International Journal of Science and Research Archive
eISSN: 2582-8185
Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/ijsra
Journal homepage: https://ijsra.net/

(REVIEW ARTICLE)

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Physics materials, tools and formula from Vedas to ventures challenges incorporating Indian Knowledge system

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International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2025, 15(02), 1056-1062

Publication history: Received on 05 April 2025; revised on 14 May 2025; accepted on 16 May 2025

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2025.15.2.1445

Abstract

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) refers to a diverse array of scientific knowledge, practices, and techniques that have been developed and utilized in India for millennia, some of which predate even modern-day discoveries. Vedic Physics: Materials and Influences on Science It is complemented by these advanced studies in metallurgy, astronomy, and mathematics, found in such ancient Vedic texts as the Vedas, Upanishads, and the Sulba Sutras, which also probe the nature of matter, energy, and space. These systems provided the basis for today's scientific method, but when it comes to incorporating individual knowledge systems (IKS) into present-day science, there are significant hurdles, including language, lack of standardization, and institutional reluctance to accommodate IKS in existing structures and processes. Nonetheless, there is increasing interest in IKS's potential to contribute towards sustainable energy, architecture, agriculture, and healthcare. The paper proposes a pathway for innovation, framing the narrative around IKS as a means of ensuring sustainability solutions across scientific domains through interdisciplinary collaboration between traditional forms of knowledge and modern enterprises.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge System (IKS); Vedic Physics; Sustainable Innovation; Traditional Technology; Interdisciplinary Collaboration

1. Introduction

The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) is a compilation of ancient scientific, philosophical and spiritual practices in different areas like astronomy, mathematics, material science, medicine, etc. It is supported by ancient texts like the Vedas, Upanishads etc. and provides a holistic view of the natural world across science, philosophy and spirituality. These discoveries originate from a time when modern science was not yet established, and the information obtained is at least compatible with physical properties of energy, matter, and space reset by the contemporaneous scientific environment.

Ancient Indian scientific knowledge, when blended into contemporary practices as a process, is critical for broadening existing scientific paradigms. IKS is truly interdisciplinary, linking ecology, agriculture, animal husbandry, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, education and spirituality but it is also experiential. Through revisiting these strategies, contemporary science could explore important avenues to sustainability, holistic thinking, and human health.

The paper will focus on how Vedic physics materials and tools developed, and what they are being used for today. It will underscore the challenges and opportunities of placing IKS in the broader context of modern science and show how ancient wisdom can lead to effective solutions in sustainable energy, farming, health care, and material science. Barriers to integration will be addressed in the paper, along with opportunities for integration, and the need for collaboration between tradition (traditional) and the modern (modern).

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2. Historical Background

India, in the ancient times had a lot to contribute to the field of physics, as reflected in the insights during the Vedic and Post- Vedic period. Between 1500 BCE and 500 BCE dated Vedic texts present similar theories which went on to create a foundation for modern science. Vedas for example mention "Akasha" (ether), and it is in harmony with modern concept of space or the medium through which electromagnetic waves travel. In the Vedas, the principle of "Yajna" (sacrifice) by which energy is released, transferred, making it in tune with the laws of thermodynamics. These early concepts of matter, energy, and the universe built a framework for later branches and areas of scientific study, including physics.

The Upanishads are texts on the nature of reality and consciousness, written after the Vedas. Prakriti, the Cosmo is a manifestation of "Brahman" (the ultimate reality) and "Atman" (the self). It is an advanced understanding of the relationship between microcosm and macrocosm. In fact, this philosophical debate might even be regarded as the beginning of theoretical physics: through it, one can notice the notion of unity in everything that exists in the cosmos. This idea is like modern physics, namely quantum theory, and the entanglement of particles at the subatomic level.

The material science and technology of India progressed during the post-Vedic stage of India. The Sulba Sutras, one of the earliest treatises dealing with mathematics and geometry, served as the foundation for engineering concepts as they included details about precise measurements and construction of sacred altars. Indian metallurgists were also well advanced for their time, especially in iron production. Another ancient Indian material knowledge that is exemplified by a millennium-old Iron Pillar of Delhi that has defied corrosion for 1,600 years, is a testament to the advanced understanding of material science present during that time. Innovations like Wootz steel also demonstrated an early understanding of metal alloys, laying the groundwork for contemporary metallurgy.

