

Nurturing Soft Skills In Young Minds: An Experiential Approach Through Indian Knowledge Systems

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Abstract

In today's fast-changing educational environment, soft skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence have become crucial for students' overall development. While global education systems have increasingly recognized the value of these skills, many approaches remain rooted in Western models, often overlooking the richness of local traditions and contexts.

This paper explores how Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)—a vast and diverse collection of philosophical, literary, ethical, and experiential wisdom—can offer a culturally meaningful way to nurture soft skills in school students. Focusing on four key areas—**Communication Skills, Teamwork & Collaboration, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, and Emotional Intelligence**—the study draws upon timeless Indian concepts such as *vak shuddhi* (purity in speech), *shastrartha* (structured debate), *dharma* (righteous living), and *samatva* (balance or equanimity). These values, when integrated into classroom practices, create opportunities for deeper learning and self-awareness.

By aligning with the spirit of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the approach emphasizes experiential learning, value-based education, and the importance of cultural relevance. Through traditional stories, reflective practices, and participatory learning, the paper offers a practical and holistic model to help young learners develop not only essential skills but also a deeper connection to their heritage.

Keywords: Soft Skills, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Communication, Teamwork, Critical Thinking, Emotional Intelligence, NEP 2020, Experiential Learning, Dharma, Yoga, Nyaya, Value Education, Holistic Development, School Education, Cultural Pedagogy

INTRODUCTION

Education in today's world is not just about textbooks, exams, and academic excellence. It is equally about how students interact with others, express themselves clearly, make thoughtful decisions, and manage their emotions in healthy ways. These qualities—often called **soft skills**—are now seen as essential for success in school, the workplace, and everyday life.

Across the globe, education systems have begun to recognize the value of soft skills. However, many of the methods used to teach them are adapted from Western models. While these frameworks may be effective in some ways, they often don't fully connect with the cultural values or everyday realities of Indian learners. This creates a gap between what students learn in the classroom and how they are expected to behave or respond in real-life situations.

To bridge this gap, India's **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** has emphasized the need to integrate **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** into mainstream education. IKS is a treasure trove of wisdom developed over centuries, covering areas such as philosophy, language, ethics, health, science, governance, and the arts. It presents a way of learning that is interdisciplinary, value-based, and deeply connected to life experiences.

Unlike conventional approaches that focus on information delivery, IKS aims to transform the learner—intellectually, emotionally, and ethically. Its teachings are grounded in values like *dharma* (righteous living), *seva* (service), *samatva* (balance), and *viveka* (discernment). These are not taught through lectures alone, but through stories, practices, and lived experiences that shape character and behavior.

This paper explores how IKS can serve as a powerful foundation for nurturing soft skills in school students. It focuses on four major areas of development:

- **Communication Skills**
- **Teamwork & Collaboration**
- **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving**
- **Emotional Intelligence**

Each of these areas is rooted in traditional Indian thought and practice. Integrating IKS into the classroom not only helps students become more skilled, but also nurtures their development into empathetic, ethical, and culturally aware individuals.

Indian Knowledge Systems: A Holistic Foundation

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) represent a vast and interconnected body of traditional wisdom that has evolved over thousands of years. Far from being limited to religious or spiritual teachings, IKS covers a wide range of disciplines—philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, language, ethics, arts, governance, and more. What makes this knowledge system unique is its emphasis on holistic development, focusing not just on intellectual growth but also on emotional, social, and spiritual well-being.

At its core, IKS views education as a transformational journey. Learning is not just about acquiring facts, but about cultivating awareness, values, and character. Concepts like **dharma** (right conduct), **samatva** (balance), **seva** (selfless service), **svadhyaya** (self-study), and **viveka** (discrimination between right and wrong) guide this journey. These values are not imposed—they are experienced and internalized through stories, daily practices, reflection, and community life.

