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Role Of Library In Preservation Of Indian Knowledge System

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Abstract: The importance of Indian libraries to the country's knowledge system and their important role in its preservation shall be the main topics of this essay. With the goal of encouraging multidisciplinary research via preservation and dissemination, the 2020 education strategy has placed a strong emphasis on the Indian knowledge system. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a priceless cultural legacy that offers insightful information and environmentally friendly methods. However, traditional knowledge is seriously threatened at a time of fast technological development, cultural uniformity, and globalization. With a rich history spanning thousands of years, the Indian knowledge system covers a broad range of topics, such as mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, medicine, and more. Libraries are essential for maintaining, sharing, and expanding this information. Ancient Indian libraries housed literary works, scientific papers, philosophical treatises, and holy writings. Libraries were centers for talks, debates, and intellectual interaction in addition to being locations to store books. The preservation of information, manuscripts, artifacts, and historical items is the duty of libraries that function as administrators. An extensive review of the state of the art in traditional knowledge preservation is given in this study.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge System (IKS), Knowledge Preservation, National Mission for Manuscript (NMM), National Digital Library of India (NDLI), and Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), Libraries; New Education Policy etc.

Introduction: Traditional knowledge is extremely valuable in the fields of culture, medicine, agriculture, and environmental management. It includes the extensive collection of abilities, information, and customs that indigenous and local groups have accumulated over many generations. The foundation of a community's identity and legacy, this knowledge is frequently passed down orally and via practical experience. It is essential for maintaining livelihoods, advancing biodiversity, and building resilience in the face of contemporary difficulties. But at a time of fast technological development, cultural uniformity, and globalization, traditional wisdom is seriously threatened. Many communities see their legacy eroding as younger generations abandon traditional lifestyles, languages disappear, and contemporary behaviors supplant long-standing traditions. In order to protect cultural variety and to capitalize on the priceless insights and sustainable practices that these traditions provide, it is now imperative and crucial to preserve traditional knowledge. A variety of strategies are used in the pursuit of traditional knowledge preservation, including

documentation, teaching, legal protection, community involvement, and digital innovation. Knowledge System in India It is feasible to guarantee that this rich legacy will endure and continue to improve the well-being of societies across the world by acknowledging the inherent worth of traditional knowledge and encouraging cooperation between local communities, governments, and international organizations. Preserving traditional knowledge is important for the future as well as for protecting the past. From elaborate crafts, folklore, and rituals to sustainable farming practices, environmental protection strategies, and medical procedures utilizing indigenous species, this body of knowledge covers it all. Every component of traditional knowledge has a strong connection to the history, ecology, and spirituality of the group to which it belongs, providing distinctive viewpoints and timeless answers.

Literature Review: Indigenous and local groups' long-standing customs, practices, and wisdom make up traditional knowledge, which is an essential part of cultural legacy. Cultural identity, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development all depend on this information, which is frequently passed down orally and via practice (Battiste, 2002). However, the preservation of traditional knowledge is seriously threatened by modernity, environmental changes, and globalization. This overview of the literature examines several facets of traditional knowledge preservation, emphasizing important tactics and difficulties. Traditional knowledge is essential to preserving cultural legacy and identity. It includes distinct lifestyles and worldviews that add to the diversity of human culture (UNESCO, 2003). For instance, native flora has been proven to be useful in treating a variety of illnesses, and it is frequently used in indigenous tribes' traditional medical practices (Fabricant & Farnsworth, 2001). Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) has been acknowledged in environmental conservation for its capacity to support sustainable resource management and increase biodiversity (Berkes, 1999). TEK include techniques that can support ecosystem sustainability and resilience, such as controlled burning, rotational farming, and the use of a variety of crop kinds (Berkes, 2012). The effects of industrialization and globalization are among the primary obstacles to the preservation of traditional knowledge. As younger generations embrace contemporary lives, these factors frequently result in the loss of ancient customs and languages (Maffi, 2001). The ecosystems that support traditional knowledge are also under risk from environmental changes like deforestation and climate change (Turner & Clifton, 2009). The issue of intellectual property rights is another important one. According to Posey (2002), traditional knowledge is often utilized without the communities' agreement or benefit.

Need of Preservation of IKS: Traditional knowledge refers to the wisdom and practices gained by indigenous and local populations over generations. This knowledge is essential for preserving cultural legacy, ensuring environmental sustainability, and promoting social cohesion. However, in light of globalization, environmental deterioration, and cultural homogeneity, maintaining traditional knowledge has become increasingly important.

Cultural Identity and Heritage: For indigenous and local populations, traditional knowledge is essential to their cultural identity and legacy. Languages, customs, folklore, and rituals that characterize a community's way of life are all included. By giving these communities a connection to their ancestors and a framework for comprehending their role in the world, the preservation of this information aids in sustaining their sense of identity and continuity (Battiste, 2002). Whole civilizations and their distinct viewpoints run the risk of disappearing forever if traditional knowledge is not preserved (UNESCO, 2003).