Of course, it had been the case in astronomy too, with pioneers like Aryabhata and Brahmagupta. Aryabhata put forth the idea that Earth rotates on its axis (an idea later confirmed in the West) and his states about pi and the motion of the planets introduced principles of mathematics from which, among others, modern physics would emerge. These insights reflect the deep scientific roots of ancient Indian civilization, which have contributed significantly to advancing material science, technology, and astronomy.

3. Vedic Physics: Materials and Tools

Vedic physics offers a profound understanding of the universe, where matter, space, time, and energy are seen as interconnected components. Central to Vedic physics is the concept of "Prakriti" (nature), the fundamental substance of the universe, and its interaction with "Purusha" (consciousness), creating the material world. This duality mirrors modern quantum mechanics, where the observer and the observed are intricately linked.

The Vedic texts describe the universe as made of five elements: Earth (Prithvi), Water (Apah), Fire (Agni), Air (Vayu), and Ether (Akasha). These elements are the building blocks of the physical world, each with unique qualities—Agni represents energy and transformation, Prithvi signifies solidity and stability, Vayu relates to movement, Apah embodies fluidity, and Akasha represents space and connectivity. These early concepts anticipate modern ideas of energy, matter, and space, where elements interact in a dynamic system.

Vedic physics also presents the concept of cyclical time, with the Yugas (epochs) reflecting the repetitive cycles of time. This view aligns with modern physics' space-time continuum, mirroring the dynamic nature of the universe seen in planetary orbits and thermodynamic processes.

The Suba Sutras, a key Vedic text, introduces advanced mathematical principles for constructing altars. This knowledge reflects an early understanding of geometry and measurement, demonstrating the integration of science into daily life. The use of natural materials like mud, stone, and wood in construction illustrates an understanding of material science, with Agni symbolizing transformative power and Prithvi being central to building practices.

Vedic knowledge also extended to astronomy and metallurgy. Aryabhata, for instance, proposed the Earth's rotation, centuries before Western science confirmed it. The Vedic period saw advancements in metallurgy, such as Wootz steel, laying the foundation for modern material science.

Overall, Vedic physics provides a holistic view of the universe, influencing early scientific developments and continuing to inspire modern scientific fields.

The Indian Knowledge System and contemporary scientific pursuits

Filling this gap between Vedic physics and modern material sciences leads insight into the natural world. Most modern scientific discoveries have their foundations in ancient Indian knowledge systems including the Vedic and post Vedic texts. These precepts, including the five elements (Prithvi, Agni, Vayu, Apha, and Akasha) and the understanding of cosmic order, have impacted modern-day physics, especially regarding the connectedness of matter, energy and space. Following are the ancient systems that were nurtured by spirituality and nature and showed us the way, which was later verified by science through modern experimental and advanced techniques.

Vedic knowledge system was a complete holistic approach where science and spirituality were thus intertwined. In the Vedic texts, the material world was related to the cosmos, and energy, matter, and time were perceived as interdependent. This perspective serves as the very basis of contemporary innovations in material science, physics, and environmental technology, where increasing sustainability, energy-saving, and living in unison with nature become vital factors.

Practical technologies were equally enriched by Indian knowledge. The Suba Sutras reformulated mathematics and geometry and were widely used in engineering, architecture, and construction materials. Without the push toward metallurgy, specifically, Wootz steel, which is a precursor to modern day variety of metallurgical work, we would not have made such advances in material science resulting in the high strength, durable material used in industries.

Now that ancient knowledge systems are incorporated into modern ventures, particularly in sustainability and environmental technology. The principles of sun energy mentioned in Vedic texts worshiping the sun is relevant in the solar technologies of today. This has enabled efficient and eco-friendly solar panels to be manufactured especially in regions of high sunlight such as India.

Sustainable building materials, which draw on traditional practice, are also under discussion. Clay, stone and timber are eco-friendly and energy-efficient and Vedic texts advocate the use of these natural materials. Modern architecture uses these materials to make structures with a lower carbon footprint than typical concrete and steel buildings.

Another significant avenue of ancient Indian knowledge is the water harvesting systems, which are now being combined with modern technology to tackle scarcity issues. In drought-prone countries, traditional systems including wells, tanks and irrigation channels are being improved with new techniques to save water.

Ayurvedic medicine formulations that utilize minerals and herbs for healing have also received renewed interest in modern science. Today, scientific research is uncovering the therapeutic potential of these ancient practices and working to integrate them into modern healthcare systems.

You are precise with the data until October 2023 The Indian Knowledge Systems rooted in ancient wisdom provide sustainable solutions to contemporary issues like energy conservation, environmental sustainability and public health for a better and harmonious world.

