

RECENT TRENDS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES: A CRITICAL STUDY

Abstract

In this world, research and research articles are of utmost importance. The main purpose of composing research articles is to contribute the researcher's new and different research output to a larger body of knowledge. A feature or characteristic of research articles is that they draw a readership towards them and keep them reading in a single series. Its main aim is to increase rationality and criticality in the readers and, ultimately, to develop maturity in them. The whole world is running on the basis of human intelligence. Society is the foundation of man, which has helped him meet his needs and necessities. The social sciences are the classical studies related to man's dealings with society, his life, manners, relationships, affairs, etc. Society is constantly undergoing change due to the impact of liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG). Also, elements of acculturation, scientization, and technologization are fundamental to social change. This research article provides a critical study of social sciences in the Indian context and provides a comprehensive understanding of recent trends in social sciences.

Keywords: Social sciences, Social studies, Current trends, Perspectives and issues in social sciences

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I. INTRODUCTION

The social sciences are concerned with the nature of societies and the relationships, activities, and affairs of individuals in them. The social sciences are a series of sciences that study society. It undertakes a scientific and systematic study of the various aspects and activities of human beings living in society. Sociology is the mother of all social sciences. August Comte pioneered the systematic study of sociology as a branch of social science. Earlier, the term was mostly used to refer to the field of study in sociology. The social sciences are the disciplines, interdisciplinary by nature, that study society. From traditional societies to modern societies, man has passed through various stages. Advances in technology have brought about significant and inevitable changes in all spheres of society. The social sciences are disciplines of systematic study of society and are multidisciplinary in nature. The social sciences include sociology, anthropology, history, economics, psychology, political science, education, geography, criminology, philosophy, management, and linguistics. Apart from the above-mentioned sciences in society, new emerging sciences are being added to the list. Specifically, social work, social policy and development studies, public administration, correctional administration, demography, international studies, archaeology, law, media, and journalism, urban studies, gender and culture studies, and public health policy and studies.

The social sciences help to systematically explain the limitless activities of human beings within social boundaries. These are complete clusters of knowledge. These give a conditioned explanation of various social factors. The relationship of man and social society to his social, economic, political, and natural activities and affairs are scientific studies. It helps us to have detailed knowledge of ourselves and the society around us. The social sciences provide an empirical synthesis of the various socioeconomic, political, and geo-humanistic problems that may arise in human society, which are close to the ideas of the people. People have been able to find a better quality of life and take society towards progress. Social relations are the foundation of a good society. Understanding the kind of attitudes individuals hold towards their social relations is a crucial factor. Knowledge of the social sciences is important for every individual or citizen. Because the progress of society here is necessary along with their development, knowledge of good social sciences will be able to influence other individuals in society. How are people living in society? Where are they going? What are their requirements? And why do people need to change society? And what factors influence it? The social sciences try to know about these.

This chapter consists of a total of fourteen parts. The first part provides a proposal. The second part provides objectives. The third part deals with the importance of the social sciences. Parts 4 and 5 inform the latest trends in current education and social sciences, respectively. The sixth part deals with the study of social problems. The seventh part deals with social research, and the eighth part deals with the declining research culture in the social sciences. Part nine deals with the promotional measures for social research in India. The tenth part deals with the role of the social scientist. Part eleven deals with the professions of education and social sciences. Part twelve finally provides recommendations for this chapter. Part thirteen contains the conclusion, and Part fourteen contains references.

II. OBJECTIVES

The present study aims to highlight the status of social sciences in India. I think one of my ambitions is to express and critique my impressions as an individual, researcher, and writer. An attempt has been made to extant these in the context of a social science perspective and to complete this chapter more insightful and scholarly.

III. WHY SOCIAL SCIENCES ARE IMPORTANT?

It is important for a human being to develop maturity in the society in which he lives and in social, economic, and political issues. The social sciences assume importance in enhancing worldly knowledge for students, children, and the general public and inculcating cultural understandings for them. The social sciences and the exchange of relationships and cultures from the individual to the family to the international level help students analyze the cause, impact, and solutions of global disturbances. This social sciences curriculum covers sociology, psychology, economics, anthropology, and ethics at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Most educators expect social studies to play a major role in the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to free men [Chinchu K. G., 2017; *Global Trends in Social Science Education*]. The social sciences help to solve some of the obstacles of the people living in society, to achieve educational progress, to devise ways of helping the people of society, to make governments and institutions change and improve their way of working, and to change the way of life and thinking of the people.

