

Social Science in the Services of Social Policies Risk and Rewards

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Abstract

“Man by nature is a Social Animal” -by Aristotle.

The term "social context" is generally used to describe the types of settings in which people are engaged, the groups with whom they interact and the culture in how they live. Varieties of people's customs, mindsets, traditions, and behaviours all influence their social context. Social context is also referred to as "social environment."

According to Seligman, Social sciences are those mental or cultural sciences which deal with the activities of the individual as a member of the group. In the strict sense it should refer to the application of scientific method to the study of the intricate and complex network of human relationships and the form of organization designed to enable people to live together in societies.

Social service, also called as welfare service or social work, any of numerous publicly or privately provided services intended to aid disadvantaged, distressed, or vulnerable for persons or groups. The aim of the social workers is to support people to make change in their lives to improve their personal and social well-being. Social workers have knowledge of human behaviour and development, life cycle stages, families and social networks, disability and health, including mental health.

The main goal of social policies is to ensure that everyone in society lives in peace and harmony away from conflicts. With social policies, it is aimed to ensure social justice, social development, social balance, social integration, and social peace.

The paper includes the importance of social service and policies which indulge in risk and rewards and see through with the dimension of political and multidisciplinary approach.

Keywords: Social Service and policies, Risks and Rewards, Political Approach, Dimensions.

INTRODUCTION

“Man as an Individual being; and Man as a Social being”.

According to Seligman, the term Social Sciences is described as those mental or cultural sciences which deal with the activities of the individual as a member of the group, thus embrace all those subjects which deal with the relationship of man to society.

Mitchell, describes Social Science as it is applied to any kind of study concerning man and society. In the strict sense it should refer to the application of scientific method to the study of the intricate and complex network of human relationships and the form of organization designed to enable people to live together in societies.

AIM

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HISTORY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The origins of social sciences can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. The lives they led, and their early studies into human nature, the state, and mortality, helped to shape Western civilization.

Social science as an academic field of study developed out of the Age of Enlightenment (or the Age of Reason), which flourished through much of the 18th century in Europe. Adam Smith, Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Denis Diderot, Immanuel Kant, and David Hume were among the big intellectuals at the time who laid the foundations for the study of social sciences in the Western World.

Individuals began to take a more disciplined approach to quantify their observations of society, and over time, similar aspects of society, such as linguistics and psychology, were separated into unique fields of study.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The study of man as a unique living creature may be viewed in **two** fundamental dimensions. Thus, the focus of the social sciences is on the study of the following:

- ❖ Change in human relationship and reinterpretation between the present and the past event.
- ❖ Human activities and spatial distributions and interaction of culture, biological and physical elements.
- ❖ Acknowledge human cultural variations, social differences, social change and political identities.
- ❖ Adopt an open and critical attitude toward different social, political, and cultural phenomena through observation and reflections.
- ❖ Appreciate the value of disciplines of Anthropology, Sociology, and Political Science as social sciences

SOCIAL POLICY

Social policy helps us to understand social problems in our society or world and their causes, which affects every individual and how the government have or are implementing policies to solve these social problems.

Administration and social work are all aimed at the administration of welfare and the main areas of concern include tackling of social problems, administration of health, education and employment services, community care, crime and disability. Social policy is also related to the issues of race, poverty.

It should not be taken lightly or for granted because, it is through learning and understanding about about which helps you to be become more involved with society and

to find practical means, with the influence of the government, to solve these social issues, for society and the world to become a better place.

"Social Policy Implies The Right Ordering Of The Net-work Of Human Relationships".

