



SOCIAL SCIENCE FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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What are the social sciences? The simplest answer is that they are all the academic disciplines, which deal with men in their social context. To, these disciplines we give such names as economics, politics, sociology, social psychology, social anthropology or social history. Each of them has its own history, its distinctive interest and materials, and often its own techniques of research. But we cannot draw hard-and fast lines to demarcation between them.

The social sciences overlap each other, they also overlap other fields of knowledge- the natural and human sciences, on the one hand, and the arts on the other hand. The natural sciences deal with material world. with the structure and properties of matter. The human sciences, such as biology, physiology, anatomy, neurology and psychology, are concerned with the individual as a living organism. with the structure and properties of the human body. The social sciences, however, study the structure and properties of human groups, the way in which individuals interact with one another and with their environment. The arts finally focus their attention on man's knowledge and culture, on his creative reaction on his fellows and the world in which they live.

Social science subjects are taught at the higher secondary school level, where the foundations are laid and attitudes and concerns first stimulated, followed by teaching at the undergraduate level, imparted in colleges all over the country, and by teaching and research at the postgraduate level. University system was introduced in the middle of the 19th Century. "There were few universities in the country before independence, initially all disciplines under social sciences were not taught, moreover all the universities did not offer all social science disciplines which were introduced in the country. Progress in the area of social science education has taken two forms. First, diversification has occurred significantly. New subjects of education in the social science areas have been steadily introduced; fields of specialization have also diversified. The other form of progress has been the increase in the depth of specialization in each subject area.

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Social science gets validated on the ground, such validation wins and sustains its credentials. When change has been constant and evolutionary, the role of science was confined of observation and explanation in terms of philosophical postulations. But with the advent of directed social change, being accelerated rapidly by the processes of democratization, social science has been assigned the challenge of managing change. Science is alive to the challenge, but has not as yet developed the technology for managing change. Facing the challenge in terms of socio-legal engineering. Social science has to either 'prove itself or perish'.

- In the era of globalization and citizenship of the planet-earth, social science has to deal with the cross-cultural realities on the ground, help manage social change across-cultural boundaries, and yet sustain the multi-cultural character of human society. Social science has to restructure itself from the disciplinary mode to a trans-disciplinary main-stream of development.

-The mission of social science continues to be situation specific. Promoting clarity in the vision is a prime role for social science so as to be able to clearly articulate its own mission and help the nation in managing that vision.

- The technology of social science has to be based on a fusion of three tools constituting an activity chain, viz; research, training and organizational institutional development. Research is the base, it has to lead to training imparting skills to the managers and help in the development of organizations. Training, Research and Organizational Development have to be fused together as the tools of social science.

- Social science has to demolish the high-rise walls of isolationism, the various streams cannot afford, any more, to operate in watertight compartment. They have to fuse together and establish convergence, far beyond inter-disciplinary. Social science research and development has to break free from these frozen structures.

- Social science has to evolve to as to be able to take on the challenge of policy analysis, monitoring, course-correction, and formation. Entry into the realm of public policy also enables social science to develop to itself.

Social science has to establish collaborative relationships with the Non-Government Development Organizations to mutual advantage.

Social science has to evolve in order to deal with issues and processes of polarization, globalization, liberalization on the one hand, and the reciprocal impact of the political, economic, social and cultural processes of human development



based on the scale of a global view. Social science in India has global agenda facing it. It is an opportunity and a challenge to establish itself. Social Science presents the opportunity, which social scientists have to take on a challenge and develop a professional ethos and ethic. Social scientists in India now have before them a vast field of urgent and vital work for which they are fully equipped, In partnership with scientists and technologists, they can confidently take their full share in changing the face of India. They can draw a fair share of the expanding talent among the young and assure them social and economic satisfaction.

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