



PROMOTING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT AMONG LEARNERS THROUGH INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM (IKS): REFLECTION FROM NEP – 2020

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



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Abstract

Education is the fundamental right of citizens that helps to develop the intellectual ability, social inclusion, moral development, problem solving skills of learners. NEP 2020 is the first National education policy of 21st century, comes in the picture to make a bridge between the gaps of the various concept of previous education policies in the present context. The objectives of the study was to know how holistic development should be promote through Indian Knowledge System impart of NEP-2020 to implement Indian knowledge system and to find out the major challenges of implementation of IKS in present educational system. The present study was a meta-analysis. The study was conducted through the literature review on the basis of the papers, articles, ancient text and different policy documents. The NEP-2020 introduce the concept of Indian Knowledge System in fundamental principle of this policy through this words “a rootedness and pride in India, and its rich, diverse, ancient and modern culture and knowledge Systems and traditions”. The study shows Indian ancient culture, ethos, moral practices, Ayurveda, Astronomy, Yoga, Literature, Mathematics etc. helps the learners to promote their learning in multidisciplinary way which is also helpful in our today’s life. The concept of ‘vishwa guru’ is introduced for reflecting India as the ‘Global super power’ through a vibrant and excellent knowledge building capabilities. Indian Knowledge System (IKS) helps to promote holistic development of learners with in traditional education system along with modern education benchmark according to the educational and learning objectives of knowledge enhancement human resources through quality education.

Keywords: *Indian Knowledge System, NEP-2020, Quality Education, Holistic Development*

1. Introduction

Education system is the bone marrow of a society that is always in the centre of development for any country to protect human resources and from the ancient period Indian Knowledge system focused on education [1]. In the Indian education system education is advocated as a fundamental right which ensures free, compulsory quality education which helps to develop intellectual ability, social development, moral development, problem solving skills through the holistic development of learners that can be explored through inculcating the concept of Indian Knowledge system [3]. Indian Knowledge System is the most ancient concept of education that helps to promote holistic development through quality education of young learners by merging the concept of both traditional and modern technology based education [6]. The concept of IKS Indian means ‘Akhand Bharat’, Knowledge means ‘Gained by insight into personal experience and life situation’ and system means ‘Structure methodology for assessing knowledge’ [1]. From the ancient period India has had a strong education system and appropriate resources of knowledge in various fields such as yoga, mathematics, astronomy, medical science and many other sectors. It is very necessary to revitalize IKS for preserving and applying the previous knowledge within the present education system. NEP 2020 is the first National education policy of the 21st century, and comes in the picture to bridge the gap between the various concepts of previous education policies in the present context. This policy gives emphasis on all round development of learners through quality education. The main vision of this policy is to make India as a Global Hub of education. The concept of ‘Vishwa Guru’ is introduced to construct India as the ‘Global super power’ through a vibrant and excellent knowledge building capabilities [7]. Without holistic development of learners it is not possible to achieve this goal. So, the National Education Policy 2020 promotes the Indian Knowledge System to become education more holistic and authentic [6].

2. Significance of the Study

Within the current education system Indian Knowledge System should introduce school curriculum for all round development of learners such as enhance the real life problem solving abilities, understanding, critical thinking and molar values through the

combination of ancient knowledge of India and modern concept of education. Teacher educators should provide proper knowledge about IKS and skill of teaching for creating an environment of more holistic and multidisciplinary education.

3. Review of Related Literature

The study of Acharya (2024) on Indian Knowledge system in higher education and integration of IKS through National Education Policy 2020 and the opportunity and challenges of IKS. This study revealed that the appropriate implementation of the Indian Knowledge system ensures a more effective education system. Every stakeholder should take initiative to implement it in the current education system. Das (2024) focused on various perspective of Indian Knowledge system such as the glorious tradition of spirituality, arts, literature, printing, dance, mythology, ethics, astronomy, logic, philosophy, economics, yoga and mathematics. This study explored that Indian Knowledge system is very essential to holistic development of learners and which was reflected through the National Education Policy 2020. Mishra (2024) discussed the significance, strategies, and challenges of integrating traditional Indian knowledge systems in perspective of National Education Policy 2020. This study revealed that there are a lot of benefits to introducing the Indian Knowledge system in our present education system through the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

4. Research Questions

RQ-1: How to promote Holistic Development among learners?

RQ-2: How to implement Indian Knowledge System through NEP-2020?

RQ-3: What are the challenges for the implementation of IKS in present educational system?

