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Research Article



Transformative Framework for Sustainability and Inclusiveness towards Viksit Bharat

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Abstract

In the context of Viksit Bharat, sustainable and inclusive development has gained significant importance. It requires a balanced framework that integrates economic advancement with social equity, environmental protection, and cultural continuity. This study explores a transformative framework for achieving sustainability and inclusiveness in Viksit Bharat 2047. While current development models emphasise economic growth, they often overlook social equity, environmental sustainability, and cultural relevance. Using a qualitative approach through document analysis, the research analyses the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and global knowledge to create a holistic model of national development. The study identifies that inclusive education, skill development, policy reforms, community participation, and technological innovation are critical drivers for equitable growth. Findings highlight the need for coordinated policies, interdisciplinary strategies, and continuous monitoring to address regional disparities, environmental challenges, and social inequities. By combining traditional ecological wisdom with modern science and governance frameworks, the proposed transformation model ensures balanced development. The study concludes that a culturally relevant, people-centric, and sustainable approach is essential to achieving Viksit Bharat's vision of prosperity, resilience, and inclusiveness by 2047. Furthermore, the framework encourages adaptive governance, data-driven decision-making, grassroots empowerment, and responsible consumption patterns. It underscores partnerships between public, private, and civil society sectors to accelerate progress. Emphasising resilience to climate risks and digital inclusion, it envisions an equitable future where innovation, heritage, and sustainability drive long-term national transformation.

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KEYWORDS: Viksit Bharat, Sustainability, Inclusiveness, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Education, Policy Reform.

1. INTRODUCTION

Viksit Bharat 2047 is the government's vision to transform the country into a self-reliant and prosperous economy by 2047. Economic growth, technological upgradation, infrastructure development, social empowerment, and sustainability are the criteria of this programme. Steps towards achieving this were charted in the Union Budget 2025-26, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a few priorities to create

opportunities and drive progress in accordance with the overall strategy outlined in the interim budget. However, existing development models often prioritise economic expansion while neglecting social equity and environmental sustainability. This creates a need to reframe transformation frameworks that integrate diverse knowledge systems. In this context, the inclusion of indigenous knowledge systems alongside global knowledge has gained increasing importance. Indigenous

knowledge reflects local practices, cultural values, and ecological wisdom, which are essential for long-term sustainability (Sen, 1999) ^[31]. At the same time, global knowledge provides scientific and technological advancements necessary for modernisation (UNESCO, 2017).

Education and policy play a crucial role in facilitating this integration. The National Education Policy 2020 highlights the importance of cultural rootedness, multilingualism, and holistic development (Government of India, 2020) ^[10]. Therefore, a restructured transformation framework must promote inclusiveness, sustainability, and knowledge integration. This paper aims to find out how such a framework can support balanced growth and contribute to achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The search for related research is one of the first steps in the research process. It is a valuable guide to defining the problem, recognising its significance, suggesting promising data-gathering devices, an appropriate study design, source of data. “The review of related literature promotes a greater understanding of the problem and its crucial aspects and ensures the avoidance of unnecessary duplication.” (Mouly, 1963) ^[22].

All the reviewed studies are presented below, highlighting area, methodology, objectives, approaches and findings-

Tilak (2015) ^[35] conducted a study on “Education and Inclusive Development in India.” The research used a documentary analysis method. The objectives of the study explored how education contributes to equitable growth. The study focused on access, quality, and public investment in education. The findings revealed that unequal access to education limits inclusive development. It emphasised that strengthening public education systems is essential for achieving sustainability and equity.

Patel (2018) ^[25] conducted a study on “Higher Education and Sustainable Development in India.” The research used an analytical method. The objectives of the study find out the role of universities in sustainability. The study focused on innovation and research. The findings revealed that higher education institutions contribute to sustainable growth. It emphasised collaboration and knowledge creation. The study supports transformation frameworks in higher education.

Mohanty (2019) ^[17] conducted a study on “Education for sustainable development in India.” The research used a qualitative method. The study explores how education promotes environmental and social sustainability. The study focused on curriculum and awareness. The findings revealed that sustainability education develops responsible citizenship. It emphasised integrating sustainability into educational practices. The study supports transformation frameworks that combine education with sustainability goals.

