

## DISS

### ***LESSON 1: NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AS A DISCIPLINE***

Social Science is an academic discipline and a branch of science that deals with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society (Merriam-Webster).

It started during the Age of Enlightenment between the 17th to 19th centuries. This period is also known as the "Age of Reason," which was an intellectual and philosophical movement that began in Europe. Social science was merely taught as a natural philosophy, but later on, when the Age of Revolutions began, specifically the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution in Europe, it was conceptualized as moral philosophy and then as science which was experimental or applied that focused on the systematic knowledge-bases or prescriptive practices, relating to the social improvement of a group of interacting entities.

There was extensive growth of social science in the 18th century. Pioneers during that time were Denis Diderot, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Auguste Comte, who emphasized social science as a distinct conceptual field and reflected in other specialized encyclopedias. Later on, the discipline was influenced by "positivism," focusing on knowledge based on actual positive sense experience and avoiding the negative and metaphysical speculation. It was Auguste Comte, who used first the term "science sociale" taken from the idea of Charles Fourier, and he also called it "social physics"

Furthermore, during this period, the concept of social sciences became established in the five (5) paths of development influenced by Comte in other fields. First, the rise of social research and extensive statistical surveys were undertaken in various parts of Europe and the United States. Second, a route initiated by Emile Durkheim about "social facts" and Vilfredo Pareto introduced the metatheoretical ideas and individual

theories. Third, the rise of methodological dichotomy became present and the social phenomena were identified and understood because of Max Weber. Fourth, the development of economic knowledge and concept was also introduced. Last was that the correlation of knowledge and social values prospered, and the theory became description and prescription avoided the overlapping discussions of a subject.

In the 20th century, the concept of social sciences became interdisciplinary, crossdisciplinary, and quantitative in methodology. Applied mathematics and statistics were used during this time. Later on, social sciences influenced the field of natural sciences and adopted the qualitative method. There was an increase in the quantitative research and qualitative approach because the two were integrated into the study of human action and its implications and consequences.

In the contemporary period, social science became the source and center for research and data. There was an emergence of new theories because of different research methodologies used. Two social scientists were influenced by this, and these were Karl Popper and Talcott Parson.

Generally, the term "social science" may refer to the specific "sciences of society" established by scholars such as Auguste

Comte, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. Disciplines outside of "noble science" and "arts" recognized this academic discipline and branch of science.

## **Branches**

Social Science is an academic discipline that focuses on the relationships of institutions, the function of a person in society, and other members of society. Consequently, social sciences have several sub-disciplines or branches that can explain different fields and disciplines. Here are some of the known branches of social sciences: anthropology, communication studies, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

## **BRANCHES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Anthropology**- It comes from the two Greek words "anthropos" which means human and "logos," which means the study of. It is the holistic "science of man", a science of the totality of human existence.

-The discipline deals with the integration of different aspects of the social sciences, humanities, and human biology.

-The one who studies the human existence is called an Anthropologist.

**Communication Studies**- It deals with practices of human communication, commonly defined as the sharing of symbols to create meaning.

-The discipline encompasses a range of topics, from face-to-face conversation to mass media outlets such as television broadcasting.

-Communication studies also examine how messages are interpreted through the political, cultural, economic, and social dimensions of their contexts.

-It is also known as "speech communication", "rhetorical studies", "communication science", "media studies", "communication arts", "mass communication", "media ecology", and "communication and media science".

**Economics**- It comes from the two Greek words "oikos," which means "family, household, estate," and "nomos," which means "custom, the law, and hence, it means "household management" or "management of the state."

-It is a social science that seeks to analyze and describe the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth.

-The one who studies household management is called an Economist.

**Education**- It comes from the Latin word "educare," which means draw out," to facilitate the realization of an individual's potential and talents.

-Education includes teaching and learning specific skills, as well as the less tangible but more insightful development of imparting of knowledge, positive judgment, and well developed wisdom. Education, in one of its fundamental aspects, include the imparting of culture through the generations.

-Teachers and educators are what are called to those taking up and doing the teaching and learning process.

**Geography**- It comes from the two Greek words "geo," meaning earth or land, and "graphein," meaning "description" and "graphia," meaning "to write about."

-It is the science that deals with the description, distribution, and interaction of the diverse physical, biological, and cultural features of the earth's surface. The one who studies the earth's surface is called a Geographer.

