India's Path to Progress: Integration of Innovation and Indian Values

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Abstract: *Innovation is a process of creating new and improved products, ideas, services, or methods which makes a society relevant in a rapid changing world. It is necessary for survival and growth of a business, competitive advantage, meeting customer needs, and societal and global progress. Values are important because they set the direction of innovation. Innovation can be promoted by compliance of National Education Policy-2020, interest-based skill development, increasing funds in research and development, collaboration between research and corporates, and artificial intelligence. Indian values are deeply rooted in our rituals, traditions, and ethical principles comprising knowledge, family integrity, social harmony, ecofriendly and sense of duties. Indian values foster a collectivist society with social harmony having the intention to go together, mutual interaction, knowing each other's mind and working with collaboration with everyone. The innovation under the patronization of Indian values will be able to take India on the path of progress through sustainable development, self-dependence, social upliftment, synergy between technology and ethics, and respect of diversity and democracy.*

Keywords: Ethics, Indian values, innovation, progress, technology.

1. Introduction

On basis of the written history, India has been under continuous foreign invasion since the sixth century B.C., when Persian King Cyrus invaded India in 550 B.C. The Persians (6th century BCE), Greeks (327 BCE), Shakas (1st century BCE), Kushans (1st century CE), Huns (5th/6th century CE) invaders used to loot the India, try to destroy the its culture, collect heavy taxes from the kings here but they never tried to rule over here. A step forward in the starting of 13th century, the slave invaders have established their rule in the India and the Sun of India's independence hid behind the thick clouds of dependence. The Delhi sultanate was a 320-year Islamic empire in India formed by five consecutive dynasties Slave 1206-1290), Khilji (1290-1320), Tughlaq (1320-1414), Sayyid (1414-1451) and Lodi (1451-1526). The Mughal empire 1526-1757 was also an Islamic empire that ruled in most of the Indian subcontinent founded by Timurid prince Babur. After this, the British ruled over India until 1947. 1 AD, India held a significant share around 32% of the global GDP, while in between 10th-15th centuries, India led the world economy with its share around 25-33% and again in 1700 AD, India regained its leading position around 25% share of the global GDP on basis of its strong manufacturing and trade. Under British rule in 1820, India's share in the global GDP was around 16%, in 1870 it had fallen to around 12% and by 1947 to 4% [1-2]. The British looted a lot from India, due to which India started lagging in the global economic race. This left Indians behind in every sphere of the life. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and starvation have taken India in their grip. Britishers never gave importance to Indian values nor tried to understand them. Due to their superiority complex and intention to maintained their rule on India, they imposed English values and culture on Indians. This shattered Indian values and culture. They considered them superior, this was not the big problem, but the problem was that we also considered them superior. In hundreds of years of dependence, this inferiority complex has become part of our blood and we have assimilated it.

Innovation is the successful implementation of new or improved ideas, products, services, or methods and helpful in solving the problems, meeting needs, or making significant advancement. Innovation is essential to adapt the everchanging environment [3]. Indian values are based on its own climate and its continuous development for thousands of years [4]. On basis of these values, India was once a Vishv-Guru. India got freedom on August 15, 1947 and from then to till now, we have adopted the way to copy the developed countries of the world for making the India forward. By copying someone we can move forward but can not leave it behind. For making India as Vishv Guru (World leader), we will need innovation or innovative ideas. At the same time, we will also have to hold on to Indian values. After independence in 1947, there was a great challenge before Indian government to take India on the path of progress. Government faced these challenges and put India on the path of progress. Many education and technical institutions were established and five-year plans and other plans were launched and India started moving on the track of progress. But the speed of progress was not satisfactory because India was being run on borrowed values. In the last few years, the government has launched a campaign to awaken self-awareness and self-respect among the people. They understood the pulse of progress of India and made efforts a lot in this direction with strong determination.

Innovation and Indian values are two very important things which can move India on the path of progress. National education policy provides flexibility in the selection of interest-based subject and can transform India by making equitable and vibrant knowledge society. By increasing fund for research development activities, we can move on our own path of progress with our own indigenous values. Artificial intelligence aligned with ethical standards can be helpful in developing a more equitable and sustainable world.

