

Unit-1 Meaning, Nature, Scope and Aims and Objectives of Teaching History.

- **Meaning, Nature and Scope of teaching history—its meaning and definitions, Scope of subject history, classification history, Relation of history with other subjects, History is a science or arts?**

Meaning Of History: History is basically record of every things that are valuable in present context.

History is the remarks of unique things in the life of mankind which is stir and vibration of life.

History is one of the oldest subject in the world, through which we all know about the past, In early age man was savage and lived like animals, but they always try themselves to improve in their lives and stage they could growth but without record. Gradually man started to record the events and important activities. At last, systematic study of the events started.

So, we can say that a systematic study of past event is called history.

And a man who composed the events systematically is called historian. Some of the ancient historians are Herodotus, Thucydides, Polibians etc.

Actually, History is as what historians see it. History is seen by different historians in different ways. For one thing a historian, no matter how objective he would like to be, can only base his writings on the material available to him at a particular time.

Definitions Of History: There is no universally agreed definition of history. It has been defined differently by different scholar.

According to---

Ariel & Will Durant: History is the transmission of our mental, moral, technical and aesthetic heritage as fully as possible, to as many as possible, for the enlargement of man's understanding, central, embellishment and enjoyment of life.

Burckhardt: History is the record of what one age finds worthy of note in another.

Charles Fifth: History is the record of the life of societies of man, of the changes which those societies have gone through, of the ideas which have determined the action of those societies, and the material conditions which have helped or hindered their development.

Ibn Khaldun(1379) : History is the record of human society, a world civilisation, of the changes that take place in the nature of that society, such as savagery , sociality and group solidarity, of revolutions and uprisings by one set of people against another with resulting kingdoms and states , with their various ranks, of the different activities and occupations of men , whether for gaining their livelihood or in the various sciences and crafts and in general of all transformations that society undergoes by nature.

Johnson: History in its broadest sense is everything that ever happened.

Munshi, K.M.: To be history in the true sense of the word, the work must be the story of the people inhabiting a country. It must be a record of their life from age to age, presented through the life and achievements of men whose exploits become the beacon lights of tradition.

NCERT (*Effective Teaching Of History*): History is the scientific study of past happenings, in all their aspects in the life of a social group, in the light of present happenings.

Nehru: History is not just a record of the doing of big men, of kings and emperors and the like. If it were so, history might as well shut up show now; for kings and emperors have almost ceased to strut about the world's stage. But the really great men and women do not, of course, require thrones or crowns or jewels or titles to show them off... Real history should deal, not with a few individuals here and there but with the people who make up a nation, who work and by their labour produce the necessities and luxuries of life, and who in a thousand different ways act and react to each other. Such a story of man would really be a fascinating story. It would be the story of man's struggle through the ages against nature and the elements, against wild beasts and the jungle and some of his own kind who have tried to keep him down and to exploit him for their own benefit...

Nature of History: To make our concept of history more definite, we may say, that a study to be termed History should have the following characteristics:

- It is study of the past happenings in the life of a social group, based on objective evidence as far as possible.
- These happenings should cover aspects of the life of the social group and need not ordinarily give predominance to any aspect of life. It should be closely interrelated with different social groups.
- Every happenings are not included only those things are relevant and related with present things that may be considered as the subject matter of history.
- Necessarily the selected happenings should not merely be narrated; the causal relationships between them should be properly unearthed. The tracing of these relationships should lead to development of general laws which should be able to reveal the real nature of happenings. In trying to develop such general laws, comparison and contrast with the casual relationships existing among similar happenings in other social groups may also be made. This should improve the reliability and validity of these laws.
- The development of general laws regulating historical happenings may not be considered enough; attempts have to be made to predict future happenings on the basis of laws.

Scope of subject history : History means the accounts of the past human civilisation. Scope of history means the breadth, comprehensiveness, variety and extent of learning experiences provided by the study of this subject. An account of history was once limited to a local story but in course of centuries, it changed into universal story but in course of centuries, it changed into universal history

of mankind in which man's achievement in every field of life--political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological, religious and artistic were depicted.

- **Local to Global:** The subject history was once limited to a local area and after centuries, it became the universal and depicted man's achievements in local, regional, national, and international level. In ancient times, history included all activities and achievements such as science, technology, discoveries inventions and adventures. The social life of man, political achievements, cultural attainments, constitutional rule and economic activities form the subject matter of the historian. A nation becomes great for the great sacrifice of the common man. Due to mass movement, Indian freedom fighters were able to achieve their goal. But earlier they suffered much due to tyrannical rule of the kings, courts and central govt. The historians also neglected the life of ordinary men, women and children. But now the minute examinations of every element in society is called micro history and it is becoming very popular now.
- **History included man's behaviour and economic activities:** It includes social law, culture, food, dress, ornaments, rites and rituals, religious festivals. Moreover, it discusses the various political institutes, languages, songs, dances, arts and crafts etc. As a result history divides into different parts like economic history, social history, political history, literary history, intellectual history, diplomatic history, universal history and legal history.
- **The economic and social changes gained greater prominence in history:** As a result of social changes, caste and class distinctions, family life, position of women, customs, manners and way life attracted the attention of the historians.
- **The discovery of ancient coins and inscriptions widened the scope of history:** In the 19th century, geology and archaeology further widened the knowledge of ancient history. The coins and inscriptions and geology, life art and architecture, sculpture, culture, trade, commerce, foreign relations of the ancient civilizations. The archaeologists opened new ground for historians though their discoveries are responsible for pushing back the history by millions of years.
- **Collect data of events:** The scope of history is ever expanding and history is assuming a universal character. In the 19th century historians discussed about government, the great men, the development of national consciousness and the growth of political liberalism. The history of America, Africa, China, Latin America, India evolved as much interest in Europe. Due to available of data, material the shape and content is changed now Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Relativism are now the part of modern history. With the passage of time new things will be added.

