



Indian Knowledge System For Sustainable Development And Its Various Challenges

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ABSTRACT:

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is a popular word at present throughout the world. It has been interpreted as traditional knowledge that indigenous people have brought down from earlier times via the oral tradition system. Indigenous knowledge defines world view of people and provides direction for their survival socially, economically, politically and spiritually. It explains the evolution of cultural behaviors that resulted from the efforts of people to adjust to their environment. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next throughout in India. It is a well-structured system and process of knowledge transfer, rather than just a tradition. The Vedic period thoughts and literature were considered as the foundation of the India Knowledge system. Upanishads, Vedas, and Upvedas, Ramayan, Mahabharata are full of spiritual and traditional knowledge as part of the Indian Knowledge System. India has a very glorious past where we were rich in all aspects whether it's art and culture, science or medicine, astrology or mathematics. These Indian Knowledge System are basic for Sustainable Development of the modern society. It is further use in present situation for development of modern education, economics, politics, religion, sciences and technologies of modern world. This paper attempts to explain about the Indian knowledge system and how it uses on survival and development of present Indian society so that we can serve the purpose of one earth one family and one future. It further explains its various challenges and find out their solutions.

Key words: Indigenous, Traditional, Knowledge, Sustainable, Development, Challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is a popular word at present throughout the world. It has been interpreted as traditional knowledge that indigenous people have brought down from earlier times via the oral tradition system. Indigenous knowledge defines world view of people and provides direction for their survival socially, economically, politically and spiritually. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next. It is a well-structured system and process of knowledge transfer, rather than just a tradition. India has a very glorious past where we were rich in all aspects whether it's art and culture, science or medicine, astrology or mathematics. Indian knowledge system is an ancient and rich collection of beliefs, practices, and philosophies that have been passed down from generation to generation in India. It encompasses various fields such as science, spirituality, art, literature, and social norms, and has played a significant role in shaping Indian society and culture. The foundation of the Indian knowledge system lies in the ancient texts of the Vedas, which are considered to be the oldest scriptures in the world. The Vedas contain a vast amount of knowledge on subjects ranging from medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and politics, to spirituality and philosophy. The Indian knowledge system has deeply influenced Indian society and culture, shaping its values, customs, and traditions. One of the most significant impacts of the Indian knowledge system is on spirituality and religion. The concept of dharma, which means righteousness or duty, lies at the core of Indian spirituality. This has led to the development of various religious and spiritual practices in India, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, which have shaped the cultural and societal fabric of the country.

This paper attempts to explain about the Indian knowledge system and how it uses on survival and sustainable development of present Indian society so that we can serve the purpose of one earth one family and one future. It further explains its various challenges and find out their solutions.

2. Importance of the study:

Indian knowledge system, rooted in ancient texts and traditions, has shaped the country's spiritual, social, and philosophical beliefs and practices. At the core of this knowledge system are three key concepts are dharma, karma, and moksha that form the basis of Indian philosophy and way of life. The Indian knowledge system is deeply rooted in the concepts of dharma, karma, and moksha, which serve as the guiding principles for a virtuous and purposeful life. These concepts not only shape individual beliefs and practices, but also contribute to the social and cultural fabric of the country. They continue to be highly relevant in modern times and serve as a reminder of the rich spiritual and philosophical heritage of India. The present paper examines Indian Indigenous Knowledge system and its various uses for improve socio-economic development of India with human friendly environment in India. So this study would be beneficial for future research workers and policy makers.

3. Objectives of the study:

- To study the Indian Knowledge system for its sustainable development.
- It also study on various challenges of Indian Knowledge system and their solution.

4. Methodology of Study:

The descriptive research methodology has been used for the study of the paper. The proposed paper would be completely depended on secondary data. To evaluate the overall Indian knowledge system and its various uses in India, secondary data has been collected from various published sources like Government and Semi-government publications, websites of various agencies, books, journals, newspapers etc. The collected information would be processed and analysed for the meaningful completion of the study.

5. Presentation and findings of the study:

To know the various uses of Indian Knowledge system for sustainable development, we are to study historical evaluation of various Indian knowledge system of India can be analyzed by the following heads.

5.1 Natural Resources management:

Indian knowledge system plays an important role in the sustainable management of natural resources and can also have an impact on issues of global concern. The industrial world is facing an ecological crisis. Yet few industrial economists would admit they could learn from indigenous people. The key to this success is sustainability. Indigenous people today use the resources available without depleting them. They use their intimate knowledge of plants, soils, animals, climate, and seasons, not to exploit nature but to co-exist alongside it. This involves careful management, control of population, the use of small quantities but a wide diversity of plants and animals, small surpluses, and minimum wastage.

5.2 Sustainable Social Relationships:

Social cohesion has been the key to survival for many indigenous cultures. Food gathering and hunting depend on mutual support and co-operation, and disharmony within a part of the group is dangerous to the whole. In many cultures men and women have developed complementary and other social arrangements that benefit the entire community have often been incorporated into indigenous cultural traditions. Marriage, for example, can also ensure political stability for the community and continuing harmony with the spirit world.

