

An Illustrative Study on the Integration of Traditional Knowledge System in India for Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: There are many different interpretations of both "traditional wisdom" and sustainable development, which sparks heated dispute. People are increasingly realising that TK still has value in the contemporary world. The significance of TK has been recognised in several international treaties and conventions. "Organisations like the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Labour Organization" (particularly Convention 169), have recognised its significance.

OBJECTIVE: This research will look at the claim that traditional knowledge is crucial to achieving global sustainability. The paper explores the connection between traditional knowledge (TK) and sustainable development (SD). It goes on to show how the two are intrinsically linked and how TK aids in many aspects of development and health. The focus of this research is on the value of traditional knowledge and how it may help improve people's lives and pave the way for future progress and prosperity.

METHODOLOGY

This study properly uses a descriptive research strategy to examine qualitative data gathered from secondary sources.

Conclusion: Further, the results show that preserving the natural and physical setting in which TK has formed is essential if it is to be used and distributed efficiently. While a forest-dwelling society could continue to function as a community in many ways after the forest is no longer there or after it has been isolated from the forest, it is just as likely to lose its forest-related TK as if the group had completely broken apart. In this way, there is much common ground between environmentalists and those fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples and underprivileged communities, despite the fact that these groups don't always agree with one another and sometimes find themselves at odds over competing interpretations of human rights and environmental protection.

Keywords: *tradition, knowledge, sustainable development, indigenous, government.*

INTRODUCTION

Traditional Knowledge is fundamentally culturally oriented or based, making it an integral component of the cultural identity of the social group within which it works and is preserved. Traditional knowledge encompasses a broad spectrum of information, including but not limited to literary, artistic, scientific, or technical works; performances; inventions; scientific discoveries; designs; marks; names; symbols; and proprietary data. Traditional knowledge encompasses a wide range of fields and disciplines, from agriculture and medicine to biodiversity and folk expressions including music, dance, song, handicraft, craft, storytelling, and artwork, as defined by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (Bender, 2022). To what extent may India's indigenous body of knowledge (Traditional Knowledge) contribute to the country's long-term development? That is the question this study sets out to answer.

Background

Natural or biological resources on one side, and human participation and social and economic progress on the other; traditional knowledge and practises operate as a pivot between these two poles. However, conventional wisdom has neglected to fully investigate other forms of knowledge and instead views them as a barrier to be surmounted. Disseminating information about the possible leadership roles that indigenous knowledge, practises, and beliefs may play is a major challenge to attaining SD. Despite ESD's emphasis on variety, the issue of how different forms of knowledge may coexist has gotten less

LITERATURE REVIEWS

As per (Chandran, et al., 2020) what we mean by "Traditional Knowledge System" (TKS) is a culture's accumulated knowledge for dealing with problems and making the most of opportunities in its immediate surroundings, as learned and practised by its members during the course of everyday life. Actually, TKS evolved in a specific location within a specific physical and sociocultural environment, where it reflects people's unique knowledge, understanding, observational, and experimental information about their dwelling environments and the ability to design a lifestyle in that specific environmental context. (Holmberg, & Sandbrook, 2019) explained that Information, knowledge, skills, technology, and best management practises are all defined and codified inside TKSSs, which are cultural systems. In the face of climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss, destabilised ecological services, food and nutritional inequality, sanitation and health issues, and many others, there is an urgent need to place

more emphasis on TKS in order to find alternative solutions or ways to confront the challenges humanity now faces and design a sustainable way of life.

According to (Fritsche, et al., 2020), There is a passing on of wisdom from one generation to the next via the medium of oral transmission. Medications, health aids, and cosmetics that we use now often have their roots in ancient knowledge. Traditional competence is also prized in the production of “agricultural and non-wood forest products, as well as a handicraft”.

As mentioned by (Krause, et al., 2020), Traditional knowledge may have considerable bearing on the sustainability area. Because of the deep connections it makes between cultural and biological diversity, it is an essential cornerstone for the conservation and sustainable use of the planet's natural resources.

(Van Poeck, et al., 2019) explains, that the world's indigenous people and the world's poor are disproportionately concentrated in the same places that have the greatest amounts of genetic variety. Many of these communities have engaged in long-term cultivation and the utilisation of biological diversity. Some of these long-held practises have even been demonstrated in scientific studies to boost and nurture local biodiversity. It also helps the environment, which is great. Generally speaking, the techniques and knowledge are a benefit to all of mankind. In addition, it serves as a model for how to organise policies to ensure the survival of diverse species.

