



## **FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester**

**SUBJECT: Political science-I**

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# Lecture-7



## Behavioural approach:

Among the modern empirical approach, the behavioural approach, to study political science grabbed notable place. Most eminent exponents of this approach are David Easton, Robert, A. Dahl, E. M. Kirkpatrick, and Heinz Eulau. Behavioural approach is political theory which is the result of increasing attention given to behaviour of ordinary man.

## Salient Features of Behaviourism:

David Easton has pointed out certain salient features of behaviouralism which are regarded as its intellectual foundations. These are:

**Regularities:** This approach believes that there are certain uniformities in political behavior which can be expressed in generalizations or theories in order to explain and predict political phenomena. In a particular situation the Political behaviour of individuals may be more or less similar. Such regularities of behaviour may help the researcher to analyse a political situation as well as to predict the future political phenomena. Study of such regularities makes Political Science more scientific with some predictive value.

## Benefits of behavioural approach are as follows:

1. This approach makes Political Science more scientific and brings it closer to the day to day life of the individuals.
2. Behaviouralism has first explained human behaviour into the field of Political Science and thus makes the study more relevant to the society.
3. This approach helps in predicting future political events.
4. The behavioural approach has been supported by different political thinkers as it is scientific approach and predictable nature of political events.

Despite of merits, the Behavioural approach has been criticised for its fascination for scienticism also. The main criticisms levelled against this approach are mentioned below:

1. This has been disparaged for its dependence on practices and methods ignoring the subject matter.
2. The supporters of this approach were wrong when they said that human beings behave in similar ways in similar circumstances.
3. This approach focus on human behaviour but it is a difficult task to study human behaviour and to get a definite result.
4. Most of the political phenomena are indeterminate. Therefore it is always difficult to use scientific methods in the study of Political Science.
5. Furthermore, the scholar being a human being is not always value neutral as believed by the behaviouralists.

## Post behaviour approach:

In the mid of 1960s, behaviourism gained a dominant position in the methodology of political science. Relevance and action were the main slogans of post behaviourism. In modern social science, behaviourism approach has shown increasing concern with problem solving of the prevailing problems of society.

The political system operates within an environment. The environment creates demands from different parts of the society such as demand for reservation in the matter of employment for certain groups, demand for better working conditions or minimum wages, demand for better transportation facilities, demand for better health facilities. Different demands have different levels of support. Easton stated that 'demands' and 'supports' establish 'inputs.' The political system receives these inputs from the environment.

**Structural functional approach:** According to this approach, society is considered as a single inter related system where each part of the system has a certain and dissimilar role. The structural-functional approach may be considered as an outgrowth of the system analysis. These approaches accentuate the structures and functions. Gabriel Almond is a follower of this approach. He explained political systems as a special system of interaction that exists in all societies performing certain functions. His theory revealed that the main characteristics of a political system are comprehensiveness, inter-dependence and existence of boundaries. Like Easton, Almond also considered that all political systems perform input and output functions.

**Communication theory approach:** This approach explores the process by which one segment of a system affects another by sending messages or information. Robert Weiner had evolved this approach. Afterwards Karl Deutsch developed it and applied it in Political Science. Deutsch stated that the political system is a network of communication channels and it is self-regulative.

## Decision making approach:

This political approach discover the features of decision makers as well as the type of influence the individuals have on the decision makers. Numerous scholars such as Richard Synder and Charles Lindblom have developed this approach. A political decision which is taken by a few actors influences a larger society and such a decision is generally shaped by a specific situation.

## Empirical Theory:

In Simple form, empirical political theory explains 'what is' through observation. In this approach, scholars seek to generate a hypothesis, which is a proposed explanation for

some phenomena that can be tested empirically. After formulating a hypothesis, a study will be designed to test the hypothesis.

## Normative Theory:

Normative political theory is related to concepts such as justice, equality, and rights. Historical political theory involves political philosophers from the past (e.g. Thucyides and Plato) to the present (e.g. Wendy Brown and Seyla Benhabib), and may focus on how particular philosophers engaged political problems that continue to be relevant today. While the focus has traditionally been on Western traditions, that is beginning to change in this field.

## MCQ

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1. "A right is a claim recognized by society and enforced by the state" who said this?
  - A. Laski
  - B. Bosanquet
  - C. Rousseau
  - D. Green
2. Who described democracy as "a form of government in which everyone has a share"?
  - A. John Seeley
  - B. J.S Mill
  - C. Bryce
  - D. None of The Above
3. Who said "Rights are those conditions of social life without which no man can be his best self"
  - A. Hobhouse
  - B. Bosanquet
  - C. Laski
  - D. Hegel
4. Who wrote the book 'A Grammar of politics'
  - E. Laski
  - F. Hegal
  - G. J.S Mill
  - D T.H Green
5. The concept of Greek, 'Justice' was
  - H. Legal
  - I. Moral

- J. Social
- K. Political