CHAPTER - 4

An Introduction to Social Sciences

4.1 Social Sciences: An Overview

In present times, Social Sciences may be looked upon as a discipline wherein scientific methods are being used to everything pertaining to social domain. A Social Science is something which is concerned with the analysis of human groups, collectivities, and communities (Duverger, 1964). Prior to discussing the concept and historical development of the Social Sciences in depth, an attempt should be made to have a brief overlook about the fact and the ideas behind the emergence of Social Sciences and accentuate its flow from a single contemplation to that of a broad umbrella linking multiple fields.

In so far as the origin of the field of Social Sciences is concerned, no distinctive date has been given, but it is accepted that the “Social Sciences” started to appear along explanation and its distinction on “prudence, judgment, and methodology as implied to the empirical world” (“Social Sciences,” 2008). To be conscious about the traces of the origin of their fundamental ideas and objectives, one must go farther in time to prehistoric Greek and their rationalist investigation into the character of man, status, and ethics. Lynn McDonald was one among those scholars, who asserted that the sixth century be the period of the establishment of Social Science (McDonald, 2008). Above and beyond until the eighteenth century, there was the primitive confusion between Science and Philosophy, and only a few authors showed a scientific rather than a philosophical attitude in their works. In the eighteenth century when the works of 16th and 17th century became more frequent, the idea of a rigorous separation between Science and Philosophy emerged, but still, it was a philosophical approach which predominated in the period and the notion of an autonomous Social Science had not been generally accepted. On a same note Maurice Duverger also argued that till eighteenth century there was no distinct form of research but it was the Social Philosophy rather than a Social Science which was practiced having a “Philosophical attitude” which put light to an original scientific

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prominence and it persisted for centuries. One should not ignore the efforts of Auguste Comte, who for the first time put life to the concept of Social Sciences with its separate disciplines, by coining the term Sociology. His social scheme was based on a Philosophy called Positivism, which gave impetus to the shift from Social Philosophy to Social Sciences. Last, of all, it was the nineteenth century when scientific attitude began to predominate and competitive Social Sciences were to be found (Duverger, 1964).

4.2 The Concept of Social Sciences

Social Science field has lot of significance to the human life than the other ones. It emerged purposely in the beginning of 19th century having “positivist Philosophy of Science” as did many other branches of knowledge (Hunt & Colander, 2017). The man was said to be a Political animal because of its political capacities resulted from the organized state in contrast to the wild life of savages. Later on, the observation that man was a political animal was broadened into the view that he was a Social Animal (Ogburn & Nimkoff, 1968). From all the definitions and concepts it can be stated that, Social Sciences are concerned with the man as a social being, it is all about the study of society and the people’s approach they exhibit and persuade the world around them. It seeks to “objectify the sentiments, ideas, and values which on the subjective side are the subject matter of the humanities, and it strives to communicate an understanding of the interpersonal relations that constitute the foundations of any community” (Naftalin, 1952).

4.3 Definitions

As of the Webster’s third international dictionary, Social Science is “the branch of Science that deals with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society” (“Social Sciences,” 1996)²

Collins dictionary typifies Social Science as “the study of society and of the relationship of individual members within society, including Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, Anthropology, and Sociology” (“Social Science,”

n.d.). In addition to it, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the Social Sciences “deals with human behavior in its social and cultural aspects, including the following disciplines: Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, and the study of International Relations” (“Social Sciences,” 1996).

According to Charles A. Beard, “a Social Science is a body of knowledge and thought pertaining to human affairs as distinguished from sticks, stones, stars, and physical objects” (Beard, 1935). Furthermore, E.S.R.A. Seligman and Alvin Johnson defined Social Science as “those mental or cultural Sciences which deal with activities of the individual as a member of group” (Seligman & Johnson, 1934).

Last but not least, the Investopedia define Social Sciences as “A group of academic disciplines that examine society and how people interact and develop as a culture. Social Science as a field of study is separate from the Natural Sciences, which cover topics such as Physics and Chemistry. Economics, Political Science, History, Law, and Geography can be considered Social Sciences” (“Social Sciences,” n.d.).

4.4 Historical Development of Social Sciences

The historical evolution of Social Science is of great interest because of the various disciplines as they are recognized today developed during the period. To the extent the development of Social Sciences is concerned there were two contrary tendencies that dominated the disciplines that formed the Social Sciences. The primitive mystification which persisted for centuries was towards the unification to a single master Social Science and the succeeding propensity was towards the sharing out of individual Social Sciences which succeeded and the results were seen in the formation of separate highly specialized disciplines, hence replacing Social Science with Social Sciences. Taking above anecdote as guiding considerations we can delineate three great periods in the development of Social Sciences (Duverger, 1964).

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4.4.1. The Primitive confusion between Science and Philosophy

In this period Social Philosophy rather than Social Science was practiced and it persisted for centuries and has not entirely disappeared. Until the 18th century there where only a few authors in whose work a scientific rather than a Philosophical attitude predominated and the number increased considerably and it was the 19th century when the scientific attitude began to predominate.

4.4.1.1 General characteristics of the period

In order to study the principles of an ideal organization, it is important to study the working of an existing social organization: social philosophers were thus drawn towards Social Science.

1. The predominance of the philosophical and moral point of view. It was a mass of normative considerations of a moral or philosophical nature in which Social Science was embedded in its original form. Depending on the author the proposition of scientific observation relative to normative considerations varied. The dominance of normative point of view was found in every case it was it, which guided the activities of the researcher and in turns, the moral and metaphysical doctrines laid their reflection in the form of first scientific theories.