(Hill, et al., 2020) stated that Younger generations of traditionally educated people are not absorbing TK in the same way as their parents and forebears because one sort of modern education and mass communication is spreading over the world. Elements of TK that provided sustainable harvest levels in the face of increased demand from a gluttonous global market are made redundant or marginalised, and are subsequently forgotten. In addition, when people from these rural regions move to urban-industrial hubs, they no longer have an urgent need for TK—at least, not until many of them find themselves

RESEARCH GAP

The primary goal of this study is to analyse and eliminate the research gap so that intercultural techniques may become more widely used in social learning contexts using cross-sectoral, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approaches..

RESEARCH QUESTION

I. why preserving cultural diversity and traditional knowledge is crucial for long-term progress?

II. How Utilizing Traditional Perspectives of knowledge for Long-Term Sustainability is effective?

III. How is traditional knowledge's importance in promoting human flourishing and progress?

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Traditional knowledge (TK), a key component of bio-cultural diversity, is also gaining more attention in this context, which is why this research is of the highest significance. However, including TK in ESD initiatives presents a number of socio-political and practical obstacles. This article makes an effort to shed light on the significance and problems associated with such integration in a regional setting. This article also emphasises the importance of endogenous development processes in achieving many goals, including those directly connected to ESD. Traditional knowledge has epistemological and contextual elements that must be considered when designing appropriate learning techniques. Education programmes need to involve many different levels of social integration in order to be effective. These include communities, nongovernmental organizations, non-governmental institutions, informal and formal educational organisations, local institutional arrangements, and nationwide, worldwide, multinational, and policy forums.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

I. To evaluate why preserving cultural diversity and traditional knowledge is crucial for long-term progress.

II. To analyse Utilizing Traditional Perspectives of knowledge for Long-Term Sustainability.

III. To discuss traditional knowledge's importance in promoting human flourishing and progress.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

“The scope of this study is confined to studies focusing on the Sustainable Development benefits of using India's Traditional Knowledge system”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study will be conducted using a suitable descriptive research design, and the qualitative data will be evaluated thoroughly. The research questions were explored through a qualitative method (Pandey, & Pandey, 2021). A researcher's presuppositions influence the kinds of questions they ask and the meanings they assign to the data they collect. It is generally accepted that the truth is neither oversimplified nor distorted when the qualitative approach is utilised to analyse a

topic. Numerous published and unpublished works, such as dictionaries, novels, journals, media articles, and dissertations, provide instances of secondary analysis.

Research Method & Design

Both doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches might be used in the proposed study. The doctrinal study will involve an exhaustive and in-depth analysis of statutes, instruments, judicial pronouncements, etc., to investigate how courts function, the strengths and weaknesses of the current system, and suggestions for reform. The non-doctrinal study will involve data from field observations and formal questionnaires (Mishra, & Alok, 2022).

Research Approach

Primarily, research consists of three stages: data collection, analysis, and application. The three main schools of thought in the study of science are positivism, interpretive, and realism. The qualitative research strategy used for this endeavour will be an interpretive one. The suggested study employs a systematic methodology to delve into key issues with this project and provide a thorough analytic framework. Throughout this essential phase of the research process, descriptive and theme analysis methods will be used. This makes it very evident that a descriptive method of analysis is ideal for the data at hand (Zhang, 2022).

ANALYSIS OF STUDY

I. Why preserving cultural diversity and traditional knowledge is crucial for long-term progress?

Since traditional knowledge is based on Indigenous ways of life and interactions with the natural world, it is crucial not just to Indigenous Peoples but to all civilizations. Maintaining and passing on Indigenous knowledge to subsequent generations is essential. Indigenous territories are home to 80% of the world's biodiversity, and this is not by chance. Indigenous peoples' languages, skills, and strategies have a lot to teach the rest of the world, and they might even provide a template for how to solve contemporary issues.

