

Inductive Approach

When one proceeds from a particular to a general conclusion or from a less general

proposition to a more general proposition, the approach is called inductive.

Here, a

scholar arrives at a conclusion by a process known as generalization from the particular

fact observed within the range of his experience. The inductive approach is defined

as 'the legitimate derivation of universal laws from individual cases'. In political

science, the inductive approach is used to draw general principles from particular

experiences. One examines here various facts, experiences and findings.

Political

science is such a vast subject that the problems of various individuals, groups and

the states may be studied and certain generalizations can be made.

The inductive approach is scientific and rational as it establishes a general truth of principle by observation, experimentation or reasoning from particular

examples. Its findings are mostly correct and it takes reality into consideration.

While the deductive method is said to be dogmatic, the inductive approach is

pragmatic.

The inductive approach takes into consideration various complex factors in actual life. While advocating empirical investigation, it studies different factors or

variables causing such complexities. Its approach is dynamic as it takes changing

factors into consideration. In the modern age, Bacon is a great advocate of the

inductive approach. The inductive method of study of political theory has given rise

to the behavioural approach in recent times. According to the behavioural approach, the unit of analysis is the individual person in a political situation. A behaviouralist studies the behaviour of persons whose interactions influence group actions and he arrives at conclusions on the basis of actual findings. The inductive approach also suffers from some defects. It is a difficult method because collection of data is time taking. It is also expensive. Lot of time and money are wasted in observation and collection of data. There are certain limitations while applying the inductive method in the study of political phenomena. The primary limitation is that the subject of study, that is, human beings, are unpredictable.