2. The importance of collected observations. As far as the contribution of this early period to the development of Social Science is concerned it in itself is of greater importance. This period witnessed many writers which were acute and energetic observers. Two intellectual temperaments were nearly always present: one inclined to reflect on information already available, the other to seek new information. It were the writers of this period who left profuse observations which were often more valuable than their general theories these theories sometimes created obstacles to the development of the Social Sciences.

4.4.1.2 The Main Stages

Discussing main stages of this period, let we put it into limit by pointing out to some essential landmarks, one is the link with Metaphysical doctrine and the other is
the quasi-permanent opposition that exhibits between the temperaments of the Philosophers and the observers. If quoting the example of the antiquity of Plato and Aristotle. It is true that Plato with abstract reasoning as the main analytical tool was essentially a Philosopher while as Aristotle had a remarkable talent for observation, and that his Philosophical reflection is based on wide and varied empirical research, his starting point was Philosophical and the basis of his conception of society was his metaphysics. While on the other hand, one finds in Plato an ‘attempt at a scientific treatment of economic and social facts.’ In the middle Ages Social Philosophy had been alike the Christian religion and morality, the great synthesis of Saint Thomas Aquinas has the range of Plato: but the scientific element in social research tends to be less. It was for the first time when Treatise on the first invention of money (1370) by Nicholas Oresme was in itself the first example of an experimental work and also marks the birth of a particular Social Science: Political Economy.

This period results in the disruption of the old intellectual framework by the Renaissance and Reformation, and the great voyages of discovery made new societies known to western European men thus favoring the experimental tendencies. In the same period originally, the “Statistics” and predecessor of the “Political Science” made its appearance in Italy, and further in 1615, Antoine de Montchretien published the first treatise on Political Economy. In the second half of the 16th and 17th century, the writings of Gentilis, Althusius, Grotius, and Pufendorf witnessed the beginning of the theory of ‘natural right’ and a juridical social Philosophy. These were the foundations on which Locke developed the doctrine of Political Liberalism.

4.4.1. The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: Foundation of an Autonomous Social Science

The works of the 16th and 17th centuries became more frequent in the 18th century which leads the idea of a rigorous separation between Science and Philosophy. In this period the Philosophical approach still predominated and also the idea of the social law, the notion of an autonomous Social Science had not been generally accepted. The authors of this period were not able to clearly delimit the field of Social Science and also were failed to define its purpose. It is the Auguste Comte whose contribution is of importance in this respect and Karl Marx in his way also
added the same importance by establishing the objective and relative character of social phenomena, which was essential to the constitution of Sociology as a Science.

In 1820’s Auguste Comte (a French thinker) for the first time, describes the scientific study of human society, and coined the term “Sociology,” his Sociological system was having a base of a viewpoint called “Positivism” he put an argument about the ideas, that they generally pass through 3 rising stages, “Theological, Philosophical and Scientific” among which the third one he called “Positive stage” subjugated by scientific consideration. This framework however was rejected by many and fails to extend different fields within the Social Sciences. In the beginning of the development, the approach that was opted by the parts of “United States and Europe” was the rise of social research by conducting large statistical surveys. This was followed by Emile Durkheim by initiating the other way of investigating “Social facts.” Furthermore in the way of development the 3rd approach was championed by information as Max Weber, developed identifying the collective phenomena, this was followed by increasingly common efforts to make affect of equations with the proclamations concerning human behavior. The primary was the “Laws of philology,” that endeavored to plot revolutionize over point of sounds in a language (Hoerl, 2017). Comte along with others like Bentham, Marx, and Spencer perceive the study of the social order as an amalgamated endeavor (Nisbet, 2017). At times they may perhaps have mocked at some conception of distinct fields of Economics, with the Political Science, the Sociology and many more (“Social sciences,” n.d.).

4.4.2. The Twentieth-Century expansion of Social Science

It was however in the end of 19th century when the opposite tendency of single master Social Science won as some, separate Social Sciences are brought into being. Now in the 20th century, no one talks about Social Science as a singular but of the Social Sciences. Sociology as a Science of synthesis covers the various specialist sociologies. For the same, in late 19th century Auguste Comte and other French Sociologist were much opposed to this and hence they affirmed the unity of Social Science, but they have not been followed.

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4.4.3.1. The striving for the unity of Social Science

The 20th-century occurrence was not responsible for growth of particular “Social Sciences.” It antedates separation of Social Sciences from Philosophy. When there was some dominance of metaphysical and moral considerations over the Social Science still there were some specialist disciplines which were found on the basis of the experimental method. Political economy was one among them: based on empirical observation the *Treatise on the invention of money* by Nicolas Oresme has already been mentioned as one of the best works of the time. In the 18th century, the then Adam Smith recognized Political Economy separated from Philosophy. Sociology of History being less developed than the Political Economy and demography, nevertheless tended to form a separate discipline.

In the 19th century, the then founders of Sociology reacted against the tendency of the division of the Social Sciences; they criticized the separate development of political economy. Even Marx whose Sociology is based on the assumption of the strict interdependence of all social phenomena laid stress even more strongly on the unity of Social Science: none could be validly analyzed in isolation. Economic phenomena being a burst with the fundamental character seems to permit the development of Political Economy in isolation. Political economy cannot be isolated from the Sociology because those economic facts are subjected to the influence of other elements of social reality. History is social reality and thus social reality does not exist outside History, this interpretation of History in Sociology is a fundamental principle of Marxism.

