant role to encompass various disciplines such as spirituality, science, philosophy, mathematics, and art. The Indian Knowledge System has a particularly relevant and significant contribution in modern times.

5.1. Holistic approach: The holistic approach is one of the most essential and fundamental principles of the Indian Knowledge System. The IKS particularly emphasised on the interconnectedness and interdependence of various aspects of life and the natural world. In the other hand, holistic approach recognizes various dimensions of human existence such as emotional, mental, physical and spiritual which are strongly interconnected. This approach emphasises on the necessity to balance and coherence in all aspects of life which helps to know about the interconnectedness of physical and mental issues. In Indian Knowledge System, Ayurveda plays a crucial role of traditional Indian system of medicine which emphasize interdependence of physical, mental and spiritual health and simultaneously, yoga emphasis on various physical postures, meditation and breathing techniques to promote quality of life and overall well-being. The concept of 'Dharma' is also the part of holistic approach which makes individuals aware about their duties and responsibilities towards their family, community and natural world.

5.2. Sustainable living: Sustainable living is an integral part of the Indian Knowledge System. Sustainable living gives importance of living in harmony with nature which encourage individuals to adopt a sustainable lifestyle. The sustainable living encourages to minimise the harmful activities of human being to the environment and it helps interconnect with nature. The Vedas and the Upanishads are the ancient Indian text where clearly mentioned about the interconnectedness of all living beings with the natural world. This kind of perspectives encourage individuals to emphasis on the conservation of natural resources and development of eco-friendly practices and promote simple lifestyle. The new concept of "Vasudhaiva Katumbakam" which means "the world is one family" emphasize on the importance of living in harmony with all living being. It is the great example of sustainable living in Indian Knowledge System.

5.3. Diversity and inclusiveness: The diversity and inclusiveness are the significant characteristic of Indian Knowledge System. The Indian Knowledge System recognizes that knowledge is a collective heritage and wisdom of human experience. Thus, IKS emphasizes on inclusivity of diverse range of texts including Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and various philosophy like Vedanta and Yoga. This concept gives importance to the diversity of individual's thoughts and perspectives which helps to exchange knowledge and promote cross-cultural understanding. The diverse and inclusive nature of Indian Knowledge System also encourage individuals to enhance their level of curiosity towards other culture and critically think which helps to recognise the value of this diverse knowledge and perspectives. Through the recognition of the value of multiple perspective, IKS develop vibrant knowledge tradition and make a more harmonious and equitable world.

5.4. Interdisciplinary approach: Interdisciplinary approach is another most important feature of Indian Knowledge System. This approach emphasis on the integration of multiple disciplines including philosophy, arts, cultures and science for comprehensive understanding of the world. Through interdisciplinary approach, IKS integrates philosophical and spiritual insights with scientific and empirical observations in the practical life. The great example of this application is the

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Ayurveda and Yoga, the ancient Indian text which provide in depth knowledge about psychology, physiology and spirituality and provide knowledge about interrelationship between health and wellness. Similarly, this approach also recognises the interconnectedness between arts and science discipline. It emphasizes on comprehensive understanding of knowledge and foster innovative thoughts and drawing insights from multiple discipline. Furthermore, IKS recognizes the need of collective knowledge of social, cultural and environmental context to provide in-depth understanding about the interconnectedness of humans and natural systems.

6. SIGNIFICANCE OF ETHICS AND VALUE-BASED PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

Ethics and value-based principles of Indian Knowledge System take a crucial role to guide human behaviour and decision-making. Dharma, Karma and Ahimsa construct moral and philosophical framework of Indian Knowledge System. All these principles help to understand real world conditions, reality of nature and interrelations of all living being.

6.1. Dharma

Initially, Dharma refers to the natural order of the universe, moral laws and justice principles that govern the behaviour of human being. It is the significant ethical and value based guiding principle in the Indian Knowledge System which helps individuals to overcome various complexities of life, encompasses the universal principles of morality and provide a framework for personal growth and development. Dharma enhances social harmony and attachment through mutual cooperation and respect to each other. The key aspects of Dharma in Indian Knowledge System include self-discipline, moral laws and values, universal principles, compassion and empathy. It also encourages individuals to follow simple lifestyle, make life more satisfying and meaningful, and promote environmental sustainability and conservation.

