



Review Paper

Development of Social Sciences and its Trajectory of Convolutions: An Assessment

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Abstract

Social sciences are intensely entrenched in our society and institutions. They investigate the behaviour of human beings in all its respects. It is due to the contributions made by the social sciences to the society that it's been feasible for the governments of the day to comprehend the behaviour of man and his demands. The myriad methods devised by the social scientists have provided immense assistance to the countries to address the plethora of predicaments facing humanity. This paper focuses on the impact the social sciences have cast on the development of man and his society. It highlights the various reports associated with social sciences and throws light on the challenges confronting social sciences that comprise of procedural, theoretical and infrastructural. The innumerable challenges it is grappled with required to be addressed instantaneously. An impetus for the development of social sciences is the need of the hour as this kind of an enhanced contribution would undeniably assist the government in formulating better policies and comprehend peoples' predicaments and address them on time.

Keywords: Social sciences, contribution, challenges, humanity, government.

Introduction

Social sciences since time immemorial have made an immense contribution to the development of the society at large. It has played a larger role in deciphering the diverse aspects related to human beings and comprehended numerous problems persisting in the society. The social scientists right from the ancient times till date have deliberated on innumerable aspects like power, marriage, tribal development, globalization, media, human rights etc., and have formulated myriad models pertaining to government, population, revolution, public policy which have been adopted by different countries and have proved to be useful to them and this has enhanced and widened the understanding of the arena of social sciences. The understanding and applicability of these concepts have civilised mankind and have granted them what they are entitled to in the capacity of citizens. The study of changing human behaviour in the rapidly changing environment has been made feasible through the social sciences and its trajectory into the behaviour of human beings have brought to the limelight many hitherto unknown facts about the mankind and besides it has furthered the socio-economic development and political stability of a country¹.

The social sciences deal with the study of man's activities in all its attributes. The study of man's comportment in all its forms is not simple as could be imagined or assumed to be. In fact, it is much tougher, complex and complicated task a social scientist performs than a scientist. The social scientists furnish us with

heaps and heaps of information pertaining to man's life in the form of philosophies, thoughts, strategies of logical exploration and traditional designs. It is due to these and many other contributions made by the social scientists that the government of the day work and the people adopt a certain kind of government. Loads of appreciation to the social scientists that have profoundly analysed the behaviour of man and made it simpler for the authorities to comprehend the nature of man that is imperative in meeting his needs and delivering the services².

They assist the government in formulating suitable strategies essential to achieve prosperity and economic growth of the many strategies and models, the decision-making approach and the communication approach forms a significant contribution of the social scientists as these models and others assist the government in making rational decisions. They have formulated different models of development like the capitalist, socialist and the indigenous which has enabled the countries of the world to choose the model that suits their level of development. The social scientists provide the specifics of the societies that hitherto existed and contributes in comprehending the transfiguration that has taken place. They have delved into several aspects affecting the existence of the society. They have focused on the concepts considering the societal values, principles and experiences and have offered various strategic explanations. The stake holders of social sciences like those of the law makers, public personnel, interest groups, think tanks

and others can probably participate in espousing and contesting the explanations provided by the social scientists³.

The development of social sciences can be dated back to 17th century Renaissance when thinking on spirituality, rationality, civilization and mankind underwent drastic transformation. An array of perceptions arose about man and his relation with the state. It was in these discourses that a number of socio-economic challenges relevant to those times were deliberated. Economists and philosophers like Robert Malthus, David Ricardo, David Hume et al have made great contribution towards the growth of social sciences. Its development can be explicated through the centuries with the emergence of rationalism in 18th century, Industrial development of 19th C and its notable development in the 20th century and its continued conceptual and procedural development in the 21st century¹. The social sciences like history, economics and political science that originated in the later part of 19th C and the early 20th century were taught in universities and the initial years of 20th century they were under the influence of the Europeans and later part of the 20th century was dominated by America². The colonial powers like Britain and other European nations needed a kind of knowhow that would assist them in comprehending the practices of their colonies. These colonial powers regarded societies other than Europeans as 'tribes'. Subsequently they deciphered that this term was not sufficient to describe the differences between them and others.