5.3 Natural Remedies and Medicines:

In many parts of the world, indigenous societies classify soils, climate, plant and animal species and recognize their special characteristics. Indigenous people have words for plants and insects that have not yet been identified by the world's botanists and entomologists. Of the estimated 250,000 to 500,000 plant species in the world, more than 85% are in environments that are the traditional homes of indigenous people. Nearly 75% of 121 plant-derived prescription drugs used worldwide were discovered following leads from indigenous medicine. Globally, indigenous peoples use 3000 different species of plant to control fertility alone. Some scientists now believe that indigenous knowledge may help them to discover important new cures for diseases such as AIDS and cancer.

5.4 IKS and environment conservation:

The cooperation between local knowledge and global science is necessary towards conservation and protection of the environment. To enable the local communities to actively participate into the assessment, evaluation and conservation of the environment, the acceptance of local knowledge in the modern world is necessary. The common sense structure provides a simple but systematic process necessary for the assessment and evaluation of the existing condition of the environment. The cooperation between local

people and modern scientists in solving the environmental and biological crises in the world is not impossible because common sense offers a venue of understanding between the simple and complex thinking of humanity.

5.5 IKS in Development Projects:

The IKS is considered the basis for self-sufficiency and self-determination because people are familiar with indigenous practices and technologies. They can understand, handle, and maintain them better than introduced western practices and technologies. Further still, IKS draws on local resources. IKS provides effective alternatives to western technologies. It gives local people and development workers extra options when designing development projects. Instead of searching only among western technologies for feasible solutions, they can choose from indigenous knowledge or combine indigenous and western technology. The use of IKS is considered one of the cornerstones that can guarantee the survival of the economies of the developing world in the wake of scarce resources and reduced donor funding.

5.6 A Spiritual Relationship with the Land:

For indigenous people, the land is the source of life - a gift from the creator that nourishes, supports and teaches. Although indigenous peoples vary widely in their customs, culture, and impact on the land, all consider the Earth like a parent and revere it accordingly. The idea that the land can be owned, that it can belong to someone even when left unused, uncared for, or uninhabited, is foreign to indigenous peoples. In the so-called developed world, land is in the hands of private individuals, corporate investors, or the state and can be sold at the will of the owner. According to indigenous law, humankind can never be more than a trustee of the land, with a collective responsibility to preserve it.

5.7 Soil Science and agriculture:

Local ecological knowledge are the key to understanding the socio-cultural context of rural producers, thus representing a way to address problems that have plagued agricultural development programs for a long time. The communication between farmers and scientists will be greatly improved if local soil nomenclature is used. The hope for sustainable agricultural development rests on the integration of all experiences rather than reliance on one tradition at the expense of the other.

6. Challenges to Indigenous Knowledge:

In spite of these uses of Indian knowledge system in modern socio-economic life of the people, it further have affected by the following challenges.

6.1 IKS is easily overlooked:

Indigenous practices are sometimes not very spectacular. Despite their effectiveness, they can easily be overlooked. For example, a traditional irrigation system consisting of mud canals and bamboo pipes looks less impressive than an introduced system of earthen, straight, and cemented canals. In the long run, it might even conserve water better than cement canals.

6.2 IKS is not well managed:

The roles of creators and keepers of information tend to be quite distinct. The library and information professionals have not been at the forefront in terms of managing IKS, despite the fact that it is becoming an important resource in planning and managing sustainable development projects. Furthermore, the collection of indigenous information is laborious, time consuming and costly. For instance, as a result of inadequate management, most of the indigenous knowledge accumulated by colonial district officers and early missionaries cannot be located in many archival institutions.

6.3 Limited access to Indigenous Knowledge:

Access to the indigenous information collected so far is very limited because it is not well organized in terms of being indexed and abstracted (UNESCO 1982). This partly explains the underutilization of IK in development projects.

6.4 Unwillingness to share IKS:

It is common practice that some of the local people are not willing to share their IK. However traditional healers and herbalists are not so willing to share their knowledge, and the ability to access supernatural sources of information to cure diseases as well as to solve social, political and economic problems.

6.5 IKS may not always be accurate:

Just like other knowledge systems, IKS has its limitations and weaknesses. It may be unwise to accept all traditional knowledge as good practice or as sustainable practice. Indigenous peoples have at times mismanaged resources.

7. Conclusion:

The Indian knowledge system is an incredibly rich and diverse collection of ancient wisdom and practices that have stood the test of time. It is a system that emphasizes the holistic understanding of the self, nature, and the universe, and seeks to create harmony and balance in all aspects of life. From the early Vedic period to the modern era, Indian knowledge has evolved and adapted to the changing times, but its core principles remain deeply ingrained in the culture and society of India. Its teachings have influenced not only the development of India but also the world at large, through its spread and adoption by other civilizations. The Indian knowledge system is a treasure trove of wisdom that continues to inspire and guide countless individuals. As we move towards a more interconnected and fast-paced world, the principles and practices of this ancient system can serve as a guiding light for a more conscious and balanced way of living. Let us continue to embrace and celebrate this rich legacy and use it to create a better and more enlightened future for ourselves and generations to come.

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