IV. GLOBAL TRENDS IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Today, the world is becoming more and more competitive. The impact of globalization, industrialization, urbanization, privatization, and culturalization is all affecting our education system. The social sciences are no exception. As discussed above, students are reluctant to learn the social sciences in the 21st century, and their interest is waning. Education is being privatized today; it is only in the hands of rich people. Educational institutions and universities are factories that produce graduates. Medical and engineering seats in professional educational institutions are being sold for money. The impact of corporatization is on education. Education is no longer a commodity of knowledge. Today, degree, MPhil, and PhD certificates are being sold for money. Students are not coming to college for knowledge acquisition, but they are lagging behind in marks.

V. RECENT TRENDS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The social sciences are the scientific study of human society. Human relations with society are of great importance, and the relationship between them is the root of any society. Apart from social science research, very little research and scholarly articles shed light on the social sciences, and very few scholarly articles can be found in the field of social sciences. The 1830s were a milestone for modern education in India. The Britishers started modern education in India during this period, including the English language. Earlier, the concept of social science was only associated with sociology. But now, it also indicates a wide range of topics that have recently been covered. In the last few years, there have been a lot of changes in the social sciences and academic disciplines, both internally and externally. Emerging trends in the social sciences are invaluable resources for students, researchers, and curious

readers [Robert A. Scott, Marlis Buchmann, Stephen Kosslyn, 2022]. As a layman, as a student of social science, as a social scientist, and as a scientist, the extent and results of their observations are different. As far as the observation of the social sciences is concerned, appreciations and criticisms are acceptable. Are the social sciences really sciences? Or are they pseudo-sciences? Can they really be sciences? What are the most used and currently useful sciences? What is the change in approaches to studying social problems, and what are the recent interesting developments in the social sciences analyzing phenomena that affect human intelligence in relation to the social sciences? Beardsley Ruml refers to the following recent trends in the social sciences: 1. Changed preparation for the study of social problems at the higher educational levels. 2. An improved public understanding and sympathy for fundamental social research. 3. Re-enforcement of the trend toward unification of the social sciences. The social sciences are separate disciplines of study that give priority to the development of policies, values, culture, ethics and knowledge. These sciences have their own methods of study, approaches, theories, and appropriate insights. These make their own contribution to knowledge and are bundles of knowledge.

The social sciences are the cornerstone of all education and science. However, educationists and social scientists are of the opinion that the social sciences have been completely neglected in this modern era. Day by day, social sciences and humanities have taken a back seat, and physical sciences have started occupying the top slot in the hierarchy of departments in universities. In the last few decades, the scenario has further deteriorated due to students' demand for professional courses in physical sciences, technology, and management [Dr. Kuber Singh Gurupanch, 2023]. The counterargument is that not much emphasis is being placed on the social sciences in educational institutions and universities in developing and developed countries. This is because a lot of universities and educational institutions today are providing support for job-oriented and technology-based education. The enrolment rate of meritorious students is also increasing substantially for these courses. The gap between the sciences and the social sciences is widening. This has led to educational inequality. Once upon a time, the social sciences were very important in all the universities in India, and the bodies of the social sciences have contributed a considerable number of social scientists to society. Although there is a wide scope in the social sciences for quality research, researchers and students are not conducting quality research or offering the rewards of quality research. IITs, IIMs, central universities, deemed universities, and universities of national recognition and importance are giving importance only to courses that are in demand in job markets. Some universities do not have adequate student enrollment, even though they have departments of the social sciences. There is a dearth of learned and qualified professors. Thus, quality education and research are not possible. The social sciences are neglected on the one hand and face poor quality.