Thus, according to Chalam the English word 'oriental societies' came to be used to refer to the people of colonies, consequently, leading to the emergence of another area of social science. United States, USSR and Japan subsequent to the WWII set aside outlays for the improvement of the higher education in the 20th century contributing towards the emergence of different disciplines in social sciences⁴.

During the 20th century, it was anticipated that the natural sciences could perform immensely in recuperating man's wellbeing, happiness and manage his activities. As per anticipation the material and natural sciences contributed to the uncovering of several mechanisms, machines and medications. The following century, guaranteed to achieve progress, happiness and prosperity of man through the social sciences⁵. The social sciences developed to obtain pragmatic understanding of humanity. In the 1850s they existed in seclusion with others and subsequently appeared effective. To illustrate, economics established an organisation of its own in the US in 1885, followed by Anthropology in 1902, Political Science in 1903. Like the sciences, the social sciences too made an attempt to develop themselves empirically. The intricacies that erupted in the societies in 20th century created familiarity among the different branches and thereby a certain type of relation developed between various social sciences⁴.

The social sciences progressed in different areas of the globe. To illustrate The Arab Council for Social Sciences, The Latin

American Council for Social Science, The Association of Asian Social Science Research Council, The Council for Social Science Research in Africa etc., were established. As a result of this a number of developments took place in social sciences in the later half of the 20th century. The emphasis was on the large scale confronts and key drifts in the prevailing social order.

In the initial years of the 21st century, knowledge about social sciences spread far and wide in large number of centers' imparting education. As a result of this, the academicians engaged in teaching multiplied. There was high demand for the social scientists who served as policy makers, think tanks and economists. This engagement became even more easier and significant through the progress in information and communication technology.

World Social Science Reports: A Glimpse

The UNESCO and International Social Science Council have published reports on social sciences. These reports reflect the intricacies confronting social sciences that is proving to be an obstacle in solving the glitches surrounding the globe and are unable to focus on their possible developments in the near future. In the year 1999, the earliest document on social sciences was created by UNESCO known as the *World Social Science Report*. After a decade, UNESCO entreated the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to take up the task of creating the document on social sciences. The ISSC brings out the document once in three years. The document focuses on the relevant questions pertaining to social sciences, impact, influences and competencies relating to social sciences and suggest measures for further investigation. The objective behind these documents was to provide a general idea on the status of the social sciences in different parts of the globe.

Rapid transformation is taking place around the globe affecting numerous activities carried by man and social sciences are not an exception. A number of issues are contested and debated in course of its application in the development process of a country. We can notice that since the publication of the earliest document on social sciences, certain developments have occurred in every part of the globe. But their influence and usage remain characterized by incongruence and disintegration.

The *World Social Science Report* of 1999 emphasises on the antiquity and vistas of the social sciences. The report highlights on the evolution and the role of social sciences in the policy formulation, considerations surrounding the society and civilization have been discussed in the report. It provides a glimpse of the social sciences in terms of their performance and significance. The tests faced by them and the disparagement they have undergone forms part of the report. This report provides an insight into the settings under which the social sciences operate¹.

The caption of the report 'The World Social Science Report 2010' 'knowledge divides' indicates the lack of availability of the required apparatus for the development of social sciences that have prevented them in finding solutions to the plethora of quandaries persisting in the society. This report is concerned with the irregularities and lop-sidedness that have destabilized the ability of social sciences. Of the many irregularities and lop-sidedness, the most important one that needs to be taken cognizance of is the gulf amid the different nations of the world pertaining to the volume and competency of the scholars and the establishments available at the disposal of the respective countries⁶.

In 2013, the Indian Council for Social Research came out with another report 'Changing Global Environment'. The report highlights the rapidly degrading and degenerating environment that has caused and is causing havoc to the life of human beings, flora and the fauna. Of the myriad causes for the current state of the environment like the migration of people from the rural to the urban areas due to rising unemployment, felling of trees, rising population, climate change are the highly debated and discussed issues impacting the life of all the people around the world. This necessitates a major makeover in terms of life style and governmental procedure to counter the significant issues.

