

AKHIL KUMAR SINGH, Ph.D.

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PROFILE

Philosopher of mind and education working at the intersection of phenomenology, 4E cognitive science, education and public policy. Assistant Professor at the School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, with a PhD in Liberal Arts (Philosophy) from IIT Jodhpur. My doctoral thesis, *Education for the Embodied Human*, argues that the body is the site of knowing and that education must be rebuilt on that recognition; it was published as a monograph by Brill in 2025. The argument is phenomenological rather than empirical. I begin from the lived body as the condition of any knowing at all, and treat findings in cognitive science as corroboration rather than as premises. My published work appears in *Policy Futures in Education*, *Journal of Human Values*, *Contemporary Education Dialogue*, *Journal of Philosophical Theological Research*, and *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION, RESEARCH AND TEACHING

- **Areas of Specialization:** Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Education; Education Policy.
- **Areas of Research:** Embodied and phenomenological foundations of learning (4E cognition); agency and creativity in learning; early childhood care and education; Indian philosophical sources for education; philosophical critique of Indian education policy.
- **Areas of Teaching Competence:** Foundations of Education; Indian and Western Philosophy; Philosophy of Mind and Cognition; Phenomenology; Indian Knowledge Systems; Child Development and Educational Psychology; Research Methodology; Ethics; Critical Thinking; Academic Writing; Policy writing.
- **Research Stance:** Qualitative, phenomenological, and applied.
- **Pedagogical Stance:** Dialogic inquiry; reflective praxis; experiential and workshop-based learning; grounded in Socratic, Freirean, and Indian gurukula traditions.

EDUCATION

Degree	Subject	Institution	Year	Result
Ph.D.	Liberal Arts (Philosophy)	School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur	2023	9.5/10 CGPA
M.A.	Applied Psychology	M.G.C.G. Vishwavidyalaya, Satna (M.P.)	2016	80.80%
M.A.	Philosophy	M.G.C.G. Vishwavidyalaya, Satna (M.P.)	2014	75.37%
B.C.A.	Computer Applications	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi	2012	72.89 CPI

Doctoral Thesis: *Education for the Embodied Human: An Enquiry into Human Nature and Education*. Supervisor: Prof. V. Hari Narayanan. Published by Brill, 2025.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Assistant Professor** (August 2024 to present): Department of Public Policy, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru.
- **Research Associate** (April 2023 to July 2024): Centre for Human Sciences, Rishihood University, Sonipat, Haryana.
- **Research Consultant** (2023 to 2024): ICSSR-sanctioned collaborative research project, Empowering Rural Communities: The Crucial Role of Community Resource Persons in Advancing Objectives of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana in Poverty-Stricken Backward Districts of Uttar Pradesh (Project ID 150/CRP-2023-2328/DDAY/SCD)

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

1. **Singh, A. K.** (2025). *Education for the Embodied Human: A Contemporary Understanding of Human Nature for Holistic Education* (Vol. 14). Brill. ISBN 978-90-04-72436-5. [Scopus indexed]

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Singh, A. K.** (2025). From policy to practice: Challenges and pathway for advancing multilingual education through India's National Education Policy 2020. *Policy Futures in Education*, 23(4), 746–765. SAGE. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14782103251320532> [Q2 | Sole author]
2. **Singh, A. K.**, & Narayanan, V. H. (2023). Can there be a paradigm shift in the Indian Education System? An analysis of socio-economic challenges in implementing National Education Policy 2020. *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*, 31(2). <https://doi.org/10.47836/pjssh.31.2.14> [Q2 | First author]
3. Narayanan, V. H., & **Singh, A. K.** (2022). The Value of Epistemic Justice. *Journal of Human Values*, 28(3). SAGE. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09716858221096819> [Q1]
4. **Singh, A. K.** (2024). Understanding the Self from the Embodied Cognition Paradigm. *Journal of Philosophical Theological Research*, 26(1), 121–140. <https://doi.org/10.22091/jptr.2024.9899.2947> [Q3 | Sole author]
5. **Singh, A. K.**, & Narayanan, V. H. (2021). Embodied Education: A Pathway Towards More Integrated Learning. *Contemporary Education Dialogue*, 18(2), 202–225. SAGE. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09731849211012290> [Q4 | First author]
6. **Singh, A. K.** (2025). Multilingual Education and NEP 2020: Challenges and Opportunities. *Jindal Journal of Public Policy*, 8(II), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.54945/jjpp.v8ii.277> [Peer reviewed | Sole author]
7. **Singh, A. K.** (2019). Pulverizing the Monopoly of Mind: Three Roles of the Body in Cognition. *Tattva — Journal of Philosophy*, 11(1), 19–29. <https://doi.org/10.12726/tjp.21.2> [UGC-CARE | Sole author]

