Emerging trends in Social innovation and Inclusive development in the perspective of IKS

Leena Sakkarwal

Professor, School of Education, Central Sanskrit University, India

Abstract:

This research paper attempts to review the role of IKS in social innovation and inclusive development, to find out the list of emerging trends in aforesaid terms and also to uncover the sector of contribution of Indian knowledge system. The study is solely based on secondary data. The information was gathered from various related books, journals, internet, newspapers, articles and personal collection. Data was collected according to the requirement of fulfilment of objectives. The research found that there was mass implications of IKS in social innovation and inclusive development. Besides, IKS plays prominent role in conserving holistic development, environmental consciousness, inclusive- accessibility, sustainable practices, Indian language proficiency and digital literacy which might be revitalize and reverted for the sustainable global growth and also allows Indian Ethos, Value System and Dharmic principles to establish and propagate the thought of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam, Moto of G 20 Summit, which conveys the message of the growth, prosperity, happiness and interconnectivity of the whole world together.

Keywords: *Sustainability, Pluriversal futures, brand credibility, macro thinking, Orders of Design*

Introduction:

General Background of the Study: India has always been recognised globally as a prosperous and culturally rich nation with a long history of knowledge, systems and intellectual achievements. However, for the last two centuries, the Western perception has been leading, influencing factor in our education. The British rule and their policies even had a detrimental impact on India's education system and led to a decline in its prosperity. Due to this colonial thought process the Indian origin knowledge is either been rejected or ignored in mainstream education for many decades. The Bhartiya world view is entirely lacking in the society. Living with all kinds of materialistic things or having all those, has become the lone objective of current education. Whereas, living life for meaningful purpose always been the aim of Indian education system, so that, one can change his perspectives towards life and think innovatively and impactful to make the society better place to live in. Nowadays, IKS or Indian knowledge system become the flavour of the season as this euphoria begin with the mention of IKS in National Education Policy 2020, where it is mandated to have IKS based education in schools, colleges and higher education institutes and have been largely discussed in the academic and administrative circles. This paper aims to understand how Indigenous cultures and their knowledge systems can contribute to global challenges.

In order to do so, this paper will attempt first to understand the concept of IKS; then to explore the relationship between social development and IKS. After that, how this relationship can be helpful in inclusive development.

Conceptual Understanding of IKS: IKS is a short acronym of Indian Knowledge System which means indigenous source of knowledge generated by the ancient Indian society from the wisdom and insights arising out of deep experiences, observations, experimentations and analysis of various concepts. It is a legacy, woven from Jyan, Vigyan and Jeewan darshan. These are not just abstract concepts; Indeed, they have evolved from centuries of experience and rigorous analysis. IKS has a very long history that has continued unbroken like the Ganges river. From the Vedas to the country's native and tribal folklore knowledge has been the focus of all research. Since In Ancient Indian Education, knowledge has always been prominent. As Lord krishna guides Arjuna in Bhagavad Gita. 4.38 that knowledge is the greatest means of self purification and liberation. Na hi gyanen sadrisham pavitramih vidyatevidyate'. There is a vast repository of knowledge available not only in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, but also in all native Indian languages. However, One of the key pillars of India's ancient knowledge system is the Vedic literature. These texts contain a vast repository of knowledge encompassing various disciplines such as philosophy, science, mathematics, language &linguistic, astronomy. Moreover, Ayurveda, Yoga Metallurgy, Rasashastra, Public administration, War Technology management, Science Technology and many more. Today, this insightful knowledge is much needed for Knowledge diplomacy which is going to rule the international relations in future world , Since India has such a literary repository that will enrich the Indian civilization for millennia.

Social innovation & inclusive development in the light of IKS: In the perspective of IKS, social innovation and inclusive development of country might be revitalize and reverted for sustainable growth with Indian ethos. As IKS places a premium on practical application, emphasizing hands on learning, having problem solving skills. This practice bridges the gap between theory and practice, preparing citizens for the dynamic challenges of the professional landscape. Indeed, it insists mind-set where theoretical concepts find tangible expression, fostering a generation of learners capable of addressing real world problems with creativity and practical insight.

Objectives of the Study

• To uncover the sector of contribution of IKS.
• To review the role of IKS in social innovation and inclusive development.
• To find out the list of emerging trends in present scenario.

Methodology: Methodology deserves a very careful consideration. Methodology and procedures are the important factors in conducting a research. Appropriate methodology used in research helps to collect valid and reliable data and analyse the information purposively to arrive at correct decision. The study was solely based on secondary data. The information was gathered from various related books, journals, Internet, newspapers, articles and personal collection. Data was collected according to the requirement of fulfilment of objectives. There has lot of related data in websites But the most important data was only incorporated here. Gathered experience and knowledge, also incorporated in this paper.

