

## **Post-behaviouralism**

Post-behaviouralism challenged the idea that academic research had to be value neutral and argued that values should not be neglected.

Post-behaviouralism

claimed that behaviouralisms' bias towards observable and measurable phenomena

meant that too much emphasis was being placed on easily studied trivial issues at

the expense of more important topics. Research should be more relevant to society

and intellectuals have a positive role to play in society.

The cardinal features of the post-behaviouralism can be enumerated as following:

- Substance preceded technique, which meant the pressing problems of society

became tools of investigation.

- Behaviouralism itself was seen as ideologically conservative and limited to

abstraction rather than to the reality at the time of crisis.

- Science could be evaluatively neutral, for facts were inseparable from values,

and value premises had to be related to knowledge.

- Intellectuals had to shoulder the responsibilities of their society, defend human

values of civilization and not become mere technicians insular to social problems.

- The intellectual had to put knowledge to work and engage in reshaping society.

- The intellectual must actively participate in the politicization of the professions

and academic institutions.

For the post-behaviouralists, a theory, in order to be treated as an explanatory theory,

in the first place has to be evaluated, i.e., tested empirically. Easton pointed out that

dissatisfaction with behaviouralism led to revisions in the method and content, favouring a revival of interpretive understanding and historical analysis, and a complete rejection of systematic methodology, while at the same time emphasizing the need to introduce formal modelling and rational actor deductivism. He announced the beginning of neo-behaviouralism in order to bring about a new unity in the theoretical focus of the discipline.

In the contemporary social science, the behavioural approach has shown increasing concern with solving the prevailing problem of society. In this way, it has largely absorbed the 'post-behavioural' orientation within its scope.