Book Chapters

1. **Singh, A. K.** (2026). Embodied Learning and NEP 2020: A Theoretical and Practical Framework for ECCE in India. In S. S. Ghosh (Ed.), *Transforming Education with India's National Education Policy 2020: Strategies, Innovations, and Future Prospects*. Palgrave Macmillan (Springer Nature), Cham. ISBN 9783032213389. [Peer reviewed | Scopus indexed | Sole author]
2. **Singh, A. K.** (2026). Tongue Twisters to Brain Boosters: Understanding Psycho-Social-Cognitive Benefits of Multilingual Education as per India's National Education Policy. In B. Mishra (Ed.), *Revamping Indian Tradition and Culture Through NEP 2020: Multilingual, Multicultural, and Multidisciplinary Modes of Education*. Adhyayan Publishers. ISBN 9789365066074. [Sole author]
3. **Singh, A. K.** (2026). Ensuring Cultural Sustainability and Rural Development through the Concept of Chiti in Integral Humanism. In S. Mishra et al. (Eds.), *Advancing Integral Humanism in the 21st Century*. DPS Publishing House. [Sole author]
4. **Singh, A. K.**, et al. (2026). Roots and Routes: Convergences Between Alternative School Pedagogies and Indian Knowledge Systems with Respect to ECCE. In Malviya et al. (Eds.), *Indian Knowledge Systems: Heritage, Tradition and Cultural Continuity*. DPS Publication. [First author]
5. Tripathi, V., & **Singh, A. K.** (2026). The Body Remembers: Embodied Cognition and the Case for India's Indigenous Pedagogy. In Malviya et al. (Eds.), *Indian Knowledge Systems: Heritage, Tradition and Cultural Continuity*. DPS Publication. [Second author]
6. **Singh, A. K.** (2024). Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into Formal Education: Challenges, Strategies, and Future Prospects. In N. Priya, A. Bhatnagar, & M. Kaur (Eds.), *Indian Knowledge System: Reimagining Contemporary Indian Education* (pp. 1–10). Monica Bhandari Books. ISBN 9788119459032. [Sole author]

Manuscripts Under Review

1. Singh, A. K. Reclaiming Creativity through Embodied Learning: A Theoretical Bridge from Enaction to Agency. *Constructivist Foundations*. (Under review)
2. Singh, A. K. Beyond Income: The Role of Education in Shaping Happiness Across Varied Professions. *Indian Journal of Human Development*. (Under review)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND HONOURS

- **Intra-Mural Seed Grant**, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (2025–26). Designing a Comprehensive Indian ECCE Training Framework for Anganwadi Workers. ₹1,50,000. Principal Investigator.
- **Seminar Grant**, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Rashtriya Ekta Seminar Scheme (2025). ₹2,60,000.
- **Seminar Grant**, Indian Council of Philosophical Research (2026). ₹40,000.
- **Student Scholarship**, Contemplative Research Conference, Mind & Life Institute, USA (2020).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate courses taught (Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

- Education for Social Change; Universal Human Values; Reflective and Creative Practice for Social Change; Research Methodology; Policy Engagement and Communication; Policy Analysis and Process; Society and Public Policy; Writing Policy Briefs.

Undergraduate courses taught

- Elements of Society and Ethics; Introduction to Public Policy.

Teaching assistantships, IIT Jodhpur (doctoral period)

- Consciousness; Fundamentals of Logic; Critical Thinking; Role of Technology in Development; Introduction to Economics; Basics of Leadership; Principles of Management.

Doctoral supervision

- **Shweta Ananda Kumar.** Improvement of Student SEL Skills through an Embodied Learning Approach. 2026 onwards.
- **Syed Rauf Miyan.** Bridging the Rural Educational Divide and Fostering Sustainable Community Growth by Enhancing Foundational Learning, Digital Literacy, and Inclusive Educational Access in North Karnataka. 2026 onwards.

Dissertation supervision (MA)

- Preetham Nayaka. Challenges in ECCE Policy. 2025–26.
- Riya Parange. Role of ICT in Future Job Readiness. 2024–25.

