International Journal of Advanced Scientific Research and Engineering Trends

ISSN: 2456-0774

Volume 10 Issue 1s (2026) | Pages: 31-34

The New Education Policy 2020 Includes Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

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Peer Review Information

***Type**: Article*
***Received**: 30 March 2026*
***Revised**: 25 April 2026*
***Accepted**: 03 June 2026*
***Published**: 22 June 2026*

Abstract

Adopted in 2020, the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is not just a curriculum reform, but it is a policy altogether, the fundamental definition of which concerns the nature of knowledge. On the one hand, the policy is aimed at strengthening the role of India in the context of the global knowledge economy, which involves the integration of modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data. Simultaneously, it also strives to restore the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) to maintain and restore the traditional Indian epistemic traditions.

The critical analysis of the possible implementation of artificial intelligence and Indian Knowledge System into the context of NEP 2020, the expected effect on the educational system, and the role of the specified factors in making India a future knowledge-based superpower are the subjects of the research paper.

Keywords: New Education Policy 2020; Artificial Intelligence; Indian Knowledge Systems; Indian Tradition; Technology and Culture; Innovation in Education.

How to Cite This Article

Malshette, Y., & Malshette, S. Y. (2026). The New Education Policy 2020 Includes Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). *International Journal of Advanced Scientific Research and Engineering Trends*, 10(1s), 31–34.

Introduction

Education is one of the inseparable tools of social, cultural, and economic progress of any country. Education in the particular case of India, a place endowed with an ancient civilization, is not simply a means of receiving a vocational skill, rather it serves as a channel through which successive generations of the culture may be passed on. Globalisation, technological innovation and market imperatives are however having a significant influence on the modern educational paradigms.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 strives to find a compromise between these uneven forces. On the one hand, it introduces in its curricular system modern scientific fields, artificial intelligence (AI), data science, and robotics. On the other, it rekindles and restores Indian tradition of knowledge. This is the unique feature of this policy that does not consist in the creation of a dichotomy between technology versus tradition, but in the development of a synthesis between technology + tradition. As a result, the concepts of AI and the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), which seem to be distant and unrelated at first, are placed in the role of complementary elements to be engaged in the combined study.

An overview of the New Education Policy 2020

NEP 2020 is the first nationwide educational reform in India in almost 34 years, which replaced the 1986 policy. Its main goals are:

- Education universalisation,
- Nurturing of creativity, critical thinking, and moral values is among the learners, and
- Multidisciplinary pedagogical approach Mariner.

The policy recommends drastic changes in the education system covering the entire educational system, including primary education and tertiary education. It also brings a new structural model of 5+3+3+4, replacing the old system of 10+2. Other factors include multilingualism, skills-based curricula, credit-based distributive system, internet-based learning and incorporation of computer-based tools.

It is worth noting that NEP 2020 clearly anticipates two types:

- New Technologies: AI, Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics;
- Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS).

Such deliberate contrasting gives the educational system of India a twofold basis the cultural heritage and modern innovativeness.

Artificial Intelligence: Idea and Learning Importance

Artificial intelligence is the process of empowering computers or machines to have cognitive characteristics that can be likened to human intelligence, that includes the ability to reason, make a decision, learn, understand language and identify images. AI is spread across various industries such as health care, agriculture, industry, banking, defence, and education. In education, AI applications may be represented in the following areas:

- Customised learning plans,
- Intelligent tutoring systems,
- And analytics of learner progress, and
- On-line instructional support.

According to NEP 2020, AI is a skill of the future. It thus highlights that there is a need not only to promote utilitarian application of AI in students but also to encourage knowledge on how it works and the ethical aspects.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS): Definitions and Applications

The Indian Knowledge System is a complete exploration of ancient and traditional Indian knowledge which range within Vedas, Upanishads, Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology, Mathematics, Metallurgy, Architecture, Natyashastra, environmental science, sociological structure and ethical systems. IKS is not dependent on religious or spiritual teachings. Examples in this category are:

The element of zero--a high contribution to mathematics,

- Ayurveda--the precursor of modern pharmacology,
- Yoga, which, as we have seen, is useful to bodily health and of a tempering kind.
- Vastu Shastra- design principles, which are environmentally friendly.

NEP 2020 aims to incorporate IKS into the regular educational curriculum, thus familiarising students with native traditions, promoting research in the academic sphere, and enhancing a discourse between the traditional and the contemporary scientific paradigm.

The Relation between AI and IKS

At first glance, AI and IKS seem as opposites: the former represents a symbol of the current technological progress, the latter is a symbol of tradition. However, they both are seeking to address human dilemmas. IKS promotes peace with nature, balance, and morality, but AI underlines efficiency, accuracy, and speed. The confluence of these paradigms is promoted by NEP 2020 as seen in:

- Artificial intelligence in the synthesis of Ayurvedic drugs,
- Sanskrit text digitisation and an AI-based analysis, and
- Recent surveys on the effect of yoga and meditation on the mental well-being of users.

