



INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM AS THE FOUNDATION OF VIKSIT BHARAT AND SUSTAINABILITY

* **Nidhi Rajendra Sharma**

Ashoka International Centre for Educational Studies and Research, Nashik

Abstract:

India is moving towards the vision of “Viksit Bharat 2047,” which means transforming the country into a developed, self-reliant, inclusive, and sustainable nation by the year 2047. In this journey, the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) plays a very important role. The Indian Knowledge System includes ancient Indian wisdom, traditions, education, philosophy, science, agriculture, medicine, yoga, environmental ethics, and cultural values that have guided Indian society for thousands of years. This research paper explains how IKS can become the foundation for sustainable development and nation-building in modern India. Ancient Indian knowledge always focused on harmony between humans, society, and nature. Concepts such as “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,” and respect for nature promote peace, equality, and environmental balance. Traditional systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, organic farming, water conservation, and community living provide sustainable solutions for present-day challenges such as pollution, climate change, stress, and resource depletion. The paper also highlights the role of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in reviving and integrating IKS into education. The study uses simple language and examples to explain how traditional Indian values can support economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and ethical living. The paper concludes that India can achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat only by combining modern technology with Indian cultural wisdom and sustainable practices. Indian Knowledge System is not only India’s heritage but also a guide for the future development of humanity.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge System, Viksit Bharat, Sustainability, NEP 2020, Traditional Knowledge, Indian Culture, Holistic Development, Environmental Ethics.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial Use Provided the Original Author and Source Are Credited.

Introduction:

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Since ancient times, India has contributed greatly in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, yoga, agriculture, education, governance, and spirituality. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) refers to this rich body of traditional knowledge developed through observation, experience, practice, and wisdom over thousands of years.

Today India dreams of becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the vision of “Viksit Bharat.” Development does not mean only economic growth. True development also includes social equality, cultural preservation,

environmental sustainability, mental well-being, and ethical values. Modern society faces many problems such as pollution, climate change, stress, unemployment, inequality, and loss of moral values. Many of these challenges can be addressed through Indian traditional wisdom.

The Indian Knowledge System teaches balance between human beings and nature. Ancient Indian culture respected rivers, forests, animals, mountains, and all living beings. Sustainable living was part of daily life. Traditional farming methods protected soil fertility. Ayurveda promoted natural healing. Yoga maintained physical and mental health. Gurukul education focused on character building and practical learning.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also recognizes the importance of Indian Knowledge Systems and encourages their integration into education. The policy aims to create students who are skilled, ethical, innovative, and culturally aware.

This paper discusses how Indian Knowledge Systems can help India achieve sustainable development and become a developed nation by 2047.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the meaning and importance of Indian Knowledge System.
2. To study the role of IKS in building Viksit Bharat.
3. To examine the contribution of Indian traditions towards sustainability.
4. To analyze the relevance of IKS in modern education and society.
5. To suggest measures for integrating IKS into national development.

Research Methodology:

This research paper is descriptive and analytical in nature. The study is based on secondary sources such as books, research papers, journals, government reports, articles, and policy documents related to Indian Knowledge System, sustainability, and Viksit Bharat. Information has also been collected from recent studies and educational policies.

Meaning of Indian Knowledge System:

Indian Knowledge System is the collection of knowledge developed in India over centuries. It includes both theoretical and practical knowledge. It covers areas such as:

- Vedas and Upanishads
- Ayurveda
- Yoga and Meditation
- Mathematics
- Astronomy
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Environmental conservation
- Ethics and philosophy
- Arts and culture

- Governance and economics

Indian knowledge is holistic in nature. It does not separate science, spirituality, ethics, and society. Ancient Indian thinkers believed that education should develop the body, mind, intellect, and soul.

For example:

- Ayurveda focuses on balance in the human body.
- Yoga promotes physical and mental health.
- Traditional agriculture protects the environment.
- Ancient water systems conserved natural resources.

Indian knowledge always aimed at the welfare of all living beings.

Concept of Viksit Bharat:

“Viksit Bharat” means a developed India. The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 aims to make India economically strong, technologically advanced, socially inclusive, culturally rich, and environmentally sustainable.

A developed nation should have:

- Quality education
- Good healthcare
- Employment opportunities
- Strong economy
- Environmental protection
- Gender equality
- Ethical governance
- Scientific innovation
- Cultural preservation

India cannot become truly developed by copying only Western models of development. It must grow according to its own culture, traditions, and values. Indian Knowledge System provides a strong foundation for this development.

Indian Knowledge System and Sustainability:

Sustainability means meeting present needs without harming future generations. Indian traditions always promoted sustainable lifestyles. Ancient Indian society used natural resources carefully and respectfully.

