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Preface...

Social science research in India presents a compelling narrative of continuity and transformation. While the quest for social understanding boasts a venerable history, the modern era has witnessed a remarkable surge in its pursuit. This growth is fueled by robust institutional support and a growing recognition of the vital role social sciences play in shaping national development.

India's social science research flourishes, balancing tradition with progress. Its roots extend centuries into the past, but modern research thrives thanks to strong institutions and its acknowledged value for development. Colonial-era research societies laid the groundwork, but post-independence India saw a rapid expansion of homegrown efforts. The Planning Commission (1950) and Kothari Commission (1964) championed social science research (SSR) as a key tool for social and economic betterment.

The establishment of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in 1969 marked a pivotal moment. The ICSSR funds projects, creates research institutes, and fosters collaboration, propelling the growth of SSR. Universities and government research institutes also play significant roles. A growing number of students pursue social science research, bolstering the field's potential.

However, funding disparities favoring STEM fields pose a potential hindrance to SSR's contribution to national development. Strengthening research quality and reach is crucial. Encouraging interdisciplinary research and disseminating findings through accessible channels can significantly enhance SSR's impact.

The future of SSR in India is promising. Growing social issues like poverty and environmental degradation necessitate robust SSR to guide policy and interventions. Additionally, digital technologies offer new avenues for data collection, analysis, and dissemination, potentially revolutionizing Indian social science research.

India's social science research journey reflects remarkable progress. From colonial roots to its current institutionalized form, SSR has become a critical tool for understanding and addressing the complexities of Indian society. By overcoming challenges and fostering a stronger research environment, India can leverage SSR to navigate 21st-century challenges and build a more equitable and sustainable future. This preface establishes the significance of the topic and highlights the intriguing blend of tradition and progress that characterizes social science research in India. It sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the field's evolution and current state.

(Editor in Chief)
