

Relationship of Public Administration with other Social Sciences

Introduction

Dear Learners, you have already understood that the purpose of public administration is to implement government activities for the welfare and well-being of the public. In the present era, public administration is considered as a branch of social sciences, and its origin and development are closely related to political science. The study of the relationship between public administration and politics can be done on two levels: intellectual and practical. While the subject matter of public administration primarily focuses on the practical aspects of government activities, it should also be studied at the intellectual level. At the intellectual level, public administration is categorized under the umbrella of social sciences because its conception is rooted in political science, which itself is a social science. In ancient times, all social sciences were considered as a single discipline of study. However, over time, these subject areas were divided into various disciplines, including history, sociology, political science, economics, and more. The Industrial Revolution promoted the development of these disciplines. With the rise of specialization, the need for specialists and experts in various aspects of social sciences became apparent.

The specialization in social sciences led to the emergence of modern disciplines, allowing for detailed study of various issues related to human life. While specialization brought significant changes to the field of scientific professions, it also resulted in a lack of comprehensive and holistic understanding of different aspects of human life. Excessive specialization shifted our

focus away from the totality and comprehensiveness of human life and led to unrealistic outcomes in our scientific research. When specialists and experts began their studies, they often overlooked various environmental factors in their limited research. In these circumstances, it has become evident that human life and human society require comprehensive understanding and research. It is impossible to fully understand human societies in isolation. The various elements within a society constantly influence individuals. If we only study sociological aspects and neglect gaining knowledge about political, economic, historical, and psychological aspects, such a study would not contribute significantly to the advancement of social sciences. Therefore, it has been realized that a comprehensive approach is needed to understand different aspects of human life, which requires taking into account various vital dimensions of human existence. It has also become apparent that different branches of social sciences are interconnected. Viewing them in isolation would be incorrect. Hence, we study the relationship of public administration with other social sciences in this Unit.