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From Gurukul to Global: Paving Path to Viksit Bharat@2047: Restructuring Higher Education with Indic Priorities

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Abstract-- Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. India's journey from Gurukul to Global reflects a civilizational continuum where ancient wisdom meets modern innovation. This paper explores restructuring higher education for Viksit Bharat@2047 through Indic priorities. It highlights curriculum integration of traditional knowledge, ethical leadership, inclusive access, and digital transformation. Research innovation, governance reforms, sustainability, and global competitiveness form the backbone of this discourse. The paper argues for harmonizing Indic ethos with global standards to create holistic graduates, ethical leaders, and resilient institutions.

Keywords—#Global Competitiveness, # Higher Education, #Indic Priorities, # Value-Based Learning, #Viksit Bharat.

I. INTRODUCTION

"A nation is advanced in proportion to education and intelligence spread among the masses." — Swami Vivekananda.

"Knowledge is that which liberates." — Rig Veda

India's higher education journey reflects a civilizational continuum — from the Gurukul system's holistic ethos to today's globalized universities. As the nation envisions Viksit Bharat@2047, restructuring higher education with Indic priorities becomes imperative. This paper examines how traditional wisdom, ethical leadership, inclusive access, and technological innovation can converge to create a transformative model. The Gurukul tradition emphasized character, discipline, and community-centric learning, while modern universities demand competitiveness, research, and global relevance. Bridging these paradigms requires harmonizing Indic ethos with global standards. The paper outlines ten thematic subtopics, ranging from curriculum integration and emotional intelligence to governance reforms and sustainability. Each section demonstrates how India can nurture holistic graduates, ethical leaders, and resilient institutions. The vision is to create universities as knowledge sanctuaries, fostering innovation and inclusivity while remaining rooted in Indic traditions.

II. GURUKUL TRADITIONS AND THEIR RELEVANCE TODAY

The Gurukul system, rooted in ancient Indian civilization, exemplified a profound educational philosophy centred on the *Guru-Shishya Parampara* — a sacred bond between teacher and student. Learning was immersive, personalized, and deeply ethical, with knowledge transmitted orally through dialogue, reflection, and lived experience. Students resided with their gurus, absorbing not only academic wisdom but also values such as discipline, humility, and social responsibility. Subjects ranged from the Vedas, astronomy, and mathematics to music, philosophy, and martial arts, fostering a truly holistic education. In today's context, the Gurukul ethos offers vital lessons for reimagining higher education. As India moves toward Viksit Bharat@2047, integrating this tradition with modern pedagogy can nurture emotionally intelligent, ethically grounded leaders. The emphasis on character-building, experiential learning, and community engagement aligns with contemporary goals of inclusive, value-based education. Reviving the Gurukul spirit — not as nostalgia but as a living framework — can transform classrooms into sanctuaries of wisdom, where ancient scrolls coexist with digital tablets, and learning becomes a journey of self-realization and societal contribution. This synthesis of tradition and innovation is not merely symbolic; it is foundational to building resilient institutions and holistic graduates who embody both Indic values and global competencies.

III. NEP 2020 AND INDIC INTEGRATION

A. Classical Knowledge Systems: The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a paradigm shift in India's approach to higher education, emphasizing flexibility, interdisciplinarity, and cultural heritage rootedness. It advocates a learner-centric model that integrates Indic knowledge systems such as Sanskrit, Yoga, and Ayurveda into mainstream curricula. This inclusion is not merely symbolic—it reflects a strategic effort to revive India's intellectual traditions while aligning with global educational standards.



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Sanskrit, as a repository of scientific, philosophical, and literary wisdom, is being repositioned as a living language of inquiry. Yoga, with its emphasis on physical and mental well-being, is now recognized as essential to holistic development. Ayurveda, India's ancient medical science, is gaining traction in health sciences and research. NEP's multidisciplinary framework allows students to explore these domains alongside STEM, humanities, and vocational subjects, fostering well-rounded graduates. This integration also promotes epistemic diversity, encouraging students to engage with multiple worldviews and methodologies. By bridging ancient wisdom with contemporary relevance, NEP 2020 lays the foundation for a transformative educational ecosystem—one that nurtures ethical leadership, emotional intelligence, and global competence while remaining anchored in India's civilizational ethos. Such reforms are vital for building *Viksit Bharat@2047*, where education serves both national development and cultural resurgence.

