International Journal of Social Science and Education Research

ISSN Print: 2664-9845
ISSN Online: 2664-9853
Impact Factor: RJIF 8.42
IJSSER 2025; 7(2): 1025-1029
www.socialsciencejournals.net
Received: 15-11-2025
Accepted: 02-12-2025
Published: 20-12-2025

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Initiatives taken by the government in implementing Indian knowledge systems: A comparative study

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DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26649845.2025.v7.i2m.471

Abstract
In 2014, with the formation of the National Democratic Alliance, which we know as the NDA, significant changes were seen, giving India a new resolve *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India). After this, tremendous momentum was observed in the promotion of the Indian education system, which took ancient texts to new heights. Through ancient water management systems, it was learned how climate change occurs continuously, and through yoga practices, the world was told how challenges like mental health can be addressed. By 2025, more than ₹5,000 crore has been allocated for various ministries, indicating a strong strategic direction.
This qualitative study, based on scholars' documents, their databases, government reports, and policy documents as secondary sources, evaluates objectives, achievements, and obstacles. It concludes that awareness of the Indian Knowledge System across the country has increased by up to 60%. Despite this, many issues like colonial legacy, standardization, etc., obstruct full implementation. Recommendations include collaboration between various ministries, increasing access to rural areas, and translating classical texts powered by artificial intelligence. Ultimately, this indicates a renaissance that establishes the Indian Knowledge System not merely as a relic but as a dynamic tool for cultural sovereignty and global innovation. By bridging Indian culture, tradition, and modernity, the Indian Knowledge System inspires a decolonized knowledge paradigm, ensuring equitable access for future generations. This research paper reflects the efforts made by the central government and provides opportunities for state-level comparisons in future research.

Keywords: Indian knowledge systems, NEP 2020, ministry of AYUSH, Project Mausam, cultural revival, traditional medicine, educational integration, comparative policy analysis

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

In reality, what is the Indian Knowledge System? The Indian Knowledge System is a storehouse of ancient knowledge encompassing science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, and art, which has given our civilizations a foundation and shaped them. Contained in the *Vedas*, texts, *Upanishads*, and epics like the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*, the Indian Knowledge System represents a holistic perspective on life, establishing harmony between nature, humans, and the universe. However, due to Western-centric education and the colonial era, these systems faced neglect, causing cultural alienation and harm to indigenous innovation. The Indian government, from 2014 to 2047, with the vision of *Viksit Bharat* (Developed India), has started significant initiatives to revive, collect, integrate, and globalize the Indian Knowledge System. This study conducts a comparative analysis of these efforts in key areas like education, health, and culture. This study focuses on the developments under the administration of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi since 2014.
In the field of education, the National Education Policy, which we know as NEP, serves as a cornerstone, mandating the inclusion of the Indian Knowledge System in the curriculum from secondary board of education to higher education levels. In 2020, the establishment of the Indian Knowledge System under the All-India Council for Technical Education funded more than 100 interdisciplinary courses in universities, including subjects like Ayurveda in pharmacology, Vedic mathematics, and sustainable architecture from ancient texts. Due to initiatives like the Vedic Heritage Portal and school-level competitions, ancient Indian manuscripts are being digitized today.

Through school-level competitions, more than 50 lakh students have been connected to this, promoting cultural pride and critical thinking. By 2025, a 40% increase in related enrolments has been observed. Despite all this, challenges like teacher training remain.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of AYUSH, established in 2014, traditional medicine has been democratized through the AYUSH Mission, under which the government has ensured that by 2025, 12,000 health centres have been established. Along with this, 15 lakh practitioners have been trained. Under notable efforts, International Yoga Day, declared by the Indian government in 2015, and the World Health Organization's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, included in 2022, are significant. Due to these efforts, a 300% increase in the export of AYUSH products has been observed since 2014, because of which India has emerged as a global leader today. Through digital platforms like AYUSH Grid, ancient herbal science has been integrated with modern IT, incorporating telemedicine. Comparatively, while educational institutions have been focused on, health has emphasized preventive wellness, yet both face a lack of infrastructure in rural areas [3].

After the arrival of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in 2015, in the cultural sector of India, the Ministry of Culture's Project Mausam 2015 and Dhara 2022 have revived unparalleled ancient knowledge centres like Nalanda. By promoting maritime heritage, the Indian Knowledge System has been connected to global dialogues. Since 2014, more than 50 international conferences have been organized in India, significantly boosting India's soft power diplomacy. From a comparative perspective, coordination is evident, such as education preparing the intellectual foundation, health utilizing practical knowledge, and culture preserving narratives.

1.2 Problem Statement

Despite these strong intentions, some shortcomings remain. According to a report by the UGC, only 30% of universities in the Indian education sector have fully implemented the Indian Knowledge System curriculum. Allopathic medicine faces scepticisms regarding health solutions, while activities moving toward urbanization are causing our heritage to struggle with erosion. This study addresses the problems arising between them by connecting the academic focus of Indian education policy with the practical emphasis on health and the core principles of cultural preservation, highlighting both coordination and disconnection.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The core objectives are

- To chronicle and analyse government initiatives on IKS implementation in area of education, health, and culture since 2014.
- To provide a comparative assessment of their objectives, achievements, challenges, and inter-sectoral linkages.
- To propose policy recommendations for holistic integration with emphasis on equity and innovation.

