CHAPTER – 1

Historical Background of Social Science

- **1.1** <u>Introduction-</u> The focus of the social sciences is on the study of the following –
- **1.** Change in human relationship and reinterpretation between the present and past events.
- **2.** Human activities and spatial distributions an interaction of culture, biological and physical elements.
- **3.** Basic social systems, institutions and recesses.
- **4.** Relationships between individual and institutions; and among political economic and social institutions.
- 5. The nature of societies and authors; and the interactions of people with each other and also their social and physical environment.
- 1.2 Origin of the term social science The term social science does no fit easily in the universe of scholarship, especially not in English, sciences and socials are somewhat happier expressions ,though they too have suffered from being interpreted either too widely or to narrowly. Frequently social science is meant to define either sociology or synthetic social theory only. Everywhere the implied analogy to the natural sciences has been contested. In 1982 the British Government challenged the name of the publicly financed social science research council; arguing "inter–alia" that "social studies" would be more appropriate description for discipline of scholarship which can not justly claim to be scientific.

Social science can be defined as study of men living in society. It was said that man is a political animal. This observation was broadened

in to the view that he is a social animal. Social sciences deal with group's activity and achievements.

1.3 <u>Definitions of social science-</u>

- 1. According to Seligman-"social sciences as those mental or cultural sciences which deal with the activities of the individual as member of the group. The term social sciences thus embrace all those subjects which deal with the relationship of man to the society.
- 2. According to Mitchell "the term social science is loosely applied to any kind of study concerning man and society. In the strict sense it should refer the application of scientific method to the study of the intricate and complex network of human relationship and the form of organisation designed to enable people to live together in societies.
- **3.** According to Fairchild," social science as a general term for all the sciences which are concerned with the human affairs."
- **4.** According to Peter Lewis," social sciences are concerned with the laws that govern society and the social department of man."

So, we can say that social sciences embrace all those subjects which deal with the human affairs. The social sciences overlap each other.

- **1.4** <u>Distinctive characteristics of social sciences</u> The study of man as a unique living creature may be viewed in two fundamental dimensions:–
 - a) Man as an individual being;
 - b) Man as a social being

Thus the focus of the social sciences is on the study of the following:-

- **1.** Change in human relationship and reinterpretation between the present and the past event
- **2.** Human activities and spatial distributions and interaction of culture, biologic and physical elements
- 3. Basic social systems ,institutions and processes
- **4.** Relationship between individual and institutions and among political economic and social institutions
- **5.** The nature of societies and authors and the interactions of people with each other and also their social and physical environment.

1.5 <u>Various disciplines of social sciences -</u>

A. According to Seligman, the social sciences can be divided in to three classes –

- ➤ Purely social sciences political science, history, economics, anthropology, sociology, penology and jurisprudence.
- > Semi social sciences ethics and education
- Sciences with social implications –biology ,medicine , geography, linguistics and art

B. According to Fairchild: They comprise the following:

- **Economics**
- ➢ Government
- > Law
- Psychology
- Sociology
- anthropology

C. According to S R Rangnathan

- **Education**
- Geography
- **➤** History
- > Political Science
- **Economics**
- > Sociology
- ➤ Law are Social Sciences

<u>According to H.E. Burns</u> – The following are Social Sciences: D.

- **➤** History
- > Human Geography
- **➢** Biology
- Social Anthropology
- > Cultural Anthropology
- ➤ Sociology Economics
- ➤ Political Science
- > Jurisprudence
- > Ethics

According to E.C. Hagues- \boldsymbol{E} .

- > Sociology
- > Anthropology
- Social pathology
- > Cultural geography
- **Economics**
- > Political science
- > History

F. According to W.F.Ogburn and A.Goldenweiser-

- > Anthropology
- **Economics**
- > History
- ➤ Political science
- > Sociology

G. <u>According to Wilson Gee</u>-

- > Sociology
- > Economics
- ➤ Anthropology
- > Statistics
- > Psychology
- > Jurisprudence
- > History
- > Philosophy
- Political Science

1.6 History of Social Science-

In the period of 1760, some effort was spent on the study of man and society. Hobbes` Leviathan; Lock's Two Treatises on Government; Vico`s New Science; and Montesquieu Spirit of Laws were all published in this period

The revival of interest in social science occurred in the middle of the 18th century. By the middle of 18th century, capitalism had begun to outgrow its early state and gradually it became the dominant socioeconomic system in western and northern Europe.

