



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODERN IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

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I]ABSTRACT

This research paper attempts to show the importance of methods in social science research. It highlights nature and function of diverse methods of social science research in dealing with diverse social and political issues. It deeply investigates the historical implications and modern developments of these methods. It also reconsiders how pure science research is different from social science research. The diverse methods methodologies we use in the social science research are miscellaneous and assorted. This study has a deep and abiding concern for the development of social science research in the modern with a new angle of perception and with diverse perspectives.

II]KEYWORDS: Pure Science, Social Science, epistemology etc.

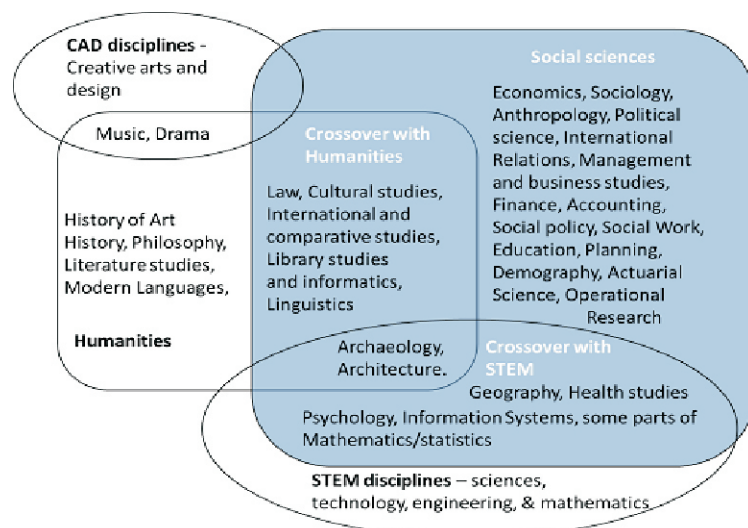
III] OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the nature and scope of social science research
2. To figure out the difference between pure science and social science research
3. To interpret relevance of social science research in the study of social and political issues.

IV] INTRODUCTION:

Basically research is systematic and controlled investigation of the facts, ideas and issues by using empirical verified hypothesis. It is empirical and critical investigation of hypothetical propositions about the presumed relations among natural phenomena. Since it involve experience and critical reasoning, it may be regarded as the most successful approach in the discovery of truth. Research is also defined as an investigation or understanding an issue or asking and answering complex question or solving a problem.

Throughout the years, research has been constructing and developing the knowledge of the world. Western and Eastern epistemology contributed in the construction of social science research. In the construction of theoretical premise on the social sciences, it was the Greek epistemology or theory of knowledge has remarkable contribution. The name Socrates is central in the construction of epistemology of ethics, human values which are quintessential in social science research and humanities. He was moralist and manifested ethics and virtues with his words and deeds. He



was one of the moralists who was interested in any kind of knowledge that would lead to good human conduct and condemned all vices and acts of wickedness which he attributed to ignorance. In the midst of thriving injustices in the Athenian society of his days, he lives austere according to the moral principles and protested against to collaborate the evil designs of the government of the day. Socratic contributions were mainly in the form of ideas and values. He transmitted his ideas through the dialogues and not through the writings or giving great speeches in the public sectors. This was come to known as dialectics. The dialectics was in the form of questions and answers. Later Hegel and Karl Marx developed the theory of dialects. They portrayed dialectics as conflict between two opposite forces. The Socratic Method constitutes of conversation of people, asking them questions and helping them to seek the answers. By employing the method of dialogue, Socrates developed elicit questions and dialectic method to understand the social or political truth. He has made the conversations with all those who had a reputation for wisdom in the Greece.

