



The Significant Role of Social Sciences in Creating a Better Tomorrow

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ABSTRACT

'Social science' is a term that has a very significant role as it represents so many subjects that are directly related to the various instances in the life of a person. It helps one to learn about their own identity, history, traditions, rituals and culture and how does a person associate to another person on the basis of similar characteristics and ideologies. Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology all of these are essentially the study that gives the answer to the reason of the existence of an individual and how by studying social sciences a person can get more insight within oneself and when a person has a complete understanding of his state of mind and what is the relevance of the way in which he reacts to a particular situation, it helps in having a better understanding of the behavior of others, as the person concerned can relate to them in that situation. Once this is understood it becomes easier to identify the root causes of society's problems and help in giving more effective solutions to eradicate such issues. The present paper aims at signifying the role of social sciences in the development of an individual by presenting a clearer picture of various situations and how can they be tackled. Further the paper highlights the benefits and challenges of social sciences in the present scenario.

KEYWORDS: Social science, individual, behavior.

A Brief History of Social Sciences

The social sciences have existed since Ancient Greece, where philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle studied the various aspects of the world. According to these thinkers, there was no fundamental distinction between social and natural science in the way it is today, though some disciplines such as geometry and sociology were intermixed and practiced by the same communities.

Although social sciences have been studied throughout history, scholars popularized the modern application of the scientific method to human thoughts and relationships in the early 20th century. Prior to this, there were thinkers that tried to combine the scientific method with social matters. Today, science is much more specialized and complex, requiring experts in individual fields for the better understanding.

Introduction

The social sciences are one of three divisions of science, along with the natural and formal sciences. Social science is associated with "humanistic" aspects of the world, like the arts and various cultures, although it places an emphasis on experimentation and using the scientific method. Because the methods used in these disciplines are frequently qualitative and often based on personal interpretation, they are commonly referred to as the "soft sciences" in contrast to the "hard" natural and formal sciences. Social sciences include a wide range of subjects such as anthropology, linguistics, and education, as well as political science and psychology.

Education, Anthropology, and Linguistics

Studying the education is one of the most important social sciences as it often develops new ideas regarding how people learn and develop. Anthropologists generally study past human societies and civilizations to better understand the history of humanity, often finding common themes between different cultures. Linguistics is the study of language and how people communicate through spoken sounds and words. These subjects are often studied together, since an understanding of linguistics is important for teaching people and anthropology looks into education and language from past civilizations.

Law, Political Science, and History

Social sciences include the study of law, which governs the rules created by governments and people to ensure a more orderly society. Similarly, political science is the study of governments and how people form social structures to rule or govern a populace. Historians look at past civilizations and events to learn from previous times and better understand the context of modern issues or cultures.

Psychology and Sociology

Psychologists study the human mind and try to understand how people experience the world through various emotions, ideas, and conscious states. Some of this study has crossed over into biology, as some psychologists look at the chemical reactions and physical elements involved in human consciousness. Sociologists study people in general, focusing on different modern cultures or social sub-groups. The study of sociology often involves groups of people, rather than individuals, and understanding the way people relate to each other and function as a society.

Categorization as Soft Science

Today, a lot of people work in social science professionally because human relationships and qualities are so very

complex, in some fields there is no objective truth and much work is based on interpretation. What defines "truth" in social sciences is more often is considered to be a result of opinion than fact, making findings from social science potentially less reliable than those from the harder sciences.

Today the lives have become very tough and due to the rapid changes in this world the human behavior has become unsystematic and based on the knowledge of humans past actions and their present situation it becomes difficult to predict what they will do next; human minds cannot be read as it does not exhibit underlying thoughts unlike computer with monitor which shows us the clear picture of internal processing. The most obvious thing that happens inside the societies and in the daily life, is that people have new ideas and want to change their social status accordingly. Rapid technological changes in western societies were stimulated by acceptance of the idea of progress taking place around as well as within an individual. An individual has certainly made progress because it is believed that with progress the much wanted "change" can actually be attained. In this process of social change education has played a vital role. The tremendous technological advancements have created a niche for promoting the humanitarian values and law & order for a proper channelization and progress of the society.

Humanists and social scientists have played a very significant role to supplement and evaluate the economic and political framing of globalization through a emphasis on culture and the imagination. Formal education creates a greater impact in teaching and learning specific skills and techniques, good judgment and wisdom. Informal education has as one of its fundamental goals of imparting development from one generation to the next. Hence both types of education has the techniques and instructions on how to improve the concepts of life and social skills, including decision-making, negative and positive response skills, critical analysis and systematic judgment abilities. Another description of education is the propagation of a set of beliefs. Beliefs are important originator to both attitudes and behavior because our beliefs shape values and values plays very important role in shaping the structure of the society and culture. Culture is a set of expressions, activities, material and spiritual products, symbols and representations that arise from human activity. Education remains vital to occupational achievement, but as more people get more education, the minimum acceptable level of education for this objective is raised. A culture of peace consists of values, attitudes and behaviors. It reflects and inspires social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, human rights, tolerance and solidarity and rejects violence and extremism. All present developed and peaceful societies of the world reveal this purpose predominantly because education gives people an insight and greater sense of recognition towards the cultural beliefs and thoughts that influence the human beings in the way they react in a given situation.