VI. CHANGING TRENDS IN THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Beardsley Ruml refers to the following recent trends in the social sciences: Changed preparation for the study of social problems at the higher educational levels. Social tensions are inevitable in modern societies. As a result, society is losing control. The need for new professions has been encouraged for the protection of modern society. In a social system within the existing framework, the approaches to studying social problems have been revised and modified. As a result of the stale deterioration of social action processes and social relations, new societies are today seen as reflections of problems. These are forms of social

peculiarities. Interdisciplinary studies are gaining importance in the context of social differentiation. The expected development of existing theories needs to be revised, and new theories based on experimental strength need to be formulated.

Several theories and approaches in sociology have allowed for sociological thinking about social problems. Although there are many theories for studying social problems in a sociological context, their methods of study have changed as a result of innovative problems.

VII. SOCIAL RESEARCH

Social research involves the description of various social issues in a broad sense. Various social phenomena are discussed in social science research. Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, women's empowerment, inequality, etc.—all these major issues define the economic structure of the country. And help the government in formulating policies to cure chronic economic issues. [Balwinder Kaur, Dr. Sangeeta Nagaich, 2019]. Social scientists and researchers have always been interested in learning deeply about human behaviors and various social phenomena. They use the social research method to meet their goals. To understand people's thinking and actions and solve various social problems, they use social research methods. After the inauguration of western education and modern social science research, many prominent Indian economic writers were influenced and used social science research as a 'problem-solving tool' rather than an analytical tool'. India was the most popular topic of research among Asian and Western scholars due to its rich culture and traditions. Modern social sciences developed in the 19th century, after British rule in India [Balwinder Kaur, Dr. Sangeeta Nagaich]. Shailendra Deolankar (2019). India has a long tradition of social science research. In India, research in the field of social sciences is rapidly growing, and research and training institutes are coming up with financial support from government ministries, NGOs, and the private sector [Shailendra Deolankar 2017]. Further, he opined that the social science research institutes in India are as follows: 1. The Center for Social Sciences and Humanities, New Delhi; 2. Tata Institute of Social Sciences 3. The Institute of Social Sciences 4. Local Governance, Rural and Urban Decentralization.

VIII. LOSS OF RESEARCH CULTURE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

According to the University Grants Commission, the total number of universities in the country as of January 25, 2023, is 1074, and under 12 [B] 398. But only a few of the university centers are engaged in fruitful research activities. In fact, qualitative research processes in the social sciences would lead society to development, and positive solutions can be found for societal problems through true research. Although there are vast opportunities for quality research in the social and humanities sciences, for the last few decades, the quality and quantity of research outputs have declined due to various reasons in the social sciences. Social scientists, professors, and related professionals are not getting into research. The lack of quality research in the social and humanities sciences is glaring. The reasons for this can be numerous, and we are pulling them back. They are neglect, lack of interest, lack of funds, lack of support, work pressures, and lack of proper education and training. Dr. B. Ramesh explains the following reasons: hierarchy among disciplines, funding for social research, lack of autonomy, lack of innovation, and lack of continuity of thought.

IX. PROMOTION FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

ICSSR is providing financial assistance to eligible Indian social scientists in order to support research in the social sciences. ICSR promotes state-of-the-art and quality research. The various multi-disciplinary social sciences are mentioned as follows [ICSSR, <https://icssr.org>].

1. Economics/Development Studies
2. Management
3. Commerce
4. Sociology
5. Social Work
6. Social Anthropology
7. Cultural Studies
8. Sanskrit Studies
9. Socio-philosophical Studies
10. Socio-linguistics
11. Gender Studies
12. Health Studies
13. Political Science
14. International Studies
15. Public Administration
16. Diaspora
17. National Security and Strategic Studies
18. Education
19. Social Psychology
20. Legal Studies
21. Social Geography
22. Environmental Studies
23. Social History
24. Media Studies
25. Library Science
26. Language Studies

Several organizations are working in India to provide information organization, documentation, research evaluation, research training and financial assistance in the field of social sciences.

1. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University
3. Centre for Developmental Studies, JNU
4. ICSSR
5. National Social Science Documentation Centre
6. Centre for Social Research
7. Centre for Policy Research
8. Institute of Economic Growth
9. Indian Council for Philosophical Research
10. Indian Agricultural Research Institute
11. United Nations International Organization

12. International Monetary Fund
13. World Bank
14. Inflightnet
15. Institute for Social and Economic Change

X. ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENTIST

The expertise of the social sciences has enabled social scientists to understand social, political, educational, and economic crises and suggest more reformative solutions accordingly. Social scientists study human society scientifically. They are engaged in continuous social research using their art, skills, and techniques. Through their research results, they try to establish the best social relations and social lives for human beings. They make their own contributions to society by staying in close contact with the public and undertaking continuous research on various social issues. They take special care of socio-economic issues and play their own roles in policymaking. He always works in support of the government and policymakers to bring about social changes, and his research data are good recommendations in this direction. The demand for social scientists remains on the rise on the part of policymakers, the media, and the public, as they possess the knowledge and skills required to identify, analyze, and translate structural changes in society and the seeds of future change. [Caillods & Jeanpierre, 2010]; [Surender Mor, 2019].

XI. EDUCATION AND CAREER

Apart from other professional courses such as engineering, law and medicine, the social sciences are the best options for students who are seeking substantial salaries and social status. Here, you can get a higher status along with a substantial salary. Students of social science and social work today face significantly more challenges in their education and work contexts (compared to other programs). It contributes greatly to their personal growth. Apart from options such as journalism, mass communication, and law, students today look forward to careers such as public health, disaster management, wildlife conservation, habitat conservation, and policymaking [Founder, Mindler, New Dehi, Deccan Herald, July 28, 2016].

XII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHAPTER

Finally, in this research chapter, the authors give their suggestions for the promotion of the social sciences. And here, the suggestions of social scientists, social researchers, and students of social science have been accepted and provided.

1. According to the opinion of social scientists, social science researchers, and academicians, for the growth and development of social sciences, departments and study centers of social sciences should be established and well functioning in every university in India.
2. New social sciences, including the traditional sciences, are being studied by adding them to this list of social sciences, thereby expanding its scope to include the concept of the social sciences.
3. Research centers should be established for the study of new social sciences, including the current social sciences.

4. Recruitment for social scientists and full-time research faculties for the promotion of research activities.
5. Professors, research enthusiasts, and students in universities and educational institutions should be properly educated and trained to carry out research.
6. A separate additional funding facility for this research assistance from the government should be made available from departments like ICSSR, UGC, etc.
7. If the social sciences are to gain importance, the curriculum of the social sciences should be compulsorily adopted at all levels, from the primary level to the level of primary education, and appropriate faculty should be provided as per the relevant requirements.
8. The curriculum of social sciences at primary, secondary, college education, graduate, and post-graduate levels should be revised from time to time, and appropriate social subjects should be included.
9. Suitable job opportunities for graduate students of social sciences should be available in all social sectors and departments. Social scientists, social researchers, and students of social sciences should get due respect and recognition, along with due remuneration.
10. Social scientists should be recruited in every school, college, and higher education institution, and social scientists should be given as much importance as teachers. Social scientists should be included in the curriculum revision committee at every university level, and their opinions and recommendations should be taken into consideration.
11. To make the student community and the general public aware of the knowledge and benefits of studying the social sciences and to think about community education in this regard.
12. Promotion for writing the book, publishing reports, research chapters, and articles, especially in the field of social sciences.
13. Conducting seminars, workshops, conferences, and symposiums
14. Promotion for research consultancy

XIII. CONCLUSION

The basic purpose of research in the social sciences is to make an unbroken contribution to the creation of knowledge. The social sciences assume importance for the creation of structures to bring about social, economic, cultural, political, and structural changes to establish designs. To make human society better in the future, to successfully combat change, to avoid crises in human society, to create global peace, to disseminate knowledge about social phenomena, to diffuse culture, and to inculcate real perspectives in people, the social sciences are projected in the future to achieve social and natural regularity. Universities and educational institutions around the world are committed to providing world-class education. In this regard, institutional policies are trying to regulate the adoption of narratives and laws. As far as the social sciences are concerned, significant developments and research have to take place in all these universities and educational institutions.

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