The report cites that the major concern of the atmospheric issues is the impact that it has caused on the humanoid and its nexus with the major glitches prevailing in the world like redundancy, destitution etc., the answer to which rests with the social sciences. The report also emphasizes the manner in which the social sciences can resolve the predicament of the transforming world atmosphere along with physical and biological sciences. The insistence on this kind of an approach is due to the global nature of the snags. The ecological predicament, it is argued cannot be understood and resolved in vacuum. The hitches confronting the world are from a segment of the specific convoluted arrangement that comprises of the ecological, societal, governmental, fiscal and other components that interact with each other. It is evident from the above that ecological metamorphosis is both an ecological and a societal intricacy. The enquiries in social science would enable us to understand how myriad predicaments affecting the world are interrelated. Hence a more than usual efforts on the social scientists becomes imperative that would unleash the intrinsic boundaries of the present and an attempt to discover recent and efficient resolution to the existing convolutions. This ensures that the social sciences would assist the people in comprehending the type of changes taking place and in what ways this transition is impacting the environment. The tribulations have become so immense and immeasurable that the social scientists are expected to perform their functions together with other scientists belonging to the natural sciences. This meant that a collective approach to resolve the problem of environmental degradation is imperative⁷.

The World Social Science Report 2016 "Challenging inequalities: Pathways to a just world". This report focuses on the inequalities existing at the global level. It has been discovered that in 2015, fifty percent of the global asset was possessed by one percent of the world inhabitants. The report emphasizes the fact that all types of inequalities are to be apprehended to build a better civilisation. It recognizes the lacunae in the study of social sciences and urges the social scientist to explore good strategies to bring down inequality. To sum up, it shows concern towards creation of a balanced commune. It emphasizes both positivist and post-positivist techniques of research that need to be utilized in comprehending the extreme inequalities plaguing the societies. The seven elements of inequality the report emphasises on are viz., economic, political, social, cultural, environmental, spatial and knowledge based. The report calls upon the leaders of the countries to incur heavy disbursement for the social science research as persistent inequalities would have a serious bearing on the existence of the populace⁸.

Challenges to Social Sciences in the 21st Century

The problem today social sciences confront is to find a way out of the European and American domination. A number of philosophical schools in the past have been the by-product of developed world. After the WW II, decolonisation and democratisation gained momentum and this was reflected in the social sciences⁹. To illustrate, In India, a range of concepts pertaining to social sciences like morality, state, needed to undergo a kind of conceptual refashioning considering the social occurrences. In the post independent period an attempt was made for the discontinuation of the ideas of the past in social sciences, more so in history, sociology and economics. The academicians from the leading universities queried the authenticity and interpretation of the Indian History pertaining to the society and economic growth at large. These developments in the context of social sciences received further fillip from movements challenging interventionism. The social scientists were convinced to come out with an original and standard writing of the school curriculum, giving a set back to the interventionist model of history⁷.

In the later part of the 20th century, Charles Lindblom, in his *Inquiry and Change: the troubled attempt to understand and shape society*, wrote that, despite the concerted efforts of many thousands of social scientists working over the preceding century, he could not identify 'a single social science finding or idea that is undeniably indispensable to any social task or effort. 'This emphasized the fact that social sciences, like other physical sciences have not achieved and contributed enough in the manner the physical sciences have did. But in fact, it is the social scientists that convey to the administrators what is feasible and what is not. The people who come to power hardly possess the knowledge of policy process and at times err in the formulation of policy which would have a cascading effect on the lay man. At this point of time, it is the social scientists that

come to the rescue of the common man and save them from such inappropriate and unsuitable decisions¹⁰.

Ever since the origin of social sciences, two significant aspects have been central to the discussion of social sciences. The first being, the transfiguration that have taken place in the societal arrangements and ethos that have impacted the lives of the people and the other feature is developing approaches and procedures to carry out the studies and finding a way out to the difficulties persisting in the society through the policy process. Humanity has undergone huge remodelling in science and technology, education, transportation and communication and all other aspects pertaining to human beings and this have had a significant impact on the growth of social sciences which is an undeniable fact¹¹.