RQ-4: What are the requirements for the implementation of IKS?

5. Methodology of the Study

A qualitative research method was used for this research study. This study is mainly based on carefully examination of many valuable sources, such as different academic papers, policy documents, newspapers, and websites.

6. Discussion

❖ Holistic development of learners through Indian Knowledge System

Holistic development of learners is occurred through the quality education. It comprises with every aspect of individual's life. Indian knowledge system is focused on all round development of learners through giving emphasis on various aspect of real life phenomenon. The multiple field of Indian Knowledge System for holistic development of learners discussed below:

i. **Traditional Knowledge in Mathematics:**

In our daily life use of mathematics is very frequently. Today we use calculate, mobile or computer to solve the complex calculation. But in ancient there was no technology after that they solve lot of complex mathematics. Vedic mathematics was included lot of easy techniques to calculate which make it very simple. The techniques of Vedic mathematics should be included in school curriculum and encourage the learners to implement it in real life situations.

ii. **Traditional Yoga, Medicine, Vedas:**

Yoga, meditation, and Ayurveda are playing an important role to health and wellness of human beings. The various programs related to Yoga within educational institutions promote healthy and well-being youth. The courses of traditional medicine like homeopathy, Ayurveda are helpful to solve lot of issues related to human body. Tradition Indian practice related to healthy food habit, well living criteria should introduce in curriculum for holistic development of learners.

iii. **Preserving Art, Culture and Tradition:**

The traditional Indian arts, crafts, dance, music, and theatre are very important part to develop learners in holistic manner. The art, culture and tradition should preserve within higher education institutions which is very effective for not only preserves cultural heritage and tradition but also provides students multiple dimension of all round development within a productive education system.

iv. **Astronomy:**

Astronomy is a part of education which is very famous in ancient time. From the history of Indian education we know many educational institutes teach astronomy as a subject in ancient time.

v. **Moral Development:**

Many traditional Indian values, ethics, and philosophies are found in the Vedas, Upanishads, and other ancient texts which is very necessary to holistic development of individual. If these ideas inculcate the curriculum, it must grow a sense of morality and ethics among students which is very helpful to be a good human being. Our ancient texts also focus on the character building of the learners. Swami Vivekananda thought that education should become man making education which is not possible without including India Knowledge System in curriculum.

❖ **Implementation of Indian Knowledge System through NEP 2020**

i. **Promote Indian Heritage and Culture through NEP-2020:**

The NEP-2020 introduces the concept of Indian Knowledge System as a fundamental principle of this policy through the words “a rootedness and pride in India, and its rich, diverse, ancient and modern culture and knowledge Systems and traditions”. According to the policy every learner should feel pride as an Indian citizen because of the significant culture, heritage and traditions that includes a positive growth within the present educational context.

ii. **Vibrant and Excellent Knowledge Building:**

Vision of this policy the concept of ‘Vishwa Guru’ is introduced to construct India as the ‘Global super power’ through a vibrant and excellent knowledge building capabilities. The ancient education system of India was very effective to holistic development of individuals and many students come from different countries to take their education. Modern education system should be carried out in such a way that India again leads in the field of education through combination with the previous Indian Knowledge system that promotes vibrant and excellent knowledge building among learners.

iii. **Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education reflected in NEP-2020:**

The policy promoting holistic development through IKS is also mentioned in Part II. HIGHER EDUCATION, Chapter 11. Towards a More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education through this line “India has a long tradition of holistic and multidisciplinary learning, from universities such as Takshashila and Nalanda, to the extensive literatures of India combining subjects across fields. Ancient Indian literary works such as Banabhatta’s Kadambari described a good education as knowledge of the 64 Kalaas or arts;” From history of Indian education Takshashila, Nalanda and many other universities were provided education to the scholars in multiple field i.e. medicine, law, astronomy, Kalaas logic, literature etc. The universities included a structured education system, residential facilities and knowledge enriched libraries. If we are able to use these various educational content in our present curriculum and learning-teaching process, modern education must achieve the desired goal of multidisciplinary and holistic development through developing physical, psychological, social and moral values among learners.

iv. **Interdisciplinary studies with local flavour as per NEP-2020:**

NEP 2020 mentions the Interdisciplinary Studies which also includes multiple subjects of Indian Knowledge System like yoga, Astronomy, Vedic Mathematics, Kala with modern technology and subjects. The policy emphasis on the interconnectedness of different disciplines which helps to all round and well-rounded development of learners as well as whole society. Higher educational institutes are encouraged to apply ancient knowledge in their curriculum. The policy is focused on the learning on the basis of regional history and indigenous knowledge. Regional knowledge including different languages, culture and values in the education system promotes inclusive and culture-specific education systems.

