

# The Role Of Social Science And Prospects For Contributing To Future Developments

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*Abstract: Social sciences have an important role to play in the formation of the Knowledge Economy and Society and evidence-based politics. However, the role and contribution of the Social sciences have not yet been fully understood and social scientists have played only a peripheral role in socio-economic development in Tanzania. As such, design and the implementation of development plans have been conducted mainly by technical scientists while social scientists have only been invited to justify the decisions of the technical scientists after the selection and the designing of the projects. As a prelude to the importance of social sciences in socio-economic development, this paper argues that, in complex societies, it is evident that single disciplines cannot provide solutions to problems on their own. The co-operation between all types of knowledge producers plays a key role in the acceptance of the new mode of knowledge production which is expected to better address policy concerns and social demands beyond national boundaries and disciplines. In this vein, the importance of social sciences which promote civic competence that traces the origin and development of the human aspects of the world through communication, economics, history, political sciences, geography, religion, psychology, social work and sociology cannot be underestimated. Learning about our own identity, history, culture, and how we relate to one another as humans in this country and on this planet is essential for peace and socio-economic development.*

*Keywords: Social sciences, social studies, civic competence, multidisciplinary research, socio-economic development*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Social studies is an integrated study of the social sciences aimed at promoting civic competence. The primary purpose of social studies is to help students develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse society. Civic competence is the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to be able to assume the "office of citizen in the country" (NCSS, 1992). Social science is the field of study concerned with society and human behaviours. Social science is commonly used as an umbrella term to refer to a plurality of fields outside of the natural sciences. These include: anthropology, archeology, criminology, economics, education, linguistics, political science and international relations, sociology, geography, history, law, and psychology (ECRI, 2011). The term may however be used in the specific context of referring to the original science of society established in 19th century

sociology (Latin: "Socius"="companion"; and "-ology", the study of in Greek "lógos", = "knowledge"). Authors such as Karl Marx and Max Weber are typically cited as the principal architects of modern social science by this definition (e-Dialogues, 2009).

Positivist social scientists use methods resembling to those of the natural sciences as tools to understand society, and so define science in its stricter modern sense. Interpretivist social scientists, by contrast, may use social critique or symbolic interpretation rather than constructing empirically falsifiable theories, and thus treat science in its broader sense (Gozie, 2009). In modern academic practice, researchers are often eclectic, in using multiple methodologies (for instance, by combining the quantitative and qualitative techniques). The term social research has acquired a degree of autonomy as practitioners from various disciplines share in its aims and methods (Burchi, 1997; Shjegstad and Brown, 2010). Accordingly, certain ideas and values central to Tanzanians

way of life can be traced under the definition of social studies. The nature of representative government, the function of and philosophy behind governmental checks and balances, the impact of geography on Tanzania history, and the role of the citizen in the contemporary world are examples of essential subjects within social studies. The National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) has recognised the importance of educating students who are committed to the ideas and values of their country, and who can use their knowledge and skills to

data collection and analysis, including collaboration, decision making and problem solving to assist their communities. Social science reflects the changing nature of knowledge, fostering entirely new and highly integrated approaches to resolving issues of significance to humanity (NCSS, 1992).

Social sciences promote high quality research in the social conditions (human development) and identity markers that shape people's life opportunities. It promotes social cohesion in the midst of ongoing and dynamic change, alongside the social movements that emerge in response to these challenges. Social sciences focus is on an understanding of social conditions of the people's lives (Answer.com, 2010). This field of study's interest is to examine how diversity in gender, culture, language and identity shape social cohesion. It also examines social discourse and policies that contribute to changes at multiple levels in the society (HSRC, 2010). In addition, the discourse and policies sustaining environmental crises and which have an impact on livelihoods would form an important focus of the Human and Social Sciences (Agiro, 2011). In terms of social movements and the dynamics of change, its focus is an understanding of the dynamics of social and individual change (including urbanisation, migration, climate change and technological change). Social sciences seek to address both the disjunctures and opportunities for civil society and the State as a whole. Furthermore, this field of study is interested in understanding social movements, how they develop, operate and impact on people's life opportunities in the context of changes, and the values that drive and sustain them.

