



# Social Science As Struggle For Life and Existence Of Social Changes

**Hadiani Fitri**

Islamic University of North Sumatra, Indonesia

*Author Correspondence : [hadiani.fitri10@gmail.com](mailto:hadiani.fitri10@gmail.com)\**

**Abstract.** *Social science is a multidisciplinary field that studies human behavior, social structures, and changes in society. It encompasses disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics, each contributing to a deeper understanding of how individuals and societies interact. In the modern era, as the world faces rapid changes in political, economic, and cultural landscapes, social science has become increasingly vital for addressing complex global challenges. The field explores the dynamics of power, inequality, and social conflict, offering insights into ways to mitigate issues such as poverty, injustice, and discrimination. Social science research, using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, helps in analyzing current phenomena and providing evidence-based policy recommendations. These insights are crucial for shaping effective solutions that promote social well-being at local, national, and global levels. As global issues like migration, climate change, and international conflict continue to affect societies, social science provides the tools necessary to understand and navigate these challenges. This paper discusses the scope of social science, its key disciplines, and the importance of its application in real-world problems, highlighting the need for continuous research and adaptation in response to changing societal needs.*

**Keywords:** *Social science, Human behavior, Inequality, Research methodologies, Global challenges.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Social science is a field of study that focuses on various aspects of society and the relationships between individuals. It encompasses disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, social psychology and human geography. The primary goal of social science is to understand and explain social phenomena, human behavior, social structures, and dynamics (1). Social sciences are becoming increasingly important in the modern era because the world is changing rapidly and is becoming increasingly complex. The social, political, economic, and cultural changes that occur require an in-depth understanding to be managed effectively. Social science is important for providing insights and solutions to problems such as inequality, social conflict, environmental change, and globalization (2).

Social sciences emerged in response to significant societal changes, including the Industrial Revolution, urbanization, and advances in technology. Thinkers like Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Émile Durkheim laid the theoretical groundwork in the 19th and early 20th centuries, which remains influential today (3). Their theories aid in understanding social functioning, resource and power distribution, and interactions among individuals and groups within broader social frameworks. Social science research continually evolves with the development of new methodologies and approaches. Qualitative and quantitative approaches

enable researchers to systematically collect and analyze data (4). Social science research examines current phenomena and provides policy recommendations to enhance societal well-being.

Social science is incredibly helpful in understanding societal dynamics. It involves the study of social relations, structures, and changes (5). Using this information, we can work to overcome social problems such as poverty, injustice, and discrimination. Social science also helps create better and fairer public policies. Social sciences are relevant not only at the local or national level but also at the global level. They help us understand how various phenomena, such as migration, international trade, climate change, and global conflict, affect societies worldwide. In a global context, social science helps us understand how these phenomena affect societies (6). It is considered a tool for understanding and explaining the dynamics of social life in the field of knowledge that studies society and the interactions between its individuals. This field is also referred to as the "struggle for life" and "existence."

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Social science as a field of study has evolved significantly over time, deeply influenced by the major social, economic, and political changes experienced by societies, particularly in the modern era. Historically, the roots of social science can be traced back to the works of early thinkers such as Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim, and Max Weber, whose contributions laid the foundation for understanding the complexities of social life. These scholars focused on the functioning of society, the role of institutions, and the distribution of power and resources, offering frameworks that continue to shape contemporary social science thought.

The emergence of social science in the 19th and early 20th centuries coincided with industrialization, urbanization, and scientific advancements. The industrial revolution, in particular, brought about rapid societal transformations, creating new problems that needed systematic study. As societies transitioned from agrarian to industrial economies, issues of class, labor, and inequality became central themes of social research. Marx's analysis of class struggle and Weber's exploration of bureaucracy and authority provided critical insights into the ways in which economic and social structures influence individual and collective behavior. Durkheim, on the other hand, focused on the cohesion of society and the role of social norms in maintaining stability, pioneering the study of sociology as a scientific discipline.