Environmental Conservation and Sustainability: Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) can provide significant insights into sustainable environmental management. Indigenous traditions frequently stress a peaceful relationship with environment, which benefits biodiversity and ecosystem health. According to Berkes (2012), traditional techniques like as rotational farming, agroforestry, and regulated burning help to maintain ecological balance and resilience. By maintaining TEK, modern civilization may learn sustainable methods to address environmental deterioration and climate change (Turner & Clifton, 2009).

Medicinal Knowledge: Traditional medical knowledge served as the foundation for many contemporary medications. Indigenous societies have historically relied on local flora and natural resources to treat ailments and stay healthy. According to Fabricant and Farnsworth (2001), many modern medications are derived from traditional cures, emphasizing the need of maintaining this information for current and future medical

breakthroughs. The loss of traditional medical knowledge may result in the loss of possible illness remedies and the destabilization of healthcare systems, particularly in rural and indigenous areas.

Agricultural Practices: For sustainable farming and food security, traditional farming methods are essential. Indigenous societies have evolved methods to guarantee soil fertility and agricultural diversification, including crop rotation, intercropping, and the use of heritage seeds (Berkes, 1999). These methods support agricultural resistance to pests and climate change, as well as biodiversity. In order to create sustainable farming systems that can adjust to shifting environmental circumstances, it is imperative that traditional agricultural knowledge be preserved.

Intellectual Property: Traditional knowledge has enormous economic potential, especially in sectors like tourism, agriculture, and medicines. By preserving this information, we can prevent other parties from taking advantage of indigenous groups' intellectual property. According to Graham and Shibata (2007), legal frameworks and intellectual property rights are essential for deterring biopiracy and guaranteeing just recompense for the use of traditional knowledge. The revival of traditional traditions and community development can be aided by this economic empowerment.

Legal and Ethical Considerations: Both ethical and legal issues are involved in the preservation of traditional knowledge. The rights of indigenous and local groups to their knowledge and customs must be acknowledged and respected. Frameworks for the preservation and fair distribution of the advantages received from traditional knowledge are provided by international accords like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (CBD, 1992).

Maintaining cultural variety, encouraging sustainable practices, and safeguarding the welfare of indigenous and local populations all depend on the preservation of traditional knowledge. It promotes social cohesiveness and economic growth, advances agriculture and medicine, and offers insightful information on sustainable living. To guarantee that this priceless legacy endures, it is imperative to address the obstacles to traditional knowledge preservation via community empowerment, education, legal protection, and digital innovation.

Govt. Initiative to Preserve Indian Knowledge system: India's rich and varied ancient knowledge systems are being preserved and promoted through a number of programs. These initiatives cover a range of topics related to indigenous traditions, literature, traditional medicine, and cultural heritage. India has taken the following significant steps to protect its traditional knowledge systems:

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL): to record ancient knowledge and use patents to stop its infringement, particularly in the fields of medicine like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Yoga. International patent offices can access the multilingual database, which acts as a safeguard against the improper issuance of patents on traditional knowledge.

National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM): to digitize, preserve, and record manuscripts in different scripts and languages. Establishing Manuscript Resource Centers (MRCs) across the nation, holding conservation training, and building a national database of manuscripts.

AYUSH Systems (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy): founded with the goal of advancing traditional Indian medical research and development. Drug quality control, standardization of procedures, and national and worldwide promotion of these systems.

Digital India and e-Governance Initiatives: An project to provide a digital repository of information resources, including traditional knowledge, is the National Digital Library of India (NDLI).

- **Digital Preservation:** Attempts to make traditional knowledge and cultural heritage publicly available through digitization. The Indian Knowledge System
- **Division of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS):** to encourage multidisciplinary study of Indian knowledge systems by combining traditional wisdom with cutting-edge scientific methods. KS is sponsoring seminars, publications, and scholarly study on traditional Indian wisdom.

- **Indigenous Knowledge Documentation:** Tribal knowledge, customs, and practices are documented and promoted by Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs). Research and documenting of the many cultural traditions of India's indigenous and tribal tribes are carried out by the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI).
- **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** The archeological Survey of India (ASI) is in charge of protecting the country's archeological legacy, which includes historic sites and monuments. In order to promote the preservation of intangible cultural assets, including as traditional art forms, music, dance, and crafts, the Ministry of Culture administers a number of initiatives and projects.
- **The legal framework and intellectual property rights (IPR):** Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001: Promotes the preservation of plant genetic resources while defending the rights of farmers and plant breeders. goods with a particular geographical origin and attributes or a reputation that may be linked to that origin, such traditional crafts and agricultural goods, are protected by the Geographical Indications (GI) Act.