Studying the history and development of international intellectual property regulations reveals that they are derived from the legislation of many countries. The international aspect is the context in which cooperation across borders is feasible and where protection may be extended beyond national borders (Pham-Truffert, et al., 2020). Since the year 2000, the World Intellectual Property Organization has been actively involved in these concerns via the work of the

International Commission on Patent Rights, Genetic Assets, Ancient traditions, and Folklore as well as other global fora. The IGC's suggested safeguards are novel, yet they nonetheless belong in the realm of intellectual property. This issue may be better understood by comparing it to other international systems, especially those dealing with intellectual property. The principal purposes of the Paris Convention were

- (1) Harmonising the different national patent laws, and
- (2) Avoiding the accidental loss of patentability

Due to the publication of patentability and the involvement in international displays ahead of the filing of national claims. As a response to the issue of pirated copies of works protected by intellectual property laws, the Berne Convention was drafted to facilitate the mutual recognition of copyright between nations, encourage the adoption of clear and unified copyright security mechanisms, and combat the illegal export of such works. The intention was to develop a global standardisation that would ensure safety to some extent. As part of its efforts to provide answers for the digital world, WIPO Copyright evaluated the need for new international standards and clarification of the meaning of certain existing legislation (Zidny, et al., 2020).

Considering how quickly it may be lost, it is vital that TK be documented in a contemporary format that can be readily comprehended by future generations. Ability to store and retrieve data has several benefits, including facilitating development and protecting and making use of data in the face of potential threats. Unfortunately, in our haste to get where we think we're going, we're jettisoning a wealth of conventional wisdom and know-how that has been perfected through thousands of years of human experience. While it may make sense to welcome modern progress and development, many custodians of traditional knowledge and practitioners have a quite different perspective.

Perhaps the blind acceptance of modern technology in the industrialised world is not as helpful as low-tech conventional wisdom. Many modern agricultural and resource management practises may learn from their more environmentally minded ancestors. In this era of worldwide cultural assimilation, it is more important than ever to take into account (and preserve) the insights of indigenous communities (Latulippe, & Klenk, 2020). Contrast the time and energy savings of modern technology with the environmental and cultural advantages of preserving historical knowledge.

II. How Utilizing Traditional Perspectives of knowledge for Long-Term Sustainability is effective?

The Classical Approach to Long-Term Education The incorporation of indigenous knowledge into the development process is aided by sustainability since it serves to empower local communities. There is potential for development initiatives to be more efficient, effective, and have a greater impact on sustainable development if they include applicable indigenous knowledge systems. Indigenous knowledge, like any other sort of knowledge, undergoes a continuous process of usage, criticism, and adaptation to new contexts. Communities' participation in the development process and the distribution of rich indigenous knowledge may be bolstered by establishing local and regional networks of traditional practitioners through community exchanges. If there were better ways to protect indigenous intellectual property, more indigenous knowledge practises might be included into state, provincial, and municipal plans for growth (Thompson, et al., 2020). This, however, cannot be achieved unilaterally, either on a regional or global basis, as history has shown. Indigenous knowledge has to be used more effectively, which necessitates more cooperation between communities, NGOs, universities, corporations, research laboratories, governments, and charitable organisations. As part of its dedication to indigenous knowledge, the World Bank's Indigenous Knowledge for Development Program will continue to advocate for and take part in a process known as "continuous learning from local communities." Indigenous peoples' traditional wisdom has been honed through years of practical application and intimate understanding of their environments. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to alleviate suffering throughout the world by eradicating extreme poverty, hunger, and disease. There is much opportunity for improvement in land management, conservation, science, technology, and medicine because of the insights supplied by traditional knowledge (Chowdhoree, 2019).

Six separate times in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, indigenous people are specifically mentioned. Among these are plans to ensure that indigenous children have access to quality education and a push to double the output of indigenous small-scale farmers. It has been pledged by certain countries that they would include indigenous peoples in their pursuit of the SDGs.

III. How is traditional knowledge's importance in promoting human flourishing and progress?

The need of preserving TK for future generations is increasing. Numerous international agreements and conferences, like as the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, have emphasised the present and future relevance of TK. The World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the UN Commission on Human Rights, and UNESCO are just some of the UN bodies that have acknowledged its significance.