Here are some key components of IKS that support the development of soft skills:

- **Dharma (Ethical Living):** Dharma shapes how individuals interact with others—building integrity, empathy, responsibility, and fairness. These values are fundamental to communication, teamwork, and leadership.
- **Yoga and Mindfulness:** Practices like **asana** (physical posture), **pranayama** (breath control), and **dhyana** (meditation) are tools for emotional regulation. They help students stay focused, calm under pressure, and in touch with their inner selves—qualities that support emotional intelligence.
- **Nyaya and Tarka Shastra (Indian Logic and Debate):** These systems train students in critical reasoning, respectful dialogue, and structured thought. They encourage curiosity, open-mindedness, and problem-solving abilities.
- **Stories, Rituals, and Cultural Practices:** Traditional narratives such as the Panchatantra, Jataka tales, Mahabharata, and Ramayana illustrate life lessons in an engaging way. Community rituals like festivals or group prayers promote cooperation, shared responsibility, and empathy.
- **The Gurukula Tradition:** In ancient India, students lived with their teacher in a learning community where knowledge was gained through observation, discussion, duties, and moral reflection. This environment nurtured trust, discipline, and mutual respect—key aspects of collaboration and emotional growth.

By integrating these elements into modern classrooms, educators can create learning spaces that are culturally relevant, ethically grounded, and deeply human. IKS doesn't offer a set of formulas—it offers a way of being, thinking, and relating that can deeply enrich the development of soft skills in young learners.

Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into Soft Skills: A Module-wise Approach

1. Communication Skills

In today's world, good communication is more than just speaking fluently—it is about listening with care, expressing thoughts clearly, choosing words wisely, and understanding how our speech affects others. It involves both what we say and how we say it. In Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), communication is treated not just as a skill, but as a reflection of one's inner character and intention.

The tradition of **vak shuddhi**—purity of speech—emphasizes that words should be **truthful (satya)**, **kind (priya)**, and **beneficial (hitam)**. This tri-fold principle offers a deeply ethical foundation for communication. In Indian thought, speech is seen as sacred, even divine. The goddess **Vāk Devi** is worshipped as the embodiment of speech, reminding us that what we say should uplift and unite, not harm or divide.

Communication in IKS is not only about delivering a message—it is about listening deeply, questioning respectfully, and sharing meaningfully. Ancient traditions like **shastrartha** (structured debate), **samvada** (dialogue), and **shravanam** (attentive listening) highlight the importance of interaction that leads to shared understanding.

Key IKS Concepts That Build Communication:

- **Vak Shuddhi:** Encourages students to think before speaking and choose words that are meaningful and respectful.
- **Shravanam:** From the Upanishads, teaches the art of deep listening as the foundation of learning and understanding.
- **Shastrartha:** A respectful and logical method of debate where opposing views are considered without hostility.
- **Samvada:** Dialogues between teacher and student, as seen in the Bhagavad Gita, promote guided discovery.
- **Storytelling Traditions:** From the Panchatantra and Jataka tales help students learn persuasive expression and moral reasoning.

IKS-Inspired Classroom Activities:

Sanskrit Recitation Practice: Helps students improve pronunciation, clarity, and confidence through shloka chanting.

Storytelling with a Message: Students retell stories in their own words, focusing on voice modulation, expression, and moral clarity.

Listening Circles: Students take turns speaking and must first repeat what the previous speaker said. This teaches patience, empathy, and understanding.

Role-Play of Dialogues: Enacting conversations like Krishna and Arjuna from the Gita helps students explore reasoning, clarity, and respectful communication.

Satya–Priya–Hitam Game: Students evaluate sample dialogues or statements and classify them according to these ethical speech values.

Impact on Students:

These activities go beyond grammar or public speaking. Students begin to see communication as a moral responsibility—something that shapes relationships and builds trust. They learn to speak with awareness, listen with respect, and engage in dialogue with empathy. Over time, this leads to more meaningful conversations, stronger peer relationships, and the confidence to express themselves clearly in different situations.

2. Teamwork & Collaboration

In today's interconnected world, the ability to work effectively in a team is a vital soft skill. Whether it is in school projects, future workplaces, or community activities, teamwork involves much more than simply dividing tasks. It requires mutual respect, shared responsibility, emotional support, and a willingness to listen and adjust. These qualities form the heart of collaboration.

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) have long emphasized the value of living in harmony with others and cooperative effort. In traditional Indian culture, an individual is not seen in isolation but as part of a larger social and cosmic network. Working together, harmoniously and with a shared sense of purpose, has always been a key aspect of Indian traditions.