These projects make IKS a data-driven system of knowledge instead of a strictly traditional one.

Education: Changing Education Under the Influence of AI and IKS

NEP 2020 promotes experiential learning as opposed to rote learning. AI helps in making education more interactive and more accessible and IKS provides cultural relevance. Developmental competencies that are created among the learners are:

- Technical skills based on AI applications,
- Ethical and cultural cognisance as derived in IKS,
- Multidimensional, and
- Research Aptitude.

All these qualities collectively produce not only job ready graduates but also thoughtful citizens.

Research Methodology

There are descriptive and analytical methodologies that are used in this paper. The main sources include the government policy reports and NEP 2020 reports, the guidelines provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All-India Council on Technical Education (AICTE), and scholarly research on AI and IKS. The key sources are:

1. Government policy documents,
2. Academic journals,
3. Books and reference works and
4. Online educational portals.

The paper will outline the integration of AI and IKS at NEP 2020, and will examine the educational and societal consequences of the outcome.

Real-life examples of AI-IKS Integration.

In NEP 2020, the fusion of AI and IKS cannot be discussed only at the theoretical level as it is realised in the real form. Online Sanskrit and Ancient texts on the digitisation of Sanskrit and Ancient texts. Canonical Indian works, including the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Ayurvedic texts, the Natyashastra, Arthashastra, Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita, have begun to undergo the process of digitisation. The utilisation of AI-based Natural Language Processing (NLP) can be used to translate, classify, and analytically evaluate these manuscripts and transform IKS in historical archives into research tools.

- Ayurveda and AI: The studies that AI is used to investigate include Ayurvedic medicine production, malady diagnosis, and dietary organisation. By analysing extensive patient datasets, researchers can quantify therapeutic efficacy, thereby bridging Ayurveda and contemporary biomedical science.
- Yoga, Meditation, and Mental Health: The contemporary AI-based applications, including mobile applications and wearable devices, capture the physiological responses to yoga poses, breathing, and meditation. These facts prove yoga to be legitimate as a spiritual practise and a scientifically proven therapeutic practise.
- Environmental Knowledge and Sustainable Development: The AI-enabled simulations and predictive analytics can be useful in promoting the application of traditional ecological wisdom, which implies sustainable agriculture, water management, and forest preservation, and promotes the harmonisation of traditional environmental science with modern approaches.

Impression on the Education System

The AI-IKS reconciliation will create a number of systematic changes.

- Curriculum Transformation: NEP 2020 is projected to be a multidisciplinary curriculum in which the divide between the sciences and the humanities is broken down. Students are allowed to study mathematics, computer science, philosophy, history, yoga and Sanskrit simultaneously.

- Role of Teachers: Teachers are viewed as facilitators and not as transmitters of knowledge. AI devices can help instructors determine the needs of learners, whereas IKS provides an ethical and cultural framework to guide teaching.
- Whole Person Development of Learners: When the technical competencies fostered by AI are combined with life values generated by IKS, the learner will be professionally skilled and civil-minded.

Challenges

There are significant difficulties associated with the implementation of AI-IKS integration.

- Availability of Technology: Internet facilities are still in short supply in the villages. Successful AI-grounded teaching requires a competent internet connexion, computing platform, and talented teachers.
- Misuse of IKS: There is the danger of IKS being abducted in superstition without scientific rigour; therefore, I urge the presentation be rational and research-based.
- Teacher Training: The number of teachers with a high level of mastering both IKS and AI is scarce, and it is necessary to focus on professional growth.
- Ethical Issues: The use of AI brings up the issue of privacy, data safety, and bias of algorithms. To achieve ethical integrity, AI practises should be aligned with the values of IKS.

Future Prospects

AI–IKS integration has the potential to metamorphose India into a knowledge-based bentonic:

The applied AI-centred research centres on the Sanskrit corpus,

- Combined Ayurveda with biotechnology in the curriculum,
- Evidential studies into the therapeutic effectiveness of yoga, and
- AI systems that are guided by Indian philosophies.

These pathways will give Indian system of education the dual nature, not of just being Western-paradigm but also with the indigenous and global gleaning.

Conclusion

NEP 2020 provides the medium of interaction between modern development and the past. The artificial intelligence is an inescapable factor of the modernity, but the Indian Knowledge System is the cultural core of the country. The combination of the two transforms NEP 2020 into the education being no longer about the purely utilitarian goals, but about the value-based pursuits. AI can supplement the effectiveness and accessibility of learning and IKS can offer a moral, cultural, and sustainable source. To this end therefore, the integration of AI and IKS within the framework of NEP 2020 is a revolutionary move toward making India a cognoscente's superpower.

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