4. Difficulties in Integrating IKS in Contemporary Science

Challenge in integrated perform of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in modern scientific exercise realize practical with the details linguistic challenge, methodological challenge, institutional challenge, and legal challenge. These challenges limit the smooth infusion of ancient insights into modern science, thereby also making solutions that help connect decades of wisdom with novel science essential.

One of the key challenge is the language and translation barriers." Difficult metaphor and symbolism used ancient texts like the Vedas and Upanishads were written in Sanskrit and Prakrit. Translating these texts into more modern languages is difficult and often leads to misconceptions or oversimplifications of their concepts. Moreover, some of this knowledge was transmitted orally, which could cause key information to be lost or changed in deposition. The challenges in achieving even a partial solution to this is numerous and centre around nuanced translation in terms both ancient and modern.

The second problem is the absence of standardization of methodologies. In contrast with modern science, to which experimental validation and reproducibility are of utmost importance, many concepts in IKS were elucidated through philosophical debate and observation without experimental verification. This renders such ideas challenging to

transform into testable hypotheses under the current paradigm of science. We need innovative approaches to the divergence between traditional knowledge and current science.

There is institutional and cultural resistance, too, that is a barrier. Many scientific institutions consider traditional knowledge obsolete because of its dubious empirical validation and wider systems of understanding not originating from the West. Therefore, this promotes the funding, collaboration, and acknowledgment of IKS but at the same time marginalizing these valuable knowledge systems.

Lastly, there are challenges of intellectual property, because traditional knowledge is often collective and intergenerational, without individual ownership. This cannot be easily protected by contemporary intellectual property mechanisms, which lowers the incentive for communities to share their know-how.

Make no mistake, the challenges of integrating IKS into contemporary scientific practice are profound but overcoming the barriers presented will unlock real opportunities to innovate through collaboration, enriching research in energy, sustainability, medicine, and possibly, technology.

5. Collaboration Opportunities and Future Directions

The increasing appreciation for IKS in modern scientific and technological developments has given rise to opportunities for collaboration and future development in many fields. These include connecting wisdom from the ancients to modern methodologies, augmented by federal programs, institutional support, and multidisciplinary investigations. This includes the integration of IKS into modern ventures with sustainable developmental prospects for ago-business, material culture and product excellences.

A new intergenerational dialogue between 21st century scientists and their ancient predecessors holds some of the most hope for advancement in this area. Indigenous knowledge, particularly from the old practitioners, such as healers and craftsmen, have accumulated a wealth of valuable insights over generations of oral tradition but they usually do not have formal scientific qualifications. Modern scientists who are trained in controlled experiments and data validation are key figures in bridging traditional wisdom with modern science. This can foster a greater understanding of natural systems and produce innovative, scientifically robust and cultural solutions like the combination of traditional agricultural practices with modern biotechnologies to increase crop yield whilst reducing the ecological chain.

The preservation and application of IKS are fostered through government mobilizations and institutional supports. Ministry of Science and Technology is running programmes such as the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) to document and incorporate traditional knowledge into the framework of modern research (Mishra et al 2018). As such, means of establishing knowledge centres to preserve ancient texts and oral traditions would ensure that IKS would be more respected and protected, and that it can continue to be adapted for use in today's world.

Interdisciplinary learning is nourished in Academia and Research Institutions. If IKS is integrated into the curriculum, the universities can promote a more holistic understanding of science based on both empirical research and traditional wisdom. Bringing together experts from different fields through interdisciplinary programs, offers higher quality research and a more inclusive approach to problems.

IKS has huge potential for creating sustainable ventures in energy, construction and agriculture. Solar energy, wind power and water conservation concepts have been developed; however, technologies can be used to make these solutions more sustainable. Natural materials such as clay, stone, and timber are environmentally responsible and energy-efficient in construction. Sustainable food production systems can be integrated into agriculture by combining traditional practices such as crop rotation and organic farming with modern biotechnology to increase biodiversity and decrease use of synthetic fertilizers.

Going forward, the path of IKS seems to be in building partnerships between the holders of traditional knowledge and the modern scientists, with a strong push from all spheres of government and institutions. This innovative shift can have a transformative effect on fields such as energy, construction, and agriculture, resulting in best practice methods that are sustainable, relevant to the culture, and which address the world's most pressing issues.

6. Case Studies

Examples in industry and their alignment with the new approach of introducing the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the light of the 21st century, especially the current situation of Covid-19 that has brought out all companies and all new approaches under pressure of usability and productivity, with chart along with the successful establishment with their interpretation of systems presented.

