

Social Sciences: An Introduction



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Natural Science

- Study of natural environment or the natural world, its features, changes, etc. and makes theories.
- Natural science have rational enquiry and empirical testing of facts.
- natural science produced universal laws of nature through scientific enquiry.

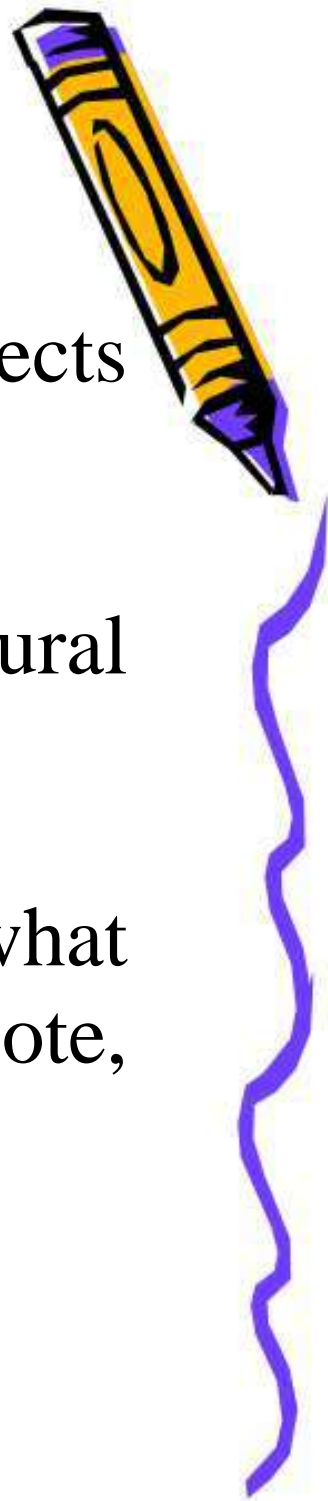
Social Sciences

- Study of social environment or the social world, its features, social changes, institutions, etc., and make theories.
- born in a period of social turmoil and dramatic societal changes like industrial revolution.
- attempt to theorize social reality for a more perfect society.



Social Sciences

- Purpose of Social Sciences – to study all aspects of the human life systematically
- Methodology - borrowed from the natural sciences
- Helps to find - causes of unemployment, what helps economic growth, how and why people vote, etc.



Social Sciences

- Origin - ancient Greeks and their rationalist inquiries into the nature of humans, state, and morality.
- Major development – during the age of revolutions, influenced by Positivism
- Scientific inquiry into human behavior was begun in 20th century.



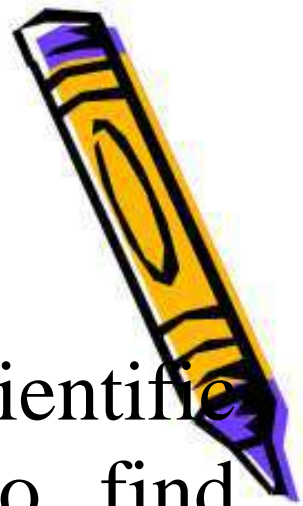
Social Sciences

- natural sciences have more successful answers to questions than in social sciences
- the philosophical questions are more significant for the social scientist than for the natural scientist
- thus there are different schools, groups, and movements have developed.

Objectives of Social Science/Social Research

Social Sciences are criticized as less scientific and impractical. But social science seeks to find explanation to unexplained social phenomena through scientific way. It tries to find out the cause-effect relationship between human activities. Thus the objectives are,

➤ Discovery of facts and their interpretation on social mysteries



- Systematization of knowledge
- Diagnosis of problems and their analysis lead to appropriate remedial actions
- Control over social phenomena
- Prediction and ensures order among social facts
- Development planning
- Social welfare



