

Section- A

Chapter 1: Meaning, scope and nature of social studies. Difference between social sciences and social studies, aims and objectives of teaching social studies at school level. Significance of social studies as a core subject.

Concept of Social Science:

Meaning of Social Studies: The word 'Social Studies' is made up of two words.

Social Studies = Social + Studies

To understand the meaning of social studies, there is need to understand the meaning of these two words. The word 'Social' has its origin in the word 'Society' and the word 'Society' has its origin in Latin word 'Socius', which means 'Togetherness or Friendship'. It explains that man always want to live with others. In other words, man is a social animal. Study or science means scientific analysis of everything in society.

The derivative meaning of the word social science is as follows:

Social means- related to society

Science means- that knowledge which can be empirically or scientifically studies regarding structure and behaviour of nature and physical world.

Experts View (Definitions of social studies)

According to **Michaeli's**, "The social studies are concerned with man and his social and physical environment; they deal with human relationship."

According to **Wesley**, "The social studies are social sciences simplified for pedagogical purposes."

According to **Preston**, "Social Studies are those portions of history, geography, civics and other social sciences that are selected for using in teaching."

According to **Commission on Reorganisation of Secondary Education Association**, "The studies are understood to be those studies whose subject matter relates directly to the organisation and development of human society and to man as a member of social group."

According to **Forester**, "The social studies are studies of society and their chief aim is to help pupils to understand the world in which they have to live, so that they become responsible citizens. It aims at promoting critical thinking, encouraging a readiness for social change, creating a disposition for acting on behalf of general welfare, an appreciation of other cultures and realization of the interdependence of man and man and of nation and nation."

According to **Mourice P Moffat** (1990), "Social sciences are those broad areas of knowledge dealing with and in the development of civilization."

According to **James High**, "Social sciences are those bodies of learning and study which recognise the simultaneous and mutual action of physical and non-physical stimuli which produce social reaction".

According to **Charles Beard**, "Social sciences are a body of knowledge and thought pertaining to human affairs as distinguished from sticks, stones, stars and physical objects".

According to **John U. Michaelis** (1956), "The Social Studies programme is defined as the study of man and his interaction with his social and physical environment in the past, present and emerging future".

It is a study of man's development through ages. It aims at preparing the learner for wholesome social living. It is a realistic course of study. It forms an important part of the core –curriculum. Social Studies is a field of study which deals with man, his relation with other men and his environment; its content is drawn from several social sciences. It is a course of study including anthropology, history, geography, economics, political science, sociology, law, civics, etc. Initially, the subject of social studies was considered as part of History and was not considered separately but now Social Study becomes a dynamic subject and various branches are included in it separately like history, geography, Economics, Civics etc. Nowadays Social Studies or Social Science is considered interlinked with each other and Social Study includes various aspects of society and takes the elements from History, Geography, Civics, Economics, Sociology, political science, psychology, social work, philosophy, community education, public administration, education, religious studies, defence studies etc. It provides knowledge of social development. It develops social behavior. It develops civil qualities. It develops the power of thinking and reasoning.



Scope of social science:

- Study of human relation
- Study of man and his environment
- Study of society
- Study of natural sciences
- Study of current affairs
- Functional Study of fine arts
- Study of man-made institutions
- Society related study
- Study of past based incidents
- To link present with past
- Development of citizen related traits
- Study of natural Science and development
- Study of relations-based internationalism

Relation of Social Science with other Subjects:

- **Relationship with Language:** Language is related to literature and literature is a very important aspect of society. Essays, poems, and stories are the sources of literature through which various subject is to be taught to society.
- **Relationship with Mathematics:** For understanding the chronology in History, Geographical phenomena in Geography and various Economic principles in Economics the knowledge of Mathematics is necessary.

- **Relationship with Technology:** In this global world our society is directly or socially connected with the various modes of technology like T.V., mobiles, radio computers etc. These modes have a direct influence on Society. So, in a wider sense, Social Study is considered Social Science.
- **Relationship with Art:** various paintings, sculptures, arts etc. are related to different states and cultures of the society.

