

Research Methodology and Social Sciences: In the Perspective of NEP 2020

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Abstract:

NEP 2020 has created a special framework for research in all discipline. According to the changing scenario it is necessary that researchers have must be complete their research work with choosing appropriate research method. This study presents a discussion on various issues related to research methods and social sciences in the context of NEP 2020. Along with this, this study also highlights the major challenges related to research in contemporary era.

Keywords: Research, NEP 2020, Social-Sciences, Discipline.

Introduction:

Social sciences comprise disciplines like Sociology and Anthropology, Political Science, Economics and History. For academic and professional convenience, they are taught as independent disciplines, but in the depth of the knowledge the essence of all disciplines emerges to be same. Social science is a key discipline dealing with aspects of human life and its relationships. If we want to investigate and understand any particular aspect of social sector as like economy, polity, education, family, kinship or another like these, it is mandatory for us to choose an accurate research methodology for investigation. Social change is a universal and in evitable phenomena.

Research methodology is a way of illustrating how a researcher intends to carry out their research. It's a logical, systematic plan to resolve a research problem. A methodology details a researcher's approach to the research to ensure reliable, valid results that address their aims and objectives.

After the advent of NEP 2020, the field of research has become more extensive. Research has been made mandatory in every discipline at undergraduate and post-graduate level. Along with more research-work it will also have to be ensured that whatever research is conducted is not only of good quality but also beneficial for the individual, society and future generations.

Definition trial of the topic:

Social-Science: The discipline, which logically and scientifically studies human evolution, development, thinking, organization and change is called social science. Every social science studies a specific aspect of human behavior and system.

Research: In the broad sense, research means investigation for knowledge in any field. The aim of research is to acquire new knowledge or to refine previous knowledge. Most of the research is done with the aim of improving human life and society.

Literature – Review:

According to D. Chandrashekharam in his article, Nep 2020 and research(2020), At least the NEP 2020 has realised the importance of research in a country's economic growth. Governments after governments only spoke rural education and research climate in the country but there was never a concrete policy and focus on this subject. At least now we are able to see light at the end of this research tunnel.¹

According to Dr. Hemlata Mahawar (Research Methodology of Social Sciences in Academic Article, February 2020), Research & Development is an important tool for acquiring new knowledge in any field of human survival. Various types of problems and questions need to use research methodology depend on the rationale of researchers.²

According to Ajay Kurien and Dr. Sudeep B. Chandramana, Impact of New Education Policy 2020 on Higher Education (November 2020), NEP 2020 Addresses the need to develop professionals in a variety of fields ranging from Agriculture Intelligence. India needs to be ready for future. The NEP 2020 paves the way ahead for many young aspiring students to be equipped with the right skillset.³

Objectives of the study:

- To investigate new trends of research in social sciences.
- To discover the needs of research in various disciplines of social sciences.
- To discuss about the challenges of research in social sciences.

Main Discourse:

Modern society is relatively more dynamic along with social relations, social institutions are also changing rapidly, in such a situation if we talk from the perspective of research, then to understand the changing society we will have to consider new possibilities in the field of our studies and research.

Social sciences and research:

Many research-work has been done in social sector and humanities. Mostly qualitative research methods have been considered appropriate for understanding social phenomena, but in the last two decades the revolution in modern technology and disaster like Corona have opened the door to many new possibilities in the field of social sciences and research. At present the inclination of social research is being seen towards mixed method. Although even today the nature of the social research is closer to qualitative research, to make social research, more reliable researchers are frequently using qualitative and quantitative both the methods in their research.

Research in social sciences has its own limitations. Social relations are changing sharply. Culture, food behaviour, work style and way of life are changing in every society. Globalisation has raised many new challenges in front of localism and its identity. At present society people are facing mental stress and illness due to overpressure of work and family. Because of such change in emotions, social relations and thoughts, the responsibility of social researchers has become greater. It is becoming a big challenge for today's social scientists to the desired dimensions in the stipulated time and reach accurate conclusion. In such situation, it is proposed to study social sciences and research methods in various dimensions through this study.

Many government and non-government schemes are being run to promote the research sector in India. Countless research is being conducted year after year in both the fields of life sciences and social sciences, but at the global level India's research findings are still not giving satisfactory results. A major cause for this is the inability to choose appropriate research methods.

