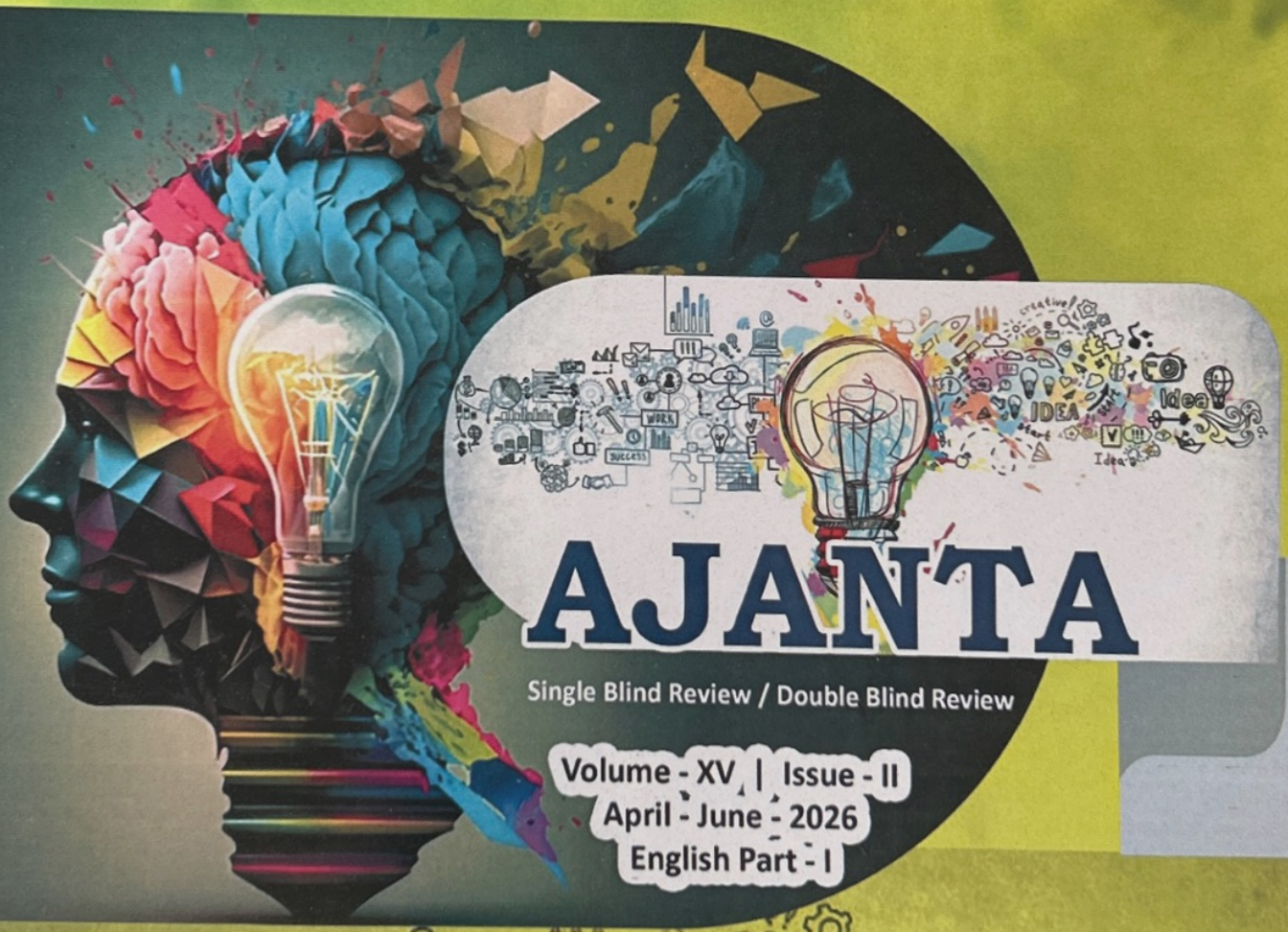
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7. Indian Knowledge System and Educational Practices

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Abstract

The Indian knowledge system refers to different traditional practices that promote multidisciplinary learning and foster Indian pride, adapting a holistic learning approach. IKS encourages traditional knowledge systems and ideas developed by ancient Indian Scholars and tries to nurture their ideas, values, wisdom and methods. In NEP 2020, the topmost priority is given to the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into the curriculum of schools and colleges. The curricula at all the stages from KG to PG have incorporated IKS by promoting traditional systems and an interdisciplinary approach. Ministry of Education, under Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam, is taking efforts through academicians, policy makers, educators and industry leaders along with government representatives to make remarkable progress under NEP 2020. IKS is the backbone of the new educational policy 2020.UGC has provided guidelines for incorporating IKS in higher education, and universities and colleges are working in tune with the guidelines.

Keywords: IKS, multidisciplinary learning, holistic learning approach, NEP 2020,

Introduction

"Indian Knowledge System is a generic phrase that covers practically everything about India."(Mahadevan et.al., 2022,p.8). The study of Indian knowledge proves to be beneficial as it depicts Indian contributions to sciences and focuses on the rich and intellectual heritage of India. Murthy in his book "Indian Knowledge System -Volume-1 (2026)", highlights India's holistic interdisciplinary tradition by highlighting the importance of Astronomy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Medicine, Ecology and Agriculture to provide global insight into IKS. The IKS division in India has started its newsletters to provide information to achieve its visionary goal. The vision of the IKS division emphasises the importance of the Indian knowledge system. It aims to make the Indian system valuable for the world. Its objective is to decolonize the Indian mind by creating interest and by proving the importance of Indian

knowledge systems. IKS division centres have started various programmes for the effective implementation of IKS in the educational system. The different activities like teacher training programmes, internship programmes, research activities and training programmes for teachers and students have been conducted state-wise for the effective implementation of IKS. The National Education Policy of 2020 integrates IKS to emphasise the importance of Indian traditional systems. Many scholars have published their books on IKS. Saju Jaikishan and Pavan Mittal, in their book "Indian Knowledge System: Foundations, Heritage and Contemporary Relevance ", made efforts to help the learners and teachers to enhance their knowledge by giving distinct dimensions to each unit to show Indian knowledge heritage not only as a relic of the past but as a living tradition, which is relevant today.