4.4.3.2. The contemporary multiplication of specialist disciplines

In this modern time same as the other disciplines, Social Science has also gone for contemporary multiplication and has been broken into more specialist disciplines. It was the necessity of the day, the complexity of social facts and the diversity of techniques made specialization be anticipated. It is not the unification which leads to progressive social research. Even in Marxist countries which are known and are having the great concern for unity has their experts in a sector of social research but the point to be drawn out here is that they don’t lose sight of the general connections
between social phenomena as deeper they go they should preserve an awareness of the relations between it and other parts of social life.

On one hand, there was a specialization of Social Science and on the other the absence of a general theory of the Social Sciences. One can say that the unity of the Social Sciences is guaranteed by the specialists in the USSR and the other socialist countries. It is much more difficult to maintain the unity of Social Science if an acceptance and a belief of Marxist cosmogony do not exist. There is no generally accepted cosmogony in western countries with the result of which social scientist are reduced to constructing partial theories within the framework of each discipline hence resulting in the lost sight of the connection between all social phenomena. As far as departmentalization in the Universities is concerned not only the departments but the other formative training in the Social Sciences has further aggravated the tendency towards division. There is not only one way or option to enter to the Social Sciences but many routes e.g. Statistics, Philosophy, Psychology, Medicine, etc. besides all this multiplication and departmentalization at the times one could not ignore the reactions against the splitting up of the Social Sciences. One has never doubted the coherence of the social phenomena as well as the profound unity of the Social Sciences thus there has been a search to remedy the Proliferation of the specialists’ discipline.

The training of ‘specialists in generalities’ could be one of the methods recommended by Auguste Comte. The second method would be to construct a generally acceptable doctrine, which would provide a cosmogony of the same kind of framework and basic Philosophy as the Marxists have. But till date, no one has yet been able to provide the one. The third method is the trend of the present times which consists of specialists in each of the discipline collaborating on a common research project. In other words, interdisciplinary research is becoming more fashionable. To the degree that the progress aboard Social Sciences domain is concerned, it seems that the phase of relative reunification is commencing leaving the fragmentation one behind. But the difficulties and limits of such an enterprise should not be obscured.

4.4.3. **Social Sciences in the Twenty-First Century**

It is difficult to discern the Social Science’s way on the brink of the 21st century. Instead of increasing attacks from postmodernist thinkers, there are internal
divisions confronting the Social Sciences which provide the reason for concern. One of the reasons that create some level of worry for future directions is the absence of grandly accepted theory. Despite such kind of apprehension still, some branches of Social Sciences like Economics and Psychology are gaining stature in present days. The weight-age given to Economics is because the place of importance given in the business place as forecaster of several parts of human conduct; and to Psychology is because of its increasing attachments with the field of “Biological Sciences.”

Besides Economics and Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology are also among the positive developments in the field. Since the 1960s by virtue of these two fields, the fame gained results in plotting the way through which an increasing figure of minority scholars found their way to Social Sciences. Social Sciences found its place not only in governmental entities but also in corporate firms tackling everyday issues confronting society. Furthermore, other disciplines together with women’s studies are also in one way or the other associated with Social Sciences and have positively contributed to the discipline (Duverger, 1964).

4.5 Social Sciences in Modern Day Society

The aim of Social Sciences is same as of the other Sciences to gather knowledge about different aspects of nature to serve mankind (Halayya, 1961). It aims to give the scientific value of certain social phenomena, such phenomena might consist patterns of behavior, social institutions, or social changes (Hoerl, 2017). Social Sciences intend to develop an understanding of society and to identify the challenges and positivity of existing in a world having different ethnicities and philosophies (OCadiz, 2017). Social Science having concern for people, provide light for the development of efficient and useful communal plan to endorse wellbeing of mankind, and on the other side of the coin, it has also potential to be utilized in unethical ways for destructive purposes, mostly when utilized by regime and armed institutions. Generally, it is because of the attention and regard paid to the Social Sciences that destructive aspect of scientific inventions has gained the upper hand. However, people all over the world are realizing that there has been a lop-sided development of Science.
In present scenario there is an increase in the number of courses offered by different institutes; where from students has the open choice to choose. Sometimes because of its stress upon human conduct and human dealings with the social as well as physical surroundings, Social Sciences are criticized for the reason that of its less scientific being than “Natural Sciences” The study of Social Sciences is considered to play a more important part in expansion of the humankind (Fenton, 2008) Social Science in itself has a wide scope, comprising of many disciplines including “Anthropology, Archeology, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Library and Information Science, Media studies, Political Science, Psychology, Social work, and Sociology”.

Hallaya has also defined the scope of Social Sciences like comparative religion, Politics, Economics, Criminology, Ethics, Anthropology, History, Social Geography etc. (Halayya, 1961).

4.6 Social Sciences: Characteristics and Disciplines

Social Science is concerned about the Society, hence has direct influence on socio-cultural facets of person conduct. It covers an extensive spectrum of knowledge, having a number of fields in its domain. An assortment of branches of the Social Sciences is highlighted, from which the prominent fields of the time are discussed below.

4.6.1 Anthropology

Anthropology is nothing but the study about the origin of humans, their behavior including physical set up, and all about their social development, or it can be put forth that it is the connection among “biological traits and socially acquired characteristics.” Anthropology is the extensive field with various studies under its domain that can be classified into broader fields: “Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Archaeology” (Kelly, 1970).