Of special interest are the social aspects of climate change in our societies (HSRC, 2010). The term social science is a catch-all for so many subjects (Answer.com, 2010). It is in some ways like asking "why should we study life"? (Gozie, 2009). Learning about our own identity, history, culture, and how we relate to one another as humans in this country and on this planet is essential in order to live as one. Accordingly, certain ideas and values central to Tanzanians' ways of life come under the definition of social studies. The nature of representative government, the function of and philosophy behind governmental checks and balances, the impact of geography on Tanzania. Most fields of study outside the natural sciences are considered social sciences. There is much cross-fertilisation of ideas from many of the branches of scientific studies. From the economic theory's point of view, national development is a gradual social, economical and political growth of a nation, so that it becomes more advanced and stronger (Hebe, 2000). National development occurs as a result of its social, economic and political development mix. Numerous branches of social sciences involve themselves a lot in socio-economic development of a nation. We must not

undermine the contributions of social sciences to national development, which can only become clear when we know, understand and appreciate the work of social scientists in shaping the process of socio-economic development (Answers.com, 2010). Most of the social science disciplines touch everyone's lives in one way or another. The vast majority of the fields don't do better than to make broad generalizations to try to explain the observed facts, as there are not many that can with confidence claim any absolutes. It has been said, "the unexamined life is hardly worth living." Many of these disciplines work to examine human's collective lives and to learn lessons from them. Only as mankind learns from the many mistakes they have made can they hope to survive and have a peaceful, fulfilled society. Therefore, scientists and society as a whole must take the time to analyze the past and learn to do things better this time around. The social sciences often draw in the concepts of the natural sciences as well as in efforts to achieve understanding and improve the world (Enotes, 2011).

#### A. THE PROBLEM

Social sciences have an important role to play in the formation of the Knowledge Economy and Society and evidence-based politics. However, the role and contribution of the Social sciences have not yet been fully understood (Róger et al, 2010). There are discrepancies between the potential importance of social science knowledge and the comparatively low attention it receives from politicians, planners, other research communities and the public in general. The social sciences to a lesser extent, has been subjected to this low consideration. The landscape is fragmented, as the Social sciences are, to some degree, split according to national boundaries and disciplines, even sub-disciplines (Wallerstein, 2003). This leads to two major threats: (i) to an over-emphasized claim to autonomy (the 'ivory tower' phenomenon), on the one hand, and a misunderstanding of what 'applied research' means for the social sciences ('consulting approach'), on the other hand. How can the social sciences better cope with the needs of the society? This is the key question that will decide on its future. The issue is contingent on three elements: an understanding of what the society's needs are, what the social sciences have to offer and if knowledge-producing institutions can deliver the expertise requested (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011).

In complex societies, it is evident that single discipline cannot provide solutions to problems on their own. The co-operation between all types of knowledge producers is important and necessary. Useful research combines knowledge from different disciplines (Wallestein, 2003). Interdisciplinary research plays a key role in the acceptance of the new mode of knowledge production, which is expected to better address policy concerns and social demands. To reach society, the economy and the political system, good interaction is required between the different intellectual communities, an interaction that overcomes traditional feuds between schools and disciplines (Lazear, 2000). Given the above description, this paper attempts to provide the relevant meaning of the social science by defining its contribution to socioeconomic development. Therefore, the paper is organised as follows:

section 2 presents methodology, section 3 discusses the role of social science policies, section 4 discusses the main arguments and section 5 concludes the paper.

## B. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this paper was to narrate the relative importance of social science in contributing to socio-economic development in Tanzania.

## C. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Social sciences have an important role in the formation of the knowledge economy for society and evidence-based politics. In order to prove this statement, the following four main questions were formulated in an attempt to finding answers.

- ✓ What is the difference between social sciences and natural sciences?
- ✓ Why is it important to study social sciences?
- ✓ What is the contribution of social science to development?
- ✓ Is there a future for social sciences in horizon 2050 ?