The study of complex and mutable human behaviour in all its aspects encompasses identifying certain imminent questions pertaining to social sciences. The social sciences as an amalgamation of various disciplines and a trouble-shooter of the various complexities pertaining to human beings are confronting with various challenges in contemporary times than it had confronted erstwhile. To put it in a nutshell, the challenges faced by the social sciences in studying the behaviour of man are the conceptual and procedural. The organisations and the developments associated with it like the government, political parties and others have experienced innumerable changes and have acted as the conservative tool of analysis being explored by innovative ideas and ways. Various aspects like modernity, milieu variations and developments in information and technology have played a very significant role in posing enhanced challenges to social sciences.

As far as modernity is concerned, it has posed serious challenges to social sciences in terms of conceptualization. To illustrate, concepts in Political Science like democracy, sovereignty, citizenship, development have undergone revision both in terms of meaning and its applicability at the global level. The milieu variations like the change in the climatic conditions subsequently leading to global warming, environmental degeneration resulting in the destruction of the flora and the fauna. The technological revolution that has impacted highly the life of human beings, the impact on social sciences cannot be ignored. All these three put together play a predominant role in shaping the social sciences and also the level of challenges they are faced with in the modern times in order to meet the raising concerns and issues around the globe¹².

It is argued that the approach adopted by the social scientists to counter the challenges the world is witnessing have become out dated and conventional. This implies that the investigation tools to deal with burning and highly debated issues are inadequate and will not serve any purpose as far as finding an elucidation is concerned. The devastating environment has resulted in an atmospheric change and this is perhaps the consequence of the humanoid actions. This necessitates social sciences

understanding of the correlation between the humanoid – atmospheric affiliation for which the conventional approaches would not serve any purpose.

The focus here is on the investigative methods and procedures. A change in the investigative procedure would assist in comprehending the society and the ecosystem. This in turn would enable to recognize the causes for the transmutations occurring in the society and the obstacles to affect the necessary mutation¹.

In the recent times, social sciences are encountering numerous obstructions in countering the issues and tendencies facing the people at large like human rights violation, climate change, redundancy, radicalism¹ etc., they provide techniques and approaches that can be applied in addressing the issues concerning the society. But off late, it is felt that these approaches and techniques are inadequate and ineffectual due to which many questions remain unresolved. The need of the hour is that the social sciences need to revitalise and adapt itself to the reformation occurring around the globe and come out with a feasible solution. Many social scientists have come up with the idea of countering the challenges through the introduction of multidisciplinary approach and this can be considered to be an improvement both in terms of the development of social sciences and its approach towards retorting to the glitches prevailing around the globe.

The social scientists also opine that, importance has to be given to the diverse understanding of the challenges faced by the people in different parts of the world as the concerns need to be assessed based on severity of the problem and a similar resolution need to be discovered. An example would make it clear. Terrorism is a global problem. It has several connotations, causes and implications subject to the geography and demography.

Therefore, a social scientist is required to understand it in manifold situations. This, today is perceived to be one of the significant challenges before the social scientist as many of the acute hitches like the one above continues to afflict the world. In other words, milieu explicit models are the need of the hour.

Despite their contribution, they have been disapproved on myriad terms. To illustrate, it is comprehended that the economists have engaged themselves in producing intangible and complicated models that have been to some extent unsuccessful in discovering an enduring remedy to the acute conundrums like poverty and unemployment. Political Scientists are indicted of not identifying timely attitude of the public and the sociologists are alleged of not recognizing the most important changes taking place in the society. They are indicted of not being responsive and up to the expectations of the people and the policy makers and confining themselves to the indigenous tribulations and giving less significance to the world incomprehensibilities.

The social sciences are thus surrounded with the above difficulties and the passage of time have brought about tremendous shift in the milieu of social sciences. In the modern context several factors have contributed to the phenomenal changes, important of them are globalisation, and information technology¹.

