

Bridging Past and future : NEP 2020 and rebirth of Indian Knowledge**Dr. Amita Chaudhary¹**¹Assistant Professor, N.K.B.M.G.P.G. College Chandausi, Sambhal, (GJ University Moradabad) UP

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Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a transformative shift in India's educational landscape by emphasizing holistic, multidisciplinary learning and the revival of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). Rooted in centuries of civilizational wisdom, IKS encompasses diverse domains such as philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, literature, governance, and sustainable living practices. NEP 2020 identifies the urgent need to integrate this rich intellectual heritage with contemporary pedagogy to create an education system that is globally competitive yet locally grounded. This paper examines the implementation strategies of NEP 2020 for promoting IKS, focusing on curriculum innovation, research promotion, teacher capacity building, and the establishment of dedicated IKS centers in higher education institutions. It explores how ancient knowledge traditions can be revitalized through interdisciplinary approaches, digital platforms, and experiential learning models, thereby bridging the gap between India's cultural past and technological future.

Furthermore, the study highlights the opportunities and challenges associated with this integration. While the inclusion of IKS can foster national pride, cultural rootedness, and critical thinking skills, its effective execution requires robust policy support, resource allocation, scholarly research, and a balance between traditional wisdom and scientific validation. Case examples of Ayurveda, Vedic mathematics, classical languages, and indigenous ecological practices illustrate the potential of IKS to contribute meaningfully to global knowledge systems.

By situating IKS at the heart of India's educational reform, NEP 2020 aspires to redefine the purpose of education—from rote learning to holistic development, from dependency to self-reliance, and from isolated knowledge domains to integrated worldviews. The paper concludes that the successful promotion of IKS under NEP 2020 can serve as a model for blending heritage with modernity, thereby shaping an Atmanirbhar Bharat while also offering valuable insights to the global community.

This paper is also dealing with some of the specific ways to implement the policy for promoting Indian Knowledge System. The main objectives of writing this paper are to overview the special provision and recommendation of NEP 2020 and to highlight role of NEP 2020 for promoting Indian Knowledge System. The methodology of the writing consists of the study and analysis of NEP document and literature related to the Indian Knowledge System.

Keywords- *Indian Knowledge System and National Education Policy 2020 etc.*

Introduction

The National Education Policy 2020 emerged as a bright spot in the history of the Indian educational system following the global COVID-19 pandemic. This policy places a strong emphasis on integrating and promoting indigenous knowledge systems. NEP 2020's main goal is to modernize and restructure the Indian educational sector. The policy placed a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, problem solving, holistic learning, and critical thinking. In actuality, the policy demonstrates how India's extensive knowledge system

is incorporated into the curriculum. Indian traditional knowledge, cultural history, and indigenous languages are given special attention since they are crucial in creating an inclusive and diverse educational system.

The Indian government launched the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a comprehensive framework to direct the nation's educational advancement. It seeks to modernize the educational system, address a number of problems, and bring it into line with 21st-century demands. The goal of the policy is to change the Indian educational system by emphasizing equity, quality, and inclusivity. NEP 2020 emphasize on multidisciplinary and holistic education. It is comprehensive approach to education that incorporates information from several areas is emphasized by the policy. It emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques in an effort to shift away from memorization.

