

# Integration of IKS and ILs in Indian Education through NEP2020

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In the backdrop of three-day Akhila Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) that is being organized by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) in Varanasi (U. P.) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July. This Varanasi Mahakumbha will trigger sharing of many ideas and experiences of last two years in the new era of NEP-2020.

This Shiksha Sammelan will be inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, the promoter of NEP2020. This Conference is expected to identify the strength in Indian Knowledge System (IKS). Keeping the current education system, in view this article argues for integration of IKS without separate identity.

In order to discover the self of Bharat, the exploration of Indian wisdom is the only key. Since the inception of NEP2020 in Indian Education, IKS - the Indian Knowledge System, has been a focal point of discussion. For the last two centuries, the western perception has been the leading influencing factor in our education. The Indian origin knowledge is either rejected or ignored in mainstream education. Indian World View is totally missing in the society. "Living" with 'full of means' has become the lone objective of current education; whereas the "meaningful life" is the goal of Indian Education. This change of direction remains a challenging job until complete integration of Indian Knowledge System takes place in nation's Education.

## WHY IKS?

According to Kautilya, Education shall aim at three outcomes as characteristics in graduates : विद्या - Creation of New Knowledge, विवेक - Wisdom to use the right knowledge in right time & place for right purpose, and विचक्षणता - the skillsets to get the proper results of knowledge in real life. These outcomes are possible only when the Education System is properly balanced with the integration of knowledge and skills in an appropriate manner. In today's education, organisation of knowledge content "what to know" has taken over the best of knowledge seeking 'inquiry', i.e., "how to know". The entire Indian Knowledge Tradition has always focused on 'how' rather than 'what'. Secondly, the advent of new technologies has pushed the humanity into a big

trouble. Human existence has been severely challenged. Natural human skills are in question. In order to handle this difficult situation, new skill sets are to be skillfully introduced in the Neo education system. Not only the skills to use the technologies, but also the life skills to use the knowledge in life, are very important. Disproportionate skilling in education has damaged the process of creation of knowledge. Mere knowledge sans practice has taken it to death. Ancient Indian wisdom plays very important role in this balancing act. Integration of IKS brings such a balance in Indian Education for life.

## **WHAT IS IKS?**

IKS is a collective range of Indian Knowledge that has exhibited in systematised ways of knowing. Starting from the oldest compositions of knowledge i.e, the Vedic literature to the country's native and tribal folklore, the Indian Knowledge is spread as a spectrum. There is a vast repository of knowledge available not only in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, but also in all native Indian languages. This has been remaining unexplored for the last several decades.

Indian Knowledge encompasses the Foundational knowledge, Science, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences through a structured classification. IKS (Indian Knowledge System) has evolved over millenniums. It has a wide range of several beaches such as Astronomy, Ayurveda & Yoga (Health and Well-being) Mathematics and Computing, Languages and Linguistics, Metallurgy, Rasa-Shastra, Public Administration, War Technology. Management Science and many more.

IKS contributions to the various fields include understanding planetary movements, solar-centric world, shape and diameter of the Earth; nature of plants & herbs, skills of surgical procedures; discovery of zero, decimal system of numerals, and approximation algorithms for computation of Pi; Panini's universal grammar; method of steel-making, Good Governance and Taxation and what not ?

Eighteen Vidya Sthanas - Schools of learnings were part of Ancient Indian Education which were taught in Nalanda, Takshashila and other centres of learning. The Art & Architecture, Science & Technology, Craft & Engineering, Philosophy & Practices had been the source of India's reputation in the world. That attracted not only learners to gain but also the invaders to ruin India. Knowledge was the power and wealth of our country. Today this Knowledge base is much needed for Knowledge diplomacy which is going to rule the international relations in future world. This is what brings the power to any country. India has such a treasure of knowledge that enriched the Indian civilisation for millennia.

## HOW TO MAKE IKS PART OF MAINSTREAM EDUCATION?

IKS, being a vast & undivided source of knowledge and unattended for many decades, has been disassociated from the societal memories. Though some parts of IKS were continued in teaching and learning in Sanskrit and other traditions, this kind of isolation made it inaccessible. Just revival or reinforcement of IKS in education will create a new compartment of learning which is more dangerous than the preservation. It is, therefore, desired to integrate the IKS content into the contemporary knowledge in harmonious way. Such integration demands a lot of labour and clarity.

Kautilya's classification of schools of learning makes it explicit that every contemporary knowledge stream has a link with the ancient Indian knowledge tradition.

1. **Trayii** - the trio of fundamental Sciences including Hard and Soft sciences constitutes the school of science learning - Vijnana-vidya.
2. **Vaarta** is nothing but commerce which includes production and distribution of wealth through trading and other means.
3. **Danda Neeti** - Studies in Polity, society, state security etc., become part of school of Human or social sciences.
4. **Anveekshiki** - science of all branches of learning covers Mathematics, logic, language, art and so on. This is common to all. All learners of different branches of learning must be exposed to these foundation programs. In this model, new education system should be connected to various branches of IKS.

IKS in simple words teaches us how to inquire? In what way? To what extent? Fundamental sutras will guide and re-orient our thinking process. IKS creates a new world view that is rooted in axiomatic faith that "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" (the whole universe is a family) and "*Sarve Bhavantu SukhinaH*" (may all be happy).

Integration process involves the basic introduction to IKS, it's nature and structure, Scope & History, amalgamation of fundamental IKS concepts into the modern textbooks, and finally developing Indian Thought Models based on available IKS literature, and their application into various contemporary problems solving methods.

In other words, IKS should not be taught in isolation for mere preservation purpose. Instead, it should be made part of larger missions of the country like 'Space-Science', 'Svasta-Bharat', 'Atma-Nirbhar-Bharat' missions. This Mission-mode IKS integrity will serve the purpose. Change of mode "from Preservation to Utilisation" will accomplish our goal to create Bharat as hub of emerging knowledge.

## IL : INDIAN LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION

इदमन्धतमः कृत्स्नं जायेत भुवनत्रयमायदि शब्दाह्वयं ज्योतिः आसंसारं न दीप्यते। - दण्डी

Language provides light to the life. If there were no 'language', the whole of the world would be in darkness. The flash of light inherited in words enlightens the Universe. This saying of Dandi, an ancient Sanskrit poet, shows the importance of language in Bharatiya Thought.

The language is the foundation of human thinking process. "Thinking" is impossible without language. Hence, Bhartruhari, Philosopher par excellence states that:

न सोस्ति प्रत्ययो लोके यः शब्दानुगमादृते ।  
अनुविद्धमिव ज्ञानं सर्वं शब्देन भासते ।

No knowing exists without word. All knowledge is intertwined with word - the language.

In order to make the human beings think in proper way, good grounding in language is needed. Therefore, language education has been considered to be integral part of education system. In the context of IKS or IKS based education, Indian Languages play a very crucial role. The IKS is understood with the understating of basic categories. Such basic categories of any Indian Knowledge System are expressed through Indian Language terms. The translation of these ideas into English will lead a disastrous misconception. The discontinuation of Indian Language Education will make the IKS education feeble. Therefore, a judicious balance of IKS and IL education, will be made part of Indian Education that stimulates quality research leading to harmonious economic growth.

This integration will help us to achieve the main objective of NEP2020 to develop a holistic education through which Bharat attains Vishwaguru position once again.

नान्यः पन्थाः विद्यते अयनाय

(No other way exists to get liberated)

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