Key IKS Ideas that Promote Teamwork:

Yagna (sacred ritual): In a yagna, each participant has a specific role, and the ritual only succeeds when everyone works together in rhythm and intention. It symbolizes the power of shared goals and cooperation.

Gurukula Tradition: Students lived together, shared duties, and learned through community participation, building a deep sense of peer collaboration.

Festivals and Celebrations: Events like Pongal, Holi, and Onam require collective planning—decoration, cooking, drama, or procession—all teaching joyful teamwork.

Epics like the Mahabharata: Stories of the Pandavas demonstrate how unity, trust, and Group singing ethical behavior help teams overcome great challenges.

Bhakti & Sufi Traditions: (bhajans, qawwalis) and seva (service) create emotional bonds and collective energy.

IKS-Inspired Classroom Activities for Teamwork:

Epic Dilemma Discussions: Students explore group decision-making by discussing scenes from epics, such as the Pandavas' moral challenges or Krishna's counsel.

Historical Role-Plays: Students act out real or imagined scenes of collective action—like building Nalanda University or participating in the Dandi March—emphasizing teamwork and leadership.

Yagna Simulation: Each student in a group takes on a unique role in a symbolic classroom “yagna,” working in sync to complete a task or project.

Festival Project Planning: Students collaborate to organize a cultural event—managing decoration, anchoring, invitations, or feedback collection.

Community Service Projects: Activities like tree planting, school cleanliness drives, or tutoring peers help students experience the spirit of seva and shared effort.

Impact on Students:

These IKS-inspired practices help students move from individual competition to collaborative participation. They learn to appreciate each other's strengths, listen to diverse viewpoints, take joint decisions, and support one another. More than just “getting the work done,” they begin to experience the **joy of working as a team** and the satisfaction of achieving goals together.

3. Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

In a world that is constantly changing and filled with complex challenges, students need more than just memorized knowledge. They need the ability to think independently, ask the right questions, evaluate different options, and make thoughtful decisions. These are the skills of critical thinking and problem solving—skills that empower learners to act with both intelligence and integrity.

Long before modern education emphasized these ideas, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) had already laid strong foundations for them. Ancient Indian thinkers encouraged debate, dialogue, and inquiry—not just to win arguments, but to discover truth, weigh consequences, and develop clarity of thought. The emphasis was on how to think, rather than what to think.

Key IKS Concepts That Support Critical Thinking:

Nyaya and Tarka Shastra (Indian Logic and Debate): These systems formalized logical reasoning, evidence evaluation, and debate techniques, teaching students to spot flaws in arguments and think systematically.

Purva Paksha and Uttara Paksha: A respectful approach to argument where one presents the opposing viewpoint first (purva paksha), then responds with one’s own (uttara paksha). This nurtures open-mindedness and fair judgment.

Chanakya Niti & Arthashastra: These texts teach strategic thinking, decision-making, and ethical governance—skills still relevant in modern problem-solving scenarios.

Folk Tales of Wit and Wisdom: Stories of Akbar-Birbal or Tenali Rama demonstrate creative thinking, humor, and presence of mind in difficult situations.

Moral Dilemmas in Epics: The Mahabharata presents characters facing difficult choices, encouraging learners to think deeply about right and wrong.

IKS-Based Classroom Activities for Critical Thinking:

Debates Using Indian Logic: Students present arguments using simple elements of Nyaya—such as observation (pratyaksha), inference (anumana), and comparison (upamana)—to practice structured reasoning.

Ethical Dilemma Discussions: Students analyze situations from Indian epics (e.g., Rama’s exile, Yudhishtira’s choices) and explore alternative decisions and consequences.

Purva Paksha Role-Plays: Students take up opposing sides on a current school or social issue. One group presents the purva paksha, and the other responds with uttara paksha, focusing on logic and respect.

The Chanakya Challenge: Teams are given real-world school or community issues to solve using Chanakya-inspired planning—evaluating risks, thinking long-term, and acting ethically.

Birbal’s Puzzle Hour: Using traditional stories, students identify the trick or strategy used, and then imagine creative alternatives or write their own endings.

Impact on Students:

These activities help students move beyond rote learning into reflective, ethical, and flexible thinking. They develop the courage to ask questions, the patience to analyze information, and the wisdom to consider different viewpoints. Most importantly, they learn to solve problems with both their minds and their hearts—grounded in values as well as logic.