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2. Innovation and its promotion

The innovation is the main field by which any country can progress. In ancient India, the Rishis and Maharishis did their research work for the welfare of society in the lap of nature very far from cities and villages. Researches make life smooth and easy of the people of a society. In the next century the country having greater researches will lead the world. Skilled citizens can prove to be the pivot of India's development [5-6]. The main tools for the promotion of innovation are as follows: -

1) **National education policy-2020:** The main aim of the NEP is to make India the global knowledge superpower and proliferation of IKS. The NEP has its root in IKS and will contribute directly to transforming India by making an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all. The curriculum and pedagogy of our education system must develop a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental duties of the people and democratic values. NEP will be helpful to develop attitude of nationalism among people. It will develop the feeling of pride to be Indian in spirit, intellect, and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen.

2) **Interest based skill development:** Due to development of science and technology, a lot of skilled persons will be required to handle machines, computers etc. soon. In NEP 2020, the technical and professional education will be given in middle classes. Due to this education to be provided to huge number of young people, India will be a factory of skilled persons. These skilled persons will have scientific approach and cause the development of India as well as world.

3) **Increasing funds in R&D:** India's gross expenditure on research and development (GERD) has more than doubled in ten years from 60,196.75 crore in 2010-11 to 127,380.96 crore in 2020-21. The government sector contributes around 64% of the total GERD, while the private sector accounts for around 36%. The number of patents filed in India increased nearly three times from 24,326 in 2020-21 to 68,176 in 2024-25, highlighting a major surge in domestic innovation.

4) **Collaboration between researchers and corporates:** Collaboration between research institutions and industry drives innovation by bridging theoretical knowledge with practical application, accelerating technological advancement, and fostering economic growth. This coalition takes forms like joint R & D projects, contract research, patent licensing, and talent development allowing industry access to specialized expertise while researchers gain resources and real-world applications.

5) **Artificial intelligence:** AI is transforming society through wide applications in various sectors of education, transportation, finance, manufacturing, health, customer services, innovations, etc. It is continuously making human life ease and smooth. On basis of track record of its progress, this can be predicted that very soon every sector of the society and every field of the human life will be under the influence of AI. AI is offering immense benefits but some challenges are also there. With the advancement of AI, there are some ethical and social implications like Fairness, privacy, accountability, employment, etc. which must be addressed properly. Besides these some other issues of ethical and societal implications like biasing, surveillance, cybercrimes, transparency, etc. also stand. By navigating these challenges wisely and carefully, one can use full potential of AI for a better future.

3. Indian Values

The value system in India reflects a blend of historical traditions, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. These principles shape the way people relate to one another and to the world around them. While modernization and globalization bring change, these values remain a vital part of Indian identity, providing a sense of connection and resilience in a fast-changing world.

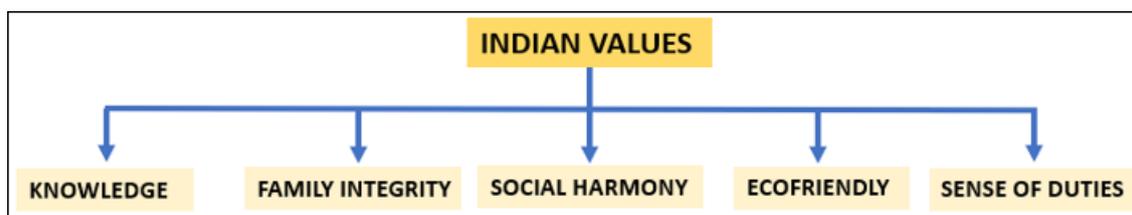The core values in Indian culture are as follows [7-8]: -

Figure 1: Indian Values

1) **Knowledge:** In Indian culture, great emphasis is placed on acquiring the knowledge. For this, there was arrangement of schools (Gurukuls) in each village or in the surrounding areas. India's religious diversity includes Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and many other traditions. Spiritual beliefs and practices—such as daily prayers, rituals, and festivals—are closely woven into daily routines. Guiding principles like karma (the idea that actions have consequences) and dharma (fulfilling one's moral duty) shape how people conduct themselves in both personal and social life. Indian culture appreciates the discussion and debates on religion and their scriptures.