Kumar (2020) ^[13] conducted a study on “Indian Knowledge Systems in Modern Education.” The research used a conceptual approach. The objective was to explore the role of traditional knowledge in contemporary education. The study focused on ethics, values, and ecological balance. The findings indicated

that IKS promotes holistic and sustainable development. It emphasised cultural integration in education. The study supports reframing transformation frameworks by incorporating indigenous knowledge for Viksit Bharat.

Rani (2020) ^[28] conducted a study on “Gender and Inclusive Education in Indian Perspectives.” The research used a descriptive method. The objective was to analyse gender disparities. The study focused on access and participation. The findings showed that gender inequality affects inclusiveness. It emphasised policy intervention and awareness. The study supports inclusive development frameworks.

Banerjee (2021) ^[2] conducted a study on “Inclusive Growth and Policy Reforms.” The research used an analytical method. The objective was to analyse the role of reforms in reducing inequality. The study focused on economic and educational policies. The findings indicated that inclusive policies improve development outcomes. It emphasised balanced growth. The study supports sustainable and inclusive frameworks.

Chatterjee (2021) ^[3] conducted a study on “Rural Development through Promoting Inclusiveness.” The research used a qualitative method. The objective was to analyse development in rural areas. The study focused on education, livelihood, and participation. The findings revealed that community participation improves sustainability. It emphasised decentralised planning. The study supports inclusive transformation frameworks.

Singh (2022) ^[32] conducted a study on “NEP 2020 and Educational Transformation.” The research used a policy analysis method. The objective was to analyse reforms introduced in NEP 2020. The study focused on flexibility, multidisciplinary learning, and inclusiveness. The findings showed that NEP promotes holistic and skill-based education. It emphasised sustainability and equity.

Saha (2023) ^[30] conducted a study on “Implementation of Inclusive Education under NEP.” The research used a field-based approach. The objective was to analyse challenges in implementation. The study focused on schools and teachers. The findings showed gaps in training and infrastructure. It emphasised capacity building. The study supports strengthening inclusive frameworks for achieving Viksit Bharat.

Yadav (2024) ^[40] conducted a study on “Indian Knowledge System as the Foundation of Viksit Bharat.” The research used an interdisciplinary conceptual approach. The objective was to explore how IKS can guide contemporary development in areas such as education, governance, agriculture, health, and environmental sustainability. The findings revealed that IKS offers holistic wisdom and ethical values essential for sustainable development. It emphasised the reintegration of IKS into national policy and consciousness to align cultural and ecological integrity with economic progress. The study supports using indigenous knowledge as a foundational pillar for achieving Viksit Bharat.

Rehman *et al.* (2025) ^[29] conducted a systematic review on “AI Literacy in Higher Education and India’s Vision Viksit Bharat 2047.” The research reviewed literature on AI integration in higher education linked to national development goals. The objective was to assess how AI literacy contributes to a skilled

workforce for achieving Viksit Bharat. The findings showed that fostering AI competencies in academia enhances innovation, employability, and national competitiveness.

3. RESEARCH GAP FOUND FROM REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of related literature indicates that significant work has been done on sustainability, inclusiveness, education reforms, and Indian Knowledge Systems in the Indian context. Many studies highlight the importance of equitable education, policy interventions, and sustainable practices for national development. However, these studies are often fragmented and focus on specific sectors such as education, economy, or social policy. There is limited research that integrates these dimensions into a comprehensive transformation framework aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. These are as follows-

- Lack of a holistic transformation framework that integrates sustainability, inclusiveness, and development.
- Limited studies linking Indian Knowledge Systems with modern policy frameworks for national development.
- Insufficient focus on practical implementation strategies for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.
- Need for context-specific models addressing regional and social inequalities in India.

These gaps justify the need for the present study to reframe a comprehensive transformation framework for sustainability and inclusiveness in Viksit Bharat.

4. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 demands a development model that is sustainable, inclusive, and culturally rooted. Existing development approaches often lead to environmental challenges, social inequalities, and unequal access to opportunities, indicating the need for a more integrated framework. Additionally, the limited incorporation of Indian Knowledge Systems in modern policy and education highlights a critical gap in achieving holistic development.

