

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM: POST-COLONIALISM AND GLOBALIZATION ERA

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Abstract

The Indian knowledge system is a living, evolving tradition that has consistently modified itself to fit various historical eras while retaining its fundamental ideas. To develop a more comprehensive and well-rounded teaching strategy, attempts are currently being made to incorporate this ancient knowledge with contemporary education. Its segments draw attention to how the mind, body, and spirit are all intertwined. Comprehending and conserving the Indian knowledge system cultivates cultural identity, facilitates intercultural communication, and enhances global viewpoints across diverse fields. This paper aims to understand the concept of the Indian Knowledge System and its situation Post-colonial period and Globalization era. For this purpose, desk research was done and a conceptual study was made. It was found that efforts to revive and integrate traditional practices in education aimed to counteract the negative impact of colonialism on the Indian knowledge System. In the era of globalization, there is a delicate balance between preserving traditional knowledge and adapting to global trends. The challenge lies in navigating the complexities of a rapidly changing world while staying rooted in cultural heritage.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge System, Cultural heritage, Globalization era, Post-colonial period.

INTRODUCTION

Ideas such as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which means "the world is one family", emphasize the moral and ecological aspects of conventional Indian philosophy. Epic stories like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata contain intellectual, moral, and ethical lessons. An

important spiritual discourse known as the Bhagavad Gita is also included in the Mahabharata. These components collectively form a rich tapestry that has shaped the cultural, philosophical, and scientific heritage of India. Festivals like Diwali, Holi, and Navaratri are not only celebrations but also carry cultural and philosophical significance, promoting values of joy, harmony, and the triumph of good over evil.

British colonialism disrupted traditional Indian education systems, replacing indigenous languages with English and introducing Western curricula. This led to a marginalization of traditional knowledge. The colonial education system prioritized Western knowledge at the expense of indigenous wisdom. This created a dichotomy between traditional and modern education, contributing to a loss of confidence in native systems. The imposition of Western values and norms eroded aspects of India's cultural identity and created a perception of a hierarchy between Western scientific knowledge and indigenous systems.

Literature Review

A.L. Basham (2016), researched the history of Indian civilization. For those who are interested in the history, culture, and civilization of India from its earliest times until the arrival of Islam in the 11th century, it remains a foundational text. A vast range of subjects, including history, religion, philosophy, art, literature, and social systems are covered in the book's numerous sections. With an interdisciplinary approach, Basham brings together findings from literary studies, linguistics, archeology, and anthropology to present a comprehensive picture of ancient India. The duties of numerous social groups and the social structure, including the caste system, are covered in the book. Aspects of economy like trade, industry, and agriculture are also included.

Surendranath Dasgupta, S. (1922), conducted an extensive and groundbreaking study that delves into the complex and wide-ranging field of Indian philosophy. This book is a part of a multi-volume series that attempts to give a thorough overview of Indian intellectual traditions. The meticulously organized book of Dasgupta covers the several philosophical systems and schools of thought that have influenced Indian intellectual history. It mostly concentrates on the early history of Indian philosophy, which includes the Six Systems of Indian Philosophy, the Heterodox Schools, the Epics and Puranas, the Vedas and Upanishads. It is a crucial text for comprehending Indian thought's conceptual foundations. It is regarded as a seminal book in the field of Indian philosophy because of its thorough scholarship and wide coverage.

Mohanty, J.N. (1989), made a substantial contribution to Indian philosophy. The book examines how tradition and reason interact within the framework of Indian philosophy. Mohanty uses a dialectical method to study the relationship between tradition and reason in Indian philosophy. He contends that rather than being a single, cohesive philosophy, Indian thinking is a dynamic synthesis of many intellectual traditions that interact with one another. The book emphasizes how Indian philosophy is pluralistic, with several schools of thought coexisting and frequently contradicting one another. It is believed that this diversity is a strength since it fosters a vibrant and diverse intellectual environment. In his comparative philosophy, Mohanty compares and contrasts the traditions of Indian and Western philosophy. He contends that a deeper comprehension of philosophy as a whole can result from seeing the parallels and discrepancies among various systems. It provides an in-depth analysis of the interaction between tradition and reason, offering important insights into the dynamic and eclectic character of Indian thinking.

