

## Incorporating the Indian Knowledge System in Enhancing Higher Education

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**Abstract:** *The main aim of this article is to identify the initiatives taken by the UGC in implementing the Indian Knowledge System in education specifically higher education. The rich legacy of timeless Indian knowledge and philosophy is acknowledged as a guiding element in the NEP, 2020. Experience, observation, experimentation, and thorough analysis have all contributed to the development of the Indian Knowledge Systems that comprise Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan. Our education, arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce have all been touched by this legacy. The UGC has a significant influence on the direction and control of higher education. The NEP 2020 has suggested incorporating the Indian Knowledge System IKS into curricula at all educational levels and has placed a strong emphasis on the development of Indian languages, arts, and culture. The study also exposed that there are many advantages to incorporating IKS in Indian higher education as enhancement of Indian culture, holistic development of students, application-oriented education, improving language ability, accessibility and inclusivity, knowledge of digital proficiency, global proficiency, entrepreneurship mindset, awareness to environment and lifelong education.*

**Keywords:** Higher Education, Indian Knowledge System, NEP 2020, UGC

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### Introduction

The Bhartiya approach is tenacious and aims to promote everyone's well-being. We need to recover the extensive knowledge base of our ancestry and teach the rest of the world the "Indian way" of doing things. To do this, generations of academics must be trained to illustrate and represent to the rest of the world a way of life that is so distinctive from the rest of our great civilization. This rich legacy of timeless Indian knowledge and philosophy is acknowledged as a guiding element in the NEP, 2020. Experience, observation, experimentation, and thorough analysis have all contributed to the development of the Indian Knowledge Systems that comprise Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan. Our education, arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce have all been touched by this legacy of validating and putting into practice. In India, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has a significant influence on the direction and control of higher education. The NEP 2020 has suggested incorporating the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into curricula at all educational levels and has placed a strong emphasis on the development of Indian languages, arts, and culture. The UGC has been actively advocating for measures to support and preserve the rich legacy of IKS in many disciplines, which has been passed down through generations of knowledge producers and practitioners, to assist the smooth integration of IKS with modern topics. UGC has started working to incorporate and disseminate the IKS within the contemporary higher education system.

### NEP2020 and IKS

A harmonic fusion of diverse knowledge systems may be achieved through interdisciplinary research that is fostered by studying IKS as part of contemporary education. NEP2020 views educating India's youth in ethics and values as essential to preparing them to become responsible members of society. The IKS emphasizes moral standards, ethics, and guidelines for living a good life. Higher education institutions may help students acquire the social responsibility, compassion, and ethical decision-making necessary for healthy lives by incorporating these ethical precepts found in IKS into their curricula. The NEP2020 emphasizes how critical it is to be sensitive to and conscious of sustainable development. The idea is that environmental sustainability and human well-being are connected. To prevent environmental degradation, our students need to practice ethical living, use farming techniques that increase soil fertility, conserve water, and reduce the need for fertilizers, and ultimately lead to sustainable farming practices. Indian village communities have been creating various methods for years, such as community-based forest, water body, and natural resource preservation as well as the capacity to handle environmental changes and natural disasters, which are crucial in the present day for the sustainable management of regional ecosystems.

To accommodate students from a variety of academic backgrounds, UGC's guidelines and curricular framework for environment education at the undergraduate level are anticipated to incorporate issues that raise students' awareness of India's commitment to attaining sustainable development goals. UGC understands how critical it is to provide faculty members with IKS skills so they may successfully educate and engage students in IKS. To familiarize faculty members with the details of the IKS, UGC is educating 1,000 teachers from throughout India in IKS through a partnership with the Ministry of Education's IKS cell.

### Objective of UGC

The goal of the UGC is to provide teachers with a thorough grasp of IKS to establish a more comprehensive and culturally rich learning environment. Teachers who are knowledgeable about the IKS can promote a learning environment that is more inclusive and sensitive to cultural differences. This fosters critical thinking, a broader perspective on global challenges, and an increased respect for students' cultural backgrounds. To support institutions and give a roadmap of IKS subjects into undergraduate and graduate curricula, UGC has released recommendations. Learners may now freely access three full courses on IKS in the humanities and social sciences, engineering, and science and technology via the SWAYAM platform. IKS should not be taught as a stand-alone subject. Whenever feasible, it needs to be incorporated into the standard curriculum. According to NEP2020, all young Indians should be aware of the rich and diverse range of languages in their nation as well as the riches spoken there for the objectives of cultural enrichment and national integration.

