**APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF IR**

Scholars have adopted different approaches for the study of IR.

What is an approach?

An approach consists of a criteria employed in

* Selecting the problems (to know what it is) and
* selecting the data.

“It consists of standards governing the inclusion and exclusion of questions and data”

As different scholars have employed different questions and data and have adopted different stand points, hence, different approaches for the study of IR.

Two types:

1. Classic or Traditional Approach
2. Scientific
3. **Classic or Traditional Approach**

Descriptive analysis of IR

To report and analyse current international problems and to speculate alternatives for states or organizations

It derives from philosophy, history, law etc.

This approach nourished two dominant theories: Idealism and Realism

This approach mainly concerns with historical dimensions and lays more emphasis on diplomatic, historical, legal and institutional studies.

Historical approach means study of the past or of a selected period of history. How institutions came into existence and to analyze these these institutions which evolved with the passage of time.

The philosophical approach regarded the state as an agent of moral improvement of IR and for maintaining permanent peace.

But it was defective approach as it was far from reality.

Legal approach stresses on a need of having a system of world law to ensure world peace and security. Its for resolving conflicts, through mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement.

Finally Institutional approach focuses on formal structure for the peace and enforcement of principles of international law. It stresses on the study of organizational law. Study and organization of League of Nations, UN, ILO, UNESCO, ICC etc. Normative- as per a standard.

1. **Scientific or Behavioral Approach**

It became popular during the 2nd world war. It emphasis in the method of study rather than the subject-matter. Its based on a simple proposition that the IR like any other social activity involves people. Hence, it can be explained by explaining the behavior and activities of people in IR.

It applies scientific method by which study of the behavior of the men is more important than subject matter.

Inter-disciplinary- sociology, anthropology, psychology etc

It’s not what is important but its how it is important.

The scholars who are concerned with the substance rather than the method adopt classical approach. But the scholars who are concerned with the method rather than the substance adopt scientific approach.