Durie (2005), investigates the connection between local and universal knowledge systems. It highlights how crucial it is to value and acknowledge indigenous knowledge within the larger framework of world knowledge. According to Durie, indigenous knowledge is essential for sustainable development and creativity in addition to being a cultural legacy. An extensive summary of the importance of indigenous knowledge is given in the study. It emphasizes how crucial cooperation and respect between various knowledge systems are to each other. Case studies and real-world examples back up Durie's claims. It makes a major addition to the conversation about the importance of indigenous knowledge. It emphasizes how important it is for indigenous knowledge to be acknowledged and included into international systems in order to promote innovation and sustainable development. Frameworks for incorporating indigenous knowledge into global knowledge systems are proposed in this research. Durie supports curriculum changes in education that incorporate indigenous knowledge.

P. Mandavkar (2023), examines the numerous, varied, and rich knowledge traditions that have grown over millennia in India. This covers the conventional sciences, the arts, literature, philosophy, and more, all of which have added to the body of knowledge on a worldwide scale. Mandavkar highlights the relevance of these systems in the modern era as well as their possible advances in science and technology. The book offers a

thorough historical review of Indian knowledge systems, tracing their origins to prehistoric times. The article covers significant advancements in several disciplines, including astronomy, mathematics, Ayurvedic medicine, and architecture. In particular, the relationship between spirituality and empirical knowledge is explored, as the research explores the philosophical underpinnings of Indian knowledge systems. This all-encompassing method is in contrast to Western traditions' more fragmented understanding of knowledge. The usefulness of these antiquated knowledge systems in solving contemporary problems is also covered in the study. It makes a significant addition to the conversation about indigenous knowledge and where it fits into the larger body of knowledge.

Research Methodology

A structured and scientific approach is used to collect, analyze, and interpret qualitative data to fulfill the objectives. A research methodology is like a plan for carrying out research and helps keep researchers on track by limiting the scope of the research.

Objectives of the study

- To understand the concept and inception of the Indian Knowledge System.
- To briefly study the significance of the Indian Knowledge System.
- To inquire into the Indian Knowledge System of the Post-colonial era.
- To intensely analyze the Indian Knowledge System in the Globalization Era.

Research type

Qualitative (Archival research) type of research was employed for the study.

Data Collection

For the purpose of data collection Secondary data was taken from journals, books, government websites and reports.

Concept Of Indian Knowledge System

Throughout millennia, a wide variety of traditional beliefs, practices, and knowledge have come together to form the Indian knowledge system. Drawing from ancient scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and different shastras, it encompasses a

wide range of disciplines including philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, Ayurvedic medicine, art, and music, among others. It exhibits a holistic perspective, stressing the pursuit of both material and spiritual well-being as well as the interdependence of all things. The Indian knowledge system continues to be a source of inspiration and research and has made a substantial contribution to the world's intellectual history.

Inception of the Indian Knowledge System

The Indian knowledge system has a long history, having developed over countless years. It includes a wide range of disciplines, including astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and philosophy. This rich legacy was shaped in large part by ancient books such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and texts like the Arthashastra and Manusmriti. Important intellectuals like Aryabhata, Chanakya, and AdiShankaracharya made substantial contributions to India's intellectual history. The Gurukul educational system, in which pupils resided with teachers, was also essential to the dissemination of knowledge.

Components of the Indian Knowledge System

The intellectual concepts, rituals, and songs recorded in the sacred writings known as the Vedas and Upanishads serve as the cornerstone of Hinduism.