Procedural Challenges

The matter of concern is that whether the social scientists need to adhere to the suppositions formulated by the scientists or do they need to formulate on their own considering the nature and object of study. This, perhaps has been the biggest challenge confronting the social sciences as they deal with the changing behaviour of human beings. Though social sciences, have been in certain respects successful in scientifically studying the behaviour of man, it can be said that the social sciences unlike, the natural sciences cannot achieve the accuracy and exactness in deciphering and analysing the data which makes it altogether a different social science away from physical sciences.

Scientific research is carried out in isolation of the substances under study. No such connection is built between the researcher and the, matter under study. This makes it possible and feasible for the natural sciences to carry out the research with utmost accuracy and exactness and at the same time the level of objectivity achieved in sciences is higher than those of social sciences. The social science suffers from these set of issues which make their way of research to a certain extent different and complicated. The subject matter of study under social sciences makes it implausible to adopt the techniques and the methods adopted in the physical sciences. The nature of man is such that it varies in terms of place, situations and circumstances. It is extremely challenging to presume that a social science researcher conducts his study in isolation with the phenomena existing during the research. It is at times an arduous and a strenuous task for a social science researcher to work and achieve objectivity in an environment that comprise of metamorphosing nature of man. It becomes a gruelling task for a researcher to study the objects under study scientifically.

Of course, it's not true that all the studies that have been carried out by the social science researchers are devoid of the scientific methods, but it is not conducted with utmost precision and meticulousness like those of the physical sciences. The transfiguration that has occurred in science and technology, transport and communication and other associated outlooks have brought about drastic mutations in the attitude and comportment of human beings. All these, besides other pertinent factors, social sciences have been to a certain extent not been able to achieve results on par with the science. To illustrate, social sciences encompasses a wide variety of issues ranging from family as the basic unit of society, the institutions that represent man, the tribals, marriage as a sacred institution, political parties, constitution, fiscal policies, wars, international

institutions etc., all these being the subject of analysis, are dynamic in character and therefore it would require rigorous analysis but they cannot be studied in vacuum devoid of the principle of subjectivity as it involves the study of man. There are many aspects that need to be considered when such aspects are to be studied. A researcher may opt to study few and ignore others as the concepts under study are wider and involves a careful analysis. For instance, Political Parties. Political Parties as a wider concept includes single party system, bi-party system, multi-party system, functioning of political parties, role of parties etc., a number of aspects fall under the umbrella of political parties and same suit follows as far as the other concepts are concerned. This massive inclusion of several topics under the main concept is itself a testimony to the fact that social sciences are grappling with procedural challenges.

Social sciences assigning utmost importance to the study of concepts scientifically besides usage of its own methods and technique would be a great step forward in carrying out the social science research. Today as such, the social science researcher is carrying out empirical research with dedication and determination in an attempt to produce better results by the application of scientific principles. But it can't be denied at the same time that the serious efforts applied by the researcher to arrive at conclusion empirically cannot be expected of all the concepts pertaining to social sciences. Hence forth, procedural challenge is of the significant challenge confronting the social sciences. The need of the hour is that certain methods in social sciences need to be devised that can enable a researcher to achieve objectivity in research on par with the natural sciences. Procedural challenges pose a serious threat to social sciences in evolving subjectivity-free research. Social scientists over the years have formulated a number of methods to be applied while carrying out research. All these have proved to be insufficient in meeting the scientific needs of research of social sciences. This is perhaps due to the nature of phenomena the social sciences are contracted with.

In addition to this, there are other aspects that needs attention as far as the challenges to social sciences are concerned. The focus here is that, the disciplines that fall under the umbrella of social sciences are myriad and henceforth the procedures and the techniques that are adopted by these also vary in kind. This makes it even more complicated to arrive at a particular method that can be adopted to study the phenomena scientifically.

Theoretical Challenges

An investigation by a social scientist involves a comprehensive study of the human behaviour under a distinctive environment. Unlike the sciences, perception of the concepts in social sciences by the social scientists appears to be diverse and are defined based upon the situations and circumstances during which a philosopher, a sociologist or an economist lived. The concept undergoes innumerable changes as the society progresses and achieves development.