In more recent decades, social science has expanded its scope to address issues arising from globalization, technological advancements, and environmental changes. Scholars have increasingly focused on the interconnectedness of societies, exploring how migration, climate change, and global trade affect social dynamics across borders. The advent of new research methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, has allowed for a more nuanced understanding of social phenomena. Quantitative data analysis has become indispensable for examining patterns of inequality, poverty, and discrimination, enabling researchers to measure social phenomena with greater precision.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Social science is a wide-ranging field of study that encompasses various disciplines focusing on human matters and the relationships between individuals. Key aspects of the discussion on social sciences can cover its definition and scope, methodology, scientific disciplines included in social sciences, and the practical application of social sciences in real life.

#### **1. Definition and Scope of Social Sciences**

Social science is a field of study that examines human life within its social context (7). This encompasses individual and group interactions, societal structures, social institutions, and changes in society. Social sciences aid in understanding how individual behavior is shaped by the social environment, how societies are established and progress, and how social change occurs and affects society.

Disciplines in social sciences (8) are as follows:

- a) Sociology is the study of society, social behavior patterns, and social institutions.
- b) Anthropology is the study of human culture and biological evolution.
- c) Political Science is the study of political systems, government, and political behavior.
- d) Economics is the study of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
- e) Social Psychology is the study of how social interactions affect individuals.
- f) Human Geography is the study of the relationship between humans and their environment, as a whole, and in particular

## **Methodology in Social Sciences**

In the social sciences, various methodologies are used to gather and analyze data. The primary methodological approaches in social sciences can be categorized as qualitative and quantitative (9).

### **Qualitative Research Methods**

- a) In-depth interviews: Face-to-face interviews were conducted with respondents to collect data and gain a deeper understanding of their perspectives and experiences.
- b) Participant Observation: Researchers observe and participate in the daily lives of research subjects to understand their behavior and social interactions.
- c) Case Study: This involves conducting an in-depth study of a specific thing or phenomenon within a particular situation.

### **Quantitative Research Methods:**

- a) Surveys: This method involves using questionnaires to gather data from a large sample to gain a general understanding of a population.
- b) Experiment: This type of research involves changing an independent variable to observe its effect on a dependent variable.
- c) Statistical Analysis: This involves testing hypotheses by analyzing numerical data and using statistical techniques.

## **Disciplines in Social Sciences**

The social sciences encompass a wide range of disciplines, each with its own distinct focus and approach to studying society. Some key disciplines within the social sciences include the following (10):

- a) Sociology investigates social structures, social interactions, and various social institutions, such as family, religion, education, and economics. Sociologists also examine how social patterns influence individual behavior and societal change.
- b) Anthropology explores culture and human development from biological and social perspectives. Anthropologists conduct research by studying diverse cultures worldwide and analyzing their impact on human lives.
- c) Political Science: Political science delves into political systems, government, and political behavior. Political scientists research different forms of government, political processes, and public policies to understand power dynamics and political influence.

- d) Economics: Economics studies the creation, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Economists also analyze how limited resources are allocated and how economic policies impact the well-being of society.
- e) Social psychology examines how social interactions impact individuals and their behavior in social environments. Social psychologists investigate various phenomena, such as conformity, persuasion, and interpersonal relationships.
- f) Human Geography: Human geography studies the relationship between humans and their environment and the spatial distribution of human activities. Human geographers analyze how geographic factors influence economic development, settlement patterns, and land use.

### **Applications of Social Sciences in Real Life**

Social sciences are crucial for shaping effective public policies (11). For example, a sociological analysis of poverty can aid in designing more effective social assistance programs.

Moreover, social sciences contribute to the development of better educational curricula and help understand the factors influencing educational success (12). For example, educational psychology provides insights into how students learn and how teachers can enhance learning.

In addition, social science can help identify the social factors that impact public health and develop more effective interventions (13). For example, medical anthropology explores how culture influences health perception and practice.

Furthermore, economics provides insights into market dynamics and the factors influencing economic decisions, which can be utilized to design better business strategies and make more informed investment decisions (14).

### ***Struggle for Life in the Social Sciences***

The concept of the "struggle for life" in the social sciences is often associated with Charles Darwin's theory of evolution (15). It refers to how individuals and community groups strive to survive, develop, and prosper.

In terms of economic and social dynamics, there is competition among individuals and groups for jobs, social status, and economic resources, leading to the formation of complex social structures and hierarchies (16).

