



Indian Knowledge Systems in the Curriculum of Higher Education: A Proposed Model of a PG Course in IKS

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ABSTRACT

The present research article tried to propose a Model Syllabus for IKS two-year PG/Diploma/Degree Program as there is an urgent need for teachers to get accustomed to the initiative of IKS taken by MoE and UGC to run courses at various levels of higher education institutions. The courses in IKS are already running in Central and State Sanskrit universities along with IGNOU but with different names. Some private universities also started various courses in IKS. The NEP 2020, proposed IKS courses at all levels. The UGC also drafted some models of UG/PG courses in IKS. The research article presents a background of the IKS, preamble, rationale, course description, course objectives, Prerequisites, Student Learning Outcomes, Course Structure and Content, and Evaluating pattern. It is assumed that the proposed model IKS course may prove to be helpful for all those who are interested in starting courses in IKS.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge Systems, Model Syllabus, PG- Diploma/Degree, Curriculum in Higher Education.

Introduction

The introduction of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the curriculum of higher education institutions will cultivate an attitude of scientific temper among citizens and their approach toward modern science. Through this initiative, citizens will move towards embracing Bharat's rich cultural heritage. They will see every knowledge and skill with respect to Indian Traditional Knowledge Systems which may lead to new perspectives and create space for new research and development in the field of IKS. The IKS is one of the oldest systems of knowledge in the world which has influenced many scientists and philosophers at a global level. Albert Einstein once quoted, 'We owe a lot to the ancient Indians, teaching us how to count. Without which most modern scientific discoveries would have been impossible.' The famous enigmatic American theoretical physicist Mr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atom bomb learned the ancient Sanskrit language and counted the book the Bhagavad Gita as one of his favorites and was profoundly influenced by it. There are numerous world-famous leaders who were influenced by ancient Hindu philosophy and knowledge. The frequent invasion of ancient Santana Rashtra of Bharat led to the destruction of IKS. The colonial rule in Bharat introduced their own system of education to create masses to serve them. The present education system is still in line with the western education system which needs to be changed as per our culture and heritage. In a brave move towards embracing Indian Traditional Knowledge Systems (Bharatiya Gnana Parampara), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced plans to introduce Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the curriculum of higher education institutions across the country. In order to train the existing college and university teachers, the UGC has started training programmes in IKS, so that courses in IKS can be introduced in higher education institutes from current session. The UGC has drafted guidelines for introducing the courses in IKS at various levels. The Sanskrit universities at central and state level are already providing courses in IKS. The other names of IKS's are: Vedic Knowledge System, Sanatan Knowledge System, Hindu Knowledge System, Bhartiya Knowledge System, Indic Knowledge System etc. The IGNOU is also running courses at various levels for IKS. The universities like, Bishma University, Sri Sri University, Apex Professional University, Gujarat Technological University, Gujrat University etc. are already started courses in IKS as per NEP 2020. The Swayam 2 portal is also offering a ten week introductory course in IKS. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has opened an innovative cell for IKS at AICTE, New Delhi to promote interdisciplinary research on all aspects of IKS, preserve and disseminate IKS for further research and societal applications. It will actively engage for spreading the rich heritage of our country and traditional knowledge in the field of Arts and literature, Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Architecture, Management, Economics, etc. It also opened various centres for IKS in various universities. As there is an urgent need for teachers to get accustomed to this initiative of IKS and develop courses at various levels of higher education as suggested by UGC, the present paper is an attempt to frame a Model Syllabus for IKS two year PG/Diploma/Degree Program.

Model Syllabus for IKS two year PG-Diploma/Degree Programme:

Preamble:

The National Educational Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) lays emphasis on Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in order to make it applicable in present world and therefore, recommends the incorporation of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into the curriculum at all levels of education. India has a rich tradition of intellectual inquiry and textual heritage that goes back several thousands of years. India was advanced in knowledge systems, traditions, and practices since antiquity. The vast Indian knowledge, from the Vedas, Upanishads to scriptural, philosophical, scientific, technological and artistic sources are untapped which need to be explored. Vedas contain high-level knowledge of mathematics, science, metallurgy, agricultural science, social formula, philosophy of life, moral values, national defence, etc. Along with the Vedas, the study of the parts of the Vedas is very important. The parts of the Vedas are called Shastras. It is absolutely necessary for every section of the society to study the system of knowledge written in the scriptures. Of more than ten million manuscripts that are available, just five percent have been studied. It's time to focus on the revitalization of the major knowledge tradition of fourteen Vidyas and sixty four Kalas that are useful in day-to-day living through its activities and programs. In view of the importance accorded in the NEP 2020 to rooting our curricula and pedagogy in the Indian context and in the corpus of Indian Knowledge System, every student enrolled in a UG or PG programme should be encouraged to take credit courses in IKS amounting in all to at least five per cent of the total mandated credits. It's a high time that the institutions come up with courses that will introduce the students to all aspects of IKS which are related to their fields of study and to promote interest in knowing and exploring more. Therefore, Indian Knowledge System should form an essential part of the curricula taught in our schools, colleges and other institutions of higher learning.

Rationale of the Course:

PG Diploma in Indian Knowledge System Programme has been started for the study of knowledge system of India. The study of this programme does not mean the study of the Vedas, or the study of religion but to understand the ancient Indian wisdom for better world tomorrow. This course is of unique in nature and will update a student with basic foundation of ancient Indian Knowledge System. The course will facilitate study and research of all subjects through the lenses of Indian philosophy; including, Indology, languages, literature, history, dharma, religion, sociology, polity, arts, economy, archaeology, medicine, and all others which form a part of the cultural heritage of India. The course will enable students to excel in the application of Indian Knowledge System in contemporary time and becomes a source of wisdom. The nation under the Hon'ble Prime Minister dreamt of becoming a developed nation within 25 years by making five resolutions. These resolutions can be called 'PanchPran' of Amrit Kaal. The IKS aims to contribute to the second and third aspects of "PanchPran" resolutions i.e. "Remove all traces of servitude" and "Be proud of India's heritage and legacy". The application of IKS will bring a prospective sea-change in education as envisaged in NEP 2020.

Course Description:

The course is intended to provide students ancient Indian wisdom which is created and developed for the benefit of all human races. The main purpose of the course is to prepare critical and culturally responsive individuals who can gain insight of IKS and apply the acquired knowledge in upliftment of every aspect of life.

Course Objectives:

The content and learning activities in this course are designed to help students achieve the following objectives:

- i) To provide a general introduction to Indian Knowledge System (IKS).
- ii) To acquire a perspective regarding the Indian Knowledge System.
- iii) To develop a rational conceptualization of the Indian Knowledge System.
- iv) To sensitize the students to the contributions made by ancient Indians in the field of Science, Philosophy and related applications and concepts.
- v) To reflect on the basic parameters within which the system of Indian Knowledge operates.
- vi) To appreciate that the course would help to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, quality and excellence in the System of Indian Knowledge.
- vii) To gain insight to conduct research and verify Indian knowledge.
- viii) To develop readiness to undertake reforms and innovations in the practice of Indian Knowledge System.
- ix) To develop a rational conceptualization of Indian Knowledge System.

Prerequisites:

Any individual across the globe can join if he/she is Graduate and able to understand basic teaching in Hindi and English.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- i) Describe the Ancient Indian Concept of Knowledge.
- ii) Classify Indian scheme of knowledge.
- iii) Discuss the importance of Indian Knowledge System in present times.

- iv) Read Sanskrit Language and Literature
- v) Analyse Indian Society, Culture & Traditions.
- vi) Debate in Dharma and Karma Vimarsh.
- vii) Explore Ancient Number Systems and Units of Measurement.
- viii) Use Indian Health Sciences.
- ix) Explain Ancient Indian Universities.
- x) Analyse Indian Architecture and Town Planning.
- xi) Apply Ancient Indian Polity and Economy in Present times.
- xii) Explore the Outreach of Indian Knowledge System.

Target Group:

This programme is extremely useful for prospective and in-service school, college, and university teachers to widen their career opportunities. In fact people with any age group working in any field like government organization, doctor, lawyer, CA, engineer, architect or graduate degree holder in any field can think about this programme as a supportive or alternative career. It will enlighten them at the individual level and also will help them to create a change in society in a professional way.

