



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107

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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

COURSE NAME : 19MC003 - ESSENCE OF INDIAN

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

III YEAR /VI SEMESTER

UNIT I – Introduction To Traditional Knowledge

Topic 6: Indigenous Knowledge characteristics



Indigenous knowledge characteristics



- Adaptive.
- Cumulative.
- Dynamic.
- Holistic.
- Humble.
- Intergenerational.
- Invaluable.
- Irreplaceable.
- Relative.
- Responsible
- Spiritual.
- Unique.
- Valid.
- Moral.
- Non-linear.
- Observant.



Adaptive:

- It is based on historical experiences but adapts to social, economic, environmental, spiritual and political changes.
- Adaptation is the key to survival.

Cumulative:

- It is a body of knowledge and skills developed from centuries of living in close proximity to nature.



Dynamic:

- It is not rooted in a particular point in history but has developed, adapted, and grown over millennia; it is not static.

Holistic:

- All aspects of life are **interconnected** and are not considered in isolation but as a part of the whole.
- The world is believed to be an integral whole.
- Indigenous knowledge incorporates all aspects of life - spirituality, history, cultural practices, social interactions, language, and healing.



Humble:

- Indigenous knowledge does not dictate how to control nature but how to live in harmony with the gifts of the Creator.

Intergenerational:

- The collective memory is passed, within a community, from one generation to the next **orally** through language, stories, songs, ceremonies, legends, and proverbs.

Invaluable:

- It has been argued that Indigenous knowledge, not capital, is the key to sustainable social and economic development.
- There is a growing recognition and respect for IK and a desire to collaborate with Indigenous communities on environmental monitoring projects.



Irreplaceable:

- There is nothing western science can do to replace or replicate Indigenous knowledge.
- An aspect of Indigenous knowledge that is sometimes overlooked by scientists, and others, is the critical connection between IK and language.
- Indigenous languages are in **decline** and as languages die, so goes the Indigenous knowledge that is part of that language and the collective memory of the speakers of that language.

Moral:

- There is a morality in Indigenous knowledge - a right and wrong way to interact with nature; there is a **responsibility** given by the Creator to respect the natural world.



Non-linear:

- Time, patterns, migrations and movements of **animals** are cyclical.

Observant:

- Since Creation, Indigenous leaders have observed their environment and made decisions for their community's well-being based on those observations.
- But their decisions also weighed what would be best for the community **seven generations** in the future.

Relative:

- Indigenous knowledge is not embodied to the same degree by all community members.
- **Elders** will obviously carry more knowledge than younger community members



Responsible:

- Indigenous Peoples generally believe they are responsible for the well-being of the natural environment around them.

Spiritual:

- Indigenous knowledge is rooted in a social context that sees the world in terms of social and spiritual relations among all life forms.
- All parts of the natural world are infused with spirit.
- Mind, matter, and spirit are perceived as inseparable.



Unique:

- Indigenous knowledge is unique to a given **culture** or society.
- While there may be many similarities of IK between communities, it is the lived experience of each community that informs IK.

Valid:

- It does not require the validation of western science.



Thank You