6.2. Karma

Karma is considered as the fundamental ethical and value-based principle in the Indian Knowledge System. It refers to the universal laws of cause and effect which helps to shape an individuals present and future circumstances on the basis of their each and every action but sometimes, consequences of one's action not only effect the individual but also the world around them. Through the recognition of interconnectedness of all actions and consequences, individuals make choices which promote positive outcome and got a framework for ethical decision making. The principle of Karma initial intention to emphasize the importance of personal responsibility, self-awareness, self-regulation and self-transformation which helps to promote their own well-being as well as other. Similarly, it emphasizes the necessity of social justice and morality, and enhance an individual's level of empathy, compassion, and kindness towards all living beings. In the context of IKS, Karma is the neutral principle that simply reflects the natural order of the universe and individuals enables to control their life and create bright future and meaningful life.

6.3. Ahimsa

The concept of Ahimsa in Indian Knowledge System which impact on various aspect of human life which is powerful principle that has the great potential to transform individual as well as society. Ahimsa is not only moral principle, but also a way of life that plays a significant role to minimise harm to the natural world and promote individuals' well-being. There are three types of non-violence, first-physical non-violence involves avoiding physical harm to living beings, second-mental non-violence involves improve empathy, compassion and kindness towards all living beings and the third one is verbal non-violence that involves avoiding hurtful speech. Ahimsa emphasis on the recognition of interconnectedness of all living being and encourage individuals to respect the diversity of human experience which helps to create peaceful and sustainable world. The principle of Ahimsa is highly relevant in today's modern life because it continuously improves individuals' self-realization, spiritual growth and liberation.

The principles of Dharma, Karma, and Ahimsa which provide valuable guidance on how to live a meaningful, purposeful, and fulfilling life. These principles avail various valuable insights and guidance to overcome various complexities of modern life with a deeper sense of wisdom and morality.

7. Indian Knowledge System in Education

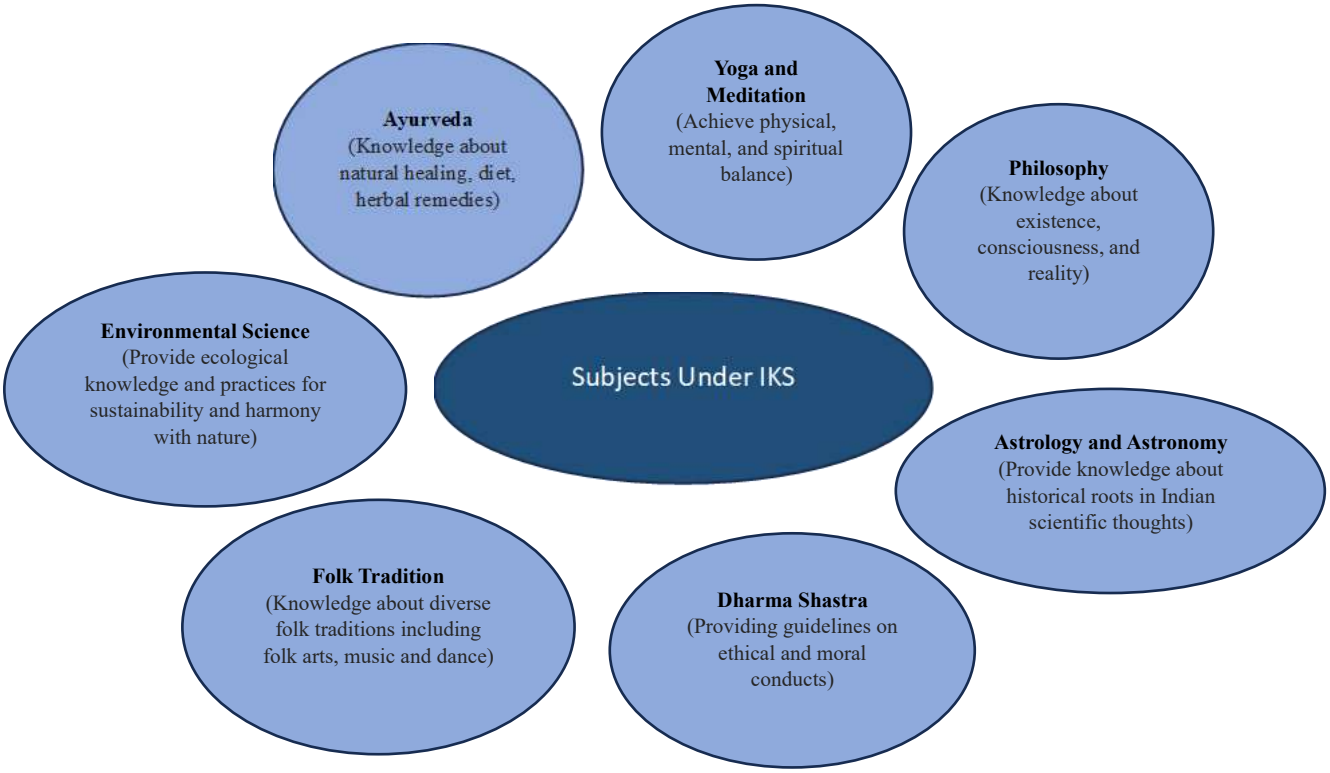
India's contemporary education system includes a wide range of subjects that go beyond traditional domains, emphasizes on modern science, humanities and technologies. Through the integration of Indian Knowledge System into the curriculum of contemporary Indian education system, discontinued in the flow of Indian traditional knowledge at all level of education. The IKS especially emphasizes on the promotion of Indian arts and cultures, language and ancient text. There are mentioned various subjects under Indian Knowledge System that are Philosophy, Ayurveda, Vedas and Upanishads, Yoga and Meditation, Classical dance and music, Arthashastra, Dharma Shastra, Environmental Science, Indian Classical language, History, Political Science and folk Traditions of India etc. Through the exposure of traditional and contemporary knowledge, students gain diverse concept. It also helps to foster intellectual growth and enhance their confidence. Institutions organise some simple activities such as excursion for students which

