

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA PROBLEMS OF INCENTIVES AND ORGANIZATION**

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## **I**

RESEARCH in social sciences in general, and in India in particular, is still an infant; so expansion and improvement in the quality and volume of social investigations, especially in backward countries, are essential. For, in them social modes, institutions and prejudices have a significant impact on political, economic and other societal problems. There is also the extreme urgency of changing and improving the pattern of such research.

This paper deals with one aspect of this problem, and, to be precise, with only a few facets of this aspect. The observations and suggestions made are based on the writer's own experience, besides discussions with graduate and doctoral students, and with junior and senior faculty members in different social sciences.

The paper makes three major basic assumptions : First, that while apparently only the end-product of research, particularly of the more mature social scientist, is useful for national build-up, this can be done only if there is improvement in the two earlier stages. There are three such distinguishable stages, each with its own function in the community and its own problems, and each being merely a step towards the mature product.

These successive steps are : (1) the Master's degree level; (2) the Ph.D. and the post-Ph.D. young researcher's level; and (3) the more matured and finished scholar's level. The trainee at the first stage meets the demand for investigators and perhaps the lower level of research assistants; the product of the second forms research assistants, while the third level provides the directors for research projects, consultants and trainers of other researchers, and also produces research results on its own. Since expansion and improvement

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