- a) Puranas - Anthologies of myths, stories, and ancestries that impart spiritual and moral teachings.
- b) Philosophy - Institutions such as Samkhya, Nyaya, and Vedanta study epistemological, ethical, and metaphysical issues.
- c) Astronomy - Important contributions were made by Indian astronomers in antiquity, including Aryabhata's research on planetary placements.
- d) Mathematics - Ancient Indian mathematics is where the concept of zero, the decimal system, and advances in algebra and geometry arose.
- e) Dharma and Karma - are fundamental ideas that emphasize living a moral life and the law of cause and consequence.
- f) Ayurveda - An ancient medical system that used natural cures and lifestyle modifications to promote holistic health.
- g) Yoga - A physical and spiritual practice that promotes mental health and self-realization.

- h)** Classical arts - Age-old disciplines that reflect cultural expressions and ideals, such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Carnatic music, and classical painting.
- i)** Spiritual and Philosophical Diversity - India is renowned for its many philosophical traditions, ranging from the dualistic viewpoints of Dvaita Vedanta to the non-dualism of Advaita Vedanta. The variety of these philosophies creates a rich mental tapestry.
- j)** Astrology/Jyotisha -Jyotisha is the traditional Astrology and Astronomy system of Hinduism. It guides many facets of life, from determining the best times for rituals to comprehending personal fates.
- k)** Epics and Mythology - In addition to being epic stories, the Ramayana and Mahabharata are also stores of moral, ethical, and practical knowledge. In modern India, they still influence cultural narratives and ideals.
- l)** Environmental Wisdom - The relationship between humans and the environment is emphasized in several ancient Indian scriptures.
- m)** Language and Linguistics - Known as the sacred language of Sanskrit, it has been essential to the transmission and preservation of knowledge. In the discipline of linguistics, Panini's work on Sanskrit grammar is highly recognized.
- n)** Social Sciences – Chanakyaattributed ancient Indian books such as Arthashastra offer valuable insights on political science, economics, and governance. These books combine ethical reflections with helpful guidance.
- o)** Bhakti and Sufi Traditions - India is home to a diverse range of devotional traditions, including Sufism in Islam and Bhakti in Hinduism. These customs add to the nation's cultural richness by emphasizing an intimate, personal relationship with God.
- p)** Pluralism and tolerance - Historically, the Indian knowledge system has welcomed a wide range of ideologies and customs. The coexistence of different religious sects, and philosophical schools, and the general attitude of acceptance and tolerance are symbolic.
- q)** Gurukul System - In the past, education was frequently provided in Gurukuls, where students lived with their professors and received a comprehensive education that included life skills and values in addition to academic knowledge.

Importance of Indian Knowledge System

The Indian knowledge system is extremely significant since it has a significant influence on many different fields. Ancient Indian writings such as the Vedas and Upanishads offer profound insights into spirituality and the essence of life, impacting not only religious beliefs but also global philosophical discourse. Significant advances in algebra, trigonometry, and astronomy have been made by Indian mathematicians such as Aryabhata and Brahmagupta. India is the birthplace of the decimal numeral system and ideas like zero, which have influenced worldwide advances in mathematics. The ancient Indian medical system known as Ayurveda places a strong emphasis on overall health. It has impacted conventional medicine all around the world, and Indian-inspired techniques like yoga and meditation improve both mental and physical health.

Indian literature exhibits rich storytelling and poetic traditions, from epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana to classical works like those of Kalidasa. Indian sculpture and traditional dance are examples of art that showcases the country's creative and diverse culture. The philosophical traditions of Samkhya, Nyaya, and Vedanta offer frameworks for comprehending morality, logic, and existence. These lessons are still applicable in discussions on ethics.

Post-Colonialism Era

In India, the years following its 1947 declaration of independence from British colonial control are referred to as post-colonial. It includes the social, political, and economic shifts that took place when India became an independent country from a colony. During this time, there were attempts to forge a new identity, deal with the effects of colonialism, and formulate development and governance policies. During this time, India faced difficulties like economic inequality, social unrest, and partition, all of which shaped the country's future as it attempted to identify itself in the post-colonial world.