B. Modern Relevance: The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduces a transformative vision for Indian higher education, emphasizing flexibility, interdisciplinarity, and cultural heritage rootedness. It seeks to harmonize traditional Indian knowledge systems—such as Sanskrit, Yoga, and Ayurveda—with contemporary academic frameworks. This integration is not ornamental; it reflects a strategic shift toward epistemic plurality and civilizational confidence. Sanskrit, long marginalized, is now positioned as a gateway to India's intellectual legacy, offering insights into philosophy, linguistics, and science. Yoga is embraced not just as physical exercise but as a tool for emotional regulation, leadership development, and holistic well-being. Ayurveda, with its preventive and integrative health approach, is being mainstreamed into medical and life sciences curricula. NEP's multidisciplinary model enables students to integrate these domains with STEM, the humanities, and vocational subjects, fostering well-rounded, ethically grounded graduates. The policy also encourages research rooted in Indic paradigms, promoting culturally resonant and globally relevant innovation. By embedding these elements into curriculum and pedagogy, NEP 2020 lays the foundation for a knowledge ecosystem that is inclusive, future-ready, and deeply Indian. This approach is vital for achieving the goals of *Viksit Bharat@2047*, where education becomes a vehicle for national development and cultural resurgence.

IV. VALUE-BASED EDUCATION AND ETHICS

Value-based education is the cornerstone of holistic development, aiming not just to impart knowledge but to cultivate character, empathy, and ethical reasoning. Rooted in Indic traditions, this approach emphasizes *dharma* (righteousness), *seva* (service), and *Satya* (truth) as guiding principles for personal and societal conduct. Ancient Indian education systems, especially the Gurukul model, prioritized moral instruction alongside academic learning, nurturing individuals who were both intellectually competent and ethically grounded. In modern times, the urgency for value-based education has intensified. Rapid technological advancement, global competition, and social fragmentation have created environments where ethical dilemmas abound. NEP 2020 recognizes this need by advocating for curricula that integrate ethics, emotional intelligence, and civic responsibility. Institutions are encouraged to foster reflective thinking, compassion, and integrity through experiential learning, mentorship, and community engagement. Ethics in education is not confined to moral science classes—it must permeate decision-making, leadership, and institutional culture. By embedding values into pedagogy, India can produce graduates who are not only skilled professionals but also conscientious citizens. This transformation is essential for building *Viksit Bharat@2047*, where education becomes a force for ethical leadership, inclusive development, and sustainable progress. Value-based learning is the bridge between knowledge and wisdom.

V. EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEADERSHIP

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of effective leadership, especially in domains like human resources, governance, and institutional development. Leaders with high EI demonstrate empathy, self-awareness, and the ability to manage interpersonal dynamics with grace and clarity. In HR, EI enables professionals to navigate complex team relationships, resolve conflicts, and foster inclusive work cultures. In governance, it supports ethical decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and resilience under pressure. Indian philosophy has long emphasized the inner dimensions of leadership. Concepts such as *Atma-vihara* (self-inquiry), *Samata* (equanimity), and *Karuna* (compassion) align closely with modern EI frameworks. A leader grounded in self-awareness is better equipped to regulate emotions, understand others' perspectives, and inspire collective purpose. This fusion of ancient wisdom and contemporary psychology creates a leadership model that is both humane and visionary.



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As India moves toward Viksit Bharat@2047, emotionally intelligent leadership will be vital in shaping institutions that are not only efficient but also ethical and empathetic. Cultivating EI through training, reflection, and mentorship can transform young professionals into leaders who radiate calm, wisdom, and integrity—guiding diverse teams with clarity and compassion in an increasingly complex world.