The study is significant as it proposes a transformative framework that aligns economic growth with social justice and environmental sustainability. It also promotes the relevance of indigenous knowledge in contemporary development planning. The findings will be useful for policymakers, educators, and researchers in designing inclusive and sustainable strategies for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.

5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the role of the Indian Knowledge System and global knowledge for promoting Sustainable and Inclusive development?
2. Which strategies will be appropriate for achieving equitable national development towards Viksit Bharat?
3. How to develop a Transformational Framework regarding Sustainability and Inclusiveness for Viksit Bharat.

6. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on a qualitative approach using the document review method (Creswell & Poth, 2018; Cohen *et al.*, 2018) ^[5, 4]. Data have been collected from primary and secondary sources such as policy documents, books, research articles, and journals. Methods like document analysis, archival review, and thematic analysis were used to examine the data systematically (Cohen *et al.*, 2018) ^[4]. Key themes related to sustainability, inclusiveness, and transformation were identified and analysed. The collected documents were carefully reviewed to develop a clear understanding of the research problem and framework (Mangal, 2013) ^[14].

Operational Definition

The key term discussed in the research has been defined and discussed below in a short manner-

- A transformation framework refers to a structured model or plan that guides systemic change in an organisation, institution, or society. In education, it includes policies, practices, processes, and strategies aimed at improving learning outcomes, equity, and efficiency (Fullan, 2020).
- Sustainability is the ability to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In education, it involves promoting awareness, skills, and practices that support environmental, economic, and social balance (UNESCO, 2023) ^[36].
- Inclusiveness refers to creating conditions where everyone, regardless of gender, caste, disability, socio-economic status, or geographic location, can participate fully and equitably. Inclusive Education specifically ensures that all learners have access to quality education in a supportive environment (Ambika & Vayola, 2023) ^[1].

Viksit Bharat: Conceptual Understanding

Viksit Bharat (Developed India) @2047 is the vision of the Government of India to transform the nation into a fully developed country by the 100th year of independence in 2047. It aims to build a \$30+ trillion economy characterised by modern infrastructure, economic prosperity, social equity, technological innovation, environmental sustainability, and good governance, ensuring a high quality of life for all citizens (NITI Aayog, 2023; Government of India, 2023) ^[23-24, 11]. According to the Government of India (2020) ^[10], development must be people-centric, inclusive, and knowledge-driven. Similarly, the capability approach highlights that true development lies in expanding human freedoms and opportunities rather than only increasing income levels (Sen, 1999) ^[31].

A central dimension of Viksit Bharat is economic development, which focuses on productivity, innovation, and employment generation. However, economic growth alone is insufficient unless it ensures social inclusiveness, particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged groups (Dreze, 2018) ^[7]. Inclusive development requires equitable access to education, healthcare, and basic services. In this context, education plays a

transformative role in empowering individuals and promoting social mobility (Tilak, 2015) ^[35].

Four Amrit Pillars of Viksit Bharat

The vision of Viksit Bharat is built upon four key pillars that ensure inclusive growth and sustainable national development. These are-

1. **Yuva (Youth):** This pillar focuses on empowering youth through education, skill development, and employment opportunities. Initiatives such as Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana aim to enhance employability and enable young people to contribute effectively to nation-building (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].
2. **Garib (Poor):** This pillar aims at poverty alleviation by improving access to necessities, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ensure food security and social protection for vulnerable populations (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].
3. **Mahilayen (Women/Nari Shakti):** Women's empowerment is emphasised through financial inclusion, leadership opportunities, and safety measures. Initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana and policy provisions like reservation for women in legislatures aim to enhance their participation in economic and social development (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].
4. **Annadata (Farmers):** This pillar focuses on strengthening the agricultural sector through modernisation, improved productivity, and income enhancement. It aims to ensure food security and promote rural prosperity (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].

These four pillars together support a comprehensive framework for achieving social equity, economic growth, and national development.