4.6.2 Economics

Economics is the study of the economic system i.e. the research about “production, distribution, and consumption” of the material commodities and services supposed to fulfill basic needs of persons with groups in human societies
Economics, in other words, aims to explain, guide and foresee social arrangements by which people satisfy economic needs. According to “Adam Smith” Economics is “the Science of wealth,” while as, “Alfred Marshall” stated Economics as “the study of men in the ordinary business of life,” and American economist other than others believed “that Economics is what economists do” (Hoseltiz, 1972). Economics is categorized into two broader subfields: Macro Economics and Micro Economics. Macro Economics is of broader spectrum and highlights “national-scale” economies with their connections, whereas Micro Economics is narrower in scope as it leans to concentrate on relations among “agencies, corporations, and individuals.” Some of the topics that Economics includes are supply and demand, Monetary and fiscal policy, Costs, Inflation, and unemployment.

Economics was, however, the first subject that was distinguished as a particular Science. The 18th century witnessed the surfacing of the concept of independency associated in the “developments of wealth, operations of prices, rents, interest, and wages” of ‘Physiocrats and Adam Smiths’ which acted as a concrete base of distinct Economics (“Economics,” 1996). In Society which is “an organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes” (“Society,” n.d.), and which needs to be first-rate in all aspects, Economics plays a great role. So being the Science of wealth Economics is important for many areas of society as it helps to improve the living standards by providing a means for analyzing government policies as well as to understand interactions in a market driven society and also helps to manage the finite resources such as time and money that affect the whole being of humans thus in turn make society a better place to live (Economics help, 2017).

4.6.3 Education

The term Education is comes out of two Latin words “Educare and Educatum.” In which Educare is to teach and Educatum signifies the art of training. Education since from the times of Plato to the modern times of John Dewey and Gandhi has been defined in various ways by different Educationists. T. Raymon is one among those Educationists, according to whom “Education is that process of development which consists the passage of a human being from infancy to maturity,
the process whereby he adapts himself gradually in various ways to his physical and spiritual environment.” In addition to this Drever defined “Education as a process in which and by which knowledge, character, and behavior of the young are shaped and moulded” (Saxena, 2008). In general perspective, Education is so vast and varied and is utilized in three senses: knowledge, Subject, and a process. It can be drafted out of the fact that Education is used as a process more than the subject or knowledge. As far as the emergence of Education as a discipline is concerned, it is considered as an extension solely for teacher Education and having no scope beyond it. However, there are two different areas with different objectives and scope; one is teacher Education which is directly involved in inculcating and improving teaching skills while other is Education developed from teacher Education which now a day has been developed as a wide field of study (Arti, 2014). In present times its scope is beyond our imagination and encompasses not only teacher Education but also another field of study which include: study like “woman Education, special Education, environmental Education etc.”

The study of the Education as a discipline provides insight to develop professionals for different systems of Education whether that is as a teacher, teacher educators, officers, policy makers, and many others forming the concrete base of the society. In the present era, one who needs to stay afloat in society must be able to understand the difference between the right and the wrong, much possibility of understanding the same is only doable for the people with the proper Education, those who are uneducated cannot think on rational lines. Education is one among those disciplines of Social Sciences which in present times have reached the high level of excellence. As a discipline Education, educates the people thus avoiding societal embarrassment, keeping up with evolutions, exposure to the world, helps to create the peace around the globe by incorporating ethical values etc. (Kaviya, 2015). At last, it can be concluded with the fact that Education is an integral part of our lives which improve our position in the society.

4.6.4 Geography

Geography as a subject is a research on natural environment, its impact on public and literary progress or it may be better understood as “the study of natural and human constructed phenomena relative to a spatial dimension” (“Geography,” 1996).
According to Webster’s dictionary Geography is defined as “The Science which treats of the world and its inhabitants; a description of the earth, or a portion of the earth, including its structure, features, products, political divisions, and the people by whom it is inhabited, which also includes the responses and adaptations of people to topography, climate, soil and vegetation” (“Geography,” 1913). Famous scholars of the time like Kant and Ritter have defined Geography as “the Science of earth as the home of man” (Khullar, 2012). In context to other Social Sciences, Geography shares the task of understanding man both in society and as a part of the total environment and as a Social Science, it is anthropocentric and is concerned with questions of human behavior to the same degree, though not in the same way, that the other Social Sciences are. It has useful appliance manifest in “maps, trade patterns, industrial and agricultural decisions, settlement of population, aggression, and acquisition.” Besides placidity, Geography exhibits some concerns as: ecology, climate, resources, accessibility, and demography (Singh Savindra, 2008).

To the extent that the historical development of Geography as a subject is concerned, the studies are nearly 4000 years old, and they were the early Greeks, who first made an outline of Geography. Furthermore, slowly and gradually Greek philosophers and scientists who include Herodotus, Aristotle, Eratosthenes and Ptolemy took interest in learning the different characteristics of natural and human made phenomenon allied to a spatial aspect and concern in the subject carried on till the present times (Pidwirny, 2016). Now many geographers teach and carry out the research about the various concepts related to everyday life which enables us to understand our activities and their effect on socio-cultural aspect ranging from neighborhood to global. Today each of us are having a unique way of living and a constant interactions with our surroundings and in order to attain higher quality of life whether in terms of taking the leisure of transportation and navigation systems for moving from one place to another or using global networks of computers and satellites for communication Geographic knowledge and understanding is essential, which in turn lead to the satisfying lives and will obviously contribute to the welfare of the society.
4.6.5 History

History is what has previously happened. As far as subject matter of the History subject is concerned, it is an organized way to acquire the knowledge and investigate about the incidents already happened and their relationship with each other and with current as well. History plays an important role in identifying, classifying, arranging and patterning which consecutively bear the fruits in the “imposition of order, appreciation of variety, possibilities of prediction and realization of limitation” (Hunt & Colander, 2010).