In such a scenario it poses numerous challenges to the researcher while explicating the facts. A researcher undergoes complexity while distinguishing the words like 'concepts', 'paradigms' and 'variables' that are habitually applied by an investigator. The word 'concept' for instance has varied level of analysis. It is easy to delineate certain concepts and complicated to describe others. The concepts in Political Science like 'government' is easy to define but defining a form of government like monarchy or aristocracy is challenging as different Political Scientists have defined variedly. The investigators thus perceive and evolve various approaches to comprehend the ideas causing theoretical mayhems. The level of analysis of elaborate and multifaceted concepts constitutes a significant theoretical challenge confronting the social sciences. The degree of development of the concepts constitutes a pertinent factor in accomplishing a successful study. This involves the manner in which a social scientist appends the required features and proprieties to form a good concept. Apt and relevant theoretical formulations enable a researcher to cope with problems associated with literature review, fact interpretation and arriving at constructive conclusions. Sound theoretical interpretations constitute a significant factor for a comprehensive study of a phenomenon consequently contributing towards resolution of pressing issues plaguing the society. This could possibly enable a researcher to arrive at a fruitful and an effective study.

Everyone is aware about the facts and other related enquires pertaining to the behaviour of human beings. The social scientists tend to devise certain interpretations to be used in course of the research. Theory enables a social scientist to comprehend the pertinent queries concerning the human nature and his association with the environment. It assists in finding a suitable way out to the persisting hitches in the society. Formulation and appraisal of sound concepts is one of the significant goals which the social scientists aspire to achieve. A number of theories and the assumptions formulated in the social sciences remain either outdated or need to be revisited in the context of globalization. This demand is due to the raising concerns in resolving the issues plaguing the globe.

To illustrate, the concept of sovereignty in Political Science is defined by the classical Political scientists as supreme authority over internal and external sphere as also being one of the kinds of sovereignty. The argument placed in this context is that before the WWII, colonisation was the order of the day and only in the post-second world war period that the decolonisation process began. Despite the fact that the countries now began to enjoy the right to self-determination and gradually became self-sufficient avoiding dependency on the advanced countries of the world, a kind of domination-dependence factor continues to exist even today. This makes it imperative to redefine the concept of sovereignty in the context of globalisation taking into cognizance the external environment. It is observed that the literature on sovereignty is even now dominated by the traditional concepts of sovereignty. A contextual revisiting of

the concept is imperative in contemporary times to achieve the relevance of the term. Similarly, concepts like citizenship, state, marriage, property, labour mobility, economic development and other related concepts pertaining to social sciences have undergone change due to which a theory constructed previously would either be vague or would not clarify issues pertaining to the respective concepts probably because of the incomplete data available at the disposal of the social scientists as these theories constructed based on the facts of the past would not be relevant in the contemporary times. By the time the new concept is thought about and finds a place in the books, several changes might have taken place at the global level and this again leads an academician to conclude that the concepts developed and constructed remain irrelevant to the times.

This challenge is faced by almost all the disciplines falling under the category of social sciences. There are certain observable facts for which the traditional methods might not suffice to provide a rational explanation. Under such circumstances the already prevailing concepts needs to be revamped and refurbished in order to provide a probable and an acceptable elucidation for the persisting complexities.

A number of concepts encompassing social sciences are met with criticisms, re-examining such concepts is pertinent here, which adds to the intricacies confronting social sciences. The socio-culture milieu under which a social science researcher carryout the research bear consequences on the research output. The socio-economic, politico and cultural heterogeneities surrounding a large number of countries can also be considered a significant cause for the social scientists finding it complicated and cumbersome in defining the concepts. Say, the concept of 'Freedom' or 'liberty' has acquired different connotations since time immemorial based on the situations and circumstances. The term 'liberty' had a narrow meaning previously, today it is understood in its broader sense and it connotes a number of rights probably due to the increasing population and the developments in science and technology. Likewise, there are innumerable concepts that demand different connotations and interpretations and have different implications in varied settings.

