

Teaching of Social Science

Paper – 06

Meaning, Definition, Nature and Scope of Social Science

Introduction:

The term Social Science is loosely applied to any kind of study which is concerned with man and society. But in the strict sense, it refers to the application of scientific methods of the study of intricate and complex network of human relationships and the forms of organization desired to enable people to live together in societies”

Meaning of Social Sciences:

Social Science comprise academic disciplines concerned with the study of social life of human groups, animals and individuals including Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work and Sociology. Social Science is a generic term covering the scientific study of men.

Definitions:

The meaning of Social Science has been defined differently by different eminent educationalist and philosophers. Some of them are listed below:

- 1. Young and Mack:** “By social Science, we mean those bodies of knowledge compiled through the use or scientific method which deal with the forms and contents of man’s interaction”.
- 2. Alexander Pope:** “Known than thyself presume not god to the proper study of mankind is man”
- 3. James High:** “Social Sciences are those bodies of learning and study which recognize simultaneous and mutual action of physical and non-physical stimuli which produce social reaction.”
- 4. Charles Beard:** “Social Sciences are a body of knowledge and thought pertaining to human affairs as distinguished from stick, stones, stars and physical objects.”

Emergence of Social Sciences – A brief Historical Background):

The beginning of the tradition of Social Sciences has been one of the major development of the story of their own could get the recognition as “Social Sciences” only in the the 19th Century. Thinkers and writers such as Hirodotus, Aristotle and Manu (the great law giver), Kautilya and authority on Arthashastra and many other has written good treaties on different areas of Social Sciences more than 2000 years ago. The Political and Social atmosphere of ancient Greece, Rome and India also favored the kind of intellectual exercises. During 17th and 18th centuries the processes of Renaissance gave a big impetus to the continuation to the tradition of reasoning. This change is the is the intellectual atmosphere favored the development of sciences which came to be called “Social Sciences.”

Nature of Social Science:

An analysis of the point of view quoted above will bring out the following main natures of Social Sciences:

- a) As the Social Science is the scientific study of men, it includes different independent disciplines such Sociology, Philosophy, Linguistics, Statistics, History, Economics, Political Science, Civics etc. So far as humanities are concerned it includes Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric.
- b) Social Science is mainly the subject of society. This subjects deals with various societies, their distinct characters, their forms and interdependence between people and society.

- c) Social Science is a dynamic and not a constant subject. With changing outlook, behavior and hobbies of the people it has been changed from time to time.
- d) Social Science is a broad and composite instructional area which draws its information from different other branches. It helps in the study of relations, and inter-relations, historical, geographical and local area and so provides to the young useful knowledge.
- e) It is primarily concerned with different aspects of man's way of living, his basic needs, the activities in which he engages himself to meet his other needs he has developed.
- f) Another dominant nature behind the teaching of Social Science is to commit the learner to the basic principles and purposes of the society in which he lives in.

These are the main nature of Social Science.

Scope of Social Science:

Scope refers to the comprehensiveness, variety of the extent of a particular subject. It deals with the programs to be included in a learning situation. The scope of Social Science is quite vivid and vast. The breadth of Social Sciences should provide for a variety of experiences so that the children's learning will be well rounded and well balanced. Therefore, the teaching of Social Sciences should be comprehensive in nature. It should cover all the problems and situations that arise in our day-to-day life.

The main theme of the subject is the study of man in society and environment. In framing the curriculum an attempt should be made to see whether certain subjects can be grouped or particularly taught, then learners will get broad areas of human knowledge and interest. Thus, it is psychologically preferable to present various subjects, or discipline independently among the learners.

Subjects like History, Geography, Economics and Civics as well as Sociology etc provides broad and significant information and it helps the learner to know the Social conditions. All the subjects therefore, should be learned as a separate discipline which aim at helping the students to adjust their social environment. By the help of Social Sciences, students should be enabled to know the process of adjustment to the human environment both in the past and present. Social Sciences are also enable the educated to know how people work in factories, in workshop, in farm and in many other different organizations. Social Science is a movement to achieve the development of attitudes, ideals, skills, interests and appreciation rather than accumulation of factual information. This subject is dynamic one in order to adjust and cope with the constantly changing situation of the society.

Therefore, it is the duty and responsibility of the teacher to teach the pupils properly this subject.