It is not only the first record of human existence where from the beginning of History comes but can be witnessed from a footprint of a first creature, from the first trace. History has a great role to play in our daily life; it gives us the “today” by which one is able to use it for profit and prosperity. We are living in the contemporary society, where almost everyone faces problems or dangers these days. To encounter such kind of circumstances everyone tries to shield or find out the solutions, in this regard the History plays a great role in providing a frame of references that enables one to recognize dangers to our society and make available a possible guidance to come upon those dangers on their rise. If we have a closer look to the events that have happened and which we consider History helps us to learn about the past which sequentially facilitates the intellectual growth and development of an individual. For the prosperity and well-being of the society, History can be considered as one of the most important assets that we have. It has a direct impact on the present time society, “something new is fairly forgotten old” (Benson, n.d.) or according to George Santayana’s famous aphorism “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (Carter, 1992).

4.6.6 Library and Information Science

Library and Information Science is quite recent field, but its genesis may be traced with the development of the Libraries. The term Library may be different for different people, for some it is merely the collection of Documents, to some it is just the place utilized for reading and studying (Issa, 2009). But only few people consider it as the organized collection of documented knowledge available for use. At the beginning the library science focused on the history and bibliography (description and
classification of documented knowledge). The two critical studies of Carnegie Corporation led library science to become an academic field, the studies were on the quality of library science education and other was the training for Library services.

Library and Information Science is an interdisciplinary domain associated with the creation, management, and use of knowledge in whatever form. With the passing time the library and information science field encompasses many diverse activities, including the creation, communication, acquisition, organization, management, and use of knowledge, this traces the development of the Library and Information science as a separate field of study (Estabrook, 2009).

4.6.7 Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problem. Instead of treating it like a separate discipline, it is split into many divisions. The study involves the finding of the basic value and importance of life and revolves around to investigate the association among “humanity and nature” which constitute separate community. Thus Philosophy in general, can be defined as “a form of inquiry, a process of analysis, criticism, interpretation, and speculation” (Jaspers, 1969). As of Richard E. Creel’s point of view, “Philosophy is an open-ended, pioneering discipline, forever opening up new areas of study and new methods of inquiry” (Sirswal, 2014). Moreover, Oxford English dictionary defines Philosophy as “the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline” (“Philosophy,” 2016). As far as the History of the Philosophy is concerned, the term is derived from “Greek philosophia”, which means “love of wisdom” and it is not something passive which a person simply possesses but is the active use of wisdom. The primordial Greek philosophers in early 500 B.C sought after answers by philosophy and researching life, later Philosophy for a quite long time was in non-western civilizations and in China and India as well. After the difficulties faced in terms of travel and communication “Western Philosophy” generally developed independently of “eastern Philosophy” (Copleston, 1999).

Philosophy being study regarding the life has had enormous influence on our everyday life; it helps us to find whatever is essential for us and most importantly the
wisdom for shaping our lives. It would not be wide of the mark if it can be said that every sector of society is having base of philosophic ideas whether that is the “law, government, religion, the life, marriage, business or Education.” “All human beings by nature desire to understand” these lines by Aristotle has answered the question of asking what the use of understanding is and has put light on the very fact that human being is always perplexed by essential inquiries about the being and all concerning to it (Joad, 1975). In today’s era, it is important that what kind of philosophical ideas people are having, are they having the democratic type or they are occupying the non-democratic type The prosperity and success of society are all about the values and skills taught to the people thus reflecting the society’s philosophical ideas.

### 4.6.8 Political Science

Political Science like other disciplines of Social Sciences is also having a broader scope field of study. The field in itself is relatively recent and predominantly American. According to R.N Gilchrist, “Political Science deals with the state and government.” Akin to this Blusntschli defines Political Science “as a Science, which is concerned with the state, endeavor to understand and comprehend the state in its essential nature, various forms, manifestations; and development” (Eulau, 1972). Political Science is further fragmented in many sub fields which include: political theory, public administration, comparative politics, public law, International Relations and political methodology. From all the definitions and theories, Political Science can be known as an investigation of influence and its reassignment all the way through political conduct. In so far the development of the Political Science is concerned credit of incorporation of the study goes to the many graduated systems of U.S politics; international organizations; International Relations; comparative politics, and political theory. The breadth of U.S politics deals with the society in which we live today (Darity, 2006).

Being one of the prominent subjects of Social Science, Political Science teaches us to look for one another and cooperate with those around us to improve our society. It plays a great responsibility in fostering future of the people by giving them the power to educate others in the direction of having an impact on the state. One should not ignore the fact that, Political Science forms the base of the society, and in fact, it has become essential for all political leaders, diplomats, and elected officials to
have sound knowledge of Political Science so that can perform their jobs to the best of their ability. On the other hand what we witness now days is quite different, political leaders are unable to manage the state of affairs and in due course they find it difficult to make best possible decisions for their constituents which can be well understood with the fact that political scientists may be often found advising politicians or sometimes running political office themselves. To cope up with the change that is going on in the contemporary society, the study of Political Science is needed, not only for building peaceful and prosperous society but for most important to form a concrete base for the development of the future of an individual too.