Course Content

SEMESTER-I

1. Introduction to Indian Knowledge System.
2. The Vedic Corpus.
3. Ancient Indian Concept of Knowledge.
4. Knowledge Framework and classifications.

SEMESTER-III

9. Indian Education.
10. Indian Fine Arts.
11. Indian Health Sciences.
12. Indian Philosophy.
- Project-1

SEMESTER-II

5. Introduction to Sanskrit Language and Literature.
6. Dharma and Karma Vimarsh.
7. Indian Society, Culture & Traditions.
8. Number Systems and Units of Measurement.

SEMESTER-IV

13. Ancient Indian Universities.
14. Indian Architecture and Town Planning.
15. Indian Polity and Economy.
16. The Outreach of Indian Knowledge System.
- Project-2

Programme Structure:

Course Content:

SYLLABUS

SEMESTER-I

1. Introduction to Indian Knowledge System:

Concept of IKS

Need & Significance of IKS, Organization of IKS, Historicity of IKS, Some salient aspects of IKS, Vidyas, Kalas etc

2. The Vedic Corpus:

Introduction to Vedas, A synopsis of the four Vedas, Sub-classification of Vedas, Messages in Vedas, Introduction to Vedāṅgas, Prologue on Śikṣā and Vyākaraṇa, Basics of Nirukta and Chandas, Introduction to Kalpa and Jyotiṣa, Vedic Life: Distinctive Features .

3. Ancient Indian Concept of Knowledge:

Materialism: Orthodox and Heterodox Philosophical Views of Knowledge, Pramana (Source of Knowledge - Nyaya), Number of Pramana, Theory of Knowledge, Concept and Nature of Knowledge - Gyana Yoga, The Jain Theory of Judgement, Buddhist Theory of Causation, Common Features of the, Ancient Theory of Knowledge and its Relevance and, Implications for Education

4. Knowledge Framework and classifications:

Indian scheme of knowledge, The knowledge triangle, Prameya – A vaiśeṣikan approach to physical reality, Dravyas – the constituents of the physical reality, Attributes – the properties of substances and Action – the driver of conjunction and disjunction, Sāmānya, viśēṣa, samavāya, Pramāṇa – the means of valid knowledge, Saṃśaya – ambiguities in existing knowledge, Framework for establishing valid knowledge, Deductive or inductive logic framework, Potential fallacies in the reasoning process, Siddhānta: established tenets in a field of study

SEMESTER-II

5. Introduction to Sanskrit Language and Literature:

An overview on Sanskrit Language, Importance & Significance of Sanskrit Language, The nature and purpose of Kavya. Drisya and Sravya Kavyas., The ideas of Indian aestheticians on what constitutes the soul of Kavya, Important examples of classical literature in Sanskrit.

6. Dharma and Karma Vimarsh:

Idea of Dharma, Uniqueness of Dharma., Tenets of Dharma, Explanations of terms of dharma, religion, panth, mazhab, and sampradaya, Concept of Karma Choice of intention on karma, but the lack of absolute control (adhikaar) on its consequences (karma-phal); The inescapability from fruits of karma, Karma and sanskaar: story of Raja Bharat who became a deer from Bhaagvat-Purana

7. Indian Society, Culture & Traditions:

Cultural Evolution: Historical Perspective, Aryans & Vedas, Advent of Jainism and Buddhism

External Invasions, Salient Features of the Indian Society, Family, Marriage, Cultural Study of Ramayana, General Study of Mahabharata.

8. Number Systems and Units of Measurement:

Number systems in India – Historical evidence, Salient aspects of Indian Mathematics, Bhūta-Saṃkhyā system, Kaṭapayādi system, Measurements for time, distance, and weight, Piṅgala and the Binary system.

Project-1:

Project can be based on below point with reference to the different concepts taught in the program –Validation of concept, Application of concept, Creating physical dummy models, Finding references and proofs for the concept, etc. Students have to write the thesis and present it front of external faculty panel.

SEMESTER-III

9. Indian Education:

Preservation of culture, tradition and Dharma through education. Svadhyaya, Pravachana, Continuity of the family and the vamsha, who are the carriers of knowledge, tradition and Dharma., The extent, inclusiveness and the sophistication of indigenous education in early 19th century India.