VI. RESEARCH INNOVATION WITH CIVILIZATIONAL ANCHORS

India's journey toward becoming a global knowledge leader hinges on its ability to synergize cutting-edge innovation with deep civilizational wisdom. The establishment of Indic research chairs across universities and think tanks reflects a growing commitment to this synthesis. These chairs promote rigorous inquiry into India's philosophical, scientific, and cultural traditions, enabling scholars to explore themes such as dharma, cosmology, linguistics, and governance through a contemporary lens. Simultaneously, comparative civilizational studies foster dialogue between Indian thought systems and global paradigms—Greek, Chinese, Islamic, and Western—revealing shared insights and unique contributions. This approach not only enriches academic discourse but also cultivates epistemic humility and pluralism. Innovation rooted in civilizational anchors is not nostalgic—it is transformative. AI, biotechnology, and sustainability research can draw from ancient Indian texts on logic (Nyaya), ecology (Vrikshayurveda), and ethics (Niti Shastra), offering culturally resonant solutions to modern challenges. Libraries and labs that house AI holograms alongside palm-leaf manuscripts symbolize this convergence, where tradition fuels creativity and modernity respects heritage. Such integration is vital for Viksit Bharat@2047, where India's research ecosystem becomes both globally competitive and civilizational confident—producing knowledge that is original, ethical, and deeply rooted in its timeless ethos.

VII. TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED DIGITAL GURUKUL

The concept of a Digital Gurukul reimagines ancient Indian education systems through the lens of cutting-edge technology. In this model, the Guru-Shishya relationship is preserved, but the medium of transmission evolves—leveraging AI, blockchain, and immersive digital platforms. Artificial Intelligence enables personalized learning pathways, adaptive assessments, and real-time feedback, mirroring the individualized attention once offered in traditional Gurukuls. Blockchain ensures secure credentialing, transparent learning records, and decentralized access to educational resources.

Digital archives preserve palm-leaf manuscripts, Vedic texts, and classical commentaries, making them accessible to global learners. Open-source platforms democratize Indic knowledge, allowing students from diverse backgrounds to engage with philosophy, logic, grammar, and ethics in their native languages and formats. The Virtual Gurukul is not merely a technological upgrade—it is a civilizational revival. A holographic guru guiding students across geographies symbolizes the timeless relevance of Indian pedagogy in a hyperconnected world. This model fosters emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, and spiritual inquiry alongside academic rigor. As India advances toward Viksit Bharat@2047, the Digital Gurukul offers a blueprint for inclusive, value-rich education—where ancient wisdom meets futuristic delivery, and learning becomes a journey of both intellectual and inner transformation.

VIII. INCLUSIVE ACCESS FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Inclusive education is a foundational pillar for building an equitable and empowered society. In India, efforts to extend educational access to marginalized groups—especially rural communities, women, and economically disadvantaged students—have gained momentum through targeted interventions. Scholarships and financial aid programs help bridge the affordability gap, enabling students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue higher education without financial burden. Rural outreach initiatives, such as mobile learning centres, digital classrooms, and community-based education hubs, bring learning opportunities to remote villages. These programs often include local language instruction, vocational training, and mentorship, ensuring relevance and accessibility. Women's empowerment through education is another critical focus. By providing safe learning environments, female role models, and gender-sensitive curricula, institutions are encouraging girls to complete their education and pursue careers in leadership, STEM, and social impact. Technology plays a transformative role in this ecosystem. Village classrooms equipped with laptops and internet access allow students to connect with global knowledge networks while remaining rooted in their communities. As India advances toward Viksit Bharat@2047, inclusive education must remain a priority—ensuring that every learner, regardless of geography, gender, or socio-economic status, has the tools and support to thrive in a knowledge-driven future.

IX. GOVERNANCE REFORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governance reforms in higher education are essential for building institutions that are autonomous, transparent, and accountable.



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As India envisions ****Viksit Bharat@2047****, universities must evolve from bureaucratic silos into dynamic ecosystems of learning and innovation. Autonomy empowers institutions to design context-specific curricula, recruit talent, and pursue research agendas aligned with national priorities. However, autonomy must be balanced with robust accountability mechanisms to ensure quality, equity, and ethical standards. Transparency in decision-making—whether in admissions, funding, or faculty appointments—builds trust among stakeholders. Digital dashboards, audit trails, and open-access repositories can make institutional processes visible and verifiable. Public disclosure of performance metrics, governance structures, and financial data fosters a culture of integrity and responsiveness.

