



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107

An Autonomous Institution

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DESIGN

COURSE NAME : 19MC003 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

III YEAR / VI SEMESTER

Unit I- Introduction to traditional knowledge

**Topic : Traditional Knowledge: Definition, Nature, Characteristics,
Scope, and Importance**



1. Definition of Traditional Knowledge (TK)

Traditional Knowledge (TK) refers to the **knowledge, innovations, and practices** developed by indigenous and local communities **over generations** based on experience and interaction with nature. It is deeply **interwoven with culture, traditions, and spirituality** and is often passed down **orally from elders to younger generations**. TK covers various fields, including **medicine, agriculture, engineering, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation**.





Key Features of Traditional Knowledge:

- **Community-based** – Belongs to a group rather than an individual.
- **Holistic in nature** – Encompasses environmental, cultural, and social aspects.
- **Orally transmitted** – Passed through folklore, rituals, and customs rather than written records.
- **Sustainable** – Emphasizes eco-friendly and resource-conserving practices.

Evolves over time – Adapts to environmental and societal changes.



1. Community-Based

Traditional Knowledge is collective in nature and is typically owned by a group or community rather than an individual. It is deeply embedded in the social fabric of the community and reflects the shared experiences, practices, and customs of its people. Unlike modern intellectual property, which often focuses on individual rights, TK is preserved and transmitted within a group. This communal ownership ensures that knowledge remains accessible to future generations and is not exploited for personal gain.





2. Holistic in Nature

Traditional Knowledge does not focus on isolated aspects of life but rather integrates various elements, including environmental, cultural, spiritual, and social dimensions. This holistic approach ensures that knowledge systems are interconnected with nature and human well-being. For example, indigenous agricultural practices consider not only crop yields but also soil health, biodiversity, seasonal changes, and spiritual beliefs associated with farming. Similarly, traditional medicine takes into account physical, emotional, and spiritual health rather than just treating symptoms.



3. Orally Transmitted

Unlike modern scientific knowledge, which is often documented in books, journals, and digital databases, Traditional Knowledge is primarily passed down through oral traditions. Folklore, myths, proverbs, rituals, songs, and storytelling serve as important means of preserving and transferring knowledge from one generation to the next. This oral transmission ensures that knowledge remains alive and adaptable, but it also makes it vulnerable to loss if younger generations do not actively participate in cultural practices.



4. Sustainable and Eco-Friendly

Traditional Knowledge emphasizes harmony with nature and sustainable use of resources. Many indigenous and local communities have developed techniques that promote environmental conservation, resource management, and biodiversity preservation. For example, shifting cultivation, water harvesting techniques, and herbal medicine use are all examples of sustainable traditional practices that minimize ecological harm. Such practices have allowed communities to survive for centuries without depleting natural resources.



5. Evolves Over Time

Traditional Knowledge is dynamic and adapts to changing environmental, social, and cultural conditions. While it is rooted in ancient wisdom, it is not static; communities continuously modify their knowledge to address new challenges and integrate new experiences. For instance, traditional agricultural techniques may incorporate modern scientific insights to improve productivity while maintaining ecological balance. This ability to evolve ensures that TK remains relevant and useful in contemporary society.



Any Query????

Thank you.....