**EMERGING RESEARCH TRENDS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE**

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**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: AN INTRODUCTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

Social science is the study of people or groups of people, such as organizations, businesses, societies, or economies, and both their individual and group behaviour. The traditional division of the social sciences includes fields like psychology, which studies human behaviour, sociology, which studies social groups, economics, which studies firms, markets, and economics, political science, which examines political systems and analyses political activities, thoughts, and behaviour, and history, which studies past events, particularly those involving people. The goal of scientific study is to identify rules and posit ideas that will further our understanding of natural and social processes. Scientific methods, which refer to a collection of procedures for constructing knowledge in terms of the validity and dependability of observations and the generalization of that information, are the foundation of science. The scientific method makes it possible to independently and unbiasedly test theories and discoveries and then to present those results for open discussion, revisions, or improvements. Since the start of the twenty-first century, social sciences are taught in the majority of universities. Along with the massive global production of books and papers in numerous languages, the number of social science researchers, professors, and policy makers has significantly expanded. As a result, a sizable number of social scientists work in national administrations as specialists and advisors to their governments on how to grow their economies. They also work as professors and researchers. In addition, they may now connect with civil society and one another more quickly thanks to improvements in information technology (Caillods & Jeanpierre, 2010). By assuming that social behavior has known and quantifiable causes, social science research aims to explain social behavior. As a result of gaps in knowledge, some academics now attempt to connect social science research to predictable fixed mechanisms like Newtonian mechanics. Additionally, some scholars favor the comparison between social behavior and biology, which is how social conduct changes over time in response to learning and adaptation, while others favor historical institutionalism. To put it another way, the choice in social sciences now is between structural and agency-based explanations, and the problem is similar to an ancient one in many aspects (Porta & Keating, 2008). A greater potential society that is more vital to the interconnection of humankind in terms of economic, cultural, and resource availability requires the social sciences. The social sciences made the world more understandable in this setting. At the same time, this situation presents a wide range of opportunities for development and conceptual innovation in both the social sciences and the humanities as well as for large-scale empirical testing.

**PART I: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: METHODOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

Part I of the book deals with articles devoted to methodological issues in Social Science Research for promoting quality social research. The use of statistical testing based on null hypothesis will diminish in social science research and termed as “paradigm shift,” and the social sciences will become more like the natural sciences. The agents of change or innovation in economic and social spheres of the economy are required for the well-being (Ashta & Mor, 2017).

Interviews are a smart method of gathering data, according to Dr. V. Rengarajan's research, but they also go farther in establishing a positive connection with the respondents. Its robustness in the data collection process would undoubtedly promote social science academic research and evidence-based policy decisions in an adequate manner. In a way, it serves as the base upon which the other components of the data collection process might be built.Contrary to the premise, the paper's goals are to discuss the methodological problems that have arisen during the household-level data collection process and to highlight the difficulties that must be overcome when interviewing people in various cultural contexts.

The lack of "vibrancy" in the nation's social science research community is noted in the work by Arti Sharma. There are many new emerging fields in research today due to the multidisciplinary nature of the humanities and social sciences. The paper discusses how research ethics relate to it, then goes on to discuss the difficulties and limitations of social science research before offering a proposal for its rebirth. The scope and diversity of social science research in the nation have grown, but the output quality and its contribution to a better understanding of socioeconomic processes and the formulation of public policy are generally regarded as having fallen short of expectations and being out of proportion to the resources invested in them.

According to Savita Bhagat, research opens up new vistas of learning for teachers and allows them to gain insights into newer and fresher fields of study. This study attempts to shed some light on the topic of making research mandatory for college professors in higher education via UGC Regulations 2010, by adopting Academic Performance Indicators (API) for their appointment and promotions, which are mostly dependent on research output by teachers. The element of compulsion has resulted in all manner of sloppy and incorrect methods, which has given academics a terrible name. Imposing research on hesitant and resource-limited professors in the absence of a research eco-system will not only be futile, but will also ethically corrupt academia.

**PART II: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE**

This section contains articles about "Social Science Research: Community Perspective" and emphasizes the significance of education in providing a better life for the general public. Microfinance sector is unable to realize its full potential for the overall well-being of the poor due to high technical inefficiency (Singh, Goyal, & Sharma, 2013), as well as its failure to promote equity as millions of poor are denied access to microfinance due to high transaction costs of operations and the resulting escalation of interest rates (Singh, 2017a).

Pooja Jangara's work attempts to investigate the genuine socioeconomic situation of a village's people of various income classes. According to the findings of this study, only a small percentage of villages benefit from a better living with all amenities, while the majority of people live in insecure conditions. People with lower incomes worked as day labourers in agricultural fields, cotton mills, brick kilns, and other locations. Most of them still do not have access to basic amenities such as power, safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation, internet connectivity, and so on, although others with higher incomes do. According to the findings of this survey, just 4% of people leave the hamlet, leaving the rest at home.

ShikhaYadav outlines how a holistic strategy that recognizes socio-logical components such as public inclusion, social perception, attitudes, gender roles, and public acceptability would lead to changes in wastewater management practice. Using the case study of Delhi, India, it also focuses on the social component as a tool, a sustainable method through which wastewater management and reuse can take on new dimensions.

This study seeks to shift the focus from viewing wastewater as a nuisance that must be disposed of to seeing it as a resource that may contribute to food security, public and environmental health, access to green energy, and water sustainability in the megacity of Delhi. It will also help to advance society's general development by enhancing consumption, output, income, environmental security, health, and total family welfare. Finally, it is determined that there is a need for change in the behaviours of various take holders, organizations, and the adaptation of existing regulations in order to bring about the needed changes in the entire institutional set up.