In the second half of the 18th century, urbanisation and population growth became accelerated, and during this period slums, alcoholism, brutality of manners etc developed which were to become the targets of social reforms. In the other half of the 18th century, in response to the above there is a multiplication of works with a scientific character

- Auguste comte (1798-1853) invented the term sociology .he was the first to systematise and give a complete analysis of the principles of the positive character of the social sciences
- ➤ Montesquieu and Voltaire broke a new path for politics and history.
- **1.61** <u>19th</u> <u>CENTURY DEVELOPMENT</u>- At the beginning of the 19th century, social science had attained in all the leading European countries a firm and respectable position. In the 20th century we can also observe recurrent occasions when proposals for a generalised social science were made. The contribution of Auguste Comte was accepted immediately; Emile Durkheim and the sociologists of the late xix century and early xx century were influenced by him .Karl Marx gave the first general theory of social science.
- **1.62** <u>20th CENTURY DEVELOPMENT</u>- If we examine the course of development of the various social science disciplines, we find that they follow, on the whole, a pattern through which the older natural sciences also passed.

At this stage the social science has become institutionalised to a high degree. It has now become a subject of research.

Lawrence A. Kempton in his article "Social Sciences Today" states that social science as science is very young and there is confusion with regards to its limits and boundaries. History moves in to the humanities, economics becomes mathematics, anthropology and psychology ally themselves with biology and the geography is at home with physical science.

While in its initial period, it may have been the preoccupation of a group of semi-amateurs, philosopher, practical men in business and government, or gentleman of leisure; it now has become a subject of research on the part of academic specialists. In the third and the most mature stage of discipline the battles over method have subsided, the theoretical rivalries tend to be submerged in the efforts to elaborate propositions bridging the differences and contributing towards the further progress of the discipline.

- **1.63** *Five Developments of Social Sciences* Five developments either stemming from Comte or encouraged by different traditions have helped the confuse methodological picture of the social sciences-
 - 1. Many of those who took the analogy to the natural science seriously engaged in social research. The great factual surveys of Charles Booth in Britain, and of Chicago school in the USA, bear witness to this trend. Frederic Le Play had started a similar tradition in France. In Germany, the "verein fiir socialpolitik" adopted the same research techniques .Such often large scale descriptive enterprises are the precursors of modern social research and analysis.
 - 2. Science, of course, is more than fact finding. Thus a natural science notion of theoretical social science has informed at least two of the heroes of sociology; Emile Durkheim in particular was impressed by the need to study social facts, whereas Pareto

stimulated both mathematical insights and specific theories. They have had few followers.

- 3. By the turn of the century, a methodological dichotomy was born which gave rise to another aspect, or, notion, of social science. Against the ambitions of those who tried to emulate the natural sciences in the study of social phenomena, the German school of thought gained around, according to which social phenomena do not lend themselves to such rigid analysis, but require a different approach, one of "verstehen", of empathy and understanding Max Weber (1921) straddles different approaches, but introduced in to social science what were later called "hermeneutic" or "phenomenological" perspectives.
- 4. It will readily be seen that all three approaches mentioned so far are most closely associated with the subject of sociology and its history. Indeed, economics soon began to go its own way. Ever since the decline of the German historical school of economists, it developed as the discipline which of all the social sciences most nearly deserves the name of science. Economic knowledge is to a considerable extent cumulative; theories are developed and tested, if not always against reality, then at least against models and their assumptions. "Verstehende" economics, even descriptive economics, have become the exception.
- 5. Finally Max Weber also insisted on another distinction which defines the fifth aspect of social science that between knowledge, however gained, and values. Prescriptions and description belong to different universe of discourage. The distinction was explosive at the time, and continues to be that, although political theory, moral philosophy, and jurisprudence have gone their own ways

and the study of the social policy has shifted from the prescriptive to the analytical.

- 1.7 <u>Scope of Social Science</u> In the Indian context ICSSR (INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH) provides support for research in the following discipline:
 - **Economics**
 - Commerce
 - **Education**
 - > Management
 - ➤ Business Administration
 - > Political Science
 - > International Relations
 - > Psychology
 - ➤ Public Administration
 - Sociology
 - ➤ Criminology
 - > Social Work
 - > Anthropology
 - > Demography
 - Geography
 - ➤ History
 - > Law
 - > Linguistic

David L. Sills, editor of International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences, concedes that "the Social Sciences differ in their scope from one generation to another". Hence he includes Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Political Science, Psychiatry, Psychology, Sociology and Statistics in Social Sciences. Therefore it seems that the areas of study coming under social sciences are very flexible. It may also be concluded that social sciences have no mono-disciplinary character but a combination of many disciplines having social implications.

