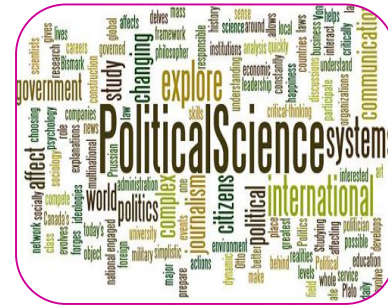




POST-BEHAVIOURALISM : A NEW REVOLUTION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Post-behaviouralism is a reform movement in development of political science. This paper emphasizes on the new revolution of political science. Post – behaviouralism is emerged by David Easton in his presidential address at the APSA meeting in 1969. Post-behaviouralism is not an anti-behaviouralism but it is a new revolution in the study of political science. It ends the dichotomy between fact and value. This paper discusses about the context, exponents, features, twin slogans, seven core traits etc of post-behaviouralism. India can accept this new revolution for her socio-political development. Post-behaviouralism makes political science from pure science to applied science.

KEYWORDS: Action, Relevance, Pure science, Fact, Value, Credo of relevance, Social change.

INTRODUCTION:

The post-behavioural trend in growth of modern political theory is viewed as a 'new revolution' as well as a 'new challenge'. Having its root in the intellectual ferment and socio-political turbulence that marked the American life in the middle and late 1960s, it has crept into the 1970s and after. The behavioural approach came under criticism by many political scientists for rejecting theory building and even political science. Political philosophers such as Strauss argued that the behavioural approach was symptomatic of the crisis in political theory because it neglected normative issues. According to Thomas Kuhn significance of scientific method lies in its strict capacity of problem-solving and crisis-management, not in methodological sophistication. By the end of 1960s even the exponents of behaviouralism realized that its strict affection to 'pure science' was responsible for its failure to attend to the pressing social and political issues of the period. In 1969s, David Easton himself in his presidential speech to the American Political Science Association announced a new revolution in political science- 'a post- behavioural revolution'- that represented a shift of focus from strict methodological issues to greater concern with public responsibilities of the discipline and with political problem.

MEANING OF POST- BEHAVIOURALISM :

The term "post-behaviouralism" was used to designate the mood and programmatic intent of the new discontents. Among the major 'post-behavioural' tenets and tendencies one could mention the new emphasis on 'values', on issues of justice, freedom and equality. According to David Easton, post-behaviouralism was 'a genuine revolution, not a reaction; a becoming, not a preservation; a reform not a counter reformation'. It was both a movement and an intellectual tendency. It would be wrong to identify post – behaviouralism with any particular political ideology, since its advocates included political scientists of all hue and colours – rank and extreme leftists-of all methodological commitments, rigorous scientists, and dedicated classicists – and all age of groups. The whole improbable diversity- political, methodological and generational was bound together by one sentiment alone, a deep discontent with the direction of contemporary political research.

CAUSES OF EMERGENCE :

The American Society, by the end of the 1960s, was faced with a number of socio-political problems. These problems were Vietnam war, the revolt of the black against white, environmental problems, economic crisis, feminist movement and so on, which made the younger generation intellectuals question the efficacy and response of the political and administrative systems to these problems. A new direction was emerging. The objectives and aims of the Caucus, as stated in their April 1969 manifesto, was to restore political science as a relevant and problem solving discipline which can serve the poor, oppressed and underdeveloped peoples at home and abroad in their struggles against the established hierarchies, elites and institutions forms of manipulation. In September 1969, David Easton, in his presidential address to the APSA, started a new revolution that was post-behavioural revolution.

Exponents:

Main exponents of post-behaviouralism are David Easton, Austin Ranney, Peter H. Markel and others.

TWIN SLOGANS OF POST-BEHAVIOURALISM :

Relevance and action were the main twin slogans of post-behaviouralism. During the sixties, political scientists were taking interest not only in issues on which decisions were being taken by the state, but also on issues on which no decisions were being taken. Issues not raised, power not challenged, energies not mobilized, analyses not developed –were now being regarded as of crucial importance for the understanding of political processes. A study of problems such as these might draw the attention of political scientists to the study of the structure of the existing socio-economic system, which perhaps was the most **relevant** factor in current politics and might even induce them to take **action** –action of a defiant, rebellious, character.

FEATURES OF POST-BEHAVIOURALISM:

The general features of post-behaviouralism are given below:-

1. **Opposition to value free social science** : The post-behaviouralists are deeply opposed to the attempts of the behaviouralists in making political science as a value-free science. Post-behaviouralists give due consideration for values unlike the behaviouralists who think of a value-free science. Values should not be sacrificed for scientism.
2. **A Movement of Protest** : The post-behaviouralists asserted that political must be relevant to society as justice, liberty, equality, democracy etc. Easton asserted that the role of the intellectuals has been must be to protect human values of civilization.
3. **Future Oriented Study** : Post-behaviouralists wanted that research should be future oriented. A researcher and investigator of social and political problems with the help of his research should be in a position to fore-see the coming events and make prediction as well so that the society is fore-warned of coming events.
4. **Purpose oriented research** : According to post-behaviouralists the research should be relevant and purposeful for the society. It should be relevant to the problems with which society is faced, and also come out with practicable solutions which can be implemented by administrators. As far as possible the solutions should be applicable to all societies and not to a particular society.
5. **Action Oriented** : Post-behaviouralists put a lot of emphasis on action rather than a contemplative science. According to them, knowledge for the sake of knowledge has no relevance but knowledge must put to work. When knowledge can be used to work that it can help in reshaping society and better for the society. So, Post-Behaviouralists laid stress on **action**.