4. Emotional Intelligence

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to understand, manage, and express our emotions—and to do the same in our interactions with others. It includes self-awareness, empathy, emotional regulation, and social skills. In school life, emotional intelligence plays a quiet but powerful role: it helps students stay calm under pressure, resolve conflicts peacefully, build healthy relationships, and reflect on their choices.

Interestingly, the foundations of emotional intelligence were explored in Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) long before the term existed. Indian philosophy and spiritual traditions have always treated emotions as natural, important, and powerful forces—not as distractions, but as energies that can be understood, balanced, and transformed through reflection and discipline.

Key IKS Concepts Supporting Emotional Intelligence:

Bhagavad Gita – Samatva and Vairagya: The Gita teaches the value of samatva—maintaining balance in both success and failure—and vairagya, or detachment from outcomes. These ideas help students regulate strong emotions and stay centered during challenges.

Panchakosha Framework: This yogic model explains the human being as made up of five layers—body, breath, mind, intellect, and bliss. Recognizing these levels allows students to reflect on where emotions come from and how to manage them holistically.

Yogic Practices – Pranayama and Dhyana: Techniques like alternate-nostril breathing (nadi shuddhi) and silent meditation (dhyana) calm the mind and improve emotional clarity.

Svadyaya (Self-Reflection): Ancient texts encourage self-study—not just of scriptures, but of one’s thoughts, habits, and emotions. This nurtures emotional maturity.

Character Narratives: Characters like Arjuna (facing self-doubt), Sita (showing strength in adversity), and Nachiketa (choosing wisdom over comfort) offer relatable emotional role models for students.

IKS-Inspired Activities for Emotional Intelligence:

Guided Meditations: Short, age-appropriate practices that build self-awareness, calmness, and gratitude.

Emotion Journals: Students keep weekly journals with prompts like “What emotion stood out for me this week?” or “How could I respond differently next time?”

Mythology Role-Plays: Acting out emotionally intense scenes (like Arjuna’s hesitation in battle) helps students explore emotions, values, and choices in a safe space.

Panchakosha Mapping: Students reflect on their daily state across the five layers—body, breath, mind, thoughts, and peace—helping them build self-regulation habits.

Gita Dialogue Circles: Students read a meaningful verse and discuss how it relates to real emotions they face, such as anger, fear, or confusion.

Impact on Students:

Through these culturally rooted activities, students begin to view emotions not as weaknesses but as signposts for growth. They learn how to pause before reacting, understand others with more compassion, and respond with calm and clarity. Over time, emotional intelligence becomes a part of their daily lives—helping them navigate peer relationships, school stress, and family expectations with grace and resilience.

Pedagogical Strategies for IKS-Based Soft Skills Development

To bring the rich insights of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into classrooms in a meaningful way, educators need approaches that are hands-on, reflective, culturally relevant, and student-centered. Teaching soft skills is not just about giving lectures or assigning projects—it is about creating experiences that engage the heart, mind, and spirit of the learner.

Traditional Indian education, especially through systems like the **gurukula**, naturally combined knowledge with values and experience. Students learned not just through books, but by observing, practicing, reflecting, and participating in community life. This same spirit can be adapted today through thoughtful, well-integrated classroom strategies.

Experiential Learning and Storytelling

IKS thrives on stories—not just for entertainment, but as powerful teaching tools. Epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, fables like the Panchatantra, and local folk tales all present life lessons through engaging narratives.

Storytelling with reflection: After listening to a story, students discuss key themes, relate them to their own lives, and explore alternative choices the characters could have made.

Satsang-style circles: These are relaxed, respectful group discussions where students are encouraged to share insights and listen to one another with openness.

Yoga, Meditation, and Mindfulness

Simple yogic practices help students build focus, self-awareness, and emotional stability.

Daily 5-minute breathing exercises: Techniques like **nadi shuddhi** or **bhramari** help calm the mind and ease transitions between activities.

Silent reflection time: A short pause after an intense lesson or group activity allows students to settle, absorb, and connect with their inner state.

Reflection-Based Learning

IKS places great value on **svadhyaya**—self-inquiry. When students take time to think about their actions and emotions, learning becomes deeper and more personal.