"Social science is commonly used as an umbrella term to refer to a plurality of fields outside of the natural sciences. These fields include: Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Sociology, and in certain context Psychology. "(Verheggen et al 1999)⁽²⁰⁾

"Subjects such as international relations and social work are concerned primarily with application and do not constitute social sciences *per se*. The term may be used, however, in the specific context of referring to the original *science of society* established in 19th century sociology. Émile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Max Weber are typically cited as the principal architects of modern social science by this definition.

$(http://plato.stanford .edu/entries/weber/max\ weber-stanford \\ encyclopedia\ of\ philosophy)^{(8)}$

The beginnings of the social sciences in the 18th century are reflected in various grand encyclopaedia of Diderot, with articles from Rousseau and other pioneers. The growth of the social sciences is also reflected in other specialized encyclopaedias. In the modern period, the term "social science" first used as a distinct conceptual field (Columbian

cyclopedia1897)⁽²⁾. Social science was influenced by positivism, focusing on knowledge based on actual positive sense experience and avoiding the negative; metaphysical speculation was avoided.

Auguste Comte used the term "science social" to describe the field, taken from the ideas of Charles Fourier; Comte also referred to the field as social physics (Peck 1897)⁽¹⁷⁾.

Social science may refer either to the specific **sciences of society** established by thinkers such as Comte, Durkheim, Marx, and Weber, or general to all disciplines outside of noble science and arts. In the late 19th century, academic social sciences initially were constituted of five fields: jurisprudence and amendment of the law, education, health, economy and trade, and art (**Columbian cyclopedia1897**)⁽³⁾.

1.8 Social Science in India

Social sciences in India were a neglected sector till independence. After independence, the need for documentations services was realised. Consequently the "Indian council for documentation services" was realised. Consequently the "Indian council of social science research" (ICSSR) was established in May 1969 and its SSDC (now NASSDOC) was started in 1970. Prior to this, documentation used to be a local activity. With some success the organisation has during the 1970 addressed itself to the task of organising, sponsoring, promoting, coordination, publishing and utilising research in social science in this country. So for as the research libraries and documentation centres are concerned, their development has also been very significant. In comparison to one thousand libraries, attached to scientific establishment, there are about 500 social science research libraries attached to universities, Govt department, research institutions and commercial

organisation. All of these do not undertake documentation activities but most of the specialised ones do.

1.9 <u>Some of the Important Social Science Libraries in India</u>

- **1-** Anthropological survey of India, Calcutta.
- **2-** International Institute for population studies, Bombay.
- **3-** Centre for development studies, Trivandrum.
- **4-** Institute of economic growth, Delhi
- 5- Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

1.10 <u>Documentation Centre of Social Science in India</u>

Some of the important documentation centres of social science in India are:-

- **1-** Centre on Rural Documentation, Hyderabad (1958).
- 2- National Social Science documentation centre (NASSDOC) New Delhi (1970)
- 3- Small Enterprises National Documentation centre (SENDOC), Hyderabad (1971)
- **4-** Centre for development and Instructional Technology, New Delhi (1972)
- 5- ICSSR data archives, New Delhi (1973)
- **6-** National Documentation on Mass communication, New Delhi (1976)
- 7- Research and Information system for non aligned and other developed countries, New Delhi (1984)
- 8- Information centre for development policy modelling, Pune (1984)

1.11 *CD- Databases*

NASSDOC has acquired databases like "Austrom" and POPLINE on CD-ROM, NASSDOC provides bibliographic services from these databases. It has also installed UNESCO based CD-ROM prototype. It contains six databases-

- **➤** UNESBIB
- > IBEDOCS
- > ICOMMOS
- > DARE
- ENERGY
- > UNESDATA

1-12 <u>A Brief Discussion of Various Disciplines in the Field of Social</u> <u>Science</u>