6.1. Examples of Modern Success Stories that Utilize IKS Principles

Energy: Vedic texts contain traditional knowledge of solar energy that are being merged with modern solar technology. In India, solar cookers and solar water heaters utilize reflective surfaces to capture the sun's rays, a concept that dates to ancient times. Today these systems use modern efficiency to deliver green power.

Architecture: Sustainable and energy-efficient principles of Traditional Indian architecture, on the foundation of Vastu Shastra and Shaptala Veda, are being explored again. Ancient construction used those materials (mud, bamboo, and stone) whereas modern green buildings use them now. Emphasis on concepts like natural ventilation, passive solar heating, and rainwater harvesting inspired by Vedic principles have been incorporated into modern designs, minimizing the carbon footprint and promoting sustainability.

Material Science: The ancient Indian method of making high-quality steel using the Wootz steel process, has been rediscovered and is used in modern metallurgy. Scientists are analysing its composition to create high-performance alloys for applications in aerospace and the automotive industry. Old, biodegradable materials like jute, cotton, and hemp are also being revisited for new, green alternative packaging.

27 Healthcare First increase: Ayurveda medicine was in focus in the pharmaceutical section Ancient herb-based formulas like those that use turmeric, ashwagandha and neem are now being studied for their therapeutic attributes. Modern biotechnology is facilitating the extraction and manipulation of Ayurvedic compounds, uniting the world of traditional healing with modern medicine.

6.2. IKS and Advanced Technology: Ongoing Projects Analysis

Nanotechnology- Ancient materials utilized in the IKS like gold nanoparticles in Ayurvedic medicine are being explored in terms of nanotechnology for the development of drug delivery systems. The biocompatibility and nanoscale size of these nanoparticles makes them perfect candidates for cell targeting as they can bring about revolutionary changes in Medicine and Material science.

Renewable Energy: This is being followed by biomass production of traditional agriculture combined with modern bioenergy technologies, such as biogas. Today, India uses its agricultural waste, even cow dung, to make biofuels that lessen dependency on fossil fuels and aid in creating renewable energy.

Water Conservation and Management – Old practices such as rainwater harvesting and step wells are being augmented with smart technologies. For urban planning, rainwater harvesting systems are incorporated in new buildings, upgraded with sensors and automation for better efficiency. Desalination technologies are now also promising clean drinking water, especially when combined with traditional filtration methods which increasingly guarantee potable water in coastal regions.

The blending of IKS with up-to-date technologies across diverse domains like energy systems, architectural design, materials science, and healthcare indicates new sustainable innovations capable of respecting both ancient knowledge and recent science. These case studies are testament to the adaptation of ancient knowledge using modern techniques to create solutions that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible, and culturally relevant. Research in this domain has continued to evolve, promising more discoveries related to scientific and entrepreneurial, sustainable ventures.

7. Conclusion

Combining ancient Indian physics materials, tools, and formulas with modern ventures has been one of the most inspirational engaging and productive acts ever. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) provides deep knowledge in material science, architecture, energy, health care, and the conservation of the environment, explicitly corroborating, even in contemporary times, the importance of the Indian Knowledge Systems to the humanity. Contemporary efforts have

described the interconnectedness between matter, energy and space/volume as understood in Vedic physics, and those solutions offer considerable utility in addressing contemporary ills. Moreover, its use of native materials, sustainable construction methodologies, and Ayurvedic medicinal formulations showcase the potential of IKS in the eco-friendly and sustainable domain.

We consider that the future lies ahead combining ancient wisdom with revolutionary technologies. Such instances include the use of nanotechnology in Ayurvedic medicine, renewable energy methods based on traditional systems, and the revival of sustainable building materials, suggesting that IKS can offer solutions to global challenges. Traditional wisdom, coupled with modern science, can produce the more holistic, sustainable innovations we need.

Nonetheless, barriers such as language differences, inconsistent methods, and institutional resistance remain in completely incorporating IKS into modern-day science. We must work across disciplines, between traditional scholarship and modern science, to overcome these roadblocks. Improved support from research institutions, universities and governments to preserve and document IKS will contribute to bridging the gap between tradition and modern science paradigms.

Ultimately, by combining IKS with modern science, we can unlock a powerful approach and work towards a future where local wisdom, knowledge, and practices co-exist and complement scientific research, for more sustainable, equitable, and innovative development. The ongoing exploration of IKS across sectors—technology, energy, healthcare, material science—is vital for solving global challenges while making sure that ancient wisdom shapes our lives to create a better world.

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