### 4.6.9 Psychology

In order to define the Psychology, let us trace its origin. It stems from the most inexplicable and philosophical concept, the soul. Etymologically, Psychology the Science of the mind is the study of the human soul on account of its derivation from the two Greek words psyche which means breathe, spirit, self, and logia mean maxim or general truth (Reitman, 1972). It is an offspring of the subject Philosophy which aims to give us a better understanding of human complexity and development potential. Along with, it also is related with the mentality and character of a person, and has a tendency to explore the mind’s operation. Even though being the disciplines of Social Sciences, it has undergone a change from one of sheer speculation to that of scientific procedure; the subfields within Psychology are more of the same kind as Natural Sciences ("Psychology," 1996).

Psychology is of very much importance; it is applied in our daily lives and has many implications in lots of things of life as well. It is the subject by which we are able to learn about ourselves and by so we are able to learn about other people and their differences. In the scenario where every being is surrounded by unending anxiety or stress, Psychology helps of understanding how the mind and body work and thus make one able to counter the complicated things, such as stress or any other worst thing related to our body (Morris, 1996). As far as the importance of Psychology in the present times is concerned, the fact of its importance can’t be put out of sight within society as it has significantly grown over the years. One of the reasons behind its importance may be because of the work which is already done or still in progress on many life-risking diseases such as, “Parkinson's disease,
Alzheimer's disease, and many other neurological diseases.” It is because of its virtue, today we know more about these diseases in comparison to the past and scientists too are now able to produce the effective medicines for the treatment of these diseases. Some other importance’s that can be penned down includes the building of relationships, improving communication, building self-confidence, and enriching careers (Silverman, 1985). Overall, it can be deduced from the fact, that Psychology being the study of the human soul has a direct impact on the human brain and in turn to the society as well.

4.6.10 Sociology

Prior the emergence of Sociology, the society was not even in the eyes of any Sciences alike its study. It was Auguste Comte whom to the credit of being the first who coined the word Sociology in France in his Positive Philosophy published in 1838 is given. Sociology is organized research of associations amongst people and involves scientific investigation of how social relationships and common normative orientations influence patterns of conduct, and how social conduct under various conditions, in turn, leads to modification of the social structure. Outlined from the above lines, it is clear that Sociology in one way or the other deals with the social life and because of its relationship with the society; it is often called the study of society or of social life (Blau, 1969).

The Sociology plays an unprecedented role in the present day society, as its study helps in the development of the individual and also enables them to serve them better by suggesting suitable measures for restrengthening them. Despite being a complex phenomenon, its study is essential for understanding and setting up of society. In this present arena where suffering problems have become common man's routine, Sociology as a light of hope counters the public troubles and helps to control the social life for the improvement. It can be concluded that Sociology has an overall impact on Human life as it keeps well known about the contemporary conditions.

Please Note: As the present research on KMS has been conducted at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), with its focus on the Social Scientists including Faculty and Researchers, it is worthwhile at this juncture to deal with the AMU and its Faculty of Social Sciences in general and the Social Scientists working in different capacities in particular. The later will form the target users for the design and development of KMS in Social Sciences.
4.7 Aligarh Muslim University: A Historical Perspective

The Aligarh Muslim University one of the leading Universities of India has an extended and well known past. The credit for its development goes to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, a dynamic Scholar, a great visionary, Progressive, Social reformer and a messenger of a peace and communal harmony. Along with his other distinguished companions during 1875 Sir Syed Ahmad Khan put life to his dream of formation of a Muslim university when an establishment of a small school was put forth. This school later in 1877 became Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College and was regarded as an antecedent of future university. Initially, the MAO College was affiliated to Calcutta University and in 1888 its affiliation was shifted to the University of Allahabad. Although, it was in 1898 when Sir Syed Ahmad Khan breathed his last, but in 1920, MAO College finally emerged as university, called the Aligarh Muslim University, by an Act of Parliament, becoming tenth University of the Indian subcontinent.

In the beginning, the University commenced its functioning with only 15 departments of studies and merely 261 students. In present, the Aligarh Muslim University has a wide campus put on 467.6 hectares at Aligarh city of Uttar Pradesh in India. Aligarh Muslim University is one of its kind which offers admittance from nursery school to Post Doctoral Research. The students from all corners of the India and the world as well get benefited with a wide variety of courses in various domains of education. Among top 20 Research Universities in India, Aligarh Muslim University occupies the 8th rank which in itself is quite a remarkable achievement, hence maintaining the national and international reputation. As the information obtained from the Competent Authority on September 2016, the university has more than 30,000 students enrolled in different courses, with 1750 faculty members and some 7000 non-teaching staff. “The university is having 13 faculties consisting of 98 academic departments, 5 institutions, and 13 centers.” To provide a good environment for learning with best possible facilities, University provides residential facility to both the faculty members as well as students within the campus. There are almost 19 Halls of residence comprising of more than 75 hostels for both boys and girls.
4.7.1 Faculties in Aligarh Muslim University

In 1944 the faculty system was introduced in Aligarh Muslim University. At present, the University is comprised of 13 faculties specified as:

1. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences,
2. Faculty of Arts,
3. Faculty of Commerce,
4. Faculty of Engineering and Technology,
5. Faculty of International Studies,
6. Faculty of Law,
7. Faculty of Life Sciences,
8. Faculty of Management,
9. Faculty of Medicine,
10. Faculty of Sciences,
11. Faculty of Social Sciences,
12. Faculty of Theology, and
13. Faculty of Unani Medicine.