ROLE OF THE POLICY

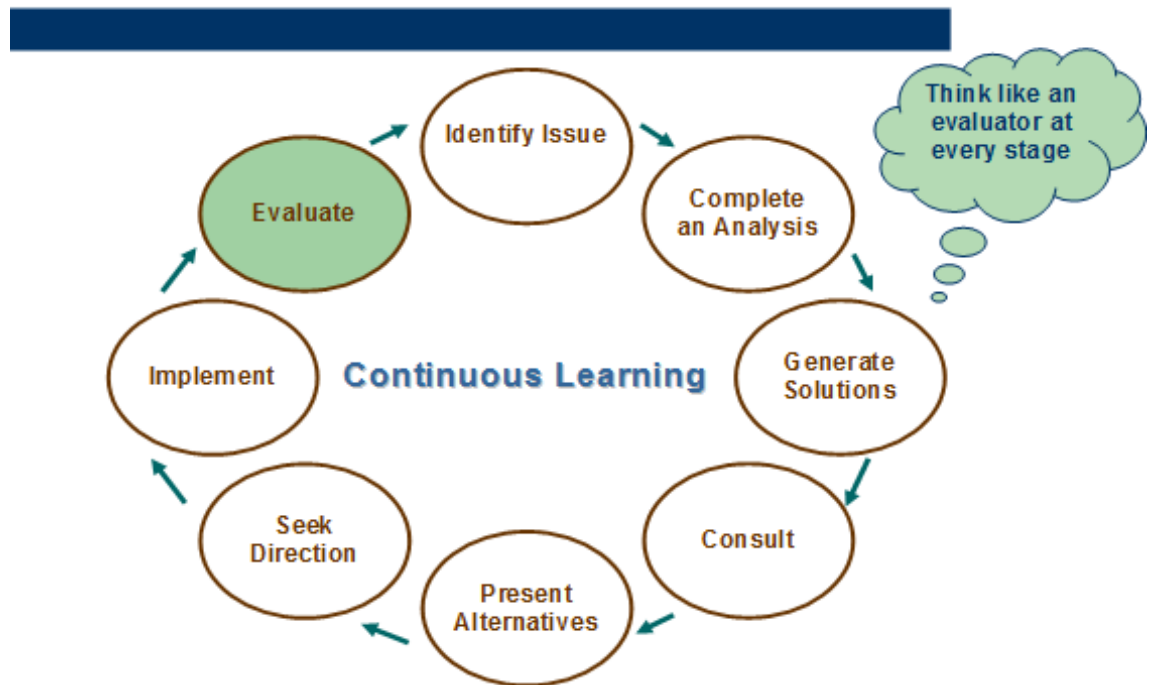
A policy is a principle or course of action proposed or implemented by a governing body. Governing bodies are groups of people that act in unison to guide and support a community, unit, business, institution, etc.

Policies can take many forms depending on whether you're looking at an institution, organization, government, or other body.

Few common features of the policies are as follows:

- Policies are authoritative declarations promoted by a person or body given the power to do so.
- Policies shape principles and laws.
- Policies state and influence ways to perform actions and sometimes by whom.
- Under the best circumstances, policies are exceptional resources for making the lives of everyone in the community better.

Policy Development Life Cycle



STAGES OR STEP INVOLVE IN POLICY MAKING:

- ✓ **Identification:** Decisions need to be made on what, whether and how to proceed. This will involve discussions about the issue, the information needed, the key actors to be consulted and the policy options that may be available.
- ✓ **Information gathering:** This will involve reviews of the available evidence, and discussions with key stakeholders and opinion formers. It will also include some initial analysis of the issue in question, of the options for action, and of the merits of alternative courses of action.
- ✓ **Consideration and decision-making:** When making a decision on the policy measures to be adopted, policymakers will assess the effectiveness likely the options available (including the 'do nothing' option), the nancial costs and benefits of taking action, and the political implications of taking action.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Depending on the case in question, further guidance or rules may need to be developed, and decisions need to be made regarding responsibilities for implementing the policy measure in question.

- ✓ **Evaluation:** This involves reviewing the effectiveness, the dependability, the cost, the intended and unintended consequences, and other relevant features of the policy measure in question.
- ✓ **Termination or renewal:** Termination may be explicitly built into the policy measure, the policy measure may lose relevance or may not be implemented. It is frequently the case that terminated policy measures reappear in another form, such as in another piece of legislative or led by another agency.

PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS OF SOCIAL POLICY:

- ❖ Equality,
- ❖ Equal opportunity,
- ❖ Need,
- ❖ Freedom and rights,

The target is to ensure, Social justice, Social development, Social balance, Social integration, and Social peace.

THE OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL POLICY

The objectives of social institutions, as in any other area of economic policy, are efficiency, equity and administrative feasibility. It is useful to adopt a more detailed categorization.

Efficiency has at least three aspects.

- ✓ **Macro efficiency:** the efficient fraction of GDP should be devoted to the totality of welfare-state institutions, e.g. policy should seek to avoid distortions which lead to cost explosions
- ✓ **Micro efficiency:** policy should ensure the efficient division of total welfare-state resources between the different cash benefits, different types of medical treatment, and different kinds of education.

- ✓ Incentives: where institutions are publicly funded, their finance and the construction of benefits should minimize adverse effects on labour supply and employment, and on saving.

Supporting living standards, the second strategic aim, has at least three components.

- ✓ Poverty relief: no individual/ household should fall below a minimum standard of living.
- ✓ Insurance: no one should face an unexpected and unacceptably large drop in their living standard. This is a major objective of unemployment benefits and most health-related benefits. Its success is measured by the replacement ratio, which shows a person's income when on benefit in comparison with his or her previous income.
- ✓ Income smoothing: Institutions should enable individuals to reallocate consumption over their lifetime.