NEP 2020 and Research:

Many provisions have been made for the research in NEP 2020. Which will improve both the research work and quality of research work in social sciences. These can be explained as follows-

- By the year 2040, the target is to make all higher education institutions multidisciplinary institutions, with each institution having a student strength of 3000 or more.
- The university will be a multidisciplinary institution where high quality teaching and research will be conducted at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels in every faculty and subject.
- The four-year program will be led to a degree with research if students complete a research-project in the chosen subject from across all disciplines.
- A National Research Foundation (NRF) will be established.
- The National Research Foundation will be governed independently of the government by a rotating Board of Governors composed of the very best researchers and innovators in diverse fields.
- To encourage multidisciplinary education and research work in all streams including social-sciences.

Emerging Trends of Research in Social Sciences:

- One of the major notable trends in qualitative research is utilization of online/internet platforms to accumulate, examine and share data.
- Another trend of research in social sciences is use of ingenious and audio-visual methods to interpretate of data. This method involves video collage, photography etc.
- Next trend in research is the use of mixed-method to complete the research-work.
- A further trend of research is the use of participatory and collaborative methods for best outcomes of research. These methods can include action research, community-based research etc.
- Another one more trend in research is reflexive and critical methods. Which promotes ethical, transformative research practices and conclusions in field of social sciences.
- After the advent of many research related software, today's research is no longer dependent on the universe and sampling method. The selection of respondents in research is now rapidly increasing from small to large numbers. Due to this, more and more people are getting involved in research work and along with this, the responses received are more reliable.
- In the further decades, research in social sciences is likely to focus more on qualitative research and ethnic methods such as auto-ethnography, ethnomethodology etc.

Major challenges of research field in contemporary context:

The trends of research in social fields worrying more, failure to choose appropriate research methods is also largely responsible cause for these results. According to the changing scenario it is necessary that researchers will complete their research work with choosing appropriate research method.

In brief the main challenges of the research can be clarified as follows:

Challenge to choose a proper topic:

At present, there are immense possibilities for the research in every subject and field, but unless the researchers select the appropriate problem for research, his research cannot be of quality. It is mandatory for every researcher to keep in mind the current needs, available resources and time limitations while selecting his/her research title.

Challenge to choose an appropriate methodology:

No research work can be done properly without choosing the right method. After the NEP 2020, there are massive possibilities for research. For both, junior and senior researchers, it is requisite to choose the right research methodology according to the research problem, only then the research work moves in the right direction and towards the right conclusion.

Challenge to find right previous literature that belongs to chosen topic:

Nowadays, every type of literature and reading material is available on internet, but it is a big challenge to select the relevant literature as per the research title for research and fill the research gap. The researcher need to careful, while selecting the literature for his/her research work.

Challenge of maintaining the originality of the main discipline along with multidisciplinary research:

After the arrival of NEP 2020, it is clear that in the new system, students will have the freedom to choose any subject from any discipline in higher education field. In such a situation, there will be multidisciplinary in the research field also. In the changing education practice, students may have to face big challenges in maintaining the originality of their research.

Challenge of having knowledge of modern software and techniques for classification, tabulation and interpretation of data:

In the present time, modern software and technology related to research work and its supporting activities has invented. With their information, research work becomes easier. If researchers do not have technical knowledge then several irregularities occur in the research work. It is very important for the researchers to have knowledge of these software and technologies.

Challenge of bearing the expenses of research:

At present research work has become relatively more expensive. Various expensive software and equipment make research editing costly. This is a big challenge for researchers to conduct the research work properly. In these circumstances, if there is no provision of any grant for the research, it becomes very difficult for the researcher to get the research results in the right way and at the right time.

Conclusions:

Through the provisions of NEP 2020, policy makers tried to provide a holistic solution for Indian integrity and development from the Indian perspective. The vision and mission of NEP 2020 is to make a multidisciplinary, holistic, vocational and international level educational environment for current and future generations of India. Certainly, this education policy will create an advanced and progressive India with next level education and research environment.

Work related to teaching, training, research, development, innovation and extension will be done in the field of higher education. While maintaining the uniqueness of India, efforts will be made to make student proficient for every platform at the global level. NEP 2020 has created a special framework for education and research in all discipline of higher education. It will take at least a decade to yield positive results.

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