
**Indian Knowledge System influence in Higher education through NEP
2020**

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Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a landmark reform in India's education sector, has ushered in a paradigm shift in the approach to higher education. This research paper delves into the multifaceted impact of NEP 2020 on higher education institutions, students, and the educational ecosystem as a whole. Drawing on a synthesis of qualitative and quantitative data, this study examines the policy's implementation and assesses its implications across various dimensions. The paper commences with a contextual exploration of NEP 2020's key principles, such as holistic education, multidisciplinary learning, and technology integration. Influence of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a significant move in how India views and values its heritage. The review of research paper reveals the how NEP 2020 seeks to integrate the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into Higher Education system. It discusses the vision behind this move, the steps taken to implement it, challenges faced on the ground, and possible ways forward. The study highlights that while the policy has opened new doors to revive India's intellectual traditions, its success will depend on how effectively these ideas are brought to classrooms in a practical, inclusive, and meaningful way. The research study explores how institutions are adapting their curricula, teaching methodologies, and assessment approaches to align with the policy's goals. The policy's effect on bridging regional disparities and addressing the digital divide is explored, highlighting both achievements and areas needing further attention. The expected long-term benefits for students and the workforce, emphasizing skills development and employability are examined in the present review.

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INTRODUCTION

India has a long and rich intellectual history, reflected in its languages, philosophies, sciences, arts, crafts, and ways of life. This collective wisdom is known as the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). Over centuries, especially during colonial rule, these traditions were pushed to the margins and modern education became disconnected from India's cultural roots. The NEP 2020 aims to change this by bringing IKS back into mainstream education. This review paper provides NEP 2020's approach to IKS, its vision, implementation strategies, existing gaps, and how this integration can shape a more holistic education system. Education in India has always been seen as more than just acquiring skills for employment; it has been a means of self-realization and social contribution (Mukherjee, 2019).

Education continues to evolve in response to the dynamic needs of society, influencing policy frameworks worldwide. In India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a significant turning point for higher education, foregrounding a holistic approach aimed at fostering multidisciplinary learning and innovation. By advocating for flexible curricula and promoting critical thinking, the NEP aspires to equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive global landscape. Additionally, the policy emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and accessibility, seeking to bridge gaps across various demographics. As we delve into the implications of NEP 2020, it becomes essential to critically assess not only its current effects on educational structures but also how it may shape the future of higher education in India. The foundation laid by NEP 2020 holds the potential to redefine learning environments, creating a more agile and responsive educational system in the years to come. It emphasizes the need for a holistic educational system that is not only aligned with global standards but also sensitively attuned to the diverse needs of its student population. UGC has mandated that undergraduate and postgraduate students take credits in IKS courses, and new online courses are being developed with expert guidance. The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has recently introduced elective courses on IKS for engineering students, covering ancient metallurgy, architecture, and environmental technologies (AICTE, 2021). IITs and NITs are developing research centres to explore how traditional knowledge can inspire modern solutions in sustainable materials, renewable energy models, and biomimicry-based designs (Joshi & Kumar, 2022). initiatives, NEP 2020 positions

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itself as a catalyst for reform in Indian higher education, facilitating a more equitable and productive academic environment.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a transformative approach to higher education in India, aiming to address longstanding issues related to accessibility, quality, and equity. It emphasizes the need for a holistic educational system that is not only aligned with global standards but also sensitively attuned to the diverse needs of its student population. One significant aspect of NEP 2020 is its focus on empowering marginalized communities, highlighting the role of higher education in fostering social justice and inclusion. This is particularly relevant in the context of postcolonial India, where diversities and socio-economic hierarchies can hinder equitable development (Pereppadan Poullose, 2021). Furthermore, by promoting vocational skill training, the policy endeavors to enhance employability and entrepreneurship among women, recognizing their crucial role in driving sustainable economic growth (Parveen, 2023). Through these initiatives, NEP 2020 positions itself as a catalyst for reform in Indian higher education, facilitating a more equitable and productive academic environment.