Think-Feel-Act worksheets: These help students map out their thoughts, emotional reactions, and responses to situations they faced during the week.

IKS-inspired prompts: Questions like “What would Krishna advise in this situation?” or “What did I learn from this experience?” open the door for meaningful reflection.

Collaborative and Dialogic Learning

Traditional learning methods like **shastrartha** (structured debate) and **samvada** (dialogue) encourage students to listen, reason, and respond respectfully.

Group challenges and peer projects: Working in small teams fosters cooperation, shared learning, and appreciation of different viewpoints.

Value-based debates: Students explore philosophical or moral questions drawn from Indian texts, such as “Is non-attachment practical in today’s world?”

Arts and Crafts as Tools for Inner Growth

IKS sees creativity as a form of expression and a way to build inner calm and focus.

Drama and role-play: Students enact episodes from Indian stories, helping them understand emotions, motives, and ethical choices.

Kolam or mandala art: These traditional forms of drawing foster mindfulness, patience, and aesthetic awareness.

Alternative Assessments

Soft skills don’t show up well in tests. Instead, they grow over time and can be seen in how students behave, think, and relate to others.

Self and peer reviews: Students reflect on their own growth and give feedback to classmates in a structured, respectful way.

Portfolios: A collection of reflections, creative work, group project reports, and self-assessments can provide a fuller picture of progress.

These strategies help create classrooms where learning is not just about finishing a syllabus, but about becoming more self-aware, thoughtful, and emotionally intelligent. IKS-inspired pedagogy brings back the joy of learning while grounding students in values that help them grow as capable and compassionate individuals.

Key Outcomes and Impact

When students engage with soft skills through Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), the transformation goes beyond academic performance. The impact is felt in how they see themselves, how they relate to others, and how they respond to life’s challenges. The methods used, grounded in reflection, storytelling, yoga, and group interaction, help bring learning to life in ways that are personal, emotional, and lasting.

Greater Self-Awareness and Emotional Balance

Activities like guided journaling, storytelling reflections, and mindfulness sessions helped students pause and look inward. Many began to notice their emotional triggers and learned techniques to calm themselves and respond more thoughtfully.

- Students reported feeling more in control of their emotions during stressful situations.

- Teachers observed improvements in classroom behavior and conflict resolution.

Stronger Communication Skills

Through storytelling, role-plays, and discussion circles, students gained confidence in expressing their thoughts. They also began to understand that communication is not just about speaking well—but about listening, responding kindly, and choosing words with care.

- Students who were previously shy started participating more in class and school events.
- Listening skills improved, especially during group discussions and collaborative activities.

Improved Teamwork and Peer Relationships

Group activities rooted in Indian traditions like yagna simulations and festival planning helped students appreciate the joy and value of working together. They learned how to support one another, take on roles, and solve problems as a team.

- Students began showing leadership qualities and taking initiative in group settings.
- Teachers noticed a shift from competition to cooperation among students.

Growth in Thinking and Decision-Making Skills

Debates, dilemma discussions, and critical thinking games encouraged students to explore situations from multiple angles. They practiced reasoning, questioning, and making decisions based on logic and values.

- Students asked deeper questions and reflected more before jumping to conclusions.
- Ethical understanding improved, with many referring to dharma, empathy, and fairness in their responses.

Positive Changes in Behavior and Attitude

The emphasis on seva (service), reflection, and character-building stories had a noticeable effect on how students behaved—both inside and outside the classroom.

- Incidents of disruptive behavior declined during the implementation period.
- Parents reported that their children were becoming more thoughtful and responsible at home.

Overall Impact

This IKS-based approach helped students grow not just as learners, but as human beings. They became more centered, confident, and connected to their cultural roots. The model proved that soft skills don't need to be imported from outside systems, they can be nurtured through India's own wisdom traditions, in ways that feel relevant and meaningful to students.

By combining skill-building with self-awareness, and tradition with innovation, this initiative created a holistic learning environment—one that supports both academic success and emotional maturity.

Challenges and Recommendations

While the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into soft skills education has shown great promise, it is important to acknowledge the real-world challenges that come with putting this approach into practice. Understanding these hurdles, and finding creative ways to overcome them, is essential for making this model sustainable and scalable.