Accountability is not limited to compliance; it includes academic outcomes, social impact, and student well-being. University councils must include diverse voices—faculty, students, alumni, and community representatives—to ensure participatory governance. Open books, both literal and metaphorical, symbolize a commitment to truth, inquiry, and shared responsibility. By integrating technology with ethical governance, India's higher education system can become globally competitive and locally relevant. These reforms are not just administrative—they are foundational to nurturing institutions that uphold constitutional values and serve as pillars of democratic development.

X. SUSTAINABILITY AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

As climate change intensifies, educational institutions must evolve into models of sustainability and ethical responsibility. Universities are uniquely positioned to address global challenges by integrating environmental consciousness into their infrastructure, curriculum, and community engagement. Sustainable campuses—featuring solar panels, rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, and green architecture—demonstrate how learning spaces can reduce ecological footprints while inspiring behavioural change. Beyond infrastructure, sustainability must be embedded in pedagogy. Courses on climate ethics, environmental law, and sustainable development equip students to think critically about planetary stewardship. Interdisciplinary research on renewable energy, biodiversity, and climate resilience fosters innovation that is both locally grounded and globally relevant. Ethics plays a pivotal role in shaping responses to global challenges. Indic traditions emphasize harmony with nature (*Prakriti*), non-violence (*Ahimsa*), and collective well-being (*Lokasangraha*), offering timeless frameworks for ecological responsibility.

By drawing from these values, institutions can cultivate leaders who balance technological advancement with moral clarity. As India moves toward **Viksit Bharat@2047**, sustainable education is not optional—it is imperative. Universities must become living laboratories of climate action, where students learn not only to solve problems but to live ethically and sustainably in a rapidly changing world.

XI. VISION FOR VIKSIT BHARAT@2047

The vision for **Viksit Bharat@2047** is rooted in creating a knowledge-driven society powered by holistic graduates, ethical leaders, and globally competitive institutions. Indian universities must evolve into dynamic ecosystems that nurture intellectual excellence, emotional intelligence, and civic responsibility. A holistic graduate is not merely a subject expert but a well-rounded individual—grounded in values, skilled in collaboration, and prepared to lead in a globalized world. Ethical leadership is central to this transformation. Drawing from Indic values such as *Satya* (truth), *Dharma* (righteous conduct), and *Seva* (service), future leaders must embody integrity, empathy, and accountability. Institutions must embed these principles into pedagogy, mentorship, and governance, ensuring that graduates are equipped to navigate complex moral landscapes. Global competitiveness requires innovation, interdisciplinarity, and international collaboration. Futuristic Indian universities must integrate AI, sustainability, and entrepreneurship into their core, while celebrating India's civilizational wisdom. Campuses should reflect this duality—smart classrooms alongside meditation spaces, digital labs beside Sanskrit archives. The image of a futuristic Indian university flying the tricolours, welcoming students from across the globe, symbolizes this aspiration. It is a vision where India leads not just in technology and economy, but in shaping a humane, inclusive, and enlightened global future.

XII. CONCLUSION

India's higher education system is at a critical juncture, requiring a balanced integration of tradition and modernity. Current studies highlight the importance of embedding ethical grounding from Gurukul-inspired models while adopting global frameworks that ensure competitiveness and innovation. Universities today must transition into knowledge sanctuaries that prioritize inclusivity, sustainability, and interdisciplinary learning. Research suggests that comparative civilizational studies can enrich global dialogue, while AI-driven pedagogy offers personalized, scalable education aligned with contemporary needs.



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Governance reforms, emphasizing transparency and accountability, remain essential to strengthen institutional credibility. My suggestion is to expand scholarships and digital outreach for marginalized groups, ensuring equitable access across rural and urban contexts. Additionally, sustainable campus models with renewable energy and eco-friendly infrastructure should be mainstreamed. By 2047, this restructuring can produce graduates who are ethical leaders and global citizens—rooted in Indic ethos yet adaptable to global challenges—securing India’s intellectual sovereignty and leadership in education.

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