However, there is interface between Socratic philosophy and contemporary scientific method. He considers that the investigation of the nature of the universe is of far less important than to understand what it meant to be a human being. Thus Socrates brought a new perspective in looking to the world where human being, his culture, behavior, life and morals became quintessential. He then said that natural philosophy is also important rather it is less important than human philosophy. With a due respect to Pythagoras, Thales, Heraclitus and Anaximenes, Socrates developed his dialogues about human understanding. Plato's *Phaedo* gives Socratician understanding of Delphic percept that is Know Thyself. Socrates says that it is wrong to neglect the study of human being and concentrate on only natural philosophy.

Even Plato developed dialectic method and theorized it in detail. He developed it as an art of discussion, through which the scholars can arrive at the truth. By exchanging logical argument about the human being can bring the ultimate solution to it. He says that dialectic method as the process of provoking the truth by means of questions which aims at opening out what is already discreetly known. This dialectic method is also called as Socratic Method in which Socrates attempts to examine someone's beliefs and argues by counter-investigating his opponents arguments and premises.

The next method is rational method of investigation in which reason is source of knowledge. But the rational method in social science research plays ethical role where intellectuality lack the same. The word rational is defined from Latin term 'ratio' which means reason. It is a method or theory in which the criterion of the truth is not a sensory but intellectual and deductive. Rationalism holds that genuine knowledge cannot come from sense perceptions and experience but must have its foundation in thought or reason. Rationalism gives emphasis on a priori reason which means knowledge obtained through prior to experience. Rationalism is also known as Continental Rationalism which was developed by Descartes.

In the pure science empirical method has been used to collect the data to get the statistical solutions. It is generally taken to mean collection of data on which to base a theory or derive a conclusion in science. Rather in social science research we use this method to collect the data only and it is not used always to find out the truth out of political or social issues. Modern philosophy can be generally classified as rationalistic and empiricistic as they accept reason or experience respectively as a source and norm of knowledge. Empiricism in social science contrasted with the pure science school of thought known as rationalism. Empirical research basically based on the experience and not on the reason. According to empiricism human mind at the time of birth is *tabula rasa* or clean slate. The mind is being compared to a blank writing tablet. It is sense experience as source of knowledge. Sensation and reflection the outer and the inner senses experience the only windows through which the dark

chamber of mind comes to be filled with light. However empiricism denies intuition which enables us to grasp general truths about reality independently of experience. It accepts only inductive method which is a process of reasoning from a part to a whole from particulars to general and individuals to universals. John Locke developed this theory in a wider sense. Even Berkeley and David Hume developed this theory thoroughly. Empirical method paved the way to very practical basis of knowledge. Rational method makes the use of reason only as a tool of knowledge that will lead a baseless ground. Reason does not perform its function unless something is carried on to it in and through the sense experiences. Truth is basically a posteriori. Through which the empirical method has its own drawbacks still it served a valid basis for the demonstration of the truth.

Theodor Adorno and Habermas developed the critical theory to look into social and political issues. Habermas is inherent in the way structure of social action and language. In dealing for the contemporary pattern of ideology and the process of emancipation, he proposes the transcendence of such system of distorted communication. Here his theory exposes the forms of manipulation and its impact on the society. He attempted to develop a theory of society with practical intention. His theory constitutes to offer a meticulous account of the relation between theory and practice in all social sciences. He protests against the domination of scientism. He reflected on the nature of cognition, the form of social inquiry and the primary base of socio-cultural aspect of the society. He wanted to develop the contemporary social thought which has no connection with traditional social thoughts and values. He says that there should be assessment and reformation of social values of past. He proposes that there should be one to one correspondence between scientific revolution and notions of freedom, justice, happiness and self-realization. He said the western society has witnessed nihilism and threatening pattern of modernity and enlightenment. It paved the way of dogmatism and superstition, fragmentation and discontinuity with loss of meaning and reactionary response to modernity.

V] CONCLUSION:

Science and technology permeate the indispensable parts of our lives rather, but methods of social science research proved that ethics and values have been jettisoned with new perspectives. It is way of giving a new face to social science research through the methods and methodologies of diverse social and political philosophers and scholars.

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