Mechanisms for Implementing IKS

The New Education Policy of 2020 is implemented by many states in many states of India from KG to PG level, making the required changes in the curriculum design for its effective implementation. It has been seen that attempts are being made to implement this policy by making certain changes in the syllabus. The National Curriculum Framework and University Grants Commission have given guidelines for the effective implementation of IKS in the syllabus. Even as per the recommendations of these bodies, certain changes have been made while designing the new syllabus. New methods and teaching techniques have been adapted to achieve its targeted goal. Teacher training programmes have been conducted and designed to train teachers in IKS pedagogy. The digital repository has been created to make the ancient texts available to all. Core and Elective courses have been introduced to integrate IKS into different subjects. A multilingual approach is adopted, and regional languages are promoted for the effective outcome of IKS through NEP 2020.

The NEW Education Policy 2020 has systematised education at its levels by changing the traditional structure of the earlier education pattern. The real foundation of learning is childhood care and education. The new educational policy made primary education play an activity-based. Moreover, through interesting activities like painting, calculating, drawing and problem-solving are emphasised to make the learning experience enjoyable and useful. The policy also gives importance to teamwork, cooperation, cleanliness, good behaviour, courtesy, and ethics. The attempts are made to reduce the syllabus to enhance critical thinking. The

cross-curricular pedagogical approach has given learners opportunities to study different domains and subjects across their major subjects and streams.

The changes are made in the pedagogical strategies, and new models and methods of teaching have been introduced for promoting experiential learning and adapting an interdisciplinary approach. The government has established IKS centres under the Ministry of Education for curriculum development and to promote research. Attempts are made to provide and develop authentic IKS material. The special teacher training programmes have been implemented to master the teachers in IKS. The research grants are also made available for scholars to promote research in IKS.

Features and Components of IKS

IKS adapts an interdisciplinary approach and provides various insights, knowledge and methods from different fields, which enhances understanding and fosters critical thinking. It uses a holistic approach to prepare us physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially to face the challenges. It promotes sustainability through an eco-friendly style of living. The Indian Knowledge System uses value-based teaching, integrating academic learning and social values. To comprehend thoroughly, it gives importance to observation, learning and practice. This experiential knowledge promotes learning and research, which is necessary for personal and national development.

IKS focuses on India's ancient legacy by providing knowledge about Indian traditional systems. Moreover, it highlights the power and speciality of the ancient Indian tradition. IKS can be studied through its major practices in Yoga, Ayurveda, Mathematics, Astronomy, Architecture, Upanishads, Art, Agriculture, Politics and Economics.

Educational Practices

UGC has given guidelines for integrating IKS in the new education policy 2020. The NEP 2020 states in its policy that "The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought has been a guiding light for this Policy." The policy depicts the importance of Indian philosophy, wisdom and truth as the highest human goal. Ancient Indian universities- Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi set the highest standard of teaching. The ancient great Indian scholars have made a great contribution by providing world knowledge in different domains. The new educational policy of 2020 aims to nurture and preserve Indian knowledge systems.

As per the UGC recommendations, IKS credit courses have been structured, and universities and colleges are implementing them in different major subjects. Attempts have been made to provide authentic IKS material for the credit courses. The regional languages are promoted to provide IKS access to the majority of the masses. UGC has tried to provide more advanced options for PG classes. Foundation courses in important subjects like the Vedas, language sciences and Indian mathematics have been structured for effective implementation of IKS.

The division of the Indian knowledge system, which works under the Ministry of Education, is promoting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on different aspects of IKS. This IKS division considers three important principles of IKS. The first principle is to understand and nurture the Indian heritage by following its Parampara. The second principle is Dristi, which emphasises a holistic approach by combining traditional wisdom and modern knowledge. The third principle is Loukika Prayojana.

Challenges for the effective implementation of IKS:

There are certain challenges to implementing IKS. There is a need to structure the IKS curriculum very systematically. Western ideologies are preferred, and many have biases regarding IKS. Trained faculty and availability of teaching material and sources are a great challenge. The approach of promoting regional languages is not accepted as importance is given to the English language. Knowledge of Sanskrit is necessary for understanding the Vedas and ancient texts, and it is a great challenge for learners. Even the availability of trained teachers is a great challenge. Legitimacy and scientific validity are challenges for IKS

Need for IKS

Despite limitations, we cannot deny the importance and value of IKS even today. Ancient Indian philosophy and wisdom can be used to meet the global challenges in various areas. Ayurveda and Yoga are preferred worldwide due to their benefits. Ancient philosophy guides to solve different problems that the world faces today. Koutilys and Chanakya are still referred to in present times for their scholarly advice to solve the problems. The ancient Bhagwatgita helps to solve all types of problems in our lives. The Vedas and the Upanishads are still read today due to their benefits and utility. IKS is the ancient heritage of knowledge that needs to be preserved for the well-being of society.

Conclusion

Promote holistic learning and cultural awareness of the ancient Indian tradition, NEP 2020 has been introduced. IKS has become a part and parcel of the new education policy. It provides a holistic approach to learning and tries to create awareness about the rich cultural heritage of India. IKS is beneficial in many ways. It encourages cultural understanding, which is necessary for individual growth and national development.

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