It promotes interdisciplinary education at all levels, emphasizing the development of skills, practical applications, and the cultivation of well-rounded people. The Policy advocates implementation of a flexible curriculum that enables students to select courses from a variety of subject areas (science, the arts, and commerce) and develop a greater comprehension of a number of different fields. NEP 2020 advises that children be exposed to foundational learning in a fun and stimulating setting. It promotes the creation of universal access to high-quality early care and education. It promotes the higher education reform by creating multidisciplinary universities and colleges with flexible course offerings, where students can freely select electives from several areas. Along with this the policy seeks to reform higher education system. It promotes flexibility in the pursuit of education by encouraging academic credit transfer between programs and institutions. The policy emphasizes how crucial it is to revive Indian knowledge systems, including customs and traditions, and include them into regular schooling. This covers the arts, philosophies, language, and sciences of ancient India. In general, NEP 2020 seeks to establish an educational system that is equal, inclusive, adaptable, and equipped to equip students for the demands of the twenty-first century. Its goal is to give every student a top-notch education while encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. The National Education Policy 2020 emerged as a bright spot in the history of the Indian educational system following the global COVID-19 pandemic. This policy places a strong emphasis on integrating and promoting indigenous knowledge systems. NEP 2020's main goal is to modernize and restructure the Indian educational sector. The policy placed a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, problem solving, holistic learning, and critical thinking. In actuality, the policy demonstrates how India's extensive knowledge system is incorporated into the curriculum. Indian traditional knowledge, cultural history, and indigenous languages are given special attention since they are crucial in creating an inclusive and diverse educational system.

The NEP 2020 highlights the value of traditional knowledge systems, which include information from antiquated writings, indigenous wisdom, and customs that are frequently ingrained in the history and culture of different parts of India. This could occur in a variety of areas, including as physics, literature, and philosophy, giving students a more comprehensive perspective on the world. The national education policy suggested a number of important tactics to advance the Indian knowledge system within the educational framework. The Indian educational system could undergo significant changes as a result of the policy. The policy made clear that education is a potent instrument for modernizing and transforming any country. Everything that has been practiced in Indian society since ancient times is included in the Indian knowledge system, which is an indigenous body of knowledge.

The rich and varied corpus of knowledge that has developed in India over millennia is referred to as the Indian knowledge system (IKS). Philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, linguistics, literature, and the arts are just a few of the disciplines it covers. Among the crucial elements are given below-

Vedic Knowledge: The Vedas are ancient writings that cover a wide range of topics, including metaphysics, cosmology, ethics, and more. They provide the basis of much of Indian knowledge. They served as the foundation for Hindu philosophy and were passed down orally for generations before being recorded in writing.

Philosophy and Logic: There are many different schools of Indian philosophy, including Vedanta, Nyaya, Samkhya, Yoga, and others. It emphasizes ideas such as emancipation (moksha), the ego, and the essence of reality. The development of formal logic was aided by the Nyaya school in particular.

Mathematics: Centuries before these concepts reached the West, Indian mathematicians produced important contributions, such as the decimal system, the concept of zero, and developments in algebra, trigonometry, and calculus.

Ayurveda and Medicine: To preserve health, Ayurveda, the traditional Indian medical system, emphasizes harmonizing the body's energy (doshas). It takes a comprehensive approach, integrating lifestyle choices, spiritual well-being, herbs, and food.

Astronomy and Cosmology: The computation of planetary motion, the creation of primitive forms of trigonometry, and the comprehension of the Earth's rotation are just a few of the groundbreaking discoveries achieved by Indian astronomers in this subject.

Literature and Language: The extensive body of classical Indian literature, composed in Sanskrit, Tamil, and other regional languages, includes works on politics, law, and social ethics (e.g., Kautilya's Arthashastra) as well as epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana.

Traditional Arts and Crafts: Knowledge of other art forms, including dance (like Kathak and Bharatanatyam), music (like Hindustani and Carnatic traditions), and architecture (like temple architecture and urban planning), is also part of the Indian knowledge system.

A major movement has emerged in recent years to bring back and incorporate Indian knowledge systems into contemporary research and education, frequently with the goal of conserving indigenous customs and providing different perspectives on contemporary science and technology.

The knowledge system of India is an evolutionary system that has evolved over time. NEP2020 attempted to apply Indian education using the Indian knowledge system after acknowledging this system. The Policy 2020 holds a significant place in the Indian educational system since it has brought forth radical reforms meant to transform the system. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of India emphasizes the promotion and integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the educational framework. Implementing the NEP 2020 recommendations for promoting IKS involves several key strategies and actions. Below are the key ways to implement these recommendations:

Integrating IKS into the Curriculum

Integration of Traditional Knowledge: Indigenous knowledge and practices pertaining to environment conservation, healthcare, agriculture, arts, crafts, and languages should be incorporated into curricula at all educational levels.