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

We used both narrative and explorative research methods with the aims to explore and clarify the exact nature of the problem investigated and conceptualise human experience as it is represented in textual form (Babbie, 2007). We are aiming for an in-depth exploration of the meanings people assign to their experiences of social sciences, narrative researcher has been used to provide rich and free-ranging discourse. Exploratory research was used to ensure additional research is taken into consideration during the study as well as determining research priorities (Creswell, 2014). Explorative research can include techniques, such as: (i) secondary research - such as reviewing available literature or data; (ii) informal qualitative approaches, such as discussions with consumers, employees, management or competitors and (iii) formal qualitative research through in- depth interviews, focus groups, or case studies. It can also add quality insightful and vital information to a study by allowing the researcher to be creative in order to gain the most amount of insight on a subject. Information used in this paper was obtained through a document methods study using explorative research techniques for secondary information collection and reviewing available data and literature (Bryman, 2008; Creswell, 2014). Although it might be argued that the primary-secondary distinction is blurred, the difference is clear in so far as primary sources are considered to be the original written materials of the author's own experiences and observations (Bailey,1994). Secondary sources are the materials derived from someone else as the original source. Therefore, this paper investigates the contribution of Social sciences to development by analyzing secondary sources (Baker, 1998). The examination of these various sources assisted in looking at the contributions of social sciences to development in Tanzania holistically.

## III. THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE POLICY

Governments through the development of social science policies provide for the betterment of their citizens and the maintenance of a stable society composed of healthy, educated and a contented population. The importance of an equitable social policy cannot be underestimated. The history tells us that if some sections of society are not receiving their fair share of wealth and income, then the seeds of unrest and revolution are sown. In Africa, there is a long history of government involvement in social policies such as old age pension and the provision of infrastructure such as hospitals, railways, water and electricity, although much of this involvement would have been undertaken under the banner of economic development policy rather than social policy (Wood et al, 2002). All persuasions have been very active in the development of social policies such as:

- ✓ the development of a free health care system (Medicare);
- ✓ the greater role of the government in funding of public hospitals;
- ✓ the provision of the old age pension set at a minimum cost of average earnings;
- ✓ the provision of child grant to assist family to providing for children;
- ✓ the provision of payments for those without work and funding for retraining;
- ✓ the dominant role of the government in tertiary funding of universities and;
- ✓ the development of new taxation policies to reduce the reliance on income tax.

Thus the role of social science policy, although perhaps not widely recognised as important as economic policy, is crucial to the maintenance of the country's governance system. Social policy implications are key determinants for government to be able to muster the necessary support in Parliament debates to pass the legislation introducing the new tax regime (Thompson, 2007). Social sciences provide the candidates with relevant skills in investigating how authorities put their societies together, looking at the impacts of their decisions (social policies) about how their societies should be run and developed. By studying these issues, the social scientists examine the social, economical, political and cultural aspects of the societies, by becoming better informed about how they should be put together (HSRC, 2010). Social science studies equip the students with relevant social policies needed for socio-economic development of a society.

Some of the social policies needed to improve people's living conditions include the following:

- ✓ *Social and Economic policy* for social service delivery and fair economic growth.
- ✓ *Poverty* reduction policies and equal development.
- ✓ *Social innovation policies for social change and social needs delivery.*
- ✓ *Social protection* policies to reduce poverty and social vulnerability.
- ✓ Policy processes around culture, identity and social cohesion.
- ✓ *Developmental State* policies for economic planning and poverty reduction.

- ✓ *Education* policies for equal opportunities and access to quality education.
- ✓ *Gender* equity policies for development and poverty reduction.
- ✓ *Health* policies for universal access to quality healthcare.

#### IV. DISCUSSIONS

This section discusses the main questions about social sciences as articulated in the problem. It presents a summary of the main arguments by providing a description of “Why is it important to study social sciences”?

##### A. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES?

Science is generally known as an endeavor to understand, explain and predict the world we live in using distinctive methods of enquiry, in an attempt to construct theories. While science is just working with parts of the world, space, and things around us, social science is talking about atmosphere or yourself (Kizlik, 2012).

###### a. NATURAL SCIENCES

There are a number of similarities between the natural and social sciences, which include the use of similar methods and partly overlapping epistemological and ontological stances, i.e. stances regarding the creation of knowledge and the nature of reality. However, there are also a number of elements that distinguish the two, such as their different origins, subjects of study, and limitations. (Okasha, 2002). Natural sciences are disciplines that deal only with natural events (i.e. independent and dependent variables in nature) using scientific methods“. The employment of scientific methods is generally regarded as typical but not exclusive of natural sciences. It is the focus on natural events that distinguishes natural from social science (Dewey, 2008). Natural sciences are old sciences. They arose from curiosity about the world, as well as the endeavor to transform nature in favor of human necessities of life, both of which had not been possible to pursue freely in the era of slavery of the ancient society (Hayek, 1979).