Transformative Initiatives for Viksit Bharat

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 focuses on comprehensive transformation through economic growth, technological advancement, social development, and sustainability. Among these, certain focused initiatives play a crucial role in driving inclusive and sustainable development, as discussed below-

- **Economic & Structural Transformation:** India aims to become a USD 30–40 trillion economy by 2047, with increased per capita income and high-value job creation. Financial reforms such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) are strengthening the banking system by reducing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and improving credit discipline. Increased public investment in infrastructure and support for MSMEs and startups are accelerating industrial growth (Government of India, 2023; NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24, 11].
- **Digital & Technological Advancement:** Initiatives like Digital India and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have revolutionised digital transactions, promoting

transparency, efficiency, and financial inclusion. Programs such as Mission Karmayogi aim to enhance governance through the capacity building of civil servants via platforms like iGOT. Additionally, increased investment in Research and Development (R&D) is driving innovation and technological progress (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].

- **Social Development & Empowerment:** The government emphasises inclusive development through health, education, and infrastructure. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat aim to achieve universal health coverage. Programs such as Har Ghar Jal and AMRUT improve rural and urban infrastructure. Women empowerment initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and financial inclusion schemes promote gender equality, while youth engagement programs strengthen nation-building efforts (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].
- **Agriculture & Sustainability:** This pillar focuses on farmer welfare, sustainable agricultural practices, and increased productivity. The goal is to ensure food security, improve farmers' income, and promote environmentally sustainable development aligned with long-term national growth (NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24].

Framework and Strategies for Sustainability and Inclusiveness in Viksit Bharat

Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to make India a developed nation through a sustainable and inclusive framework focused on transforming the economy into a trillion-dollar powerhouse. Key pillars include inclusive growth (empowering all citizens), environmental sustainability (green energy, climate resilience), technology-driven innovation, and efficient governance (NITI Aayog, 2023; Government of India, 2023) ^[23-24, 11]. Key aspects include-

Inclusive Growth (Empowered Indians): Focuses on ensuring high-quality education and healthcare for all, women empowerment, reducing rural-urban disparities, and uplifting marginalised communities (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].

Environmental Sustainability (Thriving Ecosystem): Emphasises green growth, reducing carbon emissions, adoption of renewable energy (solar, wind, green hydrogen), and promoting the LiFE Mission (Lifestyle for Environment) (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].

Economic Transformation: Prioritises transforming India into a global manufacturing hub (via initiatives like Make in India/ Atmanirbhar Bharat), boosting MSMEs, fostering innovation, and infrastructure development (NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24].

Good Governance: Aims for efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric public administration, strengthened by digital technology and judicial reforms (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].

Key Strategies

- **Short to Long-Term Roadmap (2025–2047):** Initial expansion of innovation ecosystems and education, followed by long-term scaling of advanced technology and R&D (NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24].
- **Institutional Monitoring:** Regular evaluations every 3 to 5 years to ensure progress towards national goals (Government of India, 2023) ^[11].
- **Green Economy:** Transitioning to clean energy and sustainable agriculture to balance development with environmental conservation (NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24].
- The initiative aims for a comprehensive transformation combining prosperity with equity and environmental care (NITI Aayog, 2023) ^[23-24].

Role of IKS and Global knowledge in promoting Sustainability and Inclusiveness

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) include traditional practices, philosophies, and sciences that are inherently sustainable and community-oriented, like-

- **Agricultural Wisdom:** Crop rotation, water harvesting, and organic farming techniques from traditional practices (Singh & Sharma, 2024) ^[34].
- **Philosophical Insights:** Concepts like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, “the world is one family, encourage social inclusiveness.
- **Health and Wellness Practices:** Yoga and Ayurveda promote physical and mental well-being, contributing to holistic development.

Global Knowledge

SDG frameworks, international best practices, and innovations

can complement IKS for scalable, evidence-based sustainability.

- Cross-cultural learning from nations with successful inclusive education policies strengthens the framework (UNESCO, 2023) ^[36].

Interdisciplinary approaches towards balanced development of Viksit Bharat

Interdisciplinary approaches combine knowledge across fields (science, technology, social sciences, and humanities) to solve complex sustainability and inclusivity problems. Examples:

- **STEM + Social Sciences:** STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) technological solutions for water management can be designed with community participation and social equity in mind.
- **Education + Environmental Science:** Curricula integrate ESD concepts while fostering cultural and ethical awareness.
- **Policy + Economics + Health:** Holistic programs that target education, nutrition, and livelihoods ensure balanced human development.