This National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education. The teacher must be at the Centre of the fundamental reforms in the education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation of citizens. The NEP 2020 aims to align educational outcomes with industry demands, facilitating industry-academia partnerships that can significantly uplift vocational skills, thus fostering a talent pool that meets both local and global market needs (Dash et al., 2023).

NEP 2020 and Its Dream for IKS

The dream National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a watershed moment in India's educational history, aiming to transform the system into one that is holistic, multidisciplinary, and deeply rooted in cultural heritage. A central pillar of this vision is the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into mainstream education. NEP 2020 recognizes that India's civilizational wisdom, spanning philosophy, science, medicine, arts, and ethics has immense relevance for contemporary society and must be preserved, revitalized, and disseminated through structured educational frameworks.

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This division is tasked with promoting research, curriculum development, and dissemination of indigenous knowledge traditions. The policy emphasizes that education should not remain confined to Western epistemologies but should embrace India's intellectual heritage, thereby fostering cultural rootedness and national pride. At the school level, NEP 2020 encourages the inclusion of local traditions, folklore, and storytelling as pedagogical tools. At the higher education level, universities are urged to offer courses in Ayurveda, Yoga, Sanskrit, classical arts, Vedic mathematics, and Indian philosophy. The policy also highlights the need for interdisciplinary research that connects IKS with modern science and technology, ensuring that traditional knowledge is not seen as archaic but as complementary to contemporary disciplines.

Vision for Holistic and Multidisciplinary Learning The policy envisions education as a means of nurturing well-rounded individuals. By integrating IKS, NEP 2020 seeks to promote holistic development intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual. For instance, Yoga and mindfulness practices are recommended to enhance concentration and mental health among students. Ayurveda and indigenous health practices are seen as valuable additions to health education, promoting preventive care and wellness. Furthermore, NEP 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary learning, where students can explore connections between traditional knowledge and modern subjects. NEP 2020 also recognizes the global appeal of IKS. Practices such as Yoga and Ayurveda have already gained international recognition, contributing to India's cultural diplomacy and soft power. By institutionalizing these traditions within education, India can position itself as a global leader in holistic knowledge systems. The policy thus envisions IKS not only as a tool for national identity but also as a means of enhancing India's intellectual presence on the world stage. While the vision is ambitious, NEP 2020 acknowledges the challenges of integrating IKS. These include the need for curriculum standardization, faculty training, and translation of texts into accessible formats. The policy calls for digitization of manuscripts, development of bilingual resources, and establishment of specialized research centers. Importantly, NEP 2020 stresses that IKS integration must be evidence-based, ensuring credibility and acceptance within academic circles.

Opportunities in Implementing Indian Knowledge Systems The integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into mainstream education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 presents a wide array of opportunities. These opportunities extend beyond cultural revival, offering pathways for holistic development, global recognition, and interdisciplinary innovation. By embedding IKS into school and higher education curricula, India can create a system that is both rooted in tradition and responsive to contemporary challenges.

Recommendations for Applying Indian Knowledge Systems in Higher Education

The integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into higher education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers immense potential to enrich curricula, foster cultural rootedness, and promote interdisciplinary innovation. However, successful implementation requires carefully designed strategies that address structural, pedagogical, and institutional challenges. The following recommendations provide a roadmap for embedding IKS meaningfully into universities and colleges. Beyond curriculum standardization, scholars argue that NEP 2020 lacks clear monitoring frameworks to evaluate the effectiveness of IKS integration (Kumar & Priya, 2020). Concerns also exist about the politicization of content, risking ideological biases over scholarly neutrality (Mukherjee, 2019). Moreover, without sustained funding and institutional autonomy, initiatives may remain policy directives without deep classroom impact (Yadav & Patil, 2021).

1. Curriculum Development and Standardization

A major recommendation is the creation of structured and standardized curricula for IKS subjects. Universities should develop modular courses that balance traditional knowledge with modern relevance. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indian Knowledge Systems Division can collaborate to design syllabi that are academically rigorous, culturally authentic, and globally relevant.