The Reduction of Inequality:

- ✓ Vertical equity: the system should redistribute towards individuals/families with lower incomes
- ✓ Horizontal equity: differences in benefits should take account of age, family size, etc., and differences in medical treatment should reflect only factors which are regarded as relevant (e.g. whether or not the patient has dependants), but not irrelevant factors like race

Social integration:

- ✓ Dignity: cash benefits and health care should be delivered so as to preserve individual dignity and without unnecessary stigma.
- ✓ Social solidarity: cash benefits and health care should foster social solidarity, a frequently stated goal in mainland Europe. So far as possible, benefits should depend on criteria that are unrelated to socioeconomic status. Retirement pensions are an example, so is medical care in many countries.

Administrative feasibility has two aspects:

- ✓ Intelligibility: the system should be simple, easy to understand and as cheap to administer as possible
- ✓ Absence of abuse: benefits should be as little open to abuse as possible.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES:

- ❖ Rural Development.
- ❖ Science and Technology.
- ❖ Social Development Division.
- ❖ Skill Development, Labour and Employment.
- ❖ State Finances and Coordination.
- ❖ Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ Tourism and Culture.
- ❖ Water and Land Resources.
- ❖ Women and Child Development.

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MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH:

A discipline refers to a specific branch of learning or body of knowledge that has a different concept, theories, framework, subject matter, perspectives, world views, assumptions, and research methodologies. Each of these disciplines or branches of knowledge are different from the other branches of learning.

Multidisciplinary researches are conducted in order to fully grasp the nature, scope, and magnitude of the social problem. Problems that deal with social and economic development require a multidisciplinary perspective because a discipline-based approach to the problem will not provide a complete analysis of the social problem. Multidisciplinary

approaches are important in understanding and addressing social problems because in the real world, policy researches or proposals drafted and implemented to solve social problems which are not crafted through the use of a single discipline. These problems are structural and multi-layered that needed a multifaceted approach to solve.

The multidisciplinary approach in the social sciences can play an important role in understanding the multidimensional problem of poverty. The multidimensionality of poverty can be explained and examined clearly by the social sciences because the disciplines of the social sciences provide various lens to study the different aspects of poverty. The social dimension of poverty can be explained and understood through the study of the sociological theories of poverty.

The political dimension of poverty can be studied and understood through the study of political science. Political scientists can explain how poverty can be manifested in a country where its people cannot express their rights to free speech and assembly. The cultural component of poverty can be explained by historians and anthropologists because these social scientists studies people's history and culture and through history and anthropology, social scientists can determine and explain when and how the rights of people to self-determination and cultural preservation were violated through time.

In the social sciences, each of the disciplines studies human society, human behaviour, and their culture in a specific lens or approach that is unique to that particular discipline. This is often referred to as disciplinarily because the focus of study and analysis is limited only to a particular field of study or specialization.

Discipline-based studies and orientation of major branches of the social sciences started to disappear with the emergence of interdisciplinary social science. Through this major development in social science research, the various disciplines of the social sciences produced a vibrant interaction of diverse scholarly researches and teaching communities.

Interdisciplinary social science approach or interdisciplinarity involves the application of two or more fields of study or disciplines to address and answer social problems and issues. In this approach, a problem can be solved through the analysis, synthesis, and coordination between and among the different disciplines to form a coherent research. Most of the researches in the social sciences have shifted to the application of

interdisciplinary approaches in the study of society. This new form of study provides a systematic way of providing answers to questions, solving problems, and addressing very broad or complex topics through the application of the various social science perspectives and integrating the data, information, techniques, methodology, concepts, theories, and frameworks coming from two or more of its diverse disciplines (Replok, 2008, p. 11).

RISK AND REWARDS

The five domains of social risk factors are

- Socio economic position (SEP),
- Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Context.
- Gender, Social Relationships and
- Residential and Community context.

CONCLUSION:

Societies differ in resources, culture, tradition, wealth, and political power. The same could be said of people. Despite these differences, societies and people share the potential to develop and overcome historical limitations. It is not easy to define this capacity for change in the 1990s, but it includes the expectations, beliefs, and values that cause people to look ahead, to take actions, and to hope that tomorrow will be different, better, and more rewarding than today.

This capacity, not easy to measure, is often behind most processes of human change from the migration to urban centres to changes in social mobility, from cultural assimilation to political mobilization, or to the emergence of new forms of community organization. One of the main challenges of the current human development approach is to make this capacity the driving force for social reform.

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