Framework Suggestion:

A multi-layered interdisciplinary framework aligns-

- **Policy:** Coordinated across ministries (Education, Environment, Social Welfare).
- **Practice:** Interdisciplinary learning in schools and universities.
- **Evaluation:** Continuous monitoring of social, economic, and ecological indicators.

Interdisciplinary Approaches Towards Balanced Development of Viksit Bharat

Combining knowledge from Science, Technology, Social Sciences & Humanities to address Sustainability & Inclusiveness

STEM + Social Sciences:



Tech & Community Based Water Management

Education + Environmental Science:



ESD & Cultural Awareness

Policy + Economics + Health:



Holistic Human Development

Interdisciplinary Framework



Coordinated Policy
Across Ministries



Integrated Practice
In Education & Training



Ongoing Evaluation
Social, Economic & Environmental

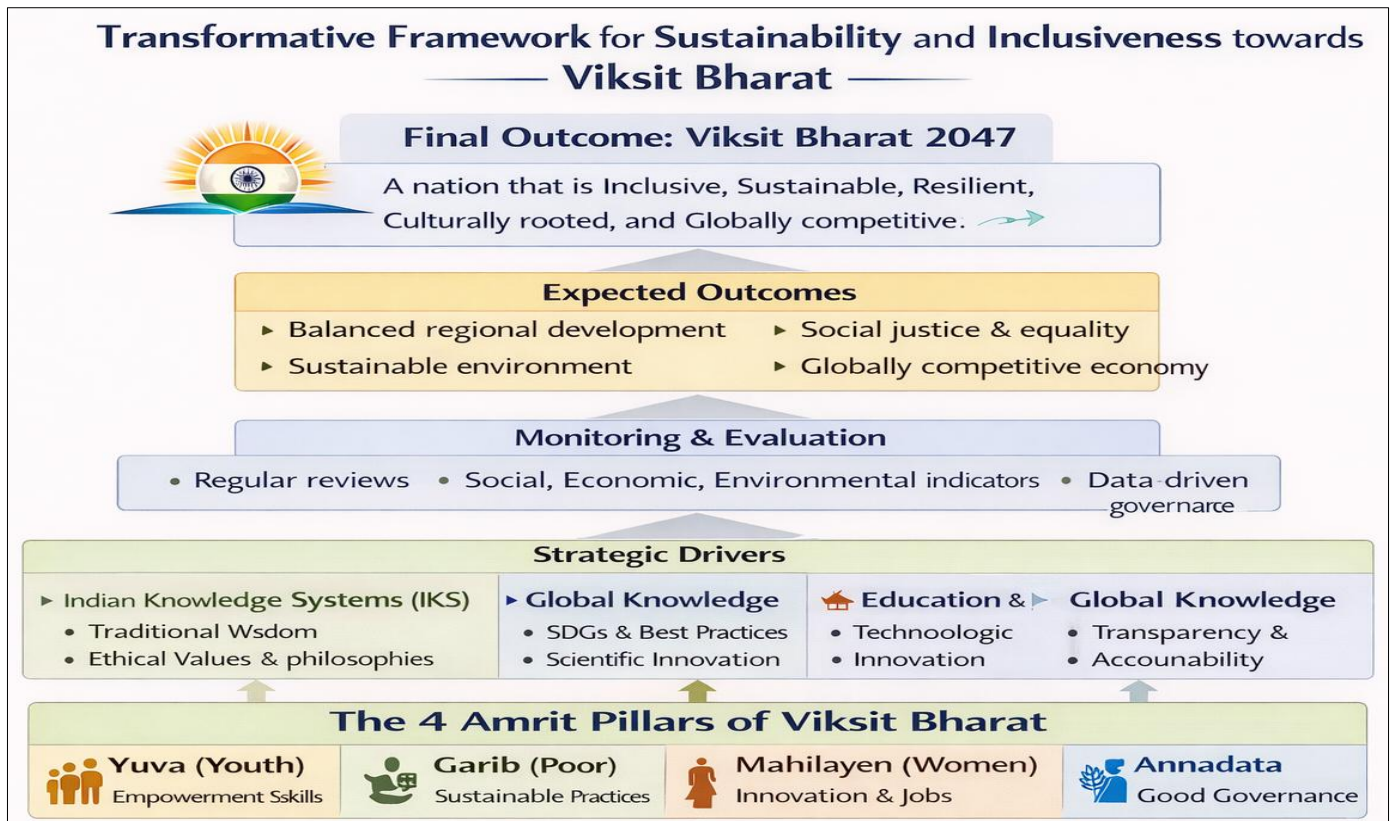
7. FINDINGS

R. Q.-i: Analysed that Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and global knowledge play complementary roles in promoting sustainability and inclusiveness. IKS provides ecological wisdom, ethical values, and community-based practices rooted in cultural traditions (Mishra, 2018; Singh & Sharma, 2024) ^[15, 34], while global knowledge contributes scientific innovation, technology, and frameworks like the SDGs (UNESCO, 2023) ^[36]. The integration of these systems creates a balanced model that is both culturally relevant and globally adaptable. This combined approach is effective in addressing challenges such as climate change, inequality, and sustainable development, making it essential for achieving Viksit Bharat.

R. Q.-ii: Suggests that equitable national development requires a combination of inclusive education, skill development, policy reforms, and community participation. Strengthening education systems in line with NEP 2020 promotes social equity and human development (Government of India, 2020; Tilak, 2015) ^[10, 35], while skill-based training enhances employability

(Verma, 2022) ^[38]. The adoption of green economy practices and effective governance further supports sustainable growth (NITI Aayog, 2023; Dreze, 2018) ^[23-24, 7]. Overall, a coordinated and inclusive strategy is key to achieving sustainable development in Viksit Bharat.

R. Q.-iii: Identified a transformational framework for Viksit Bharat that must adopt a holistic approach that integrates inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, and good governance. It emphasises that development should ensure equity, ecological balance, and improved quality of life rather than focusing only on economic expansion (NITI Aayog, 2023; Government of India, 2023) ^[23-24, 11]. The findings further suggest that coordinated policies, institutional support, and continuous monitoring are essential for effective implementation. In line with the capability approach, true development lies in expanding human opportunities and freedoms (Sen, 1999) ^[31]. Thus, a people-centric and integrated framework is necessary for sustainable and inclusive transformation.



