FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

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Lecture- 08

3.1.2 Inductive Method

Induction is the most often used method of scientific research. Induction is a process of reasoning from particular cases to whole group of cases, from specific instances to general rules. The inductive method is also known as historical, or expirical or a posteriori method. It may be described as practical approach to the research problems. It tries to remove the gulf between theory and practice. This method examines various causes one after another and tries to establish causal relations between them. General principles are laid down after examining a large number of special instances or facts.

The method is said to be 'empirical' because the formulation of principle is made only after an extensive compilation of the raw data of experience. The data may be historical or statistical data, The historical instances are qualitative while the statistical data are quantitative. Generalizations are made after the analysis of data.

Inductive reasoning starts from observable facts from which a generalization is inferred. Let us take an example:

(1) Man A died

(2) Man B died and so on

(3) All men are mortal.

One comes across the death of so many individuals. On the basis of these observed facts, one may infer that all human beings are mortal basing on inductive reasoning. To give an example for inductive reasoning, we can cite the work of Dr. Goring. He conducted a research on Lombrosian concept that the criminals constitute a distinct physical type. His making comparison of several thousand criminals and noncriminals, finds in his investigation that there is no relation between the criminal behaviour and physical anomalies, which are proposed by Lombroso.

Induction operates on faith that in the basic course of things if for a long time regularity is evidenced, then it is a Surety enough for the inference that it will continue in the future.

If the premise and conclusion in the logical case are both known, some probability relations may be established between them and this may serve as a paradigm of an inductive inference.

Inductive explanations also have explanandum and explanans. The explanandum is generally probable, explanandum cannot be deducted from die explanans with certainty. The explanandum is implied by the explanans. The explanans support or provide evidence for the explanandum but does not make the latter certain. The explanans can be true and the explanandum can still be false in the inductive explanation. Inductive explanations explain either the probability of individual events
or statistical generalizations.

Inductive process examines the particular phenomena and discovers from them the general law. There are two laws which bind the process of induction, i.e., the law of universal causation and the law of uniformity of nature; Perfect induction is a method of arriving at a universal proposition after taking into consideration all the individual instances of phenomena under Investigation.

Induction argument derives a generalized conclusion on die basis of particulars which are often empirically derived observations. The premise of an inductive argument makes die conclusion probable, not certain. The inductive approach relies on the scientific discovery of facts. One characteristic of inductive argument is that it establishes a conclusion with a content which goes beyond its premise. Prom the observation of a sample, an inference is made about a whole population. This la called the ‘inductive leap’, jumping from the premise, which relates to an observed sample, to the conclusion which concerns with entire population.

The greater the number or representative units in the premise or observed in the sample, the smaller is the inductive leap. The premise of an inductive argument does not establish the conclusion conclusively. The premise of a valid argument maybe true, but the conclusion

may still be false. Its premise only Supports the conclusion but it does not make the latter certain,

3.1.2. a Merits and demerits of Inductive Method

1. More realistic.—This method is more realistic because it studies the changes in conditions surrounding the social activities of man and their effect on social activities are analyzed and displayed,

2. Possibility of verification.—The method is more useful because its propositions can be tested and verified easily.

3. Proper attention to complexities.—This method lakes full note of the complex relationship found in actual life and examines them carefully.

4. Dynamic approach.—This method takes into consideration the changeable nature of assumptions in its analysis. It does n6t consider facts to b>e stable. It is a dynamic method.

Demerits of Inductive Method

1. It is a difficult method.—This method cannot be used by a beginner or a common man because it is impossible for an ordinary person to collect facts, study them and derive some conclusions out of them. The cost is too much for him.

2. Danger of bias.—The propositions obtained through this method are based upon data collected by investigators. Therefore, there is a danger of investigator's bias entering into propositions.

3. Limited scope of verification.—Since the propositions obtained through this method are based on a few facts, the universal applicability of these propositions is always in doubt.

4. Limited use in socio-legal studies.—This method is commonly used for lifeless objects of the physical science. In socio-legal studies, we study a man's problems. Assuch, die method has limited use.

If anyone asks which method is preferred, the answer is both. Prof. Marshall says, "Induction and deduction are both needed for scientific study as right and left foot for walking."

Larrabee remarks, "If extreme rationalist (Deductionist) is like a spider spinning out theories from within the extreme, expiricist (Inductionist) is to be compared.....to an ant which piles useless heaps of facts. Better than either the spider or an ant is the bee, which selectively

gathers pollen and transforms it into honey, to be a bee one has to mingle both induction and deduction in intricate way".