Teaching outcomes

- Student feedback rating of 95 per cent for the academic year 2025–26.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International

- Reclaiming Creativity through Embodied Learning: A Theoretical Bridge from Enaction to Agency. Second International Conference on Embodied Education (EMBED 2026), Aarhus University, Copenhagen, **Denmark, June 2026.**
- Bordering Survival: Gender, Care, and Unequal Futures in Contemporary Asia. Panel Organiser and Discussant, B/ordering the Global, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, **South Korea, July 2026.**
- Hands and Minds Together: Using Scaffolding and Offloading in Learning. International Conference on Embodied Cognitive Science (ECogS 2025), OIST, Okinawa, **Japan, November 2025.**
- Integrating Mind, Body, and Environment: Towards an Embodied Approach in Education. 25th World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, **Italy, August 2024.**
- Pulverizing the Monopoly of Mind: Three Roles of the Body in Cognition. 24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing, **China, August 2018.**

National

- Caregiving Without Kin: ECCE Policy Assumptions and the Demographic Transition in Southern India. Indian Association for the Study of Population and Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, June 2026.
- Reawakening the Whole: Education for Being Human in the Third Millennium. The Global Forum 2025, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, 2025.
- Decolonizing Indian Education by Integrating Embodied and Indigenous Practices for NEP 2020 Implementation. NIEPA, New Delhi, 2024.
- Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into Formal Education. 14th National Conference on Bridging the Divide, Guru Ramdass College of Education, Delhi, 2024.
- From Dualism to Unity: Unveiling the Embodied Education Approach for a Nature-Oriented Future. International Centre of Goa, 2024.
- Recognising and Developing Chiti: A Pathway to Cultural Revivalism via Integral Humanism. 60th All India Political Science Conference, Maharashtra, 2023.
- Possibility of Embodied Self. 3rd World Congress on Logic and Religion, India, 2022.

INVITED TALKS AND TEACHER TRAINING

- Creating a Holistic Environment. Teacher Centre, Auroville, May 2025.
- Observation as a Tool to Assess Children. Teacher Centre, Auroville, April 2025.
- Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Teacher Centre, Auroville, March 2025.
- Sardar Patel's Cooperative Vision: From Community Development to National Development. Rashtriya Ekta Seminar, VIT Vellore, August 2025.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Institutional (Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

- Five-Day FDP on Craft: Competencies, Reflection, Assessment, Facilitation and Teaching, Bengaluru, June 2026.
- FDP on Teaching Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Bengaluru, July 2026.
- Two-Day FDP on Advancing Teaching Excellence, Bengaluru, December 2025.
- Four-Day Workshop on Life Skills, Bengaluru, July 2025.

External

- **FDP on the Integrated Teacher Education Programme and Bharatiya Models of Education**, IUCTE, Banaras Hindu University, in partnership with the National Council for Teacher Education, Jaipur, September 2026. (Selected; forthcoming)
- Ten-Day FDP on NEP Orientation and Sensitisation Programme, NIEPA, New Delhi, January 2025.
- Six-Day FDP on Integration of Generative AI, Interactive e-Content and Advanced Technologies in Online Courses, NIEPA, New Delhi, May 2025.
- Three-Month Online Course on Thinking About Education, Digantar, Jaipur, September to December 2021.
- Summer School on Pre-Colonial Systems of Education in India, Azim Premji University, June 2019.
- One-Week Workshop on Teaching Indian Psychology, Indian Psychology Institute, Pondicherry, June 2018.

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

- **Coordinator, MA Philosophy Programme Development and Outreach** (2025 to present). Responsible for curriculum design, regulatory documentation and approvals for the launch of a new postgraduate programme in Philosophy.
- **Member, Board of Studies**, Department of Public Policy, School of Social Sciences (2026 to present).
- **Departmental Dissertation Coordinator**, MA Public Policy, batch 2024–26.
- **Departmental Internship Coordinator**, MA Public Policy (2025–26).
- **Editor**, Social Sciences Futures, School of Social Sciences (2025 to present).
- **Member, Social Sciences Research Committee (SSRC)** (2024–25, 2026 to present).
- **Member, Anti-Ragging Committee**.
- **Question Paper Moderator**, School of Social Sciences (2024–25).

External

- **Member, Executive Council**, Global Forum for Re-humanising Education (2025 to present).
- **Peer Reviewer** for international and national journals in education, policy and cognitive science.
- **Founder**, Shiksha Swaraj Foundation (2023).

REFERENCES

Prof. V. Hari Narayanan
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Sciences, IIT Bombay
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