The aim of the natural sciences is to discover the laws that rule the world. The focus lies hereby on the natural and not on the social world, although the differentiation is not always simple. Natural science methods are possibly the most popular methods of scientific investigation. Scientific methods in general are methods characterizing “natural science since the 17th century, and they consist of systematic observation, measurement, and experiment“. Compared to the social sciences, the natural sciences rely more on mathematically based methods. Sciences like physics and chemistry rely to a large extent on controlled experimental settings, which cannot be created easily for most investigations in social sciences (Hayek, 1979).

###### b. SOCIAL SCIENCE

The disciplines of social sciences are those dealing with “human society, societal groups, individuals in their relationships with others or institutions of societies and material goods as expression of human cohabitation” (Mruck and May, 2005). This definition shows the difficulty of grasping all aspects of social sciences as opposed to natural sciences, which have a common perspective rather than a common subject of study. *The distinction between social and cultural sciences and humanities is controversial* (Mruck and Mey, 2005). Social sciences are much younger than the natural sciences. Even though the social interactions in a society have probably been of interest for many centuries, scientific studies of social interactions began as late as during the 19th century with sociological publications including “*Suicide*” by Émile Durkheim and “*Système de politique positive*” by Auguste Comte”, the latter of which also set stone for a positivist approach to social sciences (Boutellier et al, 2011). In contrast to natural sciences, the study objects of social sciences can take notice of the forecast of scientists. Subject of study are the phenomena of social interaction and coexistence. Social sciences can rather be classified by their common perspective then through a specific subject of study. This perspective consists of the understanding and studying of a social aspect of society, a group of people or a single individual. One of the mainly used methods is the observation, as a social science counterpart of the natural sciences experiment. It is much more difficult to carry out an experiment in social, than in natural sciences (Mruck and Mey, 2005). Debates about the question of what is acceptable knowledge among social scientists suggest that a number of epistemological stances exist. The first popular stances in the social sciences is the *positivist position* (Pickering, 2009), which had been advocated by early social scientists like “August Comte” who argued that studies of social reality should apply the same methods as the natural sciences (Bryman, 2008). Both social and natural sciences increasingly depend on computer aided methods for data analysis (Hayek, 1979).

However, being concerned with the underlying meaning of social interactions, *the social sciences rely not only on what might be called exact, mathematical methods, but also on a number of qualitative approaches such as interviews and ethnographies*. Both branches of science have limitations that can be similar in nature, e.g., financial issues. Most limitations of the two are another point where they differ starkly (Hayek, 1979). *While the natural sciences often face technical boundaries, the social science experience difficulties as they study situations in which environments cannot be controlled easily, which often renders experimental settings impossible and leaves scientists relying on interpretations*. Additionally, ethical issues play a much larger role in the social sciences. A huge difference between social and natural sciences lies in the object of knowledge. While the laws in natural sciences rule the world independent of the research results of scientists, this is not true for social sciences. *The members of society are deeply influenced by theoretical models of the social sciences* (Hayek, 1979).

## B. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STUDY SOCIAL SCIENCES?

The main reason why it is important to study the social sciences is because a knowledge of the social sciences can help us improve our societies. When we study the social sciences, we are studying how people put their societies together and we are looking at the impacts of their decisions about how their societies should be run. By studying these things, we are becoming better informed about how societies should be put together. For example, one area of social science is sociology. One thing that a sociologist might study is the impact of various governmental programs on the behaviors of the people who participate in them. If a sociologist studies a welfare program and finds that it does not help its clients have a better life, that is an important finding (Agiro, 2011). When social scientists discover things like that, it can help governments better understand what kinds of policy choices to make. Overall, it is important to study social sciences so that we can get information we need in order to help us create better societies. Social means people interacting together (Flyvbjerg, 2001). Social Sciences are all about an objective study (science) of people and their interactions. How could this not be important? If we want to improve our lives, choices, groups, institutions and societies we need to understand how they work, why they exist and how they have functioned in the past (Delanty, 1997). The most effective study of social science is when they are studied together to answer the big questions we have about ourselves and human life our country and on this planet (Answers.com, 2010).