2) **Family integrity:** In Indian society, family is regarded as the foundation of social life. Traditionally, multiple generations often live together in a joint family arrangement, strengthening emotional ties and providing mutual support. This sense of belonging often extends to neighbours and the wider community, where collective welfare takes precedence over personal interests. Older members of the family hold a place of honour, valued for their life experience and the traditions they uphold. From childhood, people are taught to show politeness and

consideration toward elders, both in everyday interactions and in important decisions, helping preserve cultural continuity. Nature, women, animals all are respected.

3) **Social harmony:** India's many languages, cuisines, art forms, and customs coexist within a shared national identity. This principle of Unity in Diversity encourages acceptance, harmony, and appreciation of differences, while also fostering adaptability, modesty, and a light-hearted approach to life.

4) **Ecofriendly:** The process of life is in constant state of flux rather than in static condition and the dynamic processes a continual adjustment with the environment is necessary for health and wellbeing. Nature is supreme and necessary for our survival, so that we should not act against nature. We must make urbanization, industrialization, and development with coexistence of nature. Rural development and local employment may be promoted with help of NEP-2020.

5) **Sense of duties:** The cultural ideal expressed in the phrase *Atithi Devo Bhava* "The guest is akin to God"— captures the deep-rooted Indian approach to hospitality. Welcoming guests with generosity is seen not merely as courtesy but as an ethical obligation that strengthens human connections.

4. Integration of Innovation and Indian values

The innovation and values are two wheels of the vehicle of the development of any country. Therefore, the togetherness of both is very essential for achieving any desired goal. We are the bearers of a great heritage of ethics and values. Moving ahead with innovation without values is very dangerous for any society as well as entire world. Innovation without values is like a demon who can destroy everything in the environment. The benefits of inclusion of both are as follows [9,10]: -

1) **Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is a development with an integrated approach based upon three pillars; economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection [11]. It ensures long term well beings for the people of any country. The integration of Indian values-based approach and innovation is very important for achieving the sustainable development goals.

2) **Self-dependence**: Even after so many years of independence, India is dependent on other countries for many of its needs. Due to this dependency, a large part of India's GDP is spent. Innovation with Indian values can be a key driver for achieving personal and national self-reliance. This approach involves leveraging local talent and indigenous technology to reduce reliance on external sources, especially in critical sectors like défense, energy and artificial intelligence.

3) **Social upliftment**: The innovation and social upliftment are interconnected with modern advancement in technology business models and social structures driving significant improvements in the well-being of individuals and communities. If the innovation are integrated with Indian values, then it will make easier to address the local problems. The society will easily accept and assimilate these changes due to technological advancement.

4) **Synergy between technology and ethics**: The inclusion of innovation and Indian values makes a strong bride between technology and ethics. The technology without ethics is like a demon while technology with ethics is like a deity who can do good to the world. The synergy between technology and ethics will be established across all levels of education from school education to higher education. The synergy between the technology and traditions will be established, so that the new India will be country of technology and traditions both.

5) **Respect for diversity and democracy**: Diversity is the heritage and identity of India. The respect for diversity is also the part of curriculum in national education policy-2020. For centuries we have lived and respected our diversity. The diversity is ingrained in Indian values. India is also the mother of democracy. For centuries we have shown the world the path of democracy. Therefore, the respect of diversity and democracy is an integral part of human values. If the innovation whether in field of science and technology or any other will be integrated with human values, the roots of diversity and democracy in India will become stronger and this will be good for the welfare of the whole world.

5. Conclusion

Innovation is a process of creating new and improved products, ideas, services, or methods essential to adapt with the changes occurring in the surroundings. The state and direction of the innovation is determined by the values and principles under the patronization of which the innovation process is moving ahead. Indian values are the principles and concepts established by our forefathers, rishis, and maharishis through centuries of ups and downs, and by virtue of these values India has been a world leader for a long time. Indian values foster a collectivist society with social harmony having the intention to go together, mutual interaction, knowing each other's mind and working with collaboration with everyone. The innovation under the patronization of Indian values will be able to take India on the path of progress and this progress will be sustainable and well-being for all.

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