A. <u>Economics:</u> It is the social science that deals with the ways in which men and societies seek to satisfy their material needs and desires. Alfred Marshall has defined economics as "The Study of mankind in the ordinary business of life". Adam Smith defines it as the science of wealth. There are many fields of applied economics along with special subfields of economics theory and economic history. The main area is money, banking and business, public finance, international economics, labour and industrial relations, land and agricultural economics, business organisation, public utilities and transportation. Economics is becoming increasingly professional and specialised. Economics could attain much more important position in social science. Economics is a Social Science that seeks to analyse and describe the production distribution and consumption of wealth.(WWW.Britanica.Com)⁽⁹⁾

B. <u>History:</u> - "History is the study of the human past, scholars who write about history are called historians. It is a field of research which uses a narrative to examine and analyse the sequence of events and it sometimes attempts to investigate objectively the patterns of cause and effect that determine events Historians debate the nature of history and its usefulness (**Evans,Richard J.2001**). This included discussing the study of the discipline as an end in itself and as way of providing perceptive" on the problems of the present. The stories common to a particular culture, but not supported by external sources (Such as the legends surrounding King Arthur) are usually classified as cultural heritage rather than the "disinterested investigation needed by the discipline of history (**Stearns, Peter 2000**)⁽¹⁹⁾. Events of the past prior to written record are considered preferable prehistoric.

C. <u>Political Science: -</u> Political Science is a social science concerned with the theory and practice of politics and the description and analysis of political systems and political behaviour. Political scientists "See themselves engaged in revealing the relationships underlying political events and conditions. And from these revelations they attempt to construct general principles about the way the world of politics works" (Lane 1996)⁽¹⁵⁾. Political science intersects with other fields: including public policy, national polities, international relations, comparative polities and political theory.

D. <u>Sociology:</u> - Sociology is the study of society. It is a social science-a term with which it is sometimes synonymous- that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop and refine a body of knowledge about human social activity. After with the goal of applying such knowledge to the pursuit of social welfare. Subject

matter ranges from the micro level of agency and interaction to the macro level of systems and social structure (**Giddens 2007**)⁽⁶⁾.

E. Statistics: - Statistics as a discipline is the development and application of methods, to collect, analyse and interpret data. A modern statistical method involves the design and analysis of experiments and surveys the quantification of biological, social and scientific phenomenon and the application of statistical principles to understand more about the world around us. Since data are used in more areas of human endeavour, the theory and methods of modern statistics have been applied to a wide variety of fields. Some areas that use modern statistical methods are the medical, biological and social science, economics and finance, marketing research, manufacturing and management, government, research institute and many more. Exciting new areas are opening up due to development in areas such as biotechnology survey research and computing.(Statistics.unl.edu/what is .shtml)⁽¹⁰⁾

F. <u>Public Administration: -</u> It is a "field of inquiry with a diverse scope", of which the "fundamental goal...is to advance management and policies so that government can function (**Rabin**, **Jack1989**)⁽¹⁸⁾". Some of the various definitions which have been offered for the term are: "the management of public programs" (**Robert**, **B. 2009**)⁽⁴⁾; the translation of politics into the reality that citizens see every day; and "the study of government decision making, the analysis of the policies themselves, the various inputs that have produced them, and the inputs necessary to produce alternative policies (**Jerome**, **B. 1998**)⁽¹³⁾."

One of the main branches of political science, **public** administration can be broadly described as the development, implementation and study of branches of government policy. The pursuit of the public good by enhancing civil society and social justice is the

ultimate goal of the field. Though public administration has historically been referred to as government management, it increasingly encompasses non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that also operate with a similar, primary dedication to the betterment of humanity.

- G. <u>Anthropology: -</u> Anthropology is the holistic "science of man". The discipline deals with the integration of different aspects of the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Human Biology. In the twentieth century, academic disciplines have often been institutionally divided into three broad domains. The natural and biological *sciences* seek to derive general laws through reproducible and verifiable experiments. The *humanities* generally study local traditions, through their history, literature, music, and art, with an emphasis on understanding particular individuals, events, or eras. The *social sciences* have generally attempted to develop scientific methods to understand social phenomena in a generalizable way, though usually with methods distinct from those of the natural sciences.
- **H.** <u>Law: -</u> Law is a system of rules, usually enforced through a set of institutions. Laws can shape or reflect politics, economics and society in numerous ways and serves as a primary social mediator of relations between people (**Hamilton 2005**)⁽⁷⁾.
- **I.** <u>Education:</u> Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills, the imparting of knowledge, positive judgment and well-developed wisdom. Education has as one of its fundamental aspects the imparting of culture from generation to generation (see socialization). Educate means 'to draw out', from the, or to facilitate the realization of an individual's potential and talents. It is an application of pedagogy, a body of theoretical and applied research relating to teaching and learning and draws on many disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, sociology and

anthropology.($\underline{\text{http://www.teachersmind.com/education.html}} dt08/09/09)^{(11)}$