According to NEP2020, all young Indians should be aware of the rich and diverse range of languages spoken in their nation, as well as the treasures found in those languages and their literature, to promote cultural enrichment and national integration. Being multilingual promotes empathy and improved communication between speakers of different languages. Being multilingual opens doors to mutual respect and cooperation by fostering intercultural dialogue and creating efficient communication channels. Students' pride in their cultural heritage is enhanced when the IKS is taught in Indian languages in higher education. They can appreciate the contributions made by ancient Indian intellectuals to human knowledge and establish a connection with their ancestry. UGC is already collaborating with experts from across the institution to produce textbooks for undergraduate programs in Indian languages.

Additionally, UGC encourages the mentoring of artists and artisans-in-residence in post-secondary educational institutions. Higher education institutions (HEIs) can implement an integrated initiative to integrate the skills and creativity of artists and artisans, enhancing the teaching-learning resources on campus. This can be achieved by leveraging the intellectual and creative talent in various art forms and crafts available in the country, which are not formally connected to mainstream academia. To fulfill the demands of the present development of the Higher Education System in line with the NEP2020, our HEIs must effectively utilize the knowledge and skills of such persons outside the conventional academic system. India is now a major player in the world economy; therefore integrating the IKS into higher education will draw in foreign students who want to learn more about the richness and profundity of Indian traditional knowledge. Gaining knowledge about IKS may enhance one's comprehension of Indian culture. It is a bold move that enhances students' educational experiences, fosters cross-cultural understanding, and closes the knowledge gap between conventional wisdom and contemporary knowledge to include the IKS in higher education courses. Higher education institutions may provide a more comprehensive, varied, and inclusive learning environment that equips students to face the challenges of the modern world with morality, wisdom, and a profound understanding of their cultural heritage by adopting IKS.

Encouragement of faculty members to create and instruct these courses is necessary to help students have a deeper comprehension of the IKS. The influence of these activities will likely extend beyond the classroom since higher education institutions (HEIs) are essential in shaping the next generation of Indians into morally sound, culturally aware people who will propel the country's progress toward becoming a knowledge-driven society. The Indian Knowledge System, which has its roots in the values of inclusion and cultural heritage, reflects a dedication to developing well-experienced people who can make significant contributions to society. We see a tapestry that combines modern technology, traditional traditions, and an optimistic outlook as we examine the complexities of this system. The context for a deeper look at how the Indian government's educational initiatives mould the nation's next generation of scholars and leaders is established by this introduction.

## Advantages of the Indian Knowledge System

The government-supported Indian Knowledge System is an example of an all-encompassing, culturally based educational method. It fosters a thorough awareness of the world by fusing traditional values with modern knowledge, drawing on India's ancient wisdom. This concept emphasizes comprehensive development via education that goes beyond textbooks. Integrating cultures fosters pride and a sense of belonging to one's past. To maintain linguistic variety and ensure inclusion, regional languages are supported. Emphasis is placed on the practical application of information, enabling students to face real-world difficulties. A key component of understanding the significance of technology in the current world is digital literacy.