Subject Inclusion: Provide IKS modules or courses for a range of areas, including the arts, social studies, and science. Teaching about indigenous art, folk medicine, traditional farming practices, and regional languages could all fall under this category.

Localized Content: Use IKS unique to a certain area to help students relate to their environmental and cultural surrounding.

The revitalization of language:

Encourage Indigenous Languages-The use of mother tongues or regional languages in early education is emphasized in NEP 2020. Indigenous languages, which frequently contain indigenous knowledge, are preserved as a result.

Language Centers and Resources: Create language centers to document, preserve, and revitalize indigenous languages that have regionally specific knowledge systems.

Awareness and Training for Teachers -Professional Development: Educate educators on the importance of IKS and how to incorporate it into their lesson plans. Teachers should be aware of indigenous knowledge systems in their unique localities.

Cultural Sensitivity: To guarantee that IKS is appropriately and respectfully included into instruction, teachers should be made aware of its cultural and historical relevance.

Documentation and Research -Interdisciplinary Research: Encourage IKS research that combines traditional knowledge with current scientific understanding to provide an interdisciplinary strategy for addressing today's problems.

Collaborations: Universities and research institutions can collaborate with indigenous communities to document and preserve knowledge in the fields of agriculture, biodiversity, traditional medicine, and more.

Involvement of the Community Engage Local Communities: Motivate local communities to take an active role in the creation and application of educational resources, especially indigenous populations. Their viewpoints and expertise ought to be directly incorporated into educational procedures.

Elders and Practitioners of Indigenous Culture: Invite academics, traditional knowledge keepers, and elders from the indigenous community to speak as guest speakers or contribute to educational institutions.

Integration of digital platforms for IKS: Create digital platforms that preserve indigenous communities' intellectual property rights while facilitating the local and international exchange of indigenous knowledge.

Resources and Online Courses: To make traditional knowledge more widely accessible, offer online courses on IKS that emphasize both theory and practice. This will help raise awareness about indigenous contributions to global knowledge and innovation. **Protection of Indigenous Knowledge:** Ensure the protection of intellectual property rights and recognition of indigenous knowledge through national and international legal frameworks.

Encouraging Innovations Using IKS Sustainable Solutions: IKS can be a valuable source of sustainable practices, especially in the context of climate change and sustainable development. Encourage innovations based on traditional practices in agriculture, water management, and natural resource conservation.

Integration with Modern Science: Foster collaborations between modern scientists and indigenous knowledge holders to create sustainable and innovative solutions to contemporary issues.

By following these steps, NEP 2020 can effectively integrate IKS into India's educational system, ensuring the preservation, dissemination, and appreciation of traditional knowledge alongside modern knowledge systems. This strategy also aids in building a more comprehensive, inclusive, and culturally rich school system. "Bridging Past and Future: NEP 2020 and the Rebirth of Indian Knowledge" reflects India's renewed commitment to align education with its cultural heritage while preparing learners for global challenges. NEP 2020 provides a clear framework for reviving the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) by embedding traditional wisdom into modern curricula, research, and pedagogy. This initiative is not about glorifying the past in isolation but about contextualizing indigenous knowledge for contemporary relevance in science, technology,

medicine, sustainability, and holistic living. By integrating IKS with modern disciplines, NEP 2020 envisions an education system that fosters rootedness, innovation, and self-reliance (Atmanirbharta). The success of this endeavor, however, depends on effective implementation, collaboration among scholars, educators, and policymakers, and a balanced approach that respects tradition while embracing innovation. If pursued with vision and sincerity, the promotion of IKS under NEP 2020 can serve as a model of educational transformation—one that connects India's timeless wisdom with the aspirations of the 21st century.

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