

ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Assignment -1

Q.1) Define Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge is the knowledge system possessed by various communities across the globe. Such knowledge has been accumulated over the years and has been used and passed down through several generations. It is usually with respect to the natural surroundings of the community and includes agricultural knowledge such as manner of cultivation, environmental knowledge and knowledge of natural medicines.

Traditional Knowledge is knowledge that derives from, or is rooted in the traditional way of life of aboriginal people. Or is the accumulated knowledge and understanding of the human place in relation to the universe. Or when the people with whom it originates are trying to preserve and renew their cultural identity.

Types of Traditional Knowledge 1) Cultural 2) Artistic 3) Natural Resources 4) Agricultural 5) Sacred

Q.2) Important characteristics of Traditional Knowledge?

- 1) it is transmitted from generations to generations
- 2) in many cases, it is transmitted orally for generations from person to person
- 3) it is being considered by the communities as gift of God and not as a private property
- 4) such knowledge typically distinguishes one community from another
- 5) it is usually impossible to identify the original creator of the information
- 6) it is learned through continuous observation, experience and practice
- 7) it is inseparable part of communal and cultural life of its holders, and

Q.3 Scope and Importance of Traditional Knowledge?

TK has played, and still plays, an important role in vital areas such as medical treatment, food security and the development of agriculture. TK is also the cause of a great variety of artistic expressions, including musical works and handicrafts. TK is a central component for the daily life of millions of people in developing countries. Traditional Medicine (TM) serves the health needs of a vast majority of people in developing countries where access to modern health care services and medicine is limited by economic and cultural reasons. It is often the only affordable treatment available to poor people and in remote communities. TK constitutes the ancient knowledge of humanity, the deepest layer on which our science and culture have developed, the local solutions that have allowed the creation and management of ecosystems and cultural landscapes on the entire surface of the planet. It enables the development of solutions with a low energy and resource use that are able to adapt to environmental variability and to react to emergencies and catastrophes in flexible and multifunctional ways. Today, while entire planet systems risk ecological collapse, TK shows how to interact with the environment enhancing its resource potential without exhausting. In addition, it cannot be excluded that traditional knowledge might have an industrial application, even if the tangible object to which the intangible knowledge relates has not been subject to any scientific interference or modification. TK is thus a valuable source of knowledge. TK may help to find useful solutions to current problems, sometimes in combination with modern scientific and technological knowledge.

Q.4) Need for Protecting Traditional Knowledge?

Protection of indigenous knowledge is essential in many aspects. Lack of proper legal and policy frameworks for the protection of TK in the developing countries provides a vacuum for the developed and industrialized nations to exploit the traditional knowledge and resources of indigenous communities. Protection of indigenous knowledge will stop the multi-national pharmaceutical companies from the North, who purport to discover herbal medicines owned and used by the indigenous communities for thousands of years, from patenting the medicinal plants and its derivatives at the expense of the indigenous communities. Since, TK incorporates information and know-how on a variety of matters, including resources management, traditional medicines, crafts, artistic designs and cultural assets, its adequate protection is essential to preserve the cultural values of aboriginal communities.

Q.5) Explain Indigenous Knowledge (IK)

The indigenous groups all over the world have peculiar cultural belief systems which demonstrate their immense knowledge and respect for the earth. These systems contain rules that define how the environment should be treated. Their various rituals, ceremonies and prohibitions regulate the use of natural resources and resource management aiming at a balanced ecosystem. Indigenous people are the custodians of the invaluable biological and genetic wealth on the earth. To entitle certain knowledge as indigenous, it must possess certain characteristics, namely

- i. communal ownership and attribution of knowledge
- ii. sharing of knowledge through specific consent of the relevant group
- iii. right to use and deal with knowledge 98
- iv. collective rights and interests held by indigenous people in their knowledge
- v. close interdependence between knowledge, land, and other aspects of culture in indigenous societies
- vi. oral transmission of knowledge in accordance with well understood cultural.

Q.6) Characteristics of Indigenous Knowledge (IK)

- is generated within communities is location and culture specific
- is the basis for decision making and survival strategies
- is not systematically documented
- concerns critical issues of human and
- animal life: primary production, human and animal life, natural resource management
- is dynamic and based on innovation, adaptation, and experimentation
- is oral and rural in nature