Post-colonial scholars have called for a re-evaluation and reclamation of indigenous knowledge. Post-colonial India has witnessed cultural hybridity, where traditional and Western knowledge systems have intersected and influenced each other. This fusion is evident in fields like literature, art, and philosophy. There is an ongoing discourse on

decolonizing education to restore the value of indigenous knowledge. This involves incorporating local perspectives, languages, and traditional practices into the curriculum.

Indian Knowledge System in the Post-colonial Era

The Indian knowledge system has benefited from the post-colonial age in many ways:

- Formal education and contemporary institutions were brought during the colonial era, which helped literacy and knowledge grow throughout the nation.
- Development was aided overall by exposure to Western scientific methods and technology, which led to breakthroughs in engineering, technology, and medicine.
- The Indian system of government and justice remains structured due to the legal and administrative framework that the British imposed.
- The basis for a modern India was built by the investments made by colonial rulers in the development of infrastructure, including telecommunication, urban planning, and railroads.
- With increased global engagement, post-colonial India has promoted international cooperation, cross-cultural contacts, and a more expansive worldview.
- After India gained independence, a democratic political system was established as a result of the colonial experience, which shaped the country's democratic values.
- To address concerns of caste discrimination, gender equality, and underprivileged communities, post-colonial India has placed a greater emphasis on social justice and human rights.
- A diverse and diversified society has been made possible by exposure to Western literature, the arts, and ideas, which have enhanced the cultural landscape.
- The incorporation of Western academic approaches and viewpoints has expanded the research environment in India and made it more globally competitive.
- Disseminating information, encouraging public discourse, and raising awareness have all benefited from the emergence of contemporary media and communication technologies.

The negative impact of post-colonialism on the Indian knowledge system

- Traditional Indian cultural practices were disrupted and distorted by colonialism, which caused certain groups to lose their sense of cultural identity.

- Native languages were marginalized and some communities' access to education was hampered as English emerged as the primary language for administration and education.
- The colonial educational system frequently served to uphold hierarchies by favoring Western knowledge over indigenous wisdom and fostering a sense of inferiority toward native knowledge systems.
- Indigenous knowledge connected to sustainable practices and regional ecosystems was impacted by the colonial economic policies that exploited resources and created economic inequities.
- Social divides were institutionalized by the colonial government, which led to problems like caste discrimination and unequal access to education that still have an impact on society today.

Despite these detrimental effects, there is a rising understanding of the necessity of recovering and reviving indigenous Indian knowledge systems in the post-colonial period to promote a more inclusive and well-rounded approach to cultural practices, research, and education.

Globalization

Liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG) were among the economic reforms associated with globalization in India, which began in the early 1990s. Trade liberalization, international investment, and global economic integration all increased during this time. The goals of the changes were to draw in international investment, open up markets, and lessen government intrusion. India saw notable expansion in industries like as IT, heightened cross-cultural interaction, and accession to international trade accords. Even while globalization had positive effects on the economy, there were drawbacks as well, like income disparity and environmental issues. All things considered, it changed the face of the Indian economy and elevated it to a major position on the world stage.

Indian Knowledge System in the Globalization Era

Indians now have unparalleled access to global information thanks to globalization. Digital technology and the internet have made knowledge more accessible and have made

it possible for people to interact with a wide range of viewpoints and ideas. Indian students now have more options to pursue their education overseas because of globalization. An increasingly globalized and integrated educational landscape is a result of international collaborations and exchange programs. India has experienced an acceleration of global inventions and technology transfer. This has ramifications for research and development, as Indian universities work with foreign partners to remain at the forefront of scientific and technical breakthroughs. A lively exchange of cultures has resulted from globalization.