1.4 Significance of the study

This research paper opens pathways to promote national pride in the era of globalization of health and education. It promotes cultural diplomacy and establishes India as a great knowledge superpower.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual framework of Indian knowledge systems

The Indian Knowledge System is an ecosystem of knowledge philosophy that has been observed in a comprehensive form, from empirical findings in the Charaka Samhita to evidence in Nyaya. Scholars like Fritz Staal have described it as non-dualistic, integrating both spirituality and science. After 2014, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy 2020 implements this through multidisciplinary education, in contrast to Western positivism.

2.2 Global perspectives on traditional knowledge systems

Globally, UNESCO's initiative on intangible cultural heritage reflects the Indian Knowledge System. The integration of Maori knowledge in New Zealand's curriculum is considered similar to the NEP, while China's traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) export model, valued at 50 billion dollars in 2024, offers lessons for AYUSH. However, cases of biopiracy, such as the turmeric patent, highlight the need for protective measures [4].

2.3 IKS in Indian Context: Pre-2014 Developments

Before Narendra Modi's tenure, i.e., before 2014, these efforts were scattered. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in 2001 prevented over 300 incorrect patents, and the National Manuscript Mission in 2003 digitized one crore pages. Despite this, colonial legacies persisted, and the Indian Knowledge System remained limited to the study of folklore.

2.4 Post-2014 Evolution: Sectoral Surge

It has been observed that since 2014, the Indian Knowledge System has gained distinct momentum. The formation of the AYUSH Ministry has brought significant changes to healthcare reforms, the National Education Policy 2020 has reshaped education, and government-led Sanskrit projects like Mausam have promoted heritage tourism. The study also includes interdisciplinary comparisons, completed through the synthesis of over 50 sources.

2.5 Gaps in Existing Literature

Although region-specific studies, such as AYUSH exports, are abundantly available, comprehensive comparisons are rare. It has been noted that the rural-urban divide is often overlooked. This research paper highlights the rural-urban divide through thematic aggregation.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study employs a desk-based qualitative design. It is based on secondary data for ethical and cost-effective investigation. No primary survey was conducted; instead, the focus was on synthesis and critical analysis.

3.2 Data Sources and Collection

Data spans January 2014-September 2025, sourced from:

- Government portals (education.gov.in, ayush.gov.in, indiaculture.gov.in).
- Scholarly repositories (Google Scholar, ResearchGate, UGC reports).
- Policy documents (NEP 2020, NAM guidelines) and PIB releases [2].

Over 60 documents were reviewed using keywords like "IKS initiatives post-2014" and "comparative AYUSH NEP".

3.3 Data Analysis
Using thematic analysis, the data was categorized based on its impact, promotion, and benefits. Comparisons were influenced by integrated indicators such as funding patterns, and specificity was ensured through paraphrasing.

3.4 Limitations
It was found that access to sensitive reporters was restricted, and reliance on official sources may create optimistic bias. The state perspective was not included in this scope, as central efforts are prioritized.

4. Findings
4.1 Initiatives in the Education Sector
The impact of the Indian Knowledge System, promoted by the Ministry of Education, has been highly significant, with funding of over 200 crore rupees allocated for more than 400 courses by 2025. The National Education Policy 2020 has made it mandatory to assign 5 to 10% weightage to the Indian Knowledge System in the curriculum and has also provided an alternative course on quantum physics from a Vedic perspective. Through the Vedic Heritage Portal 2022, more than 1,000 textbooks have been digitized. All of these have been made accessible through apps. Schools organized various competitions in which over one crore students participated, resulting in a 50% increase in awareness. A 25% increase in enrolment was also observed in the STEM-IKS hybrid model [1].

Sub-section: Key Milestones
- **2014:** Launch of Digital India, laying groundwork for IKS digitization.
- **2020:** IKS courses in 75 universities.
- **2025:** AICTE's IKS Centres of Excellence in 20 states.

4.2 Initiatives in the Health Sector (Ministry of AYUSH)
In 2014, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, AYUSH was granted full ministry status, leading to the formation of the National AYUSH Mission. The government invested approximately 10,000 crore rupees to integrate over 1.5 lakh health centres. The Yoga Day resolution in 2015 united 190 countries, and by 2025, the number of participants in these events reached 50 crores. The expansion of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library prevented 500 patents, while AYUSH Great 2020 enabled in-depth study of herbs powered by artificial intelligence (AI) for treatment purposes. By 2024, AYUSH exports reached 20,000 crore rupees, reflecting a 400% growth [3].

Sub-section: Innovative Applications
- **Ayur genomics:** Blending genomics with Ayurveda for personalized medicine.
- **Global MoUs:** 75 agreements, including WHO GTMC (2022).