**-History-** It comes from the Greek word "historia," which means the study of the past and significant events.

-It is also defined as a continuous, systematic narrative and research into past human events as interpreted through historiographical paradigms or theories. The one who studies history is called a historian.

**Law/Jurisprudence-** It is the science or philosophy of law.

-It is defined as the "system of rules" and "interpretive concept" to achieve justice, as an "authority" to mediate people's interests, and even as "the command of a sovereign, backed by the threat of a sanction."

-Laws are political because politicians are the ones who created it.

-Studying laws and other political concepts is called a Political Scientist; however, to become a Lawyer, you must pass the test called the BAR exam.

**Linguistics-** It is the scientific study of language. It involves the analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context.

-Linguists are the term used to call people who know and can speak any language.

-Linguists study human speech, including units, nature, structure, and modification of language.

-Linguistics investigates the cognitive and social aspects of human language.

**Political Science-** It comes from the two Greek words "polis," which means "cities-state" and "science," which means "study of." Therefore, it is the study of state affairs.

-It is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics and the description and analysis of political systems and political behavior. Political science also studies power in international relations and the theory of great powers and superpowers. The one who studies state affairs is called a Political Scientist.

**Psychology-** It comes from the Greek word "psyche," which means "mind" and logos, which means "study."

-It is an academic and applied field involving the study of behavior and mental processes.

-Psychology also refers to the application of such knowledge to various spheres of human activity, including problems of individuals' daily lives and the treatment of mental illness.

-The one who studies human behavior and mental processes are called a Psychologist.

**Sociology**- It comes from the Greek word "soci," which is from the Latin word "socius," which means "companion or society in general and "logos," which means "study."

-Sociology is the systematic study of society, individuals' relationship to their societies, the consequences of difference, and other aspects of human social action. The one who studies the society is called a Sociologist.

## **LESSON 2: NATURE AND FUNCTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES WITH THE NATURAL SCIENCES**

### *General Concepts and Historical Background*

Since the beginning, humans have always been curious about what is happening in themselves and their environment. Many theories and laws explain the different phenomena

and changes in our bodies, environment, society, and the world. Early people sought to explain these phenomena through mythology. The advancement of science and technology has proven to examine the natural causation of things and thus has debunked numerous superstitions and mythical beliefs.

However, not all people are informed, and some still believe in the unseen as the clash between scientific, mythological, and religious views are going on.

Natural Science and Social Science are related and integrated into one another and work hand in hand in explaining the concurrent and existing theories and changes happening in humans, the environment, society, and the world as a whole. Because man, environment, humanities, and society cannot be studied using one discipline of science alone, their collaboration makes the understanding of the man and the world relevant and complete.

To analyze how natural science developed through time, let us take a glance at its historical background. It is divided into six (6) periods: ancient times, Aristotelian natural philosophy, medieval natural philosophy, Newton and the scientific.

### **PERIODS**

**Ancient Times (3500-3000 BCE)**- This is the period where the Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt,

Indus, and China believed that happenings in the world and to humans are a product of mythological and religious revelations.

-Scholars trace that this period where **understanding the natural world** was necessary for survival. Humans developed observation and curiosity about the behavior of animals and the usefulness of plants as a source of food and medicine.

**Aristotelian Natural Philosophy (400 BCE-1100 CE)**- This is the period where **Aristotle gave much attention to the physical and natural world**. He was a pioneer and became known as the Father of Biology. Some of his works were about astronomy, meteorology, zoology, and physics.

-His works were used as references during the Ancient Romans, the Byzantine Empire, and Abbasid Caliphates.

-His principle served as an inspiration to Galileo Galilei during Scientific Revolution.

**Medieval Natural Philosophy (1100-1600 CE)**- This is the period where the **Catholic Church become a dominant** monopoly of knowledge with regards to natural philosophy. Theologians. opposed natural science because they considered it as heresy. During the Middle Ages, those who study and experiment on natural science were considered performers of magic and members of the occult. Later on, theologians like Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus have seen natural philosophy as a theological perspective that can be used in **church** dogma and scriptures.

**Newton and the Scientific Revolution (1600-1800 CE)**- This is the period where some of the **Aristotelian natural philosophy debunk and the rise** of protestant reformation begun to start conducted a scientific inquiry.

-This was also the birth of scientific revolution wherein more **natural philosophers** gave different perspectives and methodologies in terms of **natural science as natural philosophy**. There was the rise of the scientific method as a new way of scientific inquiry and investigation. Experiment and hypotheses formulation became essentials as new scientific-based. Logic and mathematics became the tools to interpret and analyze cause and effect.