Academics are almost unanimous in their belief that "primary" or "traditional" economic sectors (those dependent on farming, herding, forestry, fishing, water, and natural resource-derived items like crafts, furniture, housing, etc.) benefit greatly from TK (Fletcher, et al., 2021). Given that a large portion of the world's population still relies on these industries for food, money, and shelter, and yet these realities are not necessarily reflected in the policies and programmes of most countries, it is easy to see how significant an impact TK has had and may continue to have in this sector. In recent decades, TK's significance has been recognised not just in the main economic sector but also in the secondary and tertiary sectors. Many different types of manufactured items depend on or make use of TK. This is a fact of life for every sector of the economy, from the manufacturing of textiles and apparel to pharmaceuticals and consumer products. In order to treat patients, all medical systems use either pure TK or blends of TK and modern technology. Up to 80% of the global population uses medicinal herbs via "traditional health care systems, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)". It's particularly true in places like Africa. As more individuals in the West (and westernised people in so-called "developing" countries) become aware of plant-based medicines, it is expected that the advantages of TK to the medicinal business and contemporary health in esmaintenance will expand (Tom, et al., 2019). According to the World Health Organization, 25% of modern pharmaceuticals are derived from plants with historical medicinal use. While some progressive government and commercial organisations have come to recognise their value, many people continue to depend on antiquated ways of delivering services such as distribution of food, schooling, weather prediction and warnings, and assisted living facilities. The food waste in Nepal was greatly reduced when the Food for Work initiative there started making use of local facilities and supplies. Studies have shown that when modern means of communication are used in conjunction with more traditional ones (like the traditional birth attendant), the incidence of mother mortality

during childbirth is drastically reduced. The “significant and continuous contribution of TK-related products and services” to the commercial sector has been recognised by institutions like as the “United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)”.

Using TK to battle climate change, humanity's biggest current threat, is a novel concept. At the heart of this comprehension is the realisation that cultures have, over the course of many millennia, changed their practises, procedures, and bodies of knowledge to the changing conditions of their environments. Subtle and not-so-subtle climatic shifts, “threats from other groups or invasions, disease and epidemics, and so on are only some of the many examples of why societies must adjust their agricultural”, pastoral, fishing, and hunting-gathering practises. Traditional systems may not seem to be changing, yet in reality, they are constantly undergoing subtle but significant adjustments (Arsenault, et al., 2019). This adaptability may be a key factor in how our species responds to climate change, and the role that TK plays in all of these areas may give the options necessary “to build a more sustainable strategy for dealing with our environment”.

RESULTS

Achieving Sustainable Development may be aided by ensuring the continued existence of indigenous communities and their expertise. To ensure the genuine and long-lasting engagement of different knowledge systems via participatory methods, however, much work continues at the development and policy programs. There is a close relationship between preserving indigenous wisdom, protecting nature, and ensuring long-term economic growth. Indigenous Southern knowledge systems provide the greatest concentration of information on the planet's many plant and animal species. A scientist has coined the term "Principles of Permanence" to describe the underlying practises and procedures of their traditional agricultural systems, which have allowed for year-round agriculture without the use of pesticides that destroy the environment. Not only do they not degrade the planet's natural resources, but they actually frequently restore them..

CONCLUSION

Traditional knowledge (TK) is a corpus of information about the natural world that has been accumulated by a community through many years of observation, experimentation, and discussion among members of that community who have lived in close proximity to the natural world. Many locations inhabited by indigenous people are experiencing significant environmental, social, economic, and political changes, which poses a danger to the indigenous people's knowledge. In order to effectively safeguard and preserve our planet, we must make wise use of both local expertise and scientific information from throughout the world. Common sense provides a meeting ground for the basic and complicated ways of looking at the world, thus it is not difficult for local people and contemporary scientists to work together to solve the environmental and biological challenges facing the planet.

FUTURE SCOPE

Studies should be conducted in the future to explore and document the crucial function that TK plays in the hands of its custodians as well as the knowledge that they contain. The People's Biodiversity Registers need a stronger focus from the scientific community (or Community Biodiversity Registers).

SUGGESTIONS

- Governments and development agencies across the continent need to revitalise and re-engineer advancement policies/programs, legal and institutional structures at the local and central government tiers, and existing institutions if they are to play an active role in promoting and developing the continent.
- In order to expand public knowledge and comprehension, it is essential that any proposed actions be supported by sufficient research documenting relevant facts and outlining successful teaching initiatives.

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