Findings
Significant Role of IKS in various sectors:
IKS in Entrepreneurial mind-set: In the words of PM Narendra Modi, 'start-ups are more than commercial success stories. They are powerful examples of social innovation' The IKS instils and entrepreneurial mind-set by encouraging learners to embrace risk taking and innovation. The approach cultivates an entrepreneurial spirit, inspiring them to become creators rather than jobseeker. As said by Ancient scholar, Chanakya, in his neeti that 'once you start

working on something, don't be afraid of failure and don't be abandoned it. People who work sincerely are the happiest.' This entrepreneurial system powers to contribute actively to economic growth by fostering an environment that values innovation and risk. In ancient times 64 kalas (skills) are mentioned which are basically the foundation of startups .Various skills are mentioned in early times such as; the art of producing vessels out of bamboo, knowledge of processes of milking and making ghee from milk, the art of preparing tambul i.e beetal nuts, the science of manufacturing vessels and other articles out of glass, the art of cooking various dishes and so on ,encourage Entrepreneurial mind-set, prepare person for dynamic career parts. It nurtures a culture of self reliance, creativity and problem solving essential for navigating the challenges of a rapidly evolving global economy.

IKS in Environmental Consciousness: The IKS underscores environmental consciousness, integrating education that promote sustainable practices. There are numerous examples mentioned in ancient text. Vedic sages had great declaration that Earth is the mother of all and all creatures are her children. Tree conservation, prohibition of killing animals, water conservation in the form of developing wells, bawadi, lake, ponds etc., pollution free environment and so on. This approach equipped with an awareness of environmental issues. And instil a sense of responsibility towards the ecosystem. By incorporating ecological consideration into the curriculum. Theoretical understanding of environmental challenges and are motivated to adopt ecofriendly behaviour. This emphasis on ecological consciousness ensures that learners graduate with a heightened awareness of their impact on the planet, contributing to an environmentally responsible generation. And it end actively engaged in building a sustainable future.

IKS in Global Competence: The IKS actively promotes global competence among students. Exposure to international perspectives within the curriculum ensures they are well prepared for a globalised job market. This exposure. broadens their horizons and enhances cross cultural understanding, cultivating adaptability and collaboration skills by fostering a global outlook. Radha kumad mookerji wrote in his book that in ancient times there was the provision of completing education in foreign or students after graduation can undertook an extensive foreign travel to give a practical turn to their theoretical studies at the colleges, and qualify themselves for the life in the world by broadening the range of their experience and deepening their insight into human affairs. So, the system equips to navigate diverse professional environments and contribute meaningfully internationally. This emphasise on international competence, position students to thrive in an interconnected world where cultural fluency and collaborations are integrated to success.

IKS in Inclusivity and Accessibility: The IKS prioritises inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that education transcends socio economic barriers. Special provisions are in place to guarantee that every students, regardless of their background, has access to quality education. A.S Altekar mentioned in his book that at early stages of history, the principle of hereditary professions was accepted by society. However, specially gifted children could change their family professions. Hindu society tried to make a fairly efficient arrangements for the proper education of the rising generation. Additionally, the system embraces inclusive practices, offering support tailor to the diverse learning needs of learners by fostering and environment where education is accessible to all irrespective of socio-economic disparities. The IKS plays a pivotal role in creating a more equitable and inclusive society, empowering students from various backgrounds to pursue an excel in their education endeavours.

IKS in Language Proficiency: The IKS priorities language proficiency by promoting regional language, preserving linguistic diversity and enriching students with a deep appreciation for their cultural heritage. Bilingual education further enhances communication skills, recognising their crucial role. In a global context, this approach facilitates effective cross cultural communication and equips students with a valuable asset in an interconnected world. Keeping this view in mind, government is also building database through Bhasini an AI tech language translation system that creating open source data sets in local languages. The emphasis on language proficiency ensures that they are not only academically adapt but also proficient communicators capable of navigating diverse linguistic landscapes with confidence and understanding.

IKS in Digital literacy: The IKS significantly emphasises digital literacy equipping students with essential skills for the digital era. Education for all wherever, whenever is also ancient education concept where every student can access knowledge content at his own space. As Hiuen Tsang's time education was free for students . This focus ensures that students gain technological proficiency, allowing them to navigate and contribute effectively in a digitally driven. By incorporating digital literacy into the curriculum, the education system prepares students to acquire the power of technology for communication, problem solving and innovation. This emphasis on digital skills enhances their academic journey and positions them to excel in a technological evolving global landscape, fostering a generation adapt at leveraging digital tools for success.

