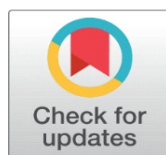
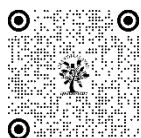


ROLE OF BHARATIYA GYAN TRADITION IN MODERN CONCEPT OF ARTHASHASTRA

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ABSTRACT

The Indian knowledge tradition has always emphasized the interconnectedness of social, political, and economic systems, viewing them as a unified whole and developing them in a progressive manner. A key component of this tradition is Arthashastra, a significant text written by Chanakya (Kautilya), which provides an in-depth analysis of economic and political policies in ancient India. This ancient text, although written centuries ago, continues to be relevant in modern times, particularly in discussions related to social and economic development. In this research paper, the concepts of Bharatiya Arthashastra are analyzed in the context of modern economics, highlighting its relevance in contemporary economic thought. The paper demonstrates how the ancient ideas of Arthashastra have seamlessly integrated key modern concepts like social justice, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. By connecting these traditional teachings with current economic practices, this research emphasizes that the principles outlined by Kautilya were not only pragmatic but also forward-thinking. They addressed the need for a balance between economic prosperity, social welfare, and political stability, principles that continue to guide policy-making today. The paper ultimately underscores the enduring value of Bharatiya Arthashastra in shaping modern economic strategies for development. Bharatiya Gyan Parampara ne He understood social, political and economic systems together and developed them in a progressive manner. Arthashastra, a treatise written primarily by Chanakya (Kautilya), analysed the economic and political policies of his time. Even today the book is seen as a pillar of social and economic development. In this research paper, the economics of the Indian knowledge tradition has been understood by linking it with the concepts of modern economics, and its role has been analyzed. This paper shows how Indian economics has contributed to social justice, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. As I have included today's concepts in my thoughts.

Keywords: Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, Arthashastra, Chanakya, Modern Economics, Inclusive Growth, Sustainable Development, Social Justice, Economic Philosophy

1. INTRODUCTION

Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, through its social, political, and economic thoughts, not only explained the systems of India, but also the It has also influenced the world systems. This tradition has been developing its thoughts in a progressive manner from ancient times till today, in which social and political principles, economic policies, and correct values for human society have been considered. In the Indian knowledge tradition, along with society and politics, economics is also considered a fundamental part of caste and social trade. A major knowledge science which is a part of this tradition is Arthashastra, a book written by Kautilya (Chanakya). Kautilya's Arthashastra is an important book in which a comprehensive and progressive perspective for understanding politics, economic policies and social system was given. Chanakya proposed not only economic ideas in Arthashastra but also political policies, business policies, and a model of a successful and prosperous state. He believed that politics and economic system have a deep relationship with each other. According to him, a The affected state not only manages social prosperity through its economic policies but also manages the security and welfare of its people through political perspectives. In this process, he also included ideas of social justice, business policy, tax policies, and social reform, which are considered important ideas even today.

Today, when we look at Arthashastra, then it appears to us that there is a lot of similarity between the thought process of this ancient book and the social and economic thoughts of today. The philosophy of Kautilya's economics was progressive in every aspect. How he used the economic and political policies of his time for social and business reforms, we see this even today. Just as in today's modern economics there are concepts of sustainable development, social justice, and inclusive growth, Kautilya had also emphasized on these things during her time.

This research paper will try to explain how the Indian economics and knowledge tradition has incorporated contemporary economic concepts such as sustainable development, social justice and inclusive growth in their thinking. We still see Kautilya's ideas in our economic policies which influence not only India but the entire global system. The aim of this paper is to show how the Indian knowledge tradition can contribute to understanding contemporary economic and social thinking, especially through the medium of economics. The Bharatiya knowledge tradition has developed our social, political, and economic thoughts, which have been a source of inspiration not just for India but for the whole world. The economic and political thoughts of Arthashastra, which were proposed by Kautilya (Chanakya), even today match with the concepts of modern economics and economics. Arthashastra is seen as a foundation for social and economic prosperity, which tries to understand politics and economics together. This research paper focuses on how the Indian Economics and Knowledge Tradition has incorporated the contemporary economic concepts such as sustainable development, social justice, and inclusive growth into its ideas.