The positive impact of globalization on the Indian knowledge system

- Globalization has made it easier for people to access a wealth of knowledge and information. Digital technologies and the internet have democratized education, giving Indians access to a wide variety of global ideas, research, and instructional materials.
- Collaboration between Indian educational institutions and their international counterparts has been facilitated by globalization. This encourages the sharing of knowledge, research, and scholarly materials, making the educational system more globally competitive.
- Global inventions and technology transfer have propelled India's progress. India's scientific and technological skills are enhanced by its access to state-of-the-art technologies and research developments from around the globe.
- The Indian economy is now a part of the world economy because of globalization. Economic growth and development have been promoted as a result of the rise in foreign investments, employment opportunities, and exposure to international business methods.
- India now enjoys an atmosphere that is favorable to innovation and entrepreneurship thanks to the interconnected global economy. Start-ups can take advantage of international marketplaces to draw in foreign funding and partnerships.
- Cultural interchange has been facilitated by globalization, introducing Indians to a diverse range of world cultures. This diversity promotes tolerance and understanding between cultures, making society more cosmopolitan and open-minded.

- In the backdrop of globalization, English has emerged as a crucial language. Being able to communicate effectively in English facilitates collaboration in a variety of fields, such as business, science, and academics.
- India's understanding of environmental issues has grown as a result of globalization. To address global environmental concerns, participation in international environmental efforts and the sharing of sustainable practices are helpful.
- Globalization has paved the way for Indian talent to gain international recognition. India's soft power is enhanced by the recognition that its experts receive on a global scale in domains such as science, technology, literature, and the arts.
- Due to globalization, Indian colleges are becoming more diverse, with staff and students from all over the world fostering a vibrant learning atmosphere. The entire educational experience is improved by this exposure.

Globalization has brought about several challenges and negative impacts on the Indian knowledge system. Here are key aspects highlighting these concerns:

- Concerns regarding the decline of traditional Indian cultural values and customs have been raised by the predominance of global cultural influences, particularly through media and entertainment. There are instances when indigenous knowledge and customs are eclipsed by Westernization.
- Due to globalization, education has become a private good globally rather than a public good domestically. These days, education is viewed as a product of global trade.
- The scientific revolution that changed Europe was greatly aided by the decimal system, which originated and flourished in India.
- Although being able to communicate in English is a benefit, placing too much emphasis on it as a teaching medium can cause regional languages to be neglected. The preservation of linguistic diversity and the local knowledge that is contained in native languages is called into question by this transition.
- Education inequality might get worse as a result of globalization. The internationalization of education may help metropolitan areas, but rural areas may find it difficult to stay up, creating a growing knowledge gap between the two.

- Popular culture's tendency toward globalization can result in cultural homogeneity, in which a homogenized, multinational culture eclipses the unique local cultures. This may lessen the distinctiveness of local knowledge bases.
- Globalization poses a danger to traditional ecological knowledge, which is essential for sustainable activities. The drive for uniform methods and contemporary farming techniques may challenge traditional knowledge about biodiversity preservation.
- The phenomenon known as "brain drain," in which gifted people relocate to other nations in search of work and education, may be exacerbated by the allure of better prospects elsewhere. Knowledge capital and skilled workers may be lost as a result of this.

Westernization alone does not define globalization; it also includes relationships that transcend Western domination and benefit other nations. Due to globalization, Indian education is now more globally relevant and focused on the market. However, maintaining indigenous knowledge and cultural legacy continues to be a major obstacle.

Conclusion

Indian knowledge system modernization has resulted in a synthesis of ancient knowledge and new developments. It has made education more accessible, sparked technological innovation, and encouraged international cooperation. As a result, India's intellectual environment has become more varied and dynamic. Nonetheless, difficulties in upholding cultural authenticity, resolving inequalities, and adjusting to quick changes continue. All things considered, modernization has complicated but beneficial effects on India's knowledge system. All things considered, modernization has complicated but beneficial effects on India's knowledge system. It has resulted in a synthesis of ancient knowledge and new developments. It has made education more accessible, sparked technological innovation, and encouraged international cooperation. As a result, India's intellectual environment has become more varied and dynamic. However, challenges remain in upholding cultural authenticity, resolving inequalities, and adjusting to quick changes.

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