Babita Lohan perceives a cultural affinity between India and Thailand, which are located in each other's extended neighborhood and share distinct civilizational links dating back millennia. India and the South-East Asian region have a long history together. An Overview of Social Science Research The spread of Hindu religious rituals has been facilitated via trade linkages, traders, priests, and mariners. It can be difficult to distinguish between Hindu and Thai rituals at times. In these areas, the process of Indenisation might be viewed as one of religious dispersion and spiritual seeding.

Geetu Gupta discusses disaster management challenges, gaps in management efforts, and strategies to address these gaps in India. The article investigated the recent disaster in Kerala that occurred on August 15, 2018, as well as its impact and ramifications for the Indian economy. The article also examines the facts concerning catastrophe finance management, which allows the economy to strengthen its resilience while simultaneously protecting it. Ultimately, it leads to the creation of a fragile country.

**PART III: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

Part III contains articles on "Social Science Research: Gender Perspective," which emphasizes that gender plays an important role in entrepreneurship, key modes of production, and promoting societal well-being despite gender discrimination. This section demonstrated that tiny activities in various regions of the world are transforming education, and one gets the idea that teaching as usual may no longer be the norm (Mor & Ashta, 2018).

Gender is crucial in both economic development and entrepreneurial activity (Singh, Archer, & Madan, 2018). Since time immemorial, women have been paid less or their services have been considered unpaid. Despite continuous gender discrimination at all levels, women have been instrumental in enhancing the well-being of society, nation, and civilization (R. E. Thomas, 2013). Despite having the greatest network of individuals, the microfinance sector fails to develop gender equity (Singh, 2017b).

Anisha Satsangi, Ritika, and Mayank Goel's study article highlights the topic of women's hygiene products, which are becoming a severe environmental issue due to non-biodegradable raw materials. Most sanitary pads are made with raw materials that have high carbon footprints and pollute the environment, such as wood pulp and polyethylene. Some businesses employ alternative absorbent fibers with reduced carbon footprints, such as bamboo, jute, and banana fiber. The paper's findings are based on a secondary comparison research of enterprises who manufacture eco-friendly sanitary napkins vs. those that use non-biodegradable raw materials.

According to primary research, 61% of the female population is aware of the negative impact of synthetic sanitary napkins on the environment. There is a dearth of awareness and availability of organic sanitary napkins; just 32% of women are aware of them, and only 28% of women find them easy to obtain. Furthermore, sanitary napkins are disposed in an unsanitary manner; 99 per cent of women throw sanitary pads in the open by wrapping them and placing them in household rubbish.

The paper by Shalini Arya and Bindu Arora discusses the importance of microfinance in the lives of the underprivileged. Governments and banks must educate people about microfinance schemes and provide training to encourage entrepreneurship. This will assist to eliminate poverty in the country and will be more beneficial to the country's economic progress. According to Shailja Beniwal's study on crime against women, women are becoming more self-sufficient, with less limitations, a more liberal sense of clothing, an increase in alcohol usage, and a culture of night out partying. As a result, women appear to be more prone to crimes such as rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, and abduction. As a result, a study has been done to analyze the influence of these changes in social norms on crime against women in Chandigarh, one of the prosperous and well-planned cities. The incidents recorded from 2010 to 2017 were thoroughly investigated, and the study found that migrating people were responsible for the majority of sexual offenses such as rape and kidnapping. Native inhabitants also registered the matrimonial cases. It has been found that changes in social standards are increasing crime against women.

Saroj G.C. addresses a wide range of human behavior in her work on nonverbal communication, including gestures, whispers, tone, pitch, and volume of sound, body experiences, and distance dynamics. Even when our voice and words are under control, our body language including the smallest facial expressions and gestures, can reveal our true thoughts and sentiments at the time. Nonverbal communication's quiet signals indicate underlying reasons and feelings such as fear, honesty, delight, indecision, irritation, and much more.

**PART IV: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: AGRICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

The book's final section includes papers on "Social Science Research: Agricultural Perspective," which examines the role of research in boosting agribusiness activities. Agribusinesses have benefited significantly from agricultural research (Mor & Sharma, 2012), as has the farming community's education level (Singh, 2007).

The research should concentrate on boosting the agrarian sector's revenue as a result of climate change (Singh, 2017c), as well as treaty ratification (Singh, 2006). Raj Kumar and Nirmal Kumar evaluated sugarcane production costs and returns per acre. A sample of 30 sugarcane growers was randomly selected from several villages in the Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu's Paramathi Velur block. Various statistical and economic approaches were used to estimate the cost and returns of sugarcane production based on the type of the data. Sugarcane's average first-year establishment cost per hectare has been calculated to be Rs. 35316. In the first year, the total cost ranged from Rs.16414 per hectare to Rs.66880 per hectare in the seventh year. The average yield per hectare from sugarcane fields has been calculated to be Rs. 84338. Despite the large initial investment required to create a sugarcane field, it is a financially successful enterprise.

Manesh Choubey investigates the export of important spices and the factors that influence it. Secondary data was gathered from COMTRADE, the Spice Board of India, and the Agricultural Situation in India, among other sources. The post-WTO (1995-2015) environment was studied in terms of growth and export. The first order Markov Chain Approach was used to investigate the export trend of spices.

The research of the rise of Indian spices exports during the period found that they increased much faster than overall agricultural exports and achieved some stability in the period following Economic Reforms. Domestic pricing, currency rate, and world export prices, as well as lagged domestic output, all have a substantial impact on spice export performance.

Ankur Jain examines the performance of India's agricultural exports and imports, as well as the country's agricultural trade policy. According to the findings of his study, farm commerce in India has improved recently, but it has not completely realized its potential for agricultural exports. There is a lot of potential for improving agricultural exports and thus farmer income. Agriculture trade policy is biased because it protects consumers at the expense of producers and is uncertain for farmers.

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