-Sir Isaac Newton, an English Mathematician, and Physicist became the most highlighted natural scientist in this time because of his Law of Gravitational Force and Laws of Motion.

**19th Century Development (1800-1900)**- This is the period where natural philosophy become officially named as natural science. **Natural Science institutions emerged**, and more professionals linked to this new field. The term scientist used to identify persons studying natural science was invented by **William Whewell in 1834**.

**Modern Natural Science (1900-present)**- The natural science prospers and further develops in this period. Inventions, discoveries, and experimentations are used for the betterment of man, society, and environment.

-New branches of natural science were created, including mechanics, electrodynamics, thermodynamics. and

-Today, natural sciences are commonly divided into life sciences, such as botany and zoology, and physical sciences, which include physics, chemistry, astronomy, and Earth sciences.

### ***LESSON 3-ANTHROPOLOGY AND ECONOMICS***

#### **DEFINITION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND FIELDS OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

The word anthropology comes from the New Latin "anthropologia" derived from the combined words anthropos (human) and logos (study). It is the scientific study of humans, human behavior, and societies in the past and present.

Anthropology and many other current fields are the intellectual results of the comparative methods developed in the earlier 19th century. Theorists in such diverse fields as anatomy, linguistics, and Ethnology, making feature-by-feature comparisons of their subject matters, were beginning to suspect that similarities between animals, languages, and folkways were the result of processes or laws unknown to them then of species they had seen in agronomy and in the wild.

Darwin and Wallace unveiled evolution in the late 1850s. There was an immediate rush to bring it into the social sciences. Paul Broca in Paris was in the process of breaking away from the Société de biologie to form the first of the explicitly anthropological societies, the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris in which the first meeting was in Paris in 1859. When he read Darwin, he became an immediate convert to Transformisme, as the French called evolutionism. His definition now became "the study of the human group, considered as a whole, in its details, and concerning the rest of nature."

Widely considered to be one of the greatest and most influential anthropologists ever, Franz Boas was a German-American scientist, who is also known as the "Father of Modern Anthropology".

He was the first person to implement the scientific method into the study of human cultures and societies.

He laid down the four-field structure of anthropology around cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, linguistics and archaeology. He advocated that these four fields of research should all unite to provide a complete picture of anthropological research. Contributions to physical anthropology was his study of changes immigrants in New York. He y Form of Descendants of Immigrants" in 1912. Boas had an effect on physical features which is shown through.

## **BRANCHES OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

1. Biological Anthropology (physical anthropology) carry out systematic studies of the non-cultural aspects of humans and near-humans. Non-cultural refers to all of those biological characteristics that are genetically inherited in contrast to learned. Near-human is a category that monkeys, apes, and other primates as well as our fossil ancestors. The primary interest of most biological anthropologists today is human evolution they want to learn how our ancestors changed through time to become what we are today.

2. Cultural Anthropology studies cultural meaning, including norms and values. Cultural Anthropologists are interested in learning about the cultural aspects of human societies all over the world. They usually focus their research on such things as the social and political organizations, marriage patterns and kinship systems, subsistence and economic patterns, and religious beliefs of different societies.

3. Linguistic Anthropology studies how language influences social life. Linguistic Anthropologists study the human communication process. They focus their research in understanding such phenomena as the physiology of speech, the structure and function of languages, social and cultural influences on speech and writing, nonverbal communication, how languages developed over time, and how they differ from each other.

4. Archaeology studies human activity through investigation. Archaeology is interested in recovering the prehistory and early history of societies and their cultures. They systematically uncover the evidence by excavating, dating, and analyzing the material remains left by people in the past.

## **LESSON 4: CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES THEORIES**

### **Functionalism**



According to Vincent, 2001, Functionalism, also called **structural- functional theory**, sees society as a structure with interrelated parts designed to meet the biological and social needs of the individuals in that society.

Functionalist sociologists like **Parsons and Durkheim** have been concerned with the search for functions that institutions may have in society.

However, another functionalist sociologist R. Merton has adopted a concept of dysfunction this refers to the effects of any institution which detracts from the conservation of society.

An example of a function which helps maintain society is that of the family, its function is to ensure the continuity of society by reproducing and socializing new members.

Another institution which performs an important function is religion. functionalist sociologists believe that it helps achieve social solidarity and shared norms and values, however it could be argued that it fails to do this as a result of increasing secularization in recent years and therefore it creates a divide between members of society rather than binding them together (moral glue).

