



INTEGRATION OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Preface

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) represents a vast and diverse repository of wisdom, culture, and tradition that has evolved over millennia. Rooted in ancient scriptures, philosophical thought, and empirical practices, it offers a profound understanding of various disciplines, including science, mathematics, medicine, art, and philosophy. As India strides towards global leadership in education and technology, integrating this rich heritage with modern educational frameworks is not only relevant but essential. This edited volume seeks to explore the confluence of the Indian Knowledge System with contemporary education, addressing its relevance, application, and potential impact in a rapidly evolving world. The chapters within this book are contributions from scholars and educators dedicated to bridging the gap between tradition and modernity in education. The opening chapter, *Exploring the Depths of Knowledge: An Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems and Modern Educational Approaches*, sets the stage by providing an overview of IKS and its significance in the context of present-day learning paradigms. It serves as a foundation for understanding how ancient wisdom can complement and enhance modern teaching practices.

Following this, the role of technology in IKS is examined, highlighting how digital advancements can preserve, disseminate, and innovate traditional knowledge. This is particularly pertinent in an era where technology drives educational evolution, creating opportunities for wider access and deeper engagement with IKS. A pivotal chapter on *The Indian Knowledge System in the Light of NEP 2020* delves into the National Education Policy's vision for incorporating IKS in mainstream education. The policy's emphasis on decolonizing education and promoting Indian languages,

literature, and knowledge forms a crucial backdrop for this discussion.

The question of relevance is thoughtfully addressed in “Is the Integration of the Indian Knowledge System in Modern Education Relevant?”, where the authors critically analyze whether IKS can co-exist with or even enhance modern curricula. This is followed by an exploration of the Challenges and Integration of IKS in Higher Education, discussing the barriers, misconceptions, and structural limitations that hinder the seamless incorporation of traditional knowledge. A unique contribution in this volume is the chapter on “Education and Rehabilitation of Persons with Special Needs in the Indian Knowledge System”. It sheds light on how ancient Indian philosophies and practices offer inclusive and holistic approaches to education, which can greatly benefit the marginalized sections of society, especially those with special needs. The concluding section revisits the core theme of this book—“IKS and Modern Education”—offering insights into how these two seemingly different paradigms can coalesce to create an enriched learning experience. The discussion emphasizes the need for a balanced integration that honours the depth of India's cultural heritage while meeting the demands of a globalized educational landscape.

This book is a small but significant step towards reigniting a dialogue around IKS in modern education. As editors, we hope it inspires further research, policy development, and practical initiatives aimed at creating an education system that truly reflects the wisdom of India's past and the aspirations of its future. We extend our gratitude to the contributors for their invaluable insights and dedication to this important cause.

Dr. Azkiya Waris

Dr. Dhriti Tiwari

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Exploring the Depths of Knowledge: An Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems and Modern Educational Approaches

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Abstract

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) represents a rich and diverse heritage of intellectual and cultural traditions developed over thousands of years. It offers a holistic and integrative approach to understanding the world, blending material and spiritual dimensions, and emphasizing the interconnectedness of various fields of knowledge. IKS encompasses a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy, science, medicine, arts, and literature, reflecting a deep commitment to the pursuit of wisdom, ethical development, and personal growth. Modern Education, with its emphasis on empirical evidence, structured curricula, and technological integration, reflects the dynamic and evolving nature of contemporary learning. It aims to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world, focusing on critical thinking, practical competencies, and global awareness. The systematic approach to education, standardized assessments, and pedagogical innovations of Modern Education are designed to meet the demands of an industrialized and interconnected society.

The ongoing advancements in Modern Education highlight the importance of adaptability and continuous learning. By leveraging technological tools and innovative teaching methods, Modern

Education prepares students to navigate and contribute to a globalized world effectively. It underscores the value of a forward-looking approach that balances the need for academic rigor with practical, real-world applications.

Introduction: - The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Modern Education represent two distinct paradigms of learning and understanding that have shaped human thought and societal development. Each system reflects the cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts from which it emerged, and both offer valuable insights into the nature of knowledge and education. Understanding these systems in detail provides a comprehensive view of how different approaches to learning can complement each other in the pursuit of personal and collective growth.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS):- The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a rich and diverse repository of intellectual traditions that have been cultivated over thousands of years in the Indian subcontinent. This system is deeply rooted in ancient texts, oral traditions, and practices that have evolved through various epochs of Indian history. IKS encompasses a wide range of knowledge domains, including philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, arts, and spirituality.

At the heart of IKS is the concept of holistic knowledge, which integrates different aspects of human experience and the natural world. This integration is evident in the way traditional Indian knowledge systems emphasize the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit. For instance, the Vedic texts, which form the foundation of much of IKS, provide not only spiritual guidance but also insights into cosmology, ethics, and societal roles. Similarly, classical texts on Ayurveda and Yoga offer profound understandings of health and well-being that are holistic rather than purely mechanistic.