Technical advancement has not only changed lifestyles of the human beings but also the thought and social setup of the people. Technological advancements changed the world in all respects. However the basic beliefs and values brought in dramatic changes in the world history. For more than a century, social scientists have confidently predicted the end of religion but religion is present in the hind site of all modern societies of the world and is effecting even the internal and international polices of developed countries. To create enlightenment on religion and cultural values is need of the hour. Education of theologies is a very important criterion to shape the character of the people thereby creating making the human beings more cautious.

It is very essential to be able to develop the ability to articulate participatory proposals for teaching and learning as well as in planning, assessment, decision-making and management, understanding, problem-solving and social sense. And education of humanities is a platform that provides opportunities for development of these skills and can be linked to social participation, the sciences, the arts, technology, communication skills, creativity, and intelligence for increase in educated, well- informed quality population in the country.

The importance of Social Science

For centuries people have been fascinated by science, trying to understand how our natural environment works around us. We've walked on the moon, cracked the atom and managed to fly through the air, but what about the people we live with? Do we understand them? Do we really know what they want? Do we know why they behave the way they do? Studying the social sciences at a top university will help us to understand the human population around us, the society we live in and the world we travel in. It will help us to understand the past, look at where we're going and be aware of the factors that contribute to our lives on a daily basis

Social science studies the human aspects of the world. It comprises of an in-depth study and evaluation of human behavior by using scientific methods in either quantitative or qualitative manner. The subject matter of the social science can be subjective or objective. In contrast to hard science or natural science, social science reveals subjective, objective, inter-subjective and structural aspects of the society. In simple words, it measures the social developments and progress of the society and helps in revealing the emerging drawbacks. The work of social science is to watch where the society has been heading and what more can be done to benefit the human beings.

If we go through the historical evidences, we find that social science has been a constant and very significant part of the development of the human race. The great philosophers like Plato and Aristotle were advocates of social science and their philosophies were based on the objectives of social sciences only. Social science is very much present into our day-to-day life and has a pivotal role in the societal growth and development.

By studying the social sciences, awareness of how groups in society relate to each other and the framework within which the society exists is understood.

Challenges of Social Science

Social sciences have lately become quite hard. Various aspects of the various sciences like psychology, anthropology, economics, sociology, information science, and economics are extremely objective and quantified. In some cases, the softer parts of those fields have split off and become recognized as separate fields. For example, in psychology, people increasingly refer to "cognitive science" to refer to the hard parts of the study, while "counseling psychology" refers to the practice of healing people by talking with them regarding their problems, and this is now often referred to as "art".

Some of the other social science fields, though, are inherently soft, or at least have soft elements. History is one of such sciences. Although nowadays people study, for example, the circulation of money in the 18th century in a mathematical way, they are hampered by the fact that very little of their proposed hypotheses are testable, because of it being a history which cannot be tested due to the lack of evident data.

Economics also suffers from a similar problem, but for them, the problem is mitigated by the fact that you can run experiments of a sort on "models." The old supply-demand curves are examples of extremely primitive models. Nowadays models run on very large computers. By feeding in various standards, a kind of "experiment" on them can be initiated by entering in various starting conditions and seeing how they come out. They aren't very good experiments, and they are always vulnerable to the criticism that the model isn't faithful to reality in some way, but they are better than nothing. And it is possible to test the models themselves, to make them more credible and increase the viability.

In the cases where there is something that is quite personal and open to interpretation, it can be made harder. For example, in psychology, people might say a person appears "sad" or even "arrogant." That would appear to be a very judgmental and subjective observation. This situation can be tested by taking some people, giving them a checklist with various terms on them, have them all watch a video of the same person, and have them check off the terms they think would apply to that person. If a lot of the observers say that person appeared "sad", in such a case there is a pretty solid indication that the person is indeed "sad", however that term is defined. But still these are not purely testable methods that can accurately testify the validity of the social sciences.

Conclusion

In light of the above it can be concluded that education of humanities and social sciences should be strengthened as it can contribute to the strengthening of unity, involvement, harmony, honesty, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, and commitment to accept change and establish healthy relations with international community. Though globalization has stimulated several new study programs in academia but still a lot needs to be done. As knowledge becomes increasingly diversified, we need to find new ways for the production, structure, and promotion of knowledge in the different disciplines of humanities and social sciences. Sharing of information is essential for the development of global movement. It is very essential to understand that social sciences being of such significance should not only remain a topic, but become a compulsory part of each technical and professional degrees curriculum.

"In the social sciences it is hardly possible to frame questions and provide answers in the manner of some of the natural sciences, and it is a refusal to recognize this that has often led us up the wrong path. So it becomes a necessity to popularize the social sciences. Our social sciences are, or will shortly be, capable of serving as a guide to the understanding of social life, it is obvious that unless such knowledge is widely spread it will remain useless. Here the main stumbling-block is the low earning power of social sciences. Thus solving the problems connected with the relative underdevelopment of our social knowledge are by no means hopeful, so it is of utmost importance that the social sciences should be made more popular by giving it sufficient emphasis because it is the social sciences that give the human beings an insight on the various norms and values of the society.

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