The pursuit of political power is also part of this "struggle for life." Various groups in society seek to influence public policy and gain power to secure their interests (17). In the face of social change and globalization, ethnic, cultural, and religious groups strive to preserve their identities and traditions.

### **Existence in the Social Sciences**

In the field of social sciences, "existence" or "presence" refers to the efforts of individuals and groups to find meaning and purpose in life within a constantly changing society (18). This includes various aspects, such as

- a) **Personal and Collective Identity:** This involves how a person defines themselves within a broader social context, including aspects such as gender identity, ethnicity, religion, and social class.
- b) **Social Norms and Values:** This refers to how social norms and values influence individual behavior and help individuals understand their roles in society.
- c) **Social Relations:** Complex social networks comprise interactions between individuals and groups. These relationships provide emotional, economic, and social support, which are essential for an individual's existence in society.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Social sciences play a crucial role in understanding and managing various aspects of social life. By employing a range of scientific disciplines and methodological approaches, social sciences offer profound insights into how society operates and how social change unfolds. In practical terms, social sciences can enhance public health and contribute to the creation of more effective and equitable policies.

Viewed as a struggle for life and existence, social sciences offer a comprehensive understanding of how individuals and groups interact, contend with challenges, and find significance in their social lives. Recognizing these dynamics can lead to a better understanding of the intricacies of social life and offer insights into how individuals or groups can contribute to the construction of a more just and prosperous society.

## REFERENCES

- Abdussamad, Z. (2020). *Qualitative research methods book*. Syakir Media Press.
- Ali, M., & Jahangir, A. (2023). The role of social science in shaping public policy. *Odyssey of Academic Curiosity*, 1(01), 24–36.
- Amane, A. P., Kertati, I., Hastuti, D., Shodiq, L. J., & Ridho'i, M. (2023). *Qualitative research methods: Social science perspective*. PT. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia.
- Barton, K. C., & Avery, P. G. (2016). Research on social studies education: Diverse students, settings, and methods. In *Handbook of research on teaching* (Vol. 5, pp. 985–1038).
- Connell, R. (2020). *Southern theory: The global dynamics of knowledge in social science*. Routledge.
- Fitri, H. (2024). Identity construction and social movements in connection with regional head elections in the era of regional autonomy. *International Journal of Educational Technology and Society*, 1(2), 130–138.
- Fitri, H., & Purba, A. S. (2023). Youth in the existence of Nias ethnic culture. *RES MILITARY*, 13(1), 2679–2692.
- Ibrahim, I. A., Kamaruddin, S. A., & Adam, A. (2024). Social recognition and health inequality: An analysis of malnutrition through the lens of Axel Honneth's theory. *Collaborative Journal of Science*, 7(4), 1451–1460.
- Ibrahim, J. T. (2019). *Rural sociology*. University of Muhammadiyah Malang Press.
- Kulintang, A., & Putri, E. (2024). The role of financial literacy, risk tolerance, overconfidence, and financial technology in driving investment decisions. *JRAP (Journal of Accounting and Taxation Research)*, 11(1), 39–55.
- La Vergata, A. (2023). *Struggles for existence*. In *Images of the economy of nature, 1650-1930: From "Nature's war" to Darwin's "struggle for life" (pp. 1650–1930)*. Springer International Publishing.
- Marto, S. (2020). *Basic social and cultural sciences*. Yayasan Kita Menulis.
- Muliadi, E., & Nasri, U. (2023). Future-oriented education: The contribution of educational philosophy in facing global challenges. *Scientific Journal of Educational Profession*, 8(4), 2420–2427.
- Nkhata, B., Mkandawire, S. B., Nachiyunde, K., Phiri-Nalube, P., Kaani, B., Mulenga, I. M., Phiri, C., Chileshe, B., Sichula, N. K., Sikayomya, P., & Munachaka, J. C. (2019). Exploring selected theories applicable to educational disciplines and social sciences research. *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education*, 6(12), 97–116.

Rina, D. (2019). Introduction to social sciences. State Islamic University of North Sumatra.

Royce, E. (2015). Classical social theory and modern society: Marx, Durkheim, Weber. Rowman & Littlefield.

Umanailo, M. C. B. (2016). Basic social and cultural sciences. FAM Publishing.

Weber, M. (2017). Methodology of social sciences. Routledge.