8. DISCUSSION

Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a comprehensive and balanced approach that connects sustainability, inclusiveness, and cultural values. Development should not focus only on economic growth, but also on social justice, environmental protection, and human well-being. A strong foundation can be built by integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) with global knowledge. IKS offers traditional wisdom, ethical

principles, and community-based practices that promote harmony with nature and social responsibility. At the same time, global knowledge contributes to scientific innovation, modern technology, and evidence-based practices.

The combination of these two knowledge systems creates opportunities for inclusive education, skill development, and green economic growth. Interdisciplinary approaches play an important role in solving complex challenges. By connecting

fields like education, technology, environment, and social sciences, more practical and effective solutions can be developed. In addition, strong coordination among government policies, institutions, and stakeholders is necessary for proper implementation. Monitoring and evaluation systems are equally important to track progress. The use of social, economic, and environmental indicators, along with data-driven governance, can ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Overall, a people-centred, knowledge-driven, and sustainable development model is essential for building a resilient, equitable, and future-ready India. Such a framework will help India achieve the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* as a globally competitive nation that is deeply rooted in its cultural heritage while embracing modern progress.

9. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that achieving *Viksit Bharat 2047* requires a holistic framework that integrates sustainability, inclusiveness, and balanced development. It highlights the importance of combining Indian Knowledge Systems with global knowledge to create a culturally relevant and future-ready model. Education, policy reforms, and community participation are key drivers of this transformation. The study also emphasises the need for inclusive education, skill development, effective governance, and interdisciplinary approaches to address inequalities and environmental challenges. Overall, a coordinated and integrated strategy is essential for ensuring sustainable, equitable, and resilient national development.

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