CREDO OF RELEVANCE :

David Easton, who had earlier laid down the “intellectual foundation stone of behavioural revolution”, now came out with seven major traits of post-behaviouralism and described as the “credo of relevance” or “a distillation of the maximal image”. These are summarized as follows:-

1. **Substance over technique**: In political science research, substance must come before technique. It may be good to have sophisticated tools of investigation, but the more important point was the purpose to which these tools were being applied. Unless the scientific research was relevant and meaningful for contemporary urgent social problems, it was not worth being undertaken.

2. Emphasis on social change : Contemporary political science should place its main emphasis on social change, not social preservation, as the behaviouralists seemed to be doing . Behavioralism was charged with being an 'ideology of social conservatism tempered by modest incremental change'. Post-behaviouralism advocates change orientation and reform over preservation.

3. Stress on Reality : The Behaviouralists had lost touch with realities and kept away from brute realities of politics . Post Behaviouralists felt that behavioural enquiry is abstractism and does not help the society in any way. They point out that we are passing through times of crisis and in spite of the fact that heavy expenses on research had been incurred and all the comforts of life are available in western world yet it is full of warries and social conflicts are deeping in that part of the world. If it was not responsibility of the political scientist to reach out to the real needs of mankind , of what use political science was to society?

4. Stress on value loaded political science : The Behaviouralists had emphasized too much on value-free research. In fact behaviouralism was known as value-free approach. It was their main feature. Behaviouralists stood for value neutrality in research at all aspects. Values for practical purposes were thrown out of their consideration. But according Post-Behaviouralists values played an important role in politics and research .They stressed on value-loaded study of political science. In the words of David Easton, "values are an integral part of our personality and so long as we are human beings, these sets of mental preference are always with us.

5. Importance of Humans Values : According post-behaviouralism , political scientists must protect human values of civilization. In the words of David Easton, "The intellectual's historical role has been and must to be protect human values of civilization. This is their unique task and obligation. Without this they become more technicians and mechanics for tinkering with society. They there by abandon the special privileges they come to claim for themselves as academics.....".

6. Emphasis on Action oriented research: Post –behaviouralism wanted to emphasis on action to solve social problems. According to Post Behaviouralists knowledge or research should be put to work. Political scientists take action for reshaping the societ . Political science should be used as applied science. To know, as Easton points out , " is to bear the responsibility for acting and to act is to engage in reshaping society". Post-behaviouralism asked for action science in place of contemplative science, and demanded that a sense of commitment and action must permeated and coloured entire research in political science .

7. Politicisation of the profession: Behaviouralism did not want to make political science into politicize. But post-behaviouralism wanted politicization of all the professional associations as well as universities. According to post-behaviouralism , if role of intellectuals was to try to determine proper goals for society and make society better, profession should be politicized.

Difference between Behaviouralism and Post- behaviouralism:-

There are a lot of difference between behaviouralism and post-behaviouralism. These are follows:-

1. Charles E. Merriam is regarded as the father of behaviouralism. But David Easton is the father of post-behaviouralism.
2. Behaviouralism emphasized on fact-based political theory. On other hand, post- behaviouralism stressed on value-based political theory with fact.
3. The purpose of inquiry in behavioralism is knowledge for knowledge sake and it is not interested in action. But post-behavioralism stress on relevance of knowledge to satisfy social needs and action for problem-solving.
4. Behaviouralism interested in value-neutral. But post-behaviouralism interested in the choice of values.
5. Behaviouralists believed in status quo; not interested in social change. On other side, post – behaviouralists believed in social change for solving problem.
6. Behaviouralists interested in micro-level analysis but Post-Behaviouralists interested in macro-level analysis.
7. Whereas the behaviouralism had insisted on making political science, the post-behaviouralism tried to convert it into an applied science.

Post-Behaviouralism is a new revolution or anti-behaviouralism :-

In simple words , post-behavioralism is not anti-behaviouralism but a new revolution. Because post-behaviouralism modified behaviouralism with some aspects. According to post-behaviouralism ,the Behaviouralists began to waste their time in developing tools and techniques and on such concepts as value free

investigation of political science instead of studying political problems of society. According post-behaviouralism, behaviouralism was irrelevant to social change. So, David Easton and some behaviouralists had realized modification of behaviouralism. In 1969 David Easton announced a new revolution in development of political science that was popularly known as post –behavioralism.

Post-Behaviouralism and India :

Post-behaviouralism had played a great role to make American society for better development. In America political scientists took responsibility to solve urgent social problems. But in India what are the role of political and social scientists to solve India's urgent social and political problems like unemployment, poverty, population growth, corruption, problem of women, pollution and so on? In India post-behaviouralism must be needed but does government of India politicize of profession to solve our contemporary problem? If political scientists in India get responsibility for better society, India will be developed and more problemless country.

Contribution of post-behaviouralism :

Post-behaviouralism is one of the most important fact in development of political science. It is reform movement behaviouralism because it ends the dichotomy between fact and value. Post-behaviouralism emphasis on relevance and action .This approach did not refuse the contribution of technical proficiency, but it did not agree that political scientist should cut himself from contemporary practical problems of society. According to Post- Behaviouralists , research should be purposeful and future oriented. According post-behaviouralism , research should be used for nation building, state building and for effective welfare of human beings. Thus, post-behaviouralism begins a new revolution and a new horizon in field of political science.

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