Challenges Encountered

a) Limited Time in the School Schedule

- Most school timetables are packed with academic content, leaving little room for reflective or experiential learning.
- Teachers often feel pressure to “complete the syllabus,” which can push soft skills activities to the background.

b) Lack of Awareness Among Educators

- Many teachers are unfamiliar with the depth and diversity of IKS, or see it as outdated or irrelevant for modern classrooms.
- This perception limits their willingness to try new, culturally rooted methods.

c) Shortage of Resources and Training

- There are very few structured teacher training programs or ready-made lesson plans that blend IKS with soft skills.
- Teachers often feel unsupported when trying to design or implement such modules on their own.

d) Resistance from Stakeholders

- Some parents and school leaders may be hesitant to adopt non-traditional methods, especially when outcomes aren't instantly measurable.
- Students themselves may find reflection, silence, or value-based storytelling unfamiliar at first.

e) Difficulty in Assessment

- Soft skills like empathy, cooperation, or emotional regulation are harder to assess using traditional exams or tests.
- Teachers may struggle to evaluate growth without clear tools or criteria.

Recommendations for Effective Implementation

a) Seamless Curriculum Integration

- Instead of treating soft skills as “extra,” they should be woven into language, social studies, and daily school routines.
- Short, flexible modules or weekly themes can make integration easier and less time-consuming.

b) Teacher Training and Mentorship

- Organize workshops that expose teachers to IKS sources, storytelling methods, and reflective practices.
- Create networks where teachers can share ideas, co-develop resources, and learn from each other's experiences.

c) Develop Student-Friendly Resources

- Design culturally rooted toolkits, activity books, story collections, and visual aids aligned with each soft skill.
- Include regional content—local stories, practices, and festivals—to make the learning more relatable.

d) Involve Parents and Communities

- Hold orientation sessions to explain how soft skills and IKS benefit students' overall development.
- Invite local elders, artisans, yoga instructors, or storytellers to engage with students—connecting learning with lived tradition.

e) Use Alternative Assessments

- Focus on self-assessments, peer feedback, learning portfolios, and teacher observations.
- Encourage students to reflect regularly on their progress, behavior, and values—not just academic output.

Bringing IKS into soft skills education is not a quick fix—it is a **mindset shift**. It asks us to rethink what learning means, what success looks like, and how values can be nurtured alongside knowledge. With the right support, openness, and creativity, schools can overcome these initial barriers and create learning spaces that are both modern and deeply rooted in India's timeless wisdom.

CONCLUSION

In an increasingly dynamic and demanding world, where students face academic pressure, emotional challenges, and constant distractions, education must go beyond textbooks and test scores. It should support the holistic growth of young people, helping them become thoughtful, resilient, and compassionate individuals. This is where soft skills become essential—and where Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) can offer deep and enduring value.

This paper has shown how IKS can serve as a rich, culturally rooted framework for nurturing essential soft skills such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. The approach is not about adding more to the curriculum, it is about infusing learning with meaning, reflection, and connection. The experiential modules inspired by IKS—whether through stories, dialogue, meditation, service, or debate—help students build real-world abilities while also shaping their character. These practices allow students to connect with ideas like **dharma (duty)**, **seva (service)**, **ahimsa (non-violence)**, **samatva (balance)**, and **satya (truthfulness)**—not just as ideals, but as tools for everyday life.

The outcomes were not limited to classroom performance. Students became more aware of themselves and others, improved their relationships, took initiative in teams, and developed a sense of ethical responsibility. They began to view learning as a journey of self-growth, not just achievement.

Certainly, challenges remain — such as time limitations, lack of resources, and the need for mindset shifts among educators and stakeholders. But with thoughtful planning, supportive training, and culturally sensitive resources, these hurdles can be overcome.

Ultimately, this approach reinforces a simple yet profound idea: one doesn't need to depend entirely on external models to teach values and essential soft skills. India's own traditions provide time-tested methods for nurturing learners who are not only competent, but also compassionate, mindful, and deeply rooted in their identity.

By reconnecting education with India's rich heritage, one can take a meaningful step toward shaping a future where learning is not merely about acquiring knowledge, but about cultivating character and becoming one's best self.

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