



Netaji Subhas Open University

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CALL FOR PAPERS- NSOU JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The *NSOU Journal of Social Sciences* (Volume 5, No. 1) invites submissions of original research papers. This double-blind peer-reviewed online journal (ISSN: 2581-5512) is published by the School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal, India.

Theme: Indigeneity and the Traditional Knowledge Systems

Concept Note

Traditional Knowledge Systems: Bridging Heritage and Contemporary Relevance

Indigenous communities worldwide embody a profound repository of traditional knowledge, accumulated through centuries of lived experience and intimate interaction with nature. This knowledge has been instrumental in sustaining human civilizations, promoting environmental stewardship, and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage. Rooted in religious beliefs and traditional practices, these systems encompass diverse aspects of life, including social organization, sustainable agriculture, livestock management, ecological balance, healthcare practices, economic strategies, and conservation ethics.

What makes these systems remarkable is their dynamic applicability and resilience, shaped by the wisdom of communities and the custodians of age-old traditions. Traditional knowledge is not merely a relic of the past; it is an evolving, inclusive body of insights honed through observation, experimentation, and adaptation. In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and

environmental crises, this wisdom holds the potential to offer sustainable, time-tested solutions to contemporary challenges.

The global academic landscape has increasingly recognized the significance of preserving and reviving traditional knowledge systems. Contemporary transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary research has sought to document, analyze, and integrate this wisdom into modern scientific and cultural paradigms. This endeavour is not only about conservation but also about harnessing the power of traditional practices to address pressing global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and public health crises.

This issue of the journal aims to spotlight the enduring relevance of traditional knowledge systems in contemporary society. By inviting scholarly contributions from diverse perspectives, the journal seeks to explore the theoretical, practical, and ethical dimensions of this heritage. It encourages an examination of how these systems can be revitalized, adapted, and integrated into the global knowledge pool to inspire sustainable living and innovation.

Through this initiative, we hope to celebrate the wisdom of indigenous communities, amplify their voices, and foster a dialogue that bridges the gap between traditional practices and modern aspirations. This is a call to scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to contribute to a deeper understanding of traditional knowledge and its transformative potential in the 21st century.

Objectives of the Journal

The idea is to undertake contextualized studies that take into account the constructed and the situated conditions instead of studying just the structured ones. This will provide more flexible, open-ended and multidimensional answers laced with historical and eclectic nuances instead of producing hackneyed stereotypical research questions embedded in unidimensional axis of power. The idea is to make knowledge making more multifarious and challenging so as to capture those latent bodies that contributed to knowledge more silently and subtly. Those bodies that equally participated in knowledge making but were not cherry picked by the colonial discourse will crave for our attention. To gauge the whispers, murmurs and mutterings of those reproducing alternative forms of knowledge on the dim horizon outside the authorized precincts of the Raj shall remain the subject of our analysis.

Research questions that this Issue of the Fifth Volume asks:

The questions that we seek to answer in this Fifth volume of the Netaji Subhas Open University Journal of Social Sciences are:

- How have traditional knowledge systems contributed to sustainable practices in agriculture, healthcare, and environmental conservation?
- What role do indigenous spiritual beliefs and rituals play in shaping ecological and conservational ethics?
- In what ways can traditional medicinal practices and healthcare systems be integrated with modern medical science to address global health challenges?
- How do traditional economic systems, such as barter and community-based models, offer alternatives to contemporary market economies?
- What are the gendered dimensions of traditional knowledge systems, and how do women contribute as custodians and transmitters of this knowledge?

Sub-themes:

1. Sustainable Livelihoods and Traditional Practices: Exploring indigenous methods in agriculture, livestock management, and resource utilization for sustainable development.
2. Traditional Knowledge in Healthcare and Wellness: Insights into traditional medicinal systems, herbal remedies, and their integration with modern healthcare practices.
3. Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge: The role of traditional practices in preserving cultural identity, rituals, and oral histories.
4. Ecological Wisdom and Environmental Conservation: Indigenous practices in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and climate adaptation strategies.
5. Economic Systems in Traditional Societies: Indigenous models of barter, trade, and community-based economic development.
6. Conservation Ethics and Spiritual Beliefs: Interconnections between spirituality, religious beliefs, and ecological stewardship.
7. Traditional Knowledge and Gender Dynamics: Examining the role of women as custodians of indigenous knowledge and their contributions to its preservation and transmission.
8. Challenges in Protecting Traditional Knowledge: Issues related to intellectual property rights, cultural appropriation, and safeguarding traditional wisdom against exploitation.
9. Revitalization of Traditional Knowledge through Modern Technology: Leveraging digital tools for documentation, dissemination, and preservation of traditional practices.

10. Policy and Governance for Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Analyzing frameworks for integrating traditional knowledge into national and international policymaking.
11. Intergenerational Transmission of Traditional Knowledge: Exploring strategies to ensure the continuity of indigenous wisdom across generations.
12. Indigenous Knowledge in Education: Integrating traditional systems into formal education curricula to promote inclusive learning.
13. Cross-Cultural Dialogues on Traditional Knowledge: Examining the exchange and adaptation of traditional practices across cultures and regions.
14. Reviving Indigenous Governance and Political Systems.
15. The Impact of Globalization on Indigenous Knowledge
16. The Role of Indigenous Languages in Preserving Knowledge Systems.
17. Indigenous Knowledge and the Politics of Recognition
18. Colonial Archives and Indigenous Knowledge: The Politics of Preservation
19. Colonialism, Resistance, and Indigenous Knowledge
20. Indigenous Knowledge in the Context of Post-Colonial Histories
21. The Economic Value of Indigenous Knowledge in Natural Resource Exploitation
22. Indigenous Knowledge and the Development of Green Economies

Paper submission

- The title of the research paper should be bold, centred and typed in capital letters in a 14 point Times New Roman Font.
- The author(s) details i.e. full name, designation, name of the organization, city, pin, state country e-mail ID, contact details i.e. mobile/landline phone numbers, in 11-point Times New Roman should be centred below the title.
- Abstract including keywords must not exceed 250-300 words, 12 Times New Roman, double-spaced. It should be in fully justified and italicized text. It should highlight research background, methodology, major finding(s) and conclusion in brief.
 - Authors must mention 6-8 keywords. Key words should be listed alphabetically separated by commas and full stop at the end.
 - The research paper should be written in 5000-8000 words, 12 Times New Roman, double-spaced
- **Citation style: APA 6th Edition**
- **Language: Only English**

Important Dates

- **Last date for full paper submission: 28th February, 2025.**
- The full papers should be mailed to: **njss@wbnsou.ac.in**

General Instruction for the Authors:

- The Editorial Board will publish all the selected papers in the Journal (with ISSN: 2581 5512). The Editorial Board will reserve the right to accept/reject any paper for publication.
- The paper may be rejected at any stage by the team of the Reviewers after blind paper review.
- The author must be ready to make all the necessary revisions if suggested by the Reviewers.
- Once the paper is accepted, the authors must complete the work of proof checking very carefully and on an urgent basis immediately after they receive the processed manuscripts.
- Referencing must be done following strictly the citation style. Any aberration from the standard framework will not be allowed.
- Plagiarism should be checked following the stipulations of UGC. Plagiarism report must be attached with the soft copy of the full paper.
- The author declaration form to be duly signed and submitted along with the final paper.

For any inquiry related to journal, please mail at: njss@wbnsou.ac.in

- **No fees are required for submission or publication.**
- Once published the journal shall be available on the University Website, www.wbnsou.ac.in.

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