J. Behavioural Sciences: - Behavioural science is a branch of the sciences which is concerned with the study of human and animal behaviour. Behavioural science looks at individuals and their behaviour along with the behaviour of societies, groups, and cultures, and processes which can contribute to specific behaviours. There is a great deal of overlap between this field and the social sciences, which can sometimes lead to confusion: the social sciences tend to focus more on structural systems and cultures, while behavioural science tends to look at the reactions within and between organisms which dictate behavioural trends. Researchers in the field of behavioural science can use a number of tools to gather data. Observation of individuals and groups is one of the most powerful tools, as are controlled, ethical experiments which are designed to push the boundaries of normal behaviour and to explore the motivations behind behaviour. Research in this field can include many social sciences in their approach, along with harder sciences like neurology, chemistry, and even things like geology, as people may be environment informs interested in how

K. <u>Geography: -</u> Geography is the study of the Earth and its lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena. A literal translation would be to describe or write about the Earth. The first person to use the word geography was Eratosthenes (276-194 B.C.). Four historical traditions in geographical research are the spatial analysis of natural and human phenomena (geography as a study of distribution), area studies (places and regions), study of man-land relationship, and research in earth sciences (Pattison1990)⁽¹⁶⁾. Nonetheless, modern geography is an all-

behavior.(www.wisegeek.com/what is behavioural science.html)⁽¹²⁾

encompassing discipline that foremost seeks to understand the Earth and all of its human and natural complexities—not merely where objects are, but how they have changed and come to be. Geography has been called 'the world discipline' (**Bonnet 2008**)⁽¹⁾.

- **L.** <u>Psychology: -</u> **Psychology** is the study of human or animal mental functions and behaviours. In this field, a professional practitioner or researcher is a psychologist. Psychologists are classified as social or behavioural scientists. Psychological research can be considered either basic or applied. Psychologists attempt to understand the role of mental functions in individual and social behaviour, while also exploring underlying physiological and neurological processes.
- **M.** <u>Management:</u> Management in all business areas and organizational activities are the acts of getting people together to accomplish desired goals and objectives. Management comprises planning, organizing, staffing, leading or directing, and controlling an organization (a group of one or more people or entities) or effort for the purpose of accomplishing a goal. Resourcing encompasses the deployment and manipulation of human resources, financial resources, technological resources, and natural resources.
- N. <u>Business Studies:</u> Business studies is the name of an academic subject taught at higher level in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and the United Kingdom, as well as at university level in many countries. Its study combines accountancy, economics, finance, marketing and organisational behaviour.
- O. <u>Human Resources:</u> Human resources are a term used to describe the individuals who comprise the workforce of an organization,

although it is also applied in labor economics, for example, business sectors or even whole nations. Human resources is also the name of the function within an organization charged with the overall responsibility for implementing strategies and policies relating to the management of individuals (i.e. the human resources). This function title is often abbreviated to the initials 'HR'. Human resources are a relatively modern management term, coined in the 1960s. The origins of the function arose in organizations that introduced 'welfare management' practices and also in those that adopted the principles of 'scientific management'. From these emerged largely administrative management coordinating a range of worker related processes and becoming known, in time as the 'personnel function'. Human resources progressively became the more usual name for this function, in the first instance in the United States as well as multinational corporations, reflecting the adoption of a more quantitative as well as strategic approach to workforce management, demanded by corporate management and the greater competitiveness for limited and highly skilled workers.

1.13 Conclusions

Looking at the social science as whole, this is quite a pel mell, and is perceived as such. However, all attempts to produce a new synthesis have failed. The social system has four subsystems; the economy, the policy, the cultural, and the 'integrative' systems. Economics, political science, the study of culture and that of social integration are thus related, and interdependent, disciplines, descending from the social system, all subsystems require similar analysis. In any case different social science systems have continued to go their own way.

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