4.8 Faculty of Social Sciences

The Social Sciences faculty at AMU came into existence when Faculty of Arts was separated in 1969. Most of the departments under the faculty of social sciences have nationally and internationally put on their importance in terms of high standard of teaching and research. Department of History is considered as one among those disciplines that have accorded the highest status of excellence in research and learning, it can be witnessed from the fact that the department has maintained the status of Centre of Advanced Study and Research, followed by the Department of Library and Information Science and Mass Communication who have been assisted with foremost research projects financially assisted by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. As on July, 2018, the Faculty of Social Sciences offers 08 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate programs and also several Diploma and Certificate courses. The teaching faculty comprises of almost 179 highly qualified and research oriented teachers who have contributed a number of publications both in national and international journals. Above and beyond all the achievements by different
departments, the faculty in itself in its credit has an achievement of establishing “Social Science Cyber Library” (ISO 9001:2008 certified) designed and developed by Prof. Shabahat Husain in 2013, which is the first of its kind in the world. The Cyberlibrary has put a landmark in the history of Academia and is being visited by more than 156 countries all over the globe. Cyberlibrary brings open access resources pertaining to the field of Social Sciences, all together on a single platform and provides access to them whether it is in the form of “e-books, e-journals, video lectures, subject gateways, databases, useful websites etc.” The easy access to the ocean of all accessible e-resources catches the eye of the researchers towards the open world of knowledge. This achievement adds to the prestige of Aligarh Muslim University in general and that of the faculty of Social Sciences in particular.

4.8.1 Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences, A.M.U. Aligarh is presently comprised of eleven departments namely: “Economics, Education, History, Islamic Studies, Library and Information Science, Mass Communication, Psychology, Physical Education, Political Science, Sociology, and Social Work.” In addition to this, a proposal for developing the Anthropology and Population Studies departments has been forwarded to University Grants Commission (UGC).

4.8.1.1 Department of Economics

The genesis of the Economics department goes back to 1920s. The department creates a center of attention to the leading count of students not only from India but also outside the country, as it provides an opportunity for the students to get admitted in different courses offered from bachelors to Ph.D.

The teaching programs focus on proper unification of excellence and significance. The department works on many thrust areas as “Development Economics, International Trade, Agriculture Economics, Public Finance, Environment Economics, Monetary Economics, Industrial Development and Population Studies etc.” Since its inception in the 1920s, the department has awarded near about 100 M.Phil and120 Ph.D. degrees. And is currently having 16 faculty members and about 78 Research Scholars. The department has successfully completed 3 research projects and 2 are going on under different faculty members.
4.8.1.2 Department of Education

In the year 1923, the Department of Education of Aligarh Muslim University was established. The department is considered among the premier institutions of Teacher Education in India. Being one of the oldest departments of the University it has been producing teachers from more than 90 years, who are competent and committed to their profession. The department has shown a good growth rate of the most competent products, which not only shows their competencies in the country but are serving in different countries of the world also.

The department is currently running B.ED, M.ED, M.Phil, & Ph.D. Programs. At present, the department is having 21 well trained and high-quality educated faculty members. The Department provides excellent infrastructure facilities its departmental Library is having a collection of around sixteen thousand books and can claim to be one of the biggest reference libraries in education. There are four laboratories which include: Science Lab, Home Science Lab, Computer Lab, and Technology and Psychology Lab.

4.8.1.3 Department of History

Among all the other departments, the Department of History has got the status of being the successor to the institution developed by the founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. It was teaching of the history subject which in the M.A.O. College was paid careful attention. In the history department of MAO College Sardar K.M. Panikkar, were appointed as Professor even when college was converted to Aligarh Muslim University.

In the year 1968 it was Mammoth achievement for the Department as it was promoted as a “Centre of Advanced Study in History by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under its Special Assistance Programme (SAP).” Presently the department is having 39 faculty members and more than 200 research scholars including M.Phil students working on different research areas which are prolific for the nation and for the university as well.
4.8.1.4 Department of Islamic Studies

During 1950 Islamic study was established in Department of Arabic’s at Aligarh Muslim University. Later in 1951, the teachings of Islamic Studies command in BA and MA. Slowly and gradually the base for the development of separate department of Islamic studies seemed to be fulfilled in the month of March, 1954 by establishment of Institute of Islamic Studies having focus on supporting the research on “(a) Islamic Culture and Civilization (b) Social, Political, Economic and Cultural trends in the countries of West Asia and North Africa and (c) Modern Arabic, Persian and Turkish (Language and Literature) which later in 1968-69 simultaneously began to function as the department of Islamic studies.” During the period of 1971, good counts of researchers were awarded with M.Phil /Ph.D. Degrees. Presently the department is having 16 faculty members and 28 research scholars including M.Phil students. The department is excelling day by day both in teaching as well as in research activities, which can be witnessed from the publication of research articles both by teachers and by scholars of the department.