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helps them to know about the various regions as well as knowledge of various parts of the country. Inclusion of Indian Knowledge System in mainstream education system would provide encouragement to preserve the heritage of our learning system.

8. Role of Indian Knowledge System to foster holistic development of human beings

The concept of holistic development refers to the balanced growth of various dimensions of human being such as physical, mental, emotional and spiritual etc. Holistic development emphasis on the nurturance of all aspect of human growth, from physical health and well-being to emotional intelligence and spiritual development. Individuals' holistic development, make enable to navigate various difficulties or challenges of life, promote a sense of purpose and fulfilment and build up meaningful relationship. It also helps to promote resilience, creativity, adaptability and make comprehensive balance with rapidly changing world.



The integration of ethics, values through Indian Knowledge System can promote holistic development of individuals with the sense of wholeness. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) can be achieved through the incorporation of IKS principles like Dharma, Karma, and Ahimsa into daily life. This integration can be deepened through reflective practices like meditation and self-inquiry, empathy, cultivating emotional intelligence, and compassion. By taking responsibility for one's actions and their impact, individuals can promote a sense of accountability and responsibility, leading to a more holistic and sustainable approach to life.

The incorporation of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in education can have a transformative impact on students and society as a whole. Values such as Satya (truthfulness), Asateya (non-stealing) and Ahimsa (non-violence) are crucial principles of curriculum that develops students' in-depth moral foundation. Similarly, meditation, yoga and in-depth thinking about self are the part of Indian Knowledge System which helps to enhance spiritual experience, critical thoughts and calmness in difficult situation.

CONCLUSION

The integration of ethics and values through Indian Knowledge System into curriculum is essential thing to promote holistic development in learners. Policymakers should be encouraged to promote policy changes that support the integration of IKS principles and practices into developmental initiatives. The IKS plays a significant role to create equitable and sustainable world for all. It is essential to adopt an interdisciplinary approach that brings together scholars and practitioners from diverse fields to further explore this integration. It gives equal emphasis on cultural, social and environmental context from diverse communities. Future research needs to investigate the impact of IKS principles and practices on physical, emotional, and mental well-being. It is very essential to develop culturally sensitive interventions that integrate practices and principles of Indian Knowledge System with modern developmental frameworks. Furthermore, the potential of technology in promoting holistic development should be explored, including the use of digital platforms for introducing IKS principles and practices.

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