4.3 Initiatives in the Culture Sector (Ministry of Culture)
Under UNESCO's Mausam project (2015), 50 heritage sites in India were revitalized. The Dhara project in 2022 organized 10 conferences on the Indian Knowledge System, with over 5,000 scholars participating. The Nalanda Revival 2016 revitalized ancient educational texts and organized the Indian Knowledge System Festival. The Government of India allocated a budget of 1,500 crore rupees, leading to a 30% increase in heritage tourism [4].

Sub-section: Preservation Efforts
- **2023:** Digitization of 2 million manuscripts.
- **2025:** Virtual reality tours of Ajanta-Ellora linking art to astronomical knowledge.

4.4 Comparative analysis across sectors
Table 1 juxtaposes sectoral metrics, revealing health's lead in outreach but education's edge in innovation.

Table 1: Comparative overview of IKS Initiatives (2014-2025)

Sector	Key Initiatives	Funding (₹ Crore)	Reach (Million Users)	Achievements	Challenges
Education	NEP 2020, IKS Division	1,200	15 (students)	400+ courses; 50% awareness rise	Faculty shortages (40% gap)
Health	NAM, Yoga Day, AYUSH Grid	15,000	500 (global)	12,000 centers; 400% export growth	Integration with allopathy
Culture	Project Mausam, Dhara	2,500	50 (visitors/events)	50 sites restored; 30% tourism boost	Urban encroachment on sites

Source: Aggregated from PIB, UGC, and Ministry Reports, 2025 [2]

Table 2: Timeline of major IKS Milestones

Year	Education	Health (AYUSH)	Culture
2014	Digital India groundwork	AYUSH Ministry formed; NAM launch	TKDL expansions
2015	-	International Yoga Day	Project Mausam initiated
2020	NEP 2020; IKS Division	AYUSH Grid rollout	Nalanda revival
2022	Vedic Portal	WHO GTMC established	Dhara conferences begin
2025	20 IKS Centers	75 MoUs signed	AR heritage apps launched

4.5 Role of IKS in National Innovation
Cross-sectorally, IKS drives sustainability: Education's Vedic math aids AI algorithms; health's herbs inform biotech; culture's narratives enhance diplomacy.

5. Discussion
5.1 Interpreting the Findings
In conclusion, it was observed that, in line with global trends of indigenous revival like the Maori model, India's

scale was highlighted, impacting 50 crore people, while 50 lakh people were impacted in New Zealand. Surveys also indicated that access to education in rural areas is limited. Globalization has been superior in the health sector, but synergy was observed in models like the AYUSH Indian Knowledge System curriculum.

5.2 Implications for Policy and Society

The Indian Knowledge System Library 4.0 promotes this further. Due to ancient texts converted through AI, a 30% return on investment was observed in cultural tourism. Sustainable Development Goals, such as achieving zero hunger through ancient agriculture, are being promoted.

5.3 Comparative Analysis with Global Peers

In India, a 400% growth in AYUSH has been observed in recent years, which is significantly higher than the 200% growth in traditional Chinese medicine. However, both India and China's healthcare systems require an annual investment of 10,000 crore rupees. Unlike the diverse knowledge systems of the Amazon in Brazil, India's multi-ministry approach provides an exemplary model.

5.4 Techniques for Overcoming Challenges

- **Hybrid training:** Blend IKS with modern pedagogy.
- **Funding equity:** Allocate 20% cross-sectorally.
- **Tech fusion:** AI for manuscript translation, targeting 80% digitization by 2030.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Detailed Overview of Core Findings

Under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi since 2014, the Indian Knowledge System has accelerated a cultural renaissance. Relics have been transformed into resources. The integration of education through the National Education Policy has empowered approximately 1.5 crore learners. The National AYUSH Mission under the AYUSH Ministry has holistically improved the health of millions, and Sanskrit projects like the Mausam project have reconnected diaspora communities. Collectively, these efforts have led to a 2% increase in GDP through wellness tourism and innovation. Public awareness has increased by 60%. Despite these achievements, several challenges have emerged, such as standardization:

- Only 50% of courses are accredited,
- Digital access in rural areas is only 30%.

These reflect widespread disparities

Additionally, the Government of India has achieved several successes, such as the inauguration of the Ayur-AI laboratory by IIT Kanpur.

6.2 Practical recommendations for effective implementation

- **Inter-Ministerial Taskforce:** Coordinate via annual IKS summits.
- **Rural Outreach Programs:** Mobile IKS vans, training 1 million villagers.
- **Global Partnerships:** Expand MoUs to 150, leveraging G20.
- **Monitoring Framework:** KPI dashboards tracking adoption rates.
- **Research Boost:** ₹500 crore for IKS labs in 100 universities.

6.3 Vision for the Future: A Knowledge Renaissance

With 5G and AI, envision 80% IKS integration by 2030-yoga algorithms for mental health, Vedic sustainability for climate action. Libraries will evolve into VR hubs, preserving Sanskrit editions digitally. IKS will not just educate but empower, ensuring India's wisdom illuminates global challenges. Future studies should survey user impacts, bridging "what users want" with delivery.

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