2. Faculty Training and Capacity Building

Higher education institutions should establish specialized training programs with cutaneous monitoring for teachers, including certificate courses, FDP programs workshops, TOT trainings and fellowships in IKS disciplines. Faculty exchange programs between traditional gurukuls, research institutes, and modern universities can help bridge knowledge gaps. Incentives such as research grants and career advancement opportunities should be provided to encourage educators to specialize in IKS.

3. Research and Interdisciplinary Innovation

IKS should not be confined to cultural studies but actively linked with modern science and technology. Universities should establish interdisciplinary research centers that explore connections between IKS and fields such as medicine, environmental science, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development. For instance, Ayurveda can be studied in relation to pharmacology, while ancient architectural principles can inform modern sustainable design. Funding agencies should prioritize research projects that validate and expand the applicability of IKS.

4. Language and Accessibility

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Since much of IKS is preserved in Sanskrit and regional languages, higher education institutions must promote bilingual education. Translations of classical texts into English and modern Indian languages should be undertaken, accompanied by digital resources for accessibility. At the same time, students should be encouraged to learn Sanskrit and regional languages to engage directly with primary sources. This dual approach ensures both authenticity and inclusivity.

5. Digital Preservation and Dissemination

Digitization of manuscripts, oral traditions, and indigenous practices is essential for preserving IKS. Universities should collaborate with libraries, archives, and cultural institutions to create digital repositories accessible to students and researchers worldwide. Online platforms, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), and e-learning modules can disseminate IKS knowledge to a broader audience, including international learners.

6. Policy and Institutional Support

Strong institutional backing are crucial. The government should provide grants, scholarships, and infrastructure support for IKS programs. Universities should be encouraged to establish dedicated departments or centers for IKS. Collaboration with international institutions can further enhance credibility and global recognition. Importantly, IKS integration must remain inclusive and evidence-based, avoiding politicization or ideological bias.

CONCLUSIONS: In brief the effective implications of NEP 2020 on higher education, it is evident that Indian educational landscape is poised for transformative change, influencing both current practices and future trajectories. The policy's holistic approach recognizes the necessity of adaptable curricula, innovative teaching methods, and enhanced employability. By emphasizing the integration of industry-academia partnerships, NEP 2020 aims to equip students with relevant skills tailored to a rapidly evolving job market, further solidifying India's competitive edge on a global scale. Moreover, a comparative analysis with the Kothari Education Commissions objectives reveals enduring themes in educational reform, illustrating a commitment to access, equity, and quality in learning environments. Thus, as India progresses toward its aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the NEP serves as a critical framework that not only responds to contemporary challenges but also sets the foundation for sustainable and inclusive educational practices. Moreover, the policy is a push for increased access, equity, and quality in education addresses longstanding disparities, paving the way for greater inclusivity in higher education. As institutions adapt to these changes, the potential for fostering critical thinking and innovation will significantly uplift the overall educational landscape. Implementing

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Indian Knowledge Systems in higher education requires a multi-pronged approach that combines curriculum reform, faculty training, research innovation, language accessibility, and institutional support. By adopting these recommendations, universities can transform IKS from a symbolic inclusion into a dynamic academic discipline. This will not only preserve India's intellectual heritage but also position it as a global leader in holistic and sustainable knowledge systems. NEP 2020 provides a visionary framework for integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into education. Opportunities lie in cultural revival, holistic learning, and global relevance. With increased funding and government commitment, IKS can transform Indian education into a model that is both rooted in tradition and responsive to contemporary needs. In essence, NEP 2020's vision for Indian Knowledge Systems is to create an education system that is globally competitive yet culturally rooted. By weaving IKS into curricula, the policy seeks to revive India's intellectual heritage, promote holistic learning, and contribute to global knowledge. Finally, NEP 2020 not only seeks to align Indian higher education with global standards but also aims to empower future generations, ensuring that learning becomes a lifelong effort for future

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