### ***Concepts of Structural Functionalism According to Quexbook, 2018***

**Collective Conscience and Value Consensus**-Functionalists believe that without collective conscience/ shared values and beliefs, **achieving social order** is impossible and **social order** is crucial for the well-being of society.

**Social Order**- Functionalists believe that there are **four main basic needs that an individual requires in order to exist in society.**

**Functionalism and Education**- Durkheim believes that education transmits society's **norms and values**. Education brings together a mass and changes them into a united whole which leads to social solidarity.

**Functionalism and Family**- George Peter Murdock believes that the family provides four vital

functions for society: sexual, reproductive, economic, and educational. The family is the primary point of socialization in that it provides children with values and norms. A family unit provides emotional security for each person in the relationship.

**Functionalism and Media-** The media operate in the public interest by reflecting the interests of the audience. It portrays public opinion. The media understands that society has a wide diversity of culture and this is shown by the different amounts of stories it covers.

**Functionalism and Crime and Deviance-** Durkheim shows us that there is such a thing as society, and that it is this entity called society that creates crime and deviance. Crime and deviance are socially constructed they are not natural, obvious, or theologically inspired categories. They are concepts that were brought into the world solely by humankind.

## ***Marxism***

According to Quexbook, 2018, Marxism is a social, political, and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx, which examines the effect of capitalism on labor, productivity, and economic development and argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favor of communism.

Marxism posits that the struggle between social classes, specifically between the bourgeoisie, or capitalists, and the proletariat, or workers, defines economic relations in a capitalist economy and will inevitably lead to revolutionary communism.

## **Concepts of Marxism**

Certain concepts are key to an understanding of Marxism a political theory that has shaped world politics for over 150 years. Key Marxist concepts are diametrically the opposite to capitalism, and some believe have created a mentality of a society that is very much a them and us' one.

-Marxism believes that capitalism can only thrive on the exploitation of the working class.

-Marxism believes that there was a real contradiction between human nature and the way that we must work in a capitalist society.

-Marxism has a dialectic approach to life in that everything has two sides.

-Marxism believes that capitalism is not only an economic system but is also a political system.

The profit difference between what goods are sold for and what they actually cost to make; Marxism refers to as a "surplus profit",

-Marxism believes that economic conflict produces class (rich, middle and poor) and inherently class produces conflict.

-A Marxist analysis called 'Polarisation of the Classes' describes the historical process of the class structure becoming increasingly polarised - pushed to two ends with nothing in the middle. It says that soon classes will disappear and be absorbed either into the bourgeoisie or the proletariat.

Capitalism largely shapes the educational system; without the education system the economy would become a massive failure as without education we are without jobs and employment which is what keeps society moving.

Schools transmit an ideology which states that capitalism is just and reasonable. Ruling class project their view of the world which becomes the consensus view (hegemony).

Marxists believe that a key part in the control of the Proletariat is the use of alienation in all aspects of society, including the family, the education system and the media. This provides the Bourgeoisie with a supple mass of workers who do not mind working for the external rewards of a constant wage.

Marxists believe that deviance is any behavior that differs from the societal norm. It is seen as deviant because as a society, we do not accept it.

Deviance can vary from simply odd behavior to behavior that can harm society or is considered dangerous or disrespectful.

Neo-Marxism is based on ideas initially projected by Karl Marx. Marx believed that economic power led to political power and that this is the key to understanding societies.

Neo-Marxists believe the economic system creates a wealthy class of owners and a poor class of workers. They also believe that certain social institutions such as churches, prisons and schools have been created to maintain the division between the powerful and the powerless.

### ***Symbolic Interactionism***

According to Quex book, 2018, The symbolic interaction perspective, also called symbolic interactionism, is a major framework of the sociological theory.

This perspective relies on the symbolic meaning that people develop and build upon in the process of social interaction. Although symbolic interactionism traces its origins to Max Weber's assertion that individuals act according to their interpretation of the meaning of their world

A social psychological theory developed from the work of Charles Horton Cooley and George Herbert Mead in the early part of the twentieth century (the actual name of the theory comes from Herbert Blumer, one of Mead's students).

According to this theory, people inhabit a world that is in large part socially construct

Concepts of Symbolic Interactionism The most important conceptual building block on which symbolic interactionists have based their analysis of human conduct is the concept of the symbol, or, as Mead called it, the significant symbol.

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