1. Environmental Sustainability

Indian culture worships nature. Rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, and Godavari are considered sacred. Trees such as Peepal and Banyan are respected. Animals and birds are protected through religious and cultural practices.

Ancient Indian texts mention:

- Protection of forests
- Conservation of water
- Respect for biodiversity
- Balanced use of natural resources

The Atharva Veda states that Earth is our mother and humans are her children. This idea teaches environmental responsibility.

Example:

Traditional Indian villages used rainwater harvesting systems, ponds, wells, and stepwells for water conservation. Rajasthan's traditional "Johad" system conserved water effectively even in dry regions.

Modern India can learn from these practices to address water scarcity and climate change.

2. Sustainable Agriculture

Traditional Indian agriculture was organic and eco-friendly. Farmers used:

- Natural fertilizers
- Crop rotation
- Mixed farming
- Seed preservation
- Cow-based agriculture

These methods protected soil fertility and biodiversity.

Example:

Use of cow dung as manure improved soil quality naturally. Today many farmers are returning to organic farming because chemical fertilizers damage soil and health.

Millets, traditionally grown in India, require less water and are highly nutritious. The Government of India promoted millets during the International Year of Millets 2023 because they support sustainable agriculture.

Indian agricultural wisdom can help achieve food security and environmental sustainability.

3. Ayurveda and Sustainable Health

Ayurveda is one of the oldest medical systems in the world. It focuses on prevention rather than only cure. Ayurveda uses natural herbs, balanced diet, yoga, and healthy lifestyle practices.

Ayurveda promotes:

- Natural healing
- Mental peace
- Immunity development
- Balanced living

Example:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people used Ayurvedic herbs like turmeric, tulsi, ginger, and ashwagandha to improve immunity.

Modern healthcare systems are expensive and often depend heavily on chemicals. Ayurveda provides affordable and sustainable healthcare solutions.

4. Yoga and Mental Well-being

Yoga is India's gift to the world. It improves physical health, mental concentration, emotional stability, and spiritual growth.

Today stress, anxiety, and depression are increasing due to modern lifestyles. Yoga and meditation help reduce stress naturally.

Example:

International Yoga Day is celebrated globally on 21st June. Millions of people practice yoga for better health and peaceful living.

Healthy citizens are important for building Viksit Bharat. Yoga supports sustainable human development.

Role of Indian Knowledge System in Education

Education is the foundation of national development. Ancient Indian education systems focused on:

- Moral values
- Practical knowledge
- Discipline
- Critical thinking
- Character building
- Holistic development

The Gurukul system promoted close teacher-student relationships and learning through experience.

NEP 2020 and Indian Knowledge System

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes:

- Integration of Indian traditions and culture
- Multidisciplinary education
- Skill development
- Ethical values
- Mother tongue education
- Holistic learning

NEP 2020 aims to connect students with Indian heritage while preparing them for global challenges.

Example:

Many universities in India have started Indian Knowledge System cells and courses on yoga, Ayurveda, Sanskrit, Indian mathematics, and ethics.

Indian Mathematics and Scientific Knowledge

India made major contributions in mathematics and science.

Contributions of Ancient India

- Aryabhata explained the concept of zero and astronomy.
- Bhaskaracharya contributed to algebra and calculus.
- Sushruta performed surgeries and medical procedures.
- Charaka developed Ayurvedic medicine.
- Baudhayana described geometrical principles.

These achievements show that India had a strong scientific tradition.

Example:

The concept of zero transformed mathematics globally. Without zero, modern computers and digital technology would not exist.

India should inspire young students through these achievements to promote innovation and scientific confidence.

Ethical Values in Indian Knowledge System

Indian culture teaches ethical living through values such as:

- Truth
- Non-violence
- Compassion
- Duty
- Respect for elders
- Social harmony

Mahatma Gandhi's ideas of simplicity and non-violence were based on Indian traditions.

Ethical values are important for sustainable development because corruption, greed, and selfishness create social problems.

Example:

The concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” means “The world is one family.” This promotes global peace and cooperation.

Such values can help India become not only economically developed but also morally strong.

Women and Indian Knowledge Traditions

Ancient Indian society respected women scholars like:

- Gargi
- Maitreyi
- Lopamudra

Women participated in education, philosophy, and spiritual discussions.

Today women empowerment is essential for Viksit Bharat. Indian traditions that respected women can inspire gender equality and social justice.

Example:

Self-help groups in rural India promote women entrepreneurship using traditional skills like handicrafts, weaving, and food processing.

These activities support sustainable livelihoods and rural development.