v. **Development of research reflected in NEP-2020:**

The research on ancient resources and knowledge is given special emphasis in the document of NEP 2020. These researches are conducted to validate the various techniques and methodologies of Indian Knowledge System in the prospect of modern educational context. Effective researches on the field of Indian Knowledge System help to determine the needs and requirements of traditional knowledge in education for achieving good quality of life.

vi. **Professional development of teachers & NEP-2020:**

Teachers or ‘Guru’ had played a very necessary role in education from ancient times of India. In-depth Knowledge and various teaching skills are the most required conditions for making learning-teaching more fruitful which is impossible without effective training of teachers. Continuous Professional Development of teachers for 50 hours per year is mentioned in the document of National Education Policy 2020.

vii. **Effective pedagogy and curriculum in NEP-2020:**

National Education Policy is focused on integration of Indian Knowledge System in pedagogical contents. Modern technology is very important for contemporary education system which gives some effective modern aspects as well as incorporating the Indian Knowledge System within curriculum keeps a pivotal role for various essential traditional knowledge of ancient India which is not only required for ancient times but also several benefits for developing quality of life through education in modern time.

❖ **Challenges of implementation of IKS in present educational system**

Indian Knowledge system plays a very important role to fulfil the goal of quality education through holistic development of learners. But it is not too easy to implement every aspect of IKS in present educational system. Teachers, students and policy makers are faced lot of difficulties to appropriate use of IKS in different field of education. Some major challenges are discussed below:

i. **Limited teacher education:**

Teachers are the most important pillar of education. Teacher education programme is conducted for enhancement of knowledge and skill of classroom teaching. Professional development is also increased through teacher education. Indian knowledge System is not given major focus in the curriculum of teacher education courses. That’s why teachers

also have limited knowledge about IKS which create difficulties to distribute knowledge and ensure holistic development of learners. Lack of proper training about IKS is a major challenge to implement it in current educational context.

ii. **Negative perception:**

In present time Indian Knowledge System is very effective to all round development of human beings through acquiring knowledge in multidimensional prospective of life. But many people connect it with religious values and many others thinks there is no importance of previous knowledge. The negative perception of the citizen is very harmful to promote Indian Knowledge System in present education system.

iii. **Lack of Institutional support:**

Sometimes the management of educational institution is very indifferent for the use of various component of Indian Knowledge System. Educational organization does not provide the various learning resources on IKS to the learners that give wrong direction about it. Most of the time teachers and students both have no idea about the effectiveness and a lot of positive sides of Indian Knowledge System because of insufficient institutional support.

iv. **Curriculum design:**

Curriculum is a prescriptive map for students and teachers both that helps to decide the right way of making learning-teaching most effective. Curriculum design is most important factor for enhancement of learning of the students. It is very unfortunate that the aspects of Indian Knowledge System are not considered many times for designing curriculum. If the topic is not included in the curriculum, it is impossible to implement the concept of IKS in the present education system which is great barrier in holistic development of learners.

v. **Language barrier:**

Language plays an important in development of learning of a student. Indian Knowledge System preserved through the resources of ancient text which are especially comprised with various ancient language like Sanskrit, Pali etc. These languages are a great barrier for using it as a resource for holistic development of learners in the context of modern education system.

❖ **Suggestions to Implement IKS**

- The concept of IKS should be included in-service and pre-service teacher education programmes.
- Conducting various awareness campaigns on the benefits of IKS for holistic development of learners.
- The educational organization should ensure the major support to implement it in education system.
- Indian Knowledge System should be included in the ground level of school curriculum.
- The ancient text should convert in various regional languages for understanding of learners.

7. Conclusion

Education helps to the development of any country by all round development of citizens through formal, informal, non-formal education system. In present situation quality education achieve the goal of multidisciplinary and holistic education of learners through the implication of Indian Knowledge System for achievement the objectives of quality according to real life situation. At present education system face many challenges to introduce IKS in school curriculum as well as higher education. But the National Education Policy 2020 introduced the concept of Indian Knowledge System to enhance the effectiveness of learning. In conclusion after the consideration challenges and Opportunity of IKS every stakeholder (teachers, students, and policy makers) should ensure introducing Indian Knowledge System in educational system according to the objectives of holistic development of learners throughout whole life.

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