Educational and Research Initiatives: incorporating traditional knowledge systems into curriculum at academic institutions. provide funding and assistance for studies in fields of traditional knowledge. India is making a variety of attempts to maintain its traditional knowledge systems, including public outreach, educational programs, legal protection, and documentation. For the benefit of present and future generations, these programs guarantee that India's rich cultural legacy is conserved, honored, and incorporated into the contemporary world.

Role of library and information centers in Preservation in IKS: The preservation of traditional knowledge is greatly aided by libraries and information centers. The abilities, customs, values, and perceptions of communities that have been transmitted from one generation to the next are all included in traditional knowledge. Here is a thorough examination of the ways in which these organizations support the preservation of such priceless cultural material.

Collection and Documentation: Oral histories and stories are frequently documented and transcribed by libraries, which is essential for maintaining the intangible components of traditional knowledge. Libraries are involved in the gathering of books, manuscripts, and other written resources that chronicle cultural history, folklore, and traditional customs. Digital repositories that can hold vast volumes of information and make it available to a wider audience are being developed by libraries.

Preservation and Conservation: Implementing strategies for preserving material resources, including manuscripts, artifacts, and other cultural items, is known as preservation and conservation. Techniques for digital preservation shield data against deterioration and loss. Maintain optimal climate conditions in libraries to prevent material deterioration caused by heat, humidity, and light.

Access and Dissemination: establishing thorough catalogs and indices to guarantee that the general public and academics may readily access traditional knowledge. Creating online resources that allow people all over the world to access traditional information that has been digitalized. Interacting with nearby communities to exchange knowledge and spread the word about how crucial it is to preserve traditional knowledge.

Education and Training: putting on events to educate library employees and the community about preservation methods and the importance of traditional knowledge. collaborating with academic institutions such as colleges and universities to integrate traditional knowledge into research initiatives and curriculum. People who follow trends in the documenting and preservation of traditional knowledge.

Collaboration and Networking: collaborating closely with local and indigenous groups to guarantee the correct and respectful preservation of their knowledge. joining organizations and networks dedicated to conserving traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. collaborating with other libraries and cultural organizations to improve preservation efforts by pooling resources and knowledge.

Ethical Considerations: addressing concerns about traditional knowledge ownership and intellectual property rights. making certain that traditional information is gathered and shared in a respectful and culturally aware way. acquiring communities' permission before recording and disseminating their traditional knowledge.

Technological Integration: applying cutting-edge technology like blockchain, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to improve the authentication and preservation of traditional knowledge. creating applications that can support the gathering and sharing of traditional knowledge in real time, particularly in isolated locations. establishing immersive experiences that let individuals interact creatively with conventional information. By gathering, conserving, and making this priceless cultural legacy accessible, libraries and information centers play a critical role in maintaining traditional knowledge. Through their efforts, traditional knowledge is preserved and made accessible for future generations to learn from and value.

Conclusion: In order to protect cultural variety, advance sustainable practices, and guarantee the welfare of indigenous and local populations, traditional knowledge must be preserved. One of the most important programs in India's attempts to preserve and advance its extensive manuscript legacy is the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). The NMM offers a thorough method of safeguarding these priceless cultural assets by recording, archiving, and scanning manuscripts. As stewards of traditional knowledge and facilitators of its transmission through public access, educational initiatives, and research assistance, libraries and information centers are vital to this task. Their participation guarantees the preservation, respect, and accessibility of traditional knowledge for next generations. Notwithstanding the difficulties in allocating funds, resources, and technology, the NMM's cooperative strategy with regional communities, national organizations, and foreign partners provides a strong foundation for overcoming these barriers. The mission's emphasis on intellectual property rights, ethics, and community engagement guarantees that preservation initiatives are fair and considerate. A vital endeavor to preserve India's rich cultural legacy is the National Mission for Manuscripts, which is backed by libraries and information centers. The mission can preserve traditional knowledge for future generations and promote a greater awareness and appreciation of India's rich cultural heritage by means of ongoing recording, conservation, digitalization, and public involvement. The NMM can guarantee that traditional knowledge continues to exist and play a vital role in our worldwide legacy by tackling obstacles and seizing possibilities. India's efforts to conserve its ancient knowledge systems are extensive and multifaceted, demonstrating the nation's dedication to preserving its rich cultural legacy. India makes sure that its old wisdom is recorded, preserved, and made available through initiatives like the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, the National Mission for Manuscripts, and the support of AYUSH systems. These preservation initiatives are further supported by the incorporation of traditional knowledge into academic programs, intellectual property rights legislation, and the encouragement of multidisciplinary research. In addition to preserving its cultural heritage, India promotes innovation and international acknowledgment of its indigenous expertise by fusing new technology with ancient methods. These programs are essential to guaranteeing that future generations in India and throughout the world continue to gain from the enormous store of traditional knowledge.

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