CONTRIBUTION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIALSCIENCES TO A TRANSFORMING LIFE AND SOCIETY

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Abstract

This research paper highlights the topic Transforming life and Society under the influence of Humanities and Social Science. The society we live in, the culture we adopt, the lifestyle we follow as well as the ease of technological advancements, altogether have transformed our lives and surroundings to a different level. It can totally be agreed upon that major sources of social change include population growth and its composition, culture and technology, the natural environment, and social conflict but, humanities and social sciences are a part and parcel of these changes. Social change is a phenomenon that we constantly encounter in our daily lives. This is because the society we live in, itself keeps changing all the time.

Humanities help us to understand others through their languages, histories, and cultures. Humanities and social science make it easy to understand whether a new technology or a new pattern of life would prove beneficial, fruitful, and healthy or unfit, barren, and impotent for the people. Societal transformations often include not only social changes but cultural, technological, political, and economic, as well as environmental. Social science helps people understand the consequences and application of newly emerging technologies. They are concerned with the social and economic advancement of humanity at large.

This research paper focuses on the importance of Humanities and Social Sciences in a transformed life and society. The data collected is through secondary data analysis following a series of various research papers, books,articles, and literature review for the same.

Keywords:

Education system, Technological advancements, Social change, Improved standard of living, Fruitful or Barren

Objectives of the Study:

1. The main objective of this study is to understand that humanities have an innovative and scientific nature thatcan improve the quality of life of people, thus leading to a change.

2. To aim on the fact that social science is important because its study helps us to gain knowledge of the societywe live in and the changes brought in it.

Introduction:

In order to make something better, modifications are required and therefore nothing can be achieved if no modifications are made in existing situations. Social change and Transformation are a phenomenon that we constantly encounter in our daily lives. The concept of social transformation is closely linked to social change and therefore the two terms are often used interchangeably. In Sociology, Societal Transformation refers to "a deep and sustained, nonlinear systematic change in a society." Societal transformations can also be referred as change of an entire culture or civilization. Humanities and Social science are concerned with the social and economic advancement of the race at large.

Undoubtedly, newly emerging technologies are key engines of change, but the most common drivers are awareness, education and widespread knowledge.

Humanities, or the study of humanity, encompasses a wide range of disciplines including History, Philosophy, Literature, and the Arts. Overall, these help us to understand the human condition and their place in the world and provides an insight into the cultural, social, and historical context in which we live. It helps us to better understand and appreciate the diversity of human experience. The humanities can give us critical thinking skills and the perspective to deal with issues such as climate change, economic inequality, runaway technological change wherein, the solutions require something different and more than technical knowledge alone. Whether the problem is social, economic, environmental or health related, solving such problems calls for critical thinking, historical understanding, cultural literacy and creativity. It requires skills and competencies cultivated through an education in the humanities and social science, and the insights and discoveries generated by research in these disciplines.

Social Science is defined as "the study of society with respect to how individuals behave, interact with each other, develop as a culture and impact the world." It includes Anthropology, Economics, Political science, Sociology and Social psychology. It seeks to study the past and present of humans, the patterns of behaviour and behavioural changes, cultural changes with respect to different norms and values as a whole, how individuals and groups interact and how societies are organized and functions. The humanities and social science play an important role in supporting decolonization and reconciliation of people.

Research methodology:

The research is an Applied Research and a duration of almost two months have been utilized for the same. Applied Research is specifically used to identify solutions to specific problems rather than merely acquiring knowledge. The data collected is through secondary data analysis following a series of various research papers, books, articles, and literature review for the same. The research collectively focuses on the population as whole and the impact that humanities and social science have had on the population, culture, and various generations. Perspectives of various research scholars on the topic have also been taken into consideration for the research work. For the purpose of this research about eight to ten papers were referred from various Journals and Published sources, links of which are listed under references.

Contribution of Humanities and Social Science towards a transforming life and society:

Both Humanities and Social science have a profound impact on how we view and interact with the world around us. There are many ways in which Humanities and Social science have transformed and can transform life and society, some include:

1. Education System

➢ Often Education reform seems to take place unregard for the best interests of the learners. As per Education research, parents of younger children are more concerned that their children enjoy schooling and actively be a part of extra-curricular activities rather than sticking solely to bookish knowledge. By actively working with students of all ages and their parents, and understanding their perspective on schooling, researchers can discover new insights into what makes effective schools syllabi and therefore will be able to cater the students as per their need. Both humanity and social science can be used to reform and improve educational systems, curriculum and pedagogy. The study of education and learning can help to improve teaching practices and educational outcomes. This can lead to a more well-rounded and effective education system that benefits both individual students and society as a whole.

2. Health and well being

➢ By evaluating health care policies, social scientist can help ensure that our health care systems work at an optimal level. On one hand a nutritionist provides a diet chart/diet plan for an individual to have a healthy and balanced diet, whereas on the other hand a social scientist may look further into geographical, economic and social factors that impacts into the availability and accessibility of the diet. The field of psychology has made significant contributions to our understanding of mental health and the factors that contribute to it. This has led to the development of effective treatments and interventions for improving mental health conditions. Apparently, social science allows health care and health advice to be tailored to individual needs based on their social circumstances.