The social sciences are among the most interesting subjects to study, because human behavior is fascinating. For anyone involved in a life or profession that deals with human behavior (which is arguably everyone), development, knowledge, understanding, communication, conflict-resolution, and motivation, etc. is immensely helpful (Trigg, 2001). Additionally, we can look at the successes and failures of situations in the past to gain an understanding of how to better the future. Though this taps more into Social Studies, the principles are the same. We are a relational species. It behooves us to understand how we function. One of the best reasons is just because it is fascinating to try and figure out why humans do what they do (White, 2011). The newer science of behavioral economics and looking closely at how people can be manipulated to make decisions, etc., is absolutely fascinating stuff. Though it is impossible to totally understand why humans do what they do, it is certainly possible to better understand it. Studying the social sciences can provide us with so many important answers and observations that may help improve the understanding of our lives, and thus help us improve our interactions with each other. The social sciences can provide insight into all types of social situations such as raising children, romantic relationships, family relationships, friendships, work place relationships, interactions with strangers, cultural differences, and so on (Gorton, 2006). Studying these situations and complex scenarios that arise in each situation really aids those in various professions that dedicate their lives to helping people improve and understand their behavior or psychological processes (Enotes, 2011). According to this

paper, studying social sciences means to acquire more knowledge which can help us to know the mystery of the society and ameliorate our interactions with each other. Additionally the social sciences are the most important science in our life because human being is the element who lives within a society which takes the great part in the social sciences. It is important to study social sciences because they are about what it means to be human. When we better understand ourselves, we can better understand how the world works. Once we understand that, we are able to identify root causes of society's problems and find more effective solutions (Answers.com, 2010). Social sciences studies bring us in contact with the best life has to offer. It is the study and contact with these topics that enrich our existence. Moreover a solid grounding in the social sciences tends to extend our consciousness making us better people. Whether politically conservative, liberal, or independent, the study of social sciences leads us through the development of thought and catapults ones understanding of why things are the way they are (Agiro, 2011).

## C. IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

While natural sciences are important in increasing our understanding of the world, the use and development of technology and techniques that assist industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, and other related industries to produce more for increased consumption, there are some other aspects of the services which are a broader spectrum of the social sciences. They include health, education, social security and welfare that enable human groups, whether at a local or global level, to function in health and well being by providing opportunities and a more equitable distribution of wealth and income to the betterment of all members of society (Wood et al, 2002). The importance of the social science can be indicated by listing some of the core areas of the social science professions and disciplines which are among others the following:

- ✓ enhancement of physical and mental health;
- ✓ identifying the living conditions needed for a healthy life;
- ✓ provision of education at primary, secondary and tertiary level;
- ✓ development of and training for new skills and training to enhance people's capabilities;
- ✓ ensuring the availability of social welfare (disability, old age pensions, assistance for families);
- ✓ ensure equitable distribution of the economic wealth through taxation and other redistributive mechanisms;
- ✓ providing social justice through legal and administrative actions;
- ✓ promoting ethical practice and sound governance;
- ✓ preservation of law and order;
- ✓ protection of minors and disadvantaged groups;
- ✓ ensuring a safe working environment and appropriate working conditions;
- ✓ provision of the necessities of life in areas such as water, power, gas and transport;
- ✓ ensuring high standards of public sector management and;

- ✓ working on issues involving socio-economic policies, regional development, environmental development, globalisation and science and technology policies.

All these demonstrates how important the social sciences are for a modern and stable society that a country can enjoy. The role of the Universities in providing social sciences courses is critical to ensuring that social science philosophy, knowledge and new developments are passed on to the next generation of graduates and to society. This in turn enables government agencies to access well trained and skilled social scientists capable of developing and implementing new social policies and programmes to meet the needs of a changing world. The importance of the social sciences is further highlighted when there is consideration of the numerous applied research activities undertaken by universities and other government institutions (Wood et al, 2002).