4.8.1.5 Department of Library and Information Science

In 1950-51 Late Prof. S. Bashiruddin the then University Librarian laid the foundation of department by starting a 'Certificate Course in Library Science.' Later in 1958-59, after witnessing the success of certificate course, a 'Bachelor Course of Library Science' (B. Lib. Sc) was introduced for the first time as a bachelors degree course in the country. After successful running of bachelor’s course, Certificate course was withdrawn from the curriculum in the year 1968-69. And later, 'Master of Library Science' (M. Lib. Sc.) was introduced in the year 1970-1971, keeping the importance of the subject into consideration, the department also introduced Library Science as a subsidiary subject at B.A. level in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences in 1986-87. After the success of these courses, further M.Phil /PhD programmes were also started. The department has many achievements on its cards one of which is to have the first fully automated library in the University, developed by Prof. Shabahat Husain.

In the year 2014, the University Grants Commission (UGC) approved the proposal of Prof. Shabahat Husain for the award of SAP (DRS-I) to the Department for 05 years on the theme ‘Knowledge Management in Libraries’. The Research
project accorded by the UGC added the quality of excellence to the department. As far as the other research projects are concerned, the department has completed five main Research Projects and three Minor Research Projects by the faculty members & research scholars till date.

4.8.1.6 Department of Mass Communication

The Department of Mass Communication is considered one among the premier departments of the country engaged in imparting mass communication theories and skills and also in conducting the media research of consequence in its Ph.D. program.

The Department is a well equipped with the state-of-the-art production facility, and have also got apostrophe of being one of the best departments for the production of news and current affairs programs. The department is facilitated with the highly sophisticated labs with a seminar library having a rich collection of over 1700 books; the departmental library is also subscribed to 10 important national and international journals of academic and research significance. The faculty members are highly qualified and experienced, and the department has distinguished itself by winning several national awards in the categories of student’s video films. Most of its students are doing exceptionally well in almost all the reputed media houses of the country.

4.8.1.7 Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology of the AMU is one of the earliest departments in the subcontinent. Earlier it was merged with the Department of Philosophy and later in 1964 it was separated as an individual discipline. The department took on board the contemporary information by which a number of major areas came into view. In the course, “areas of Experimental Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Industrial Psychology, and Humanistic Psychology” came up to the front.

The department has carried out study in different areas such as “Applied Personality and Social Psychology, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Health Psychology.” Moreover, the department has reached its heights also in terms of research publications; both the teachers and research
scholars of the Department and has completed 8 research projects as well. Presently the department is having 14 well qualified and more competent faculty members and has the strength of about 107 research scholars including M.Phil students. Till date, as on records the department has awarded a total number of 200 Ph.D. and 100 M.Phil Degrees.

4.8.1.8 Department of Physical Education

The Department emerged in 1988 and the course of physical education was introduced in the 1990-91. The Master’s and doctorate courses were in progress during the years 1994-95 and 1999-2000 respectively and currently over 100 bonafide students are admitted for different courses.

Vested with latest instrument and facilities provided to the students the department has 9 faculty members pursuing the research activities, as a result of which it has a growing research program within the fields of “sports biomechanics, exercise physiology, motor skills & sports psychology, physical activity and health, sports management and sports sociology.”

Department has completed several major as well as minor projects accorded by University Grants Commission and still single UGC-SAP (DRS-I) Programme is in progress.

4.8.1.9 Department of Political Science

In the year 1922, the Department of History and Politics was established. Later in 1948, it became separate and independent Department. Presently it is having strength of 23 faculty members and 122 research scholars. The department is currently running bachelors and masters programme in Political Science. In addition to this, the department is also offering “two specialized Master's Programmes - M.A. in Public Administration and M.A. in Human Rights.” The department is one of its kinds in research as well as teachings activities. The department since 1967 is publishing “Indian Journal of Politics, [ISSN: 0303 - 9957] indexed in the Current Contents and also abstracted in the International Political Science Abstracts (Paris).”
4.8.1.10 Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology came into emergence in the year 1967 with undergraduate teaching program. Later in 1970, the Postgraduate programme along with research facilities was initiated in the department. In 1986 Sociology was introduced at the undergraduate level in the Women's College. Later in 1994-1995 the department of sociology introduced a 2 year Master of Social Work (MSW) course, by doing so the department became Department of Sociology and Social Work. However, from January 2013, both the disciplines were separated giving birth to the individual Departments one Sociology and other Department of Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences. At present the Department offers Under Graduate (Honors as well as Subsidiary Courses), Post Graduate, M. Phil. and Ph. D. Courses to the Students from all over the country and from abroad as well.

Faculty members of the department have been completed several research projects in different capacities and some are still going which include the DRS-I Programme awarded by University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2011. The quality of the teaching and research of the department can be witnessed from the fact as a large number of Sociology students of this department are having job in well reputed universities and associations in India as well as in abroad. The department comprises of 10 faculty members and 50 research scholars.

4.8.1.11 Department of Social Work

The department of Social Work of Aligarh Muslim University is newly established department and was introduced in the year 2013. Although the Master's program in Social Work (M.S.W.) was introduced way back in the year 1994-95 in the Department of Sociology followed by the Bachelor's course which was started from the session 2012-2013. It was because of the great and growing importance of the subject, that the social work was carved out of the department of sociology in the year 2013. Presently the department is offering the BSW, MSW, and Doctoral program in social work. The good mix of students, together with a competent and committed faculty supplemented by practitioners in the field, has given rise to lively exchanges of experiences in the seminar room. The synergy generated has made the learning experience a meaningful and exciting one. The department has 7 faculty members well recognized in their field.
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