10. Indian Fine Arts:

The importance of Gandharva-veda. Natyasastra on the nature and purpose of fine arts, Basic concepts of Indian music and dance, Important texts of Indian music, dance and painting, Indian musical instruments, Different schools of music, dance and painting in different regions of India. Important examples of Indian painting in various part of India, Musicology as a science. Harmonising Lakshya and Lakshana (practise and theory), Major developments in the science and practice of music the 17/18/19th centuries. The current revival of music and dance in India.

11. Indian Health Sciences:

Introduction to health, Āyurveda: approach to health, Sapta-dhātavaḥ: seven-tissues, Role of agni in health, Tri-doṣas, Āyurveda: definition of health, Psychological aspects of health, Disease management elements, Dinacaryā: daily regimen for health & wellness, Importance of sleep, Food intake methods and drugs, Approach to lead a healthy life, Indian approach to psychology, The tri guṇa system & holistic picture of the individual, The Nature of Consciousness, Consciousness studies and issues.

12. Indian Philosophy:

An introduction to philosophical systems, Development of philosophy, Unique features of philosophy, Sāṅkhya approach of philosophy, Introduction to Yoga, Tenet of Nyāya philosophy, Principles of Vaiśeṣika, Doctrine of Pūrva-Mīmāṃsā Darśana, Thesis of Vedānta and synopsis of Advaita, Philosophy of Viśiṣṭādvaita, Ideology of Dvaita, Tenets of Jaina, Doctrine of Buddhism, Notions of Cārvāka.

SEMESTER-IV

13. Ancient Indian Universities:

Nalanda, Takahashila Vallabhi, Vikramshila, Jagaddala University, Nagarjuna Vidyapeeth, Kanthalloor University etc.

14. Indian Architecture and Town Planning:

Perspective of Arthaśāstra on town planning, Vāstu-śāstra – The science of architecture, Eight limbs of Vāstu, Town planning, Temples in India: marvelous stone architecture for eternity, Temple architecture in India, Iconography

15. Indian Polity and Economy:

Introduction to raja dharma, Arthaśāstra: a historical perspective, Elements of a kauṭilyan state, The King & the Amātya, Janapada & Durga, Treasury and the State Economy (Kośa), Danda, Mitra, The Administrative Setup, Relevance of Arthaśāstra, Public Administration in Epics.

16. The Outreach of Indian Knowledge System:

The outreach of Indian Knowledge System beyond Indian boundaries from the ancient times, Outreach to East, Southeast, Central and Southeast Asia of Indian phonetic script, decimal value place system based arithmetic, algebra, astronomy and calendar, medical pharmacopeia, architecture, methods of making iron and steel, cotton textiles, etc. The transmission of Indian linguistics, knowledge of plants, iron and steel metallurgy, textiles and dyeing, shipbuilding etc., to Europe in 17/18/19th centuries. Current global outreach of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Fine Arts.

Project-2:

Project can be based on below point with reference to the different concepts taught in the program – Validation of concept, Application of concept, Creating physical dummy models, Finding references and proofs for the concept, etc. Students have to write the thesis and present it front of external faculty panel.

Assessment:

- 100 marks for subject.
- Written Exam- 60 Marks, Assignment- 20 Marks, Oral- 20 Marks.
- Project- Theses and Presentation
- Passing- Min. 40 percent marks in each subject.

Total Credits: 64 (12 Subjects) + 8 (2 Projects) = 72

Eligibility for the PG-Diploma/Degree in IKS Programme: Anyone who is a graduate in any discipline is eligible for the programme.

Duration: Two years/ Four Semesters.

Medium: Hindi and English

Award of PG-Diploma in IKS- After Successful Completion of first year.

Award of PG- Degree in IKS- After Successful Completion of second year.

Career Opportunity: As a professor, teacher, mentor, guide, coach, IKS expert/consultant, research scholar/associate etc.

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4. A.P.University-Institute of Indian Knowledge- <https://www.apexuniversity.edu.in/indian-knowledge-system-iks/>
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Others:

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