Nature of Social Science:

- Social Science nowadays is considered a combination of both art and science because its content is social but the way of its study is scientific.
- It is dynamic. Traditionally it is considered a detailed account of social matters but today it is accepted as a scientific study.
- Presently scientific and logical methods are also included in it and applied in the teaching-learning process of social science.
- The learning of social studies at school help students have a deeper viewpoint on citizenship. It develops humanity and it teaches children the imperative role of cultural divergence, geography, political beliefs, and the past events.

Social Science is the study of how people live and organize themselves in society. Initially, social study accepts economics, religious, political and political aspects of society.

Difference between social sciences and social studies

1. Purpose: The main purpose of social science is to search new facts, concepts, principles, theories through scientific way or in a systematic manner. The purpose of social studies is to make students good citizens. To develop social skills and positive attitudes in them. Further, it helps them to learn/ acquire life skills for leading a good life and inspires for social welfare.

2. Educational area: Social science provides special and deep knowledge of the content which can't be taught by teaching in classrooms only. It needs teaching beyond classrooms. Each and every subject of social studies is constructed in such a way that they can be taught in classroom.

3. Presentation: The presentation of social science is specific, that is to give deep knowledge of a subject separately. In social studies the presentation is general that all subjects are unitedly presented.

4. Comprehensiveness: Social sciences area is comprehensive. Quantity wise more subjects are included in it and Quality wise it studies a subject more deeply. Social studies area is smaller. Its study is not deep.

5. Approach: In social sciences, approach is for students of higher classes. It includes students above early adolescence period. PSEB and CBSE labels all textbooks as social sciences after fifth standard. In social studies, its approach is for young students below sixth class.

6. Teaching Methods: In social sciences methods used are discussion method, lecture method, problem solving method, etc. Methods are used for teaching social studies that young students can easily receive the learning material of that subject and which will also bring behavioural change e.g., explanation method, storytelling method excursions, and use of AV aids.

7. Theoretical Vs Practical: Social sciences is theoretical in nature as it provides knowledge of basic laws and theories. In social studies, with the help of subject matter, some type of special talents and skills is to be developed in students. These talents/ qualifications are practical.

8. Difficulty: Social sciences is based on depth study; it is more difficult. Social studies is not a knowledge as a result of research rather it is simple and general knowledge about sub-subjects. hence, it is easier than social sciences.

Aims and Objectives of Teaching of Social Science

The purpose of social science teaching is not only to make teachers aware of social problems but also to develop readiness and skill to solve problems.

Development of good citizenship: The study of the subject Social Sciences should essentially contribute in helping the youngsters for growing and developing into effective and efficient citizens of their country. They must be properly told about their rights and privileges as well as the duties and responsibilities as citizens of a democratic country.

Development of social character: The study of Social Sciences should help in the proper development of sociability and social character among the growing children. All that which is needed by a child in his proper social development and turning him into a useful member of the society should be properly provided through teaching and learning of Social Sciences.

Intellectual and mental development: Study of Social Sciences should be made to contribute in the proper intellectual and mental development of the children. The curriculum as well as methods of teaching Social Sciences should be set properly for the development of their various mental faculties like thinking, reasoning, imagination, observation, memory, and decision making.

Development of right type of behaviour and conduct: Good conduct and morality are the prime needs of the time. We certainly aspire from our children to grow as a man of character and principles. The subject matter and the learning experiences related to Social Sciences possess enough potential in helping the growing children to acquire right type of behaviour and conduct and accordingly the teaching of Social Sciences should invariably aim for training the students in the right type of behaviour and conduct.

Developing ability to adjust with one's environment: Adjustment with one's physical and social environment is quite essential for personal or social welfare and progress. Social Sciences, as we know, is defined as the study of men and society and their interactions and as such its study has enough potential for helping students in seeking adjustment to their environment. It is, therefore, quite imperative that the development of the ability to adjust with one's environment should be set as one of the aims of teaching Social Sciences in our schools.

Development of the feelings of cooperation and interdependence: Mutual cooperation, love, trust and interdependence are the basic pillars of our social life. A society or nation can move on the path of progress well with the strength of mutual trust and cooperation of its citizens, but on the other hand its future may be doomed in case there remains feelings of mutual distrust and dissention among them

Development of healthy habits and right attitudes: The teaching of Social Sciences in our schools also aims for the development of desirable habits, interests and attitudes among the children. As a result, it may prove quite helpful in the task of inculcating useful habits and traits like self – study, self – support, self – control, self – respect, sympathy, patience, tolerance, honesty, truthfulness, industriousness, respect for the individuality of others, etc.