IKS in Continues learning: Incorporating a culture of continuous learning. The IKS equips students for lifetime of education. In ancient times , under the scheme of pnachamahayagya every householder was daily required to spend some time over Swadhayaya. So that youth may not go back or slip into ignorance Emphasising adaptability as a core skill, it recognises the importance of navigating And ever evolving professional landscapes by installing a mindset of virtual growth and learning, Students are academically prepared and develop the resilience needed to thrive in dynamic and challenging environment. This commitment to continuous learning and assures that graduates are well positioned to embrace new opportunities, stay relevant in their careers and contribute meaningfully to the process of society.

IKS in Holistic Development: The IKS strongly emphasises holistic development, incorporating arts, sports and extracurricular activities into the educational fabric. This integration ensures students cultivator well rounded skill set beyond academic excellence. The system focuses on creativity and critical thinking equipped students with the tools to navigate diverse challenge fostering a mind-set beyond rote learning by nurturing these aspects students are academically proficient and processes the creativity and analytical skills necessary for success in an every evolving world. In ancient education system also rote learning was not been promoted in one of Sanskrit verse, in Nirukt it is mentioned that, 'Saraswati Or the Goddess of learning reveals her full charm only to him who understand what he recites. Other are merely beasts of burden'.

Role of IKS in social innovation and inclusive development: The terms social innovation and inclusive development both are interconnected to each other. Indeed, social innovations are the solutions for inclusive development of human being, society, country and world respectively. As the process inclusion engages each individual and makes people feel valued, respected, empowered which is essential for the growth

of both individual and society. Basically, the concept of inclusion derives from the Sanskrit phrase - Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam (world is one family) which encompasses a broader relationship & togetherness among people, across the society . In the words of Amartya Sen, 'Human development is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interest. People are the wealth of nations. Development is, thus, about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. And it is, thus, about much more than economic growth, which is only means if a very important one of enlarging people's choices.' To meet the goals of inclusive development, social innovation might be the impactful solutions to make individuals empowered, self respected, implies new types of collaboration. These innovations may be in the form of either products, services or models that address community's unmet needs effectively, thus improving people lives. Many world societal challenges can be see through the lens of Indian knowledge system to get better solutions in various social or environmental issues such as health, Education, climate change, energy, water conservation, sanitation livelihood and so on.

List of Emerging trends in Social innovations in the perspective of IKS (Economic Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India)

• Rooftop Organic fertilizer Maker

• Meghshala: Encouraging learning

   through technology

• Connecting Rural Artisans to the Global

   Market

• River: Re-engaging Teachers and the

   taught

• Third Eye

• Water Purifier that beats the RO

• Swarna pragati : Revolutionizing Rural

   Housing Finance.

• Mushrooms from coffee waste.

• Holistic Solution to rural sanitation

Here are some more examples of social innovations which are quite impactful in present scenario of society

1. Agnisumukh – Inspired by the traditional Indian method of cooking on charcoal. Agnisumukh manufacturers commercial kitchen equipment driven by innovative, energy efficient radiant heat gas burners, and these ultra – efficient cooking stoves save 30c/o on gas. There vision is to transform lives by providing clean green, energy efficient heating solutions across gas fuels.

2. Project listen up – inspired by the thought of sarve bhavantu sukhina, paropkaraya idam sharirram, Sohum Innovation labs India Pvt limited is providing low cost hardware cum software solutions which screens and diagnoses infants with hearing impairment at early age.

3. Sakha consulting wings: yatra naryaastu pujyante, ramante tatra devta. Based on this thought to protect and empower women Sakha Consulting Wings are playing prominent role in providing safe transport solution for women in four Indian cities.

4. AYZH – inspired by the simple idea of developing affordable, appropriate health technologies produced by women for women in rural India.

5. Aditya – India 's first solar ferry, mode of transport by solar energy in India. It is also the first ferry in the world to have more than 80c/o of it's energy requirements met through solar.

Conclusion

Eventually, we can conclude that IKS is not merely knowing about some ancestral knowledge, ancient texts, Vedic culture, rituals and so on. Indeed, it is vital to protect received wisdom, because economic security and national pride had been propounded in these ancient scripts and knowledge. Besides, we need IKS for variety of reasons which is mainly useful for Inclusive development of human beings living respectful, empowered life which ensures their rights and participation in social, political and economic development in the society. IKS is mainly bridging the gap between ancient wisdom and the modern world. It offers valuable insights not just for Indian people but for the entire world. It's about shaping behaviour and propelling future on a global scale. It is not just a vision but a tangible force steering the country towards significant change. The principles embedded in the IKS offer a timeless wisdom applicable to contemporary social challenges which can play the significant role in impactful social innovations. Last but not least, IKS is a living legacy offering insights that can shape our choices, policies and innovations in the dynamic landscape of today's interconnected world.

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