2. INDIAN KNOWLEDGE TRADITION AND ARTHASHASTRA

Kautilya first wrote Bharatiya Artha shastra in his major book Arthashastra, in which he reviewed politics, economics, and social systems. He looked at economic policies from social and political perspectives. Kautilya believed that for a strong state and society, economic reforms and system improvement are necessary. The Indian Knowledge Tradition, which is widespread and ancient, has given a vision to understand the social, political and economic systems together and to develop them in a progressive manner. In this tradition, Arthashastra, written by Kautilya (Chanakya), is understood as a principle. Kautilya's Arthashastra was a practical book in which he analyzed the economic and political policies of his time. Kautilya believed that a strong state and society is possible only when economic reforms and systems are improved.

Sastry, R. Shama (1956) said that, Kautilya looked at Arthashastra from social and political perspectives, which mentioned the ideas of business policy, tax policies, and public administration. According to Kautilya, a state must improve its economic and political systems so that it can manage the welfare of its citizens. In Kautilya's economics, there was a deep relationship between politics and economy, in which he understood that the purpose of the state is not only to protect its people, but also to improve their social and economic well-being. He believed that a good politics depends on the right use of economic system, in which the state has its own economic development as well as social justice. This thinking of Kautilya is still seen in the policies of social and economic reform, where politics and economic system are considered together.

3. MODERN ECONOMICS AND INDIAN ARTHASHASTRA

In today's time, a lot of similarity is seen in the concepts of economics and modern economics. What Kautilya had thought about business policy, tax policies, and economic development are similar to what we see even today, like inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. The Danda Niti (penal policy) and Sadarana Niti (public policy) that he had thought about in Arthashastra are similar to today's concepts of economic policy making and governance.

Sen, Amartya (1999) observed that, Today, there is a lot of similarity between the concepts of economics and modern economics. The ideas that Kautilya had thought about business policy, tax policies, and economic development, their influence is still visible in our economic and political ideas. The principles that he had given in his book, such as reform of business policy, correct method of tax collection, and combination of social and economic development, are all relevant even today.

Concepts in today's modern economics such as inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development are also in line with Kautilya's ideas. Gupta, Partha Das (2007) studied that, the "Danda Niti" (penal policy) and "Sadarana Niti" (public policy) that Kautilya had thought of in his Arthashastra are similar to the concepts of today's economic policy making and governance. He talked about combining the improvement of social systems and political policies, which is seen even today in global governance. He had thought in his time that the state will have to improve its economic policies in such a way that it can bring happiness and prosperity to every section of the society. This thinking is seen

even today in modern economic development and policies. 3. Social Justice and Sustainable Development in the Indian knowledge tradition, emphasis has always been given on social justice and natural balance. The responsibility of the king in Kautilya's Arthashastra is seen today as sustainable development and social justice. Kautilya believed that a king should take care of the social and economic development of his subjects along with their security. He emphasized in Arthashastra that a strong state should make social justice and sustainability for its citizens a fundamental part of its political policies. In today's time, there is a demand for social justice and sustainable development all over the world. The principles given in Arthashastra included the idea of proper use of natural resources and a systematic approach for social development. According to Kautilya, the state should balance its economic development with natural and social considerations. Even today, we are adopting the same approach for social and economic development. Kautilya's idea for social justice and sustainable development is seen as an important guideline. 4. Inclusive Growth and Indian Arthashastra Sastry, R. Shama (1956) said that, Kautilya's Arthashastra sees social and economic development together. He believed that a society will be considered prosperous only when all classes, whether poor or rich, get the benefits of development. Even today, there is a strong demand for inclusive growth, which includes poverty alleviation, providing education and health facilities to all classes, and making economic facilities accessible to all. According to Kautilya's thoughts, a state should include social prosperity in its economic policies. In today's modern economics, the concept of inclusive growth emphasizes on improving the condition of the poor and empowering all sections of the society. This concept is in line with the old thinking of Indian Arthashastra. The ideas given in Kautilya's Arthashastra, such as providing social and economic improvement to all and involving all in the development process, are seen today as inclusive growth. Kautilya had designed his policies and ethics in such a way that he could make every individual a part of economic development, and even today we are using the same principles for our economic development.

4. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Indian knowledge tradition, deeply rooted in ancient texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and the teachings of philosophers such as Kautilya, has always placed great emphasis on social justice and harmony with nature. In Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, the king's role is not only to govern but also to ensure the welfare of all subjects, ensuring justice, fairness, and balance within the society. This can be seen as an early conceptualization of sustainable development, where economic progress is coupled with social equity and environmental preservation. The idea of sustainable development, which seeks to balance economic growth with social justice and environmental sustainability, closely mirrors these ancient values. In modern times, this perspective has evolved into policies aimed at achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), such as poverty eradication, gender equality, and the protection of natural resources. Just like Kautilya's emphasis on equitable distribution and the welfare of all citizens, today's sustainable development agenda focuses on reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth while maintaining ecological balance. The interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental factors that Kautilya highlighted continues to inform current policies aimed at achieving long-term societal well-being. Today, social justice and sustainable development remain key pillars in the formulation of policies that aspire to create an equitable society while preserving the environment for future generations.

The Indian knowledge tradition has always emphasized on social justice and natural balance. The responsibility of the king in Kautilya's Arthashastra is seen today as sustainable development and social justice. Even today, we are adopting the same perspectives for social and economic development.

5. INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND INDIAN ARTHASHASTRA

Kautilya's *Arthashastra* underscores the importance of social and economic development that benefits all sections of society, including the marginalized. He believed that the king's duty was not only to foster economic prosperity but to ensure that this prosperity reached all classes, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth were equitably distributed. This concept of inclusive growth, where no one is left behind, is a core tenet of Kautilya's economic thought and remains relevant today.

Sen, Amartya (1999) observed that, in contemporary India, inclusive growth has become a key policy goal, particularly in addressing issues of poverty, unemployment, and the unequal distribution of wealth. It focuses on improving the living standards of the poorest sections of society and ensuring that everyone has access to economic opportunities, health services, education, and basic needs. Kautilya's views on the importance of inclusive reforms are mirrored in today's efforts to empower marginalized communities, provide economic facilities to rural and urban poor, and ensure that economic growth does not exacerbate inequalities. His ideas on equitable resource allocation and social welfare can be

seen reflected in modern strategies like affirmative action, rural development programs, and social security systems. Thus, Kautilya's economic insights continue to influence the direction of modern Indian economic policy focused on poverty alleviation and fostering inclusive growth.

Kautilya saw social and economic development together, in which all classes should get reforms. Today, there is a strong demand for inclusive growth, which talks about poverty alleviation and providing economic facilities to all people. This concept is in line with the old thinking of Indian economics.

6. CONCLUSION

Indian knowledge tradition, especially economics, has maintained its influence even today. It helps in understanding concepts like social and economic justice, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. Kautilya's perspective on economics is still seen as an important reference. The influence of Indian economics is clearly visible in the ideas of modern economics, which are widespread and progressive. This paper shows how the Indian knowledge tradition and economics have incorporated modern economic concepts into their ideas. The Indian knowledge tradition, particularly its economic thought, has had a profound influence on contemporary economic theories and policies. Gupta, Partha Das (2007) studied that, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* offers timeless insights into social justice, sustainable development, and inclusive growth, which continue to inform and shape modern economic approaches. The integration of these ancient ideas into current global economic frameworks underscores their enduring relevance. Kautilya's vision of a just, equitable, and sustainable society aligns closely with today's objectives of poverty reduction, social equality, and environmental sustainability. Indian economics, through its rich tradition, continues to offer valuable perspectives for addressing contemporary challenges, proving that ancient wisdom can provide valuable solutions in the modern world.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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