3. Personal development

➢ When we understand the world around us, we are able to live in a more manageable manner. Understanding the society we live in, eventually makes us realise what we need to do to contribute to it and make it a better place for others. It broadens our horizons by introducing us to different social movements and cultures. It helps us to develop the ability to make the right decisions. This can lead to personal growth and self-improvement, as well as a greater appreciation of the diversity of human experience.

4. Democracy

➢ Social policy is addressed to people through social science. It helps in raising attention to different perspectives of the society and is concerned for the public when it comes to holding politicians and media into account. In this technological era, majority of transformation has taken place in the field of media resulting into digital age and social media. Social media solely holds the power to access multiple angles of a debate and allows one to share their own opinion by being a part of community journalism and presenting our own accounts online. Democracy could not flourish without the humanities because humanities develop informed and critical citizens.

5. Policy-making

➢ The insights gained through the study of humanities and social science can be used to inform policy decisions at the local, national and international levels. Research in psychology may be used to inform the development of mental health policies, while in economics can inform economic policy decisions. The field of economics can provide insights into how to promote economic growth and stability, which can have positive impacts on individuals and society. Knowledge from the humanities and social science is crucial to understand the historical, structural and social phases that contribute to inequality, and to develop the most effective strategies that promote equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization.

6. Social change

➢ The study of humanity and social science can also be used to promote social change. It can help to identify and address inequalities and injustices in society, such as discrimination based on race, gender, or other social identities. This research can inform policies and practices that promote fairness and equality for all members of society. One of the key roles of social science is how it affects decision making when it comes to move forward as a society, and eventually as an entire species. It offers new insights and generates modern ways of understanding on trending topics of debates about feminism, peace, ecology, social movements, and much more. The world needs to be a safer place where basic dignity and human rights are practised. Social scientists have made a remarkable progress in the areas of human welfare and development. For an instance they are working with UN organisations, government institutions and various funding agencies in order to work for the welfare of people and focus on the social advancement of humanity. It can rightly be said that social science and humanities are partly responsible for new laws and regulations that govern how we work and live. Social scientists influence how existing laws can be changed to meet societal demands that were more or less not being fulfilled previously.

7. Technology

➢ Scholars from social science and humanities are helping address the societal implications of technology. Social science helps people understand the consequences and application of newly emerging technologies, such as steam power. The expansion of railways and factories not only transformed the economy and the working world, but also changed the way people organised their family lives and leisure. By raising questions associated with large group of social, ethical, and legal issues surrounding the introduction of new technologies, they help us to have a better understanding of the consequences of new technological developments. The Humanities and social science make it easy to understand whether a new technology or a new pattern of life would prove beneficial, fruitful, and healthy or unfit, barren, and impotent for the people. In the recent years, nanotechnology and advances in medical research have had a significant impact on the way we live. The standard of living of people have reached great heights and the wants of people are increasing.

Review of literature:

Review of Literature provides a good insight into the research problem. It refers to extensive reviews of previous research studies, relevant reference books, articles in specific journals and other published sources. The article titled

- *Where Technology and Intelligence Meet the Social Sciences* published on May 14, 2015 in Accolades magazine reads that advancements in science and technology generate social, ethical, and political issues and, the society must constantly address how to incorporate, adopt or reject technologies, and these decisions are often hotly debated. In this article, Kathleen Vogel - an associate professor of political science states that "We need people who understand the tremendous technical problems and controversies that we face, but also that technical problems are never just technical. They have important social dimensions as well". Another article titled - *Social Change Through the Humanities* published on June 3, 2020 by RI Humanities states that engaging history and culture is not just about reflection and understanding but also about action. The change we want to make depends upon acknowledging oppression, negotiating the contradictions between cherished ideals and the reality of inequality and injustice, and confronting culpability. Creating a better future means to recognize the leadership and hard-won achievements of those who came before us.

Conclusion:

Social transformation refers to a fundamental change in society, which can be contrary to social change which is viewed as gradual, moderate, or slow change over a period of time. An understanding of the role of social scientist is must in order to be able to forecast where the human race is heading and taking the rest of the world with it. Social science offers an insight into society and makes it easy to understand the relationships between individuals within that society. The main aim of humanities and social science is to look into those issues that contribute in improving the knowledge and understanding of human beings and in turn favours the development of society. These fields help us better understand the human condition, the social aspects of human behaviour and society, and the cultural, social and historical context in which we live. In each era, the humanists have made discoveries that has literally changed our world, maybe for better or worse. Knowing the world is not just important to the survival of democracy, but it is important to the survival of humanity. As our understanding of the world and the human condition continues to evolve, the importance and relevance of humanity and social science will continue to grow.

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