A lack of an encyclopaedic theoretical structure perchance results in the construction of an inappropriate theory and the use of improper techniques for conducting the study. It is pertinent to mention here that the solution to the theoretical intricacies concerning social scientists is the creation of a theoretical structure that would remove all the misperceptions pertaining to the diverse concepts. This would require the social scientists to be well equipped and acquainted with the developments taking place under different settings, as in the contemporary times the globe is surrounded by uncertain and decisive forces. The behaviour and nature of human beings has undergone huge transformation that have made the social scientists' task of exploring and comprehending man even more complex and complicated¹³.

Infrastructural Challenges

The Social Sciences in the recent times are encountering a number of queries unlike the science. In modern times, they are facing two sets of challenges namely, they are often regarded as less significant as Bhupendra Yadav³ calls it as “Country cousins” In terms of arrangements and other amenities provided for its development is always less in comparison to the sciences. Not all the universities are equipped with the required resources namely the E (enabling) - Social Sciences resources. The notion E-Social Science connotes the progress and developments that has taken place in social sciences. These kinds of tools enable an investigator to carry out the study in a better way than he is already carrying out. It makes study more feasible and viable. The emphasis here is on the computer-centred arrangements⁵. These set of arrangements demand huge investments which the research centres are unable to endure.

In the 21st century, we often find diverging opinion amongst the social scientists pertaining to the concerns affecting the society at large. These differences of opinion are consequently resulting in wasteful expenditure and less effective and inappropriate policies. Due to this many questions and inconveniences affecting people remain unanswered and unresolved².

Underdevelopment of key democratic institutions is another big challenge confronting the social sciences. The democratic values which once were highly endorsed are waning gradually. The onus lies on the social sciences to preserve and promote the sanctity of democratic values and restore the world over which is highly imperative in this world of globalisation where the civil wars and at times the inter-country wars like Russia-Ukraine war are happening. The world is in transition, this transition is being experienced in all the fields affecting peoples’ life. Information and Technology is the vehicle of change. The social sciences need to adapt itself to the changing conditions. They are thus expected to convey these changes to the society through modern methods, failure of which may have negative repercussions on the progress of social sciences.

In India, the position enjoyed by the social sciences is much less than the natural sciences. The gap between the two can be understood in terms of grants allocation. In the pre-independent period, the studies in social sciences hardly depended on the foreign grants. The social scientists of India generated phenomenal masterpiece. They encountered numerous inconveniences. The most important one was pertaining to the financial resources. This consequently resulted in the institutions to look for grants from the institutions other than the government to bridge the research gap that arouse due to lack of financial resources. This gave rise to two grave consequences, one being, most of the studies initiated and conducted carry the weight of the patrons and the other is lack of thoughtful and philosophical studies as the patrons were least bothered to make the research deep and insightful. Most of the institutions that

initiate studies in social sciences don’t have a proper perception about research¹⁴.

Conclusion

Social sciences are intensely entrenched in our society and institutions. They cast a profound impact at every stage of individuals life. They enable the students, academicians and other persons associated with it to defend and safeguard democratic values, provides knowledge about the advantages and adverse effects of the latest technology. Social sciences like Economics and Political Science suggests ways and methods for the protection of the nature as man in the name of development have caused havoc to the nature. They have insinuated measures to strengthen the bond between the nature and man which is missing, constructive methods to evolve rational programmes and responsible civic institutions, reinforcing the learning system, deciphering the way out for myriad complications pertaining to well-being. Over all the social sciences assists in the success and contentment of the people at large.

The social scientists around the globe should endeavour to give a place to social sciences on par with the science. The innumerable challenges it is grappled with required to be addressed instantaneously. An impetus for the development of social sciences is the need of the hour as this kind of an enhanced contribution would undeniably assist the government in formulating better policies and comprehend peoples’ predicaments and address them on time. This requires that the social scientists must necessarily be equipped with the required infrastructure. Enhanced significance should be entrusted to the research in social sciences so that the unanswered questions and the dilemmas faced by the social scientists are resolved at the earliest.

Perhaps social sciences have made immense contribution in the past in bringing down inequalities but it is not sufficient. The time has come, that the social scientist plays a vigorous part in transmuting disparities into parities.

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