



# 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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# Integration of Indian Knowledge System in Higher Education System

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## ***Abstract***

*Education is considered the foundation of a nation, and crucial for shaping its future. As the world changes rapidly, updating the education system regularly is important to keep up with current trends and meet today's needs. Despite many changes to the education system in India over the years, providing high-quality education for everyone remains a challenge. This chapter aims to explore how integrating traditional Indian knowledge systems can revitalize the Indian education system. The chapter will look into these traditional knowledge systems and discuss how they can be smoothly added to the current education framework.*

***Keywords:*** *Indian Knowledge System, Higher Education, Curriculum, Learning, Teaching.*

## **1. Introduction**

India's educational system is rich and varied, reflecting the country's deep cultural, social, and intellectual roots. It is based on the Ancient Indian Knowledge System (IKS), which includes arts, sciences, philosophy, and spirituality. Over time, Indian education has changed significantly, blending traditional wisdom with modern insights. However, combining these two aspects hasn't been easy, and many challenges have been faced. It's important to integrate IKS into the modern education system to revitalize education. Today, the Indian education system has several problems that affect its ability

to develop well-rounded individuals. A key issue is the lack of formal integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into the mainstream curriculum, causing a gap between India's cultural heritage and what students learn. Moreover, the current educational framework limits students' chances to explore and appreciate traditional Indian knowledge. Many initiatives have been started to improve the Indian education system by including traditional knowledge systems. For example, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has created a curriculum based on the Indian knowledge system, covering subjects like agriculture, irrigation techniques, and traditional customs. These courses aim to make Indian youth proud by reviving ancient knowledge and integrating it into mainstream education. By combining India's historical wisdom with modern knowledge, the education system can better address current and future challenges.

## **2. Significance of IKS in Contemporary Education**

Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into modern education is very important because it combines traditional wisdom with today's learning methods. This helps keep India's rich cultural heritage alive and makes students proud of their roots. IKS promotes a balanced education that focuses not only on academics but also on physical, emotional, and spiritual growth, helping students become well-rounded individuals.

IKS teaches sustainable and ethical practices in areas like farming and medicine, which is crucial for tackling global problems like climate change. Its approach connects different subjects, encouraging students to think critically and creatively. Including practices like Yoga and Ayurveda in the curriculum promotes healthier lifestyles and better mental well-being.

Learning about the historical contributions of IKS in fields like mathematics and astronomy can inspire innovative thinking. It also helps students appreciate their own culture while understanding global knowledge, making them more culturally aware and