#### D. IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

We live in a rapidly changing world with unsystematic human behavior. On basis of knowledge of humans' past actions and their present situation one cannot predict what they will do next; human minds does not exhibit underlying thoughts unlike computer with monitor, which shows us the clear picture of internal processing (Hunt and Colander, 2008). The most obvious thing that happens inside societies is that people have new ideas and want to change their social status accordingly. Rapid technological changes in western societies were stimulated by acceptance of the idea of progress (Hunt and Colander, 2008). Advanced nations made progress because they believed in progress and underwent rapid social change because they wanted "change". In this process of social change education, especially technical education played a vital role. They made tremendous technological advancement but simultaneously promoted humanitarian values including law and order enforcement in their societies (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011). Social scientists are called upon to supplement and evaluate critically the economic and political framing of globalization through a focus on culture and the imagination. Formal education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills and techniques, good judgment and wisdom. Informal education has as one of its fundamental goals of imparting development from one generation to the next (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011).

Hence both types of education has the techniques and instructions to improve the concepts of life and social skills, including decision-making, negative and positive response skills, critical analysis and systematic judgment abilities (Thompson, 2007). Another description of education is the propagation of a set of beliefs. Beliefs are important originators to both attitudes and behavior because our beliefs shape values and values plays very important role in shaping the structure of the society and culture (Thompson, 2007). Culture is a set of expressions, activities, material and spiritual products, symbols and representations that arise from human activity. Education remains vital to occupational achievement, but as more people get more education, the minimum acceptable level of education for this objective is raised. A culture of peace consists of values, attitudes and behaviors. It

reflects and inspires social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, human rights, tolerance and solidarity and rejects violence and extremism. All present developed and peaceful societies of the world reveal this purpose predominantly (White, 2011). Technical progress has not only changed lifestyles of mankind but also the thought and social setup of the people. Technological advancements altered the world in all respects (White, 2011). However, the basic beliefs and values produced dramatic changes in the world history. Education of theologies in positive direction is very important to shape the character of the students (Rule, 1997). By implementing this in educational system we can promote the culture of moderation and tolerance according to respective beliefs and values of societies (Rule, 1997). Teaching of humanities and social sciences as core courses at undergraduate level is essential; however we need to update and modernize the course outlines and teaching techniques according to the prevailing, moderate, tolerant and challenging national and international scenario (McCreery, 2011).

Teaching of social sciences can promote the culture of peace in addition to psychological effects. Social science disciplines should be taught to promote understanding of moderate and cultured society at all levels of education, through cultural exchanges and youth volunteer work. Volunteer and social work is the compulsory component of humanities education in all developed societies but in our country there is no concept and culture of practical social work in our educational set up at all levels of education (Hutchinson et al, 2008). We should create awareness to reducing manufacturing and distribution of arms and ammunitions and should discourage the culture of extremism and militancy (White, 2011). This task can be achieved only by the effective teaching of social sciences. It is very important to establish the culture of peace generally in the world and particularly within the country (White, 2011). The education of social sciences provide opportunities for development of these skills and be linked to social participation, the sciences, the arts, technology, communication skills, creativity, and intelligence for increase in educated, well-informed, skilled and sensible manpower ratio and quality population in the country (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011).

#### E. CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Social sciences have multiple effects on a nation, state or a country (Hunt and Colander, 2008). National development is seen as the gradual social, economical and political growth of a nation so that it becomes more advanced and stronger. National development occurs as a result of its social, economic and political development. Numerous branches of social sciences involve themselves a lot in national development (Lave and March, 1993; Wallestein, 2003). The contribution of social sciences to national development shall be made clear when we know the meaning of social science and national development (Thompson, 2007). Social sciences concern themselves with the scientific study of man as a member of human society and seek to understand him not only

as in individual member of a society but also in his interaction and relationship with other members of the group. Here social sciences have human culture and society as their main objects of study. Social sciences follow a scientific method of study of National Development (Thompson, 2007).

Social development is connected with the advancement in the mode of human interaction and relationship in the nation. Economic development is connected with the advancement in the status or condition of national wealth. Political development is connected with the advancement for better governance in a nation (Rule, 1997). Since the term society on the other hand designated of men or women or both which are characterized by systematic organization and external institution (laws, administrative bodies, governing officials) for the achievement of their goals. It can be seen from this that a good example is a nation. Social sciences scientifically study man and society (nation) basically for effective man's survival and society's (nation's) development or building (McCreery, 2011). The contribution of social sciences to national building/development can be clearly seen through their various disciplines. They are political science, history, economics, sociology, geography, psychology, religion, social studies, etc., (Enotes, 2011).