Knowledge of social heritage and problems: To impart knowledge of social heritage and problems is the aim of social science teaching. The purpose of social science teaching is not only to make teachers aware of social problems but also to develop readiness and skill to solve problems. The rise of social consciousness within the student is the beginning of education. Social science teaching advances the education process by providing knowledge of social heritage and problems.

Social Character Formation: Social studies is an important part of social education. With its help development of social character is possible in the students. The knowledge of social life and customs of the community is obtained with the help of social science. The purpose of social science education is to develop social character by developing qualities such as building social education, developing a sense of responsibility, understanding human relations etc.

Development of various attitudes and skills: The aim of social science education is to develop various attitudes and skills to lead a successful social life.

Development of international belongingness: To develop human relations and sense of belongingness is the aim of social science teaching. The purpose of social education is to develop international understanding to build peace in the tense environment of the world.

Knowledge of the Environment: Environment has an effect on the development of a person. Food habits, lifestyle, dress, business etc. have a significant impact. Environment is the great teacher of the individual. Teaching social science provides physical and social knowledge to the individual. Social science teaching provides the students with the knowledge of the environment around him.

Illustrating the Present: According to James Hemming, "The main purpose of social studies is to provide a better understanding of current problems." Knowledge of the modern world and civilization is imparted by social science teaching. The purpose of social studies is to make the students aware of the current situation."

Significance of social studies as a core subject

1. Develop awareness among citizens: Social studies helps to create a more enlightened citizenship. Every citizen needs to be more aware about current affairs of the society, so that they become able to understand actual life problems in a better way and will be able to find out their solutions. Social studies can be considered as a core subject as it can be helpful to provide intelligent and good citizens to the country, if it is taught by ideal teacher.

2. Realistic Subject: It is based on reality because it relates with the real-life situations, human relations, real life problems, real life activities and real-life interactions. All topics in history, economics, geography and civics are presenting surrounding realities to learners. Most of these realities have been found by social researchers.

3. Help pupils to understand world: Social studies, as the name suggests, is the study of society and it is help for the learners to understand the world in which they have to live. so that they may become more responsible citizens. It helps learner to understand his family, neighbours, citizens, nations, and world at large.

4. Desire for social change: It provide critical thinking and readiness for social change. It is the study for the society and it deals with the improvement of society. It means that the learner will not only inherit the traditions and culture of a good society but will also try to improve it with his own contributions. It motivates learners to retain good of your culture and accept changes, which are progressive.

5. Helps students to adjust according to environment: Social studies is a subject which teaches the leamer to struggle with his environment and brings changes in the environment according to his for his survival.

6. Provide integrated knowledge: If the teacher teaches history, geography, civics, economics, sociology etc, separately, he will fail to provide integrated knowledge of the problems of day-to-day life. All these subjects provide different type of knowledge. For example, History emphasised only performance of certain beings in different periods. Geography describes boundary's locations and geographical conditions. When we study it in integrated form, it provides true understanding of development of mankind. Thus, it provides comprehensive knowledge in an integrated form.

7. To make Psychologically Skilled: Instead of teaching separate subject, social studies teach in an integrated form becomes more psychologically sound. Knowledge given in isolation, cannot be easily understood and grasped by them. Children are not interested in disconnected ideas, offered by a number of subjects. It is much better that only a few important ideas, in combination were given. Such scheme will not over-burden the child with so many subjects. Thus, the social studies in an integrated form is psychologically sound.

8. Provide insight to Understand Complex Relations: Now a days society has become very complex due to scientific and technological advancement. It has made the study of interpersonal relations more difficult. The subject matter of social studies helps in developing the sense of belongingness, proper attitudes and proper orientation to the modern world.

9. Basis for specialisation: Social Studies provides such opportunities and encourage the bright students for specialisation in social sciences, when the students got general integrated knowledge through social studies. Social studies provide a foundation on which the superstructure of specialisation can safely be built.

In brief, social studies helps to develop man in society by making him responsible citizen, socially skilled, emotionally integrated and enhance his adjustment in physical and social environment.