Indian Knowledge System and Economy

Traditional Indian industries such as:

- Handloom
- Handicrafts

- Ayurveda
- Yoga tourism
- Organic farming
- Natural medicine

can strengthen the economy and create employment opportunities.

Example:

Yoga tourism attracts international visitors to India. Ayurveda products are gaining popularity worldwide. The “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives can become stronger through indigenous knowledge and local production.

Challenges in Promoting Indian Knowledge System:

Despite its importance, there are several challenges:

1. Lack of Awareness

Many students are unaware of India’s traditional knowledge and contributions.

2. Western Influence

Modern education often gives more importance to Western knowledge systems.

3. Lack of Research

There is insufficient scientific research and documentation on many traditional practices.

4. Commercialization

Some traditional systems are commercialized without maintaining authenticity.

5. Language Barriers

Ancient texts are mainly in Sanskrit and regional languages, making access difficult.

6. Misconceptions

Some people wrongly believe that traditional knowledge is outdated or unscientific.

These challenges must be addressed for effective integration of IKS.

Suggestions for Strengthening Indian Knowledge System

1. Integration in Education

Schools and colleges should include Indian knowledge topics in curriculum.

2. Research and Innovation

Universities should promote research on Ayurveda, traditional agriculture, architecture, and indigenous sciences.

3. Teacher Training

Teachers should be trained to teach Indian Knowledge System effectively.

4. Digital Preservation

Ancient manuscripts and traditional practices should be digitized and preserved.

5. Promotion of Local Languages

Regional languages and Sanskrit should be encouraged.

6. Community Participation

Local communities and traditional practitioners should participate in knowledge sharing.

7. Combining Tradition and Technology

India should combine modern science with traditional wisdom for innovation and sustainable development.

Discussion:

Indian Knowledge System provides solutions to many modern problems. Modern development models often focus only on economic growth, resulting in environmental destruction and social stress. Indian traditions teach balance, harmony, and ethical living.

For example:

- Yoga supports mental health.
- Ayurveda promotes preventive healthcare.
- Organic farming protects the environment.
- Traditional water systems conserve resources.
- Ethical values strengthen society.

The vision of Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved only through industries and technology. Development should also include:

- Human values
- Cultural identity
- Ecological balance
- Social responsibility

NEP 2020 has created opportunities for reviving Indian Knowledge Systems in education and research. Many educational institutions are now recognizing the importance of indigenous knowledge.

India has the potential to become a global leader by sharing its sustainable practices and holistic wisdom with the world.

Conclusion:

Indian Knowledge System is a valuable treasure of wisdom, science, ethics, and sustainable living. It provides a strong foundation for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Ancient Indian traditions emphasized harmony between humans and nature, balanced lifestyles, community welfare, and ethical values. These principles are highly relevant in today's world facing environmental crises, stress, inequality, and moral decline.

Sustainability is deeply rooted in Indian culture. Traditional agriculture, Ayurveda, yoga, water conservation, and ecological respect offer practical solutions for sustainable development. The National Education Policy 2020 has taken an important step by recognizing the importance of Indian Knowledge Systems in education.

India should not abandon its cultural roots while moving towards modernization. Instead, it should combine traditional wisdom with modern science and technology. Such an approach can create a strong, self-reliant, peaceful, and sustainable nation.

Therefore, Indian Knowledge System is not only the heritage of the past but also the pathway for the future. By adopting Indian values, sustainable practices, and holistic education, India can successfully achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat and contribute positively to global well-being.

References:

1. *The Voice of Creative Research – Indian Knowledge System as the Foundation of Viksit Bharat*
2. *Integrated Journal for Research in Arts and Humanities – Indian Knowledge System and NEP 2020*
3. *Vidhyayana Journal – A Vision for 2047: The Indian Knowledge System and Education for a Viksit Bharat*
4. *Journal of the Oriental Institute – Indian Knowledge System Relevance and Practices under NEP 2020*
5. *Integrated Journal for Research in Arts and Humanities – Implementing NEP 2020 Recommendations: Promoting the Indian Knowledge System*
6. *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice – The Indian Knowledge Tradition in the Context of NEP 2020*
7. *Times of India. “Experts Highlight Sustainability Rooted in Indian Traditions.”*
8. *Times of India. “Maha Focus on Skill Development and Digital Education under NEP 2020.”*
9. *Reddit discussion on Indian mathematical contributions and NEP.*

Cite This Article:

Sharma N.R. (2026). *Indian Knowledge System as the Foundation of Viksit Bharat and Sustainability. In Educreator Research Journal: Vol. XIII (Issue III), pp. 45-53*