Political Science is the study of how men acquire, execute, distribute and manage power and authority in a state. The central focus of political science is on power and it studies the way this power is utilized for maximum national development (Wallestein, 2003). Power, when utilized as supposed or expected, brings about national development. For example, a democratic system of government is a political system where people are allowed to voice their opinion or the government seeks for the majority opinion from the public. Any government (under this system) that provides this as supposed, will find out that there will be state stability, economic progress, social cohesion and overall improvement of the living standards of the citizens. Political science gives the information on how power and authority can be secured, managed, distributed and executed to bring about national development (Hebe, 2000; White, 2011).

#### F. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN HORIZON 2050?

Developing and providing better access to social sciences data increase knowledge, innovation and evidence-based policy making. Social sciences will still play a significant role in reinforcing cooperation between local, regional, national and international level research and innovation policies (Thompson, 2007). We need to work to establish, support and operate research infrastructures which promote innovation, research and technology transfer in areas that are often beyond the reach of a single research group regionally and nationally (Enotes, 2011). African economy, and indeed the world economy, are facing threats that have not been seen for several generations. Energy and resources are becoming scarcer and more expensive as we consume them more. The internet and social networking are changing the way we work, think, interact and communicate, and these are just some of the challenges that we face. We need the social sciences to examine, interpret and understand these challenges and point

us to answers. This has never been more true than today – for example, we look to these disciplines to explain why and how the current economic crisis happened, to identify its social impacts and to discern future trends (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011).

We cannot rise to the challenges facing Tanzania without deepening and updating our knowledge of the very economy, society and culture we live in, and without understanding of the country and its relationship with the rest of Africa and the world (Hebe, 2000). We have read and heard the concerns by authorities and others expressing that the Social Sciences are less important and have no place in our future. We need a strong evidence base for policy making on these issues because the social sciences still have the appropriate tools and methods to address the intricacy of the challenges facing our society, including enhancing the societal dimension of security policy and research (Hargittai, 2009; Geoghegan-Quin, 2011). Of course, the social sciences will, at the same time, still play an important part in addressing all of the societal challenges until the Horizon 2050. Overall, the social sciences will be embedded throughout the three pillars of horizon 2050, so we need to understand how new technologies and innovation arise and how they are used in the economy and in our wider society. The social sciences can help shed light on the process of research itself and how innovation works (Geoghegan-Quin, 2011; Enotes, 2011).

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. CONCLUSION

What is central here is that for socio-economic development to be successful, there needs to be an integrated knowledge of ideas of various disciplines, such as the physical and biological sciences (agriculture, engineering, etc.) and the social sciences (sociology, political science, economics, anthropology). However, for the last few years, social scientists, with the exception of economists, have played a peripheral role in socio-economic development, especially in development planning in the development countries like Tanzania. Program design and the implementation of development plans have been conducted mainly by technical scientists. In most cases, social scientists have been invited to justify the decisions of the technical scientists after the selection and the designing of the projects. However, such development plans and projects have usually had unanticipated consequences because of this lack of input from social scientists. At present there is a growing concern by international funding agencies and other research institutes to involve social scientists not only in the evaluation and appraisal of development projects, but also in the planning and formulation of these projects. The rationale behind this is that social scientists can contribute to the understanding of social, political, and economic problems in a society and help to plan development projects in such a way that they address basic developmental needs.

## B. RECOMMENDATIONS

Higher learning institutions should endeavour to provide social sciences courses to ensuring that social science philosophy, knowledge and new developments are passed on to the next generation of graduates and to society. This in turn will enable government agencies to access well trained and skilled social scientists capable of developing and implementing new social policies and programmes to meet the needs of a changing world. In the same vein alternative approach must be proposed in universities which will promote multidisciplinary research, integrate field experience, teaching and research in training development experts, involve the entire population in the research process and facilitate co-operation amongst university faculties, students and local rural development agencies.

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