- **Enhancement of Culture:** Students are exposed to India's rich legacy through the Indian Knowledge System, which has a great impact on them because of its emphasis on cultural enrichment. Students who are exposed to this develop a strong sense of self and pride in their heritage. Students can examine significant values and ethical concepts via a unique prism provided by the curriculum's exploration of ancient books and philosophies. Through active engagement with the country's cultural fabric, students acquire critical thinking skills and expand their comprehension of the philosophical and historical foundations that form their society. This cultural enrichment serves as a basis for human development, promoting a well-rounded perspective and aiding in the creation of people who are not just intellectually gifted but also socially and culturally sensitive.
- **Overall Growth:** The Indian Knowledge System integrates extracurricular activities, athletics, and the arts into the curriculum with a heavy emphasis on holistic development. Through this combination, students are certain to develop a skill set that goes beyond academic brilliance. The system's emphasis on critical thinking and creativity gives pupils the skills they need to overcome a variety of obstacles and cultivates a mentality that goes beyond memorization. Students who receive this nurturing are academically successful and have the creative and analytical abilities needed to succeed in a world that is always changing.
- **Practical Oriented:** The Indian Knowledge System emphasizes problem-solving techniques and practical application and emphasizes experiential learning. By emphasizing the practical application of information, students acquire critical abilities in flexibility and creativity in addition to academic knowledge. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, this approach equips students to meet the ever-changing demands of the workplace. It develops a way of thinking where abstract ideas become concrete, producing a generation of students who can solve challenges in the real world creatively and perceptively.
- **Language Ability:** Through the promotion of regional languages, preservation of linguistic variety, and deepening students' knowledge of their cultural heritage, the Indian Knowledge System places a high priority on language competency. Communication skills are further improved via bilingual education, which acknowledges their critical importance in a global setting. This methodology enables efficacious intercultural discourse and bestows pupils a priceless resource in a globalized environment. The focus on language proficiency guarantees that students are competent communicators as well as academically competent, able to negotiate a variety of linguistic environments confidently and understandingly.
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** The Indian Knowledge System places a high value on accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that education is not limited by socioeconomic status. To ensure that every student, regardless of background, has access to high-quality education, special procedures have been put in place. Furthermore, the system adopts inclusive methods and provides support that is customized to meet the various learning requirements of kids. The Indian Knowledge System is essential to building a more inclusive and equitable society because it provides a setting where education is available to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, enabling students from all backgrounds to pursue and succeed in their academic pursuits.
- **Knowledge of Digital Media:** The Indian Knowledge System places a strong emphasis on digital literacy, giving pupils the tools they need to thrive in the digital age. This emphasis makes sure that

students become proficient in technology, enabling them to function well in a world that is more reliant on digital technology. Employing the curriculum, digital literacy is incorporated, therefore equipping students to leverage technology for communication, innovation, and problem-solving. This focus on digital skills improves their educational experience and puts them in a position to flourish in a world where technology is always changing. It also creates a generation that knows how to use digital tools to their advantage.

- **Universal Proficiency:** Students' global competency is actively promoted by the Indian Knowledge System. The curriculum's exposure to global viewpoints guarantees that students are adequately equipped for a more globalized labour market. Their horizons are expanded, and their awareness of other cultures is improved, all of which foster flexibility and teamwork. The program gives students the tools they need to succeed in a variety of professional settings and make significant contributions across borders by encouraging a global perspective. With a focus on global competency, students are better prepared to prosper in a globalized society where cross-cultural communication and teamwork are essential for success.
- **Entrepreneurship Mindset:** Students who participate in the Indian Knowledge System are encouraged to take risks and be innovative, which fosters an entrepreneurial attitude. Through the development of an entrepreneurial mentality, this method encourages students to become creators as opposed to job seekers. The method creates an atmosphere that encourages creativity and taking calculated risks, enabling students to actively participate in economic progress. Students who adopt this entrepreneurial attitude are more equipped for diverse job possibilities. It fosters a culture of independence, ingenuity, and problem-solving—qualities necessary for meeting the demands of a fast-changing international market.
- **Awareness of the Environment:** The Indian Knowledge System integrates education that encourages sustainable activities while emphasizing environmental concerns. This method gives children a sense of responsibility for the ecosystem and increases their knowledge of environmental challenges. Students are inspired to undertake eco-friendly actions and acquire a theoretical awareness of environmental concerns when ecological themes are incorporated into the curriculum. By placing a strong focus on ecological consciousness, graduates are guaranteed to have a greater understanding of their influence on the environment, be part of the generation that takes environmental responsibility seriously and be actively involved in creating a sustainable future.
- **Continuing Education:** With its prominence on lifelong learning, the Indian Knowledge System makes students for a lifetime of study. It emphasizes flexibility as a fundamental capacity and acknowledges the significance of adjusting to a constantly changing work environment. Students who are taught to view learning as a never-ending process become more resilient and academically ready to succeed in ever-changing and demanding circumstances. This dedication to lifelong learning guarantees that graduates will be prepared to seize new chances, maintain relevance in the workplace, and make significant contributions to the advancement of society.

## Conclusion

Over thousands of years, India has developed a rich and diversified knowledge history in fields including philosophy, the arts, sciences, technology, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, economics, political science, social sciences, and ethics. By offering a more thorough grasp of human knowledge, civilization, and cultural legacy and benefiting students, academics, and society at large, the IKS has the potential to enhance and complement modern higher education. Students are encouraged to view courses in a larger context by being able to recognize how linked and interdependent information is thanks to the integration of IKS higher education.

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