Classification of History : History is the living past of man. It is a systematic account of the origin and development of human being record of the unique events and movements in its life. In the pre- historic time there is no distinction of the human activities. All are recorded in a book. As for example, the epics included political, social, religious, economic, law, peace and war, cultural and diplomatic conditions of time. But in course of time with the expansion of scope of history and

available materials the historians wrote different categories of history for the convenience of study. They were---

- a. **Political History**
- b. **Economic History**
- c. **Social History**
- d. **Literary History**
- e. **Intellectual History**
- f. **Universal History**
- g. **Legal History**
- h. **Diplomatic History**

a. Political History: From the earliest period, political history draws more attention to the historians because the common people from the earliest time were controlled by the head of the Samajas and Kings. The society or the kingdom was guided by the laws framed by the kings. Politics is instrumental in shaping the constitutional, legal, diplomatic, military, economic and social problem of the country.

The constitutional history is connected with politics. It included the development of political institutions, rules, regulations, rights and duties, law and mode of justice, executive, legislative and administrative functions, economic and financial implications, nature of bureaucracy. The most important sources of information regarding the political history of the past are the court records and accounts of the courtiers.

b. Economic History: The economic history is the most important of history. Before 19th century, the historians had given importance on the economic field. In this Adam Smith wrote, 'Wealth of Nations'. This book impressed the political thinkers like Rousseau and Montesqueiu recognised the importance of the commercial relation with a view to develop the civilisation and culture.

The subject matter of economic history are class struggle, man's skill in earning his daily wages, means of transportation and communication, consumption, distribution, production, population, growth, agriculture, land revenues taxes and all other economic activities. From the point of economic view, they discuss on the institutions of slavery, feudalism, imperialism, capitalism and Socialism.

c. Social History: Social History means the social life of the people which is connected with religion, morals, manner, food, dress, art, amusements and culture. It deals with institutions and problems dealing with man and society, customs, habits, family life, folklore, various festivals, ceremonies and other activities which are essential part of human life. Social History discuss the origin and development of social institution. It also discuss about the life of the inhabitants of the past, the character of family, household life, religion, music, literature, philosophy, learning, thought etc. It discusses village life, urban life, city life, and their connections with their settlements.

d. Literary History: Literature occupies an important place in history. Literature has a glorious past which focussed the different activities of the people. Literature is the record of feelings, emotion, imaginations and thought of man. Literature is also called mirror of society. So, all kinds of subjects or matter of the society are reflected in the

literature. Literature reflects the social, economic, religion, political and cultural condition of the country. Example like 'The Mysteries of the Mughal Court' bring us to a living picture of customs, manners, life and the conditions of the people.

e. Intellectual History: Intellectual history observes what a man say, what they think and what goes on in their mind. The intellectual historian examines the nature of the effects of an idea on human events. A historian is confronted with the old problems of value judgement and he has to find out the common and unique elements in ideas and attitude. Intellectual history is not a summary or synthesis of such material, but it is 'the cartography of ideas' by which attempts is made to trace and understand the impact of those ideas on a given society.

f. Universal History: Universal History is modern concept. In the ancient times, the scholars did not paid attention on international events. But due to the growth of human civilisation, means of proper communication, growth of science and technology, scholars began to look to the world. So the historians attempted to record various international events. Now all the scholars write a history from the universal view point. Although writings of universal history is very difficult task, it became possible due to the formation of world bodies like league of Nation and United Nations Organizations and contact with world powers.

g. Legal History: Every country adopted some legal procedure to run the country smoothly, so that the people of the country should spend their social life peacefully and happily. It was the duty of the citizen to follow the legal system. At that time the orders of the kings was the only law. But there was no uniformity of legal system at the same place. The rule of law that the way of life, which bounded the society into one nation. From the ancient period, the learned man and the kings introduced Rule of Law to maintain the social life and family life and thereby attempted to strengthen the country.

h. Diplomatic History: Diplomatic History is related to political history. The success of politics always based on diplomacy. It deals with the principles of international relations. Ambassadors maintain relations with nations and they are custodians and practioners of diplomacy. In early age states were personal property of the kings and diplomacy was their personal matters. Their relation with other states were kept secret and treaties were concluded secretly. So, the scholars or common people were ignorant about the diplomatic relations of the rulers and they did not able to write on diplomacy.

Thus the study of history is divided into various branches which enabled man to develop their knowledge of different branches of history of the world.

Correlation of History with Other Subjects:

Correlation means the interrelation of the subjects and activities. It is a technique which tries to establish a reciprocal relationship among the various subjects of the curriculum and the life of community. The primary objective of correlation is a better integration of knowledge and experience and an economy of time and energy.

Correlation and History: History provides a rich ground for correlation with other subjects as well as different places and times.

Trevelyan has remarked 'History is not a subject at all but a house in which all subjects dwells'.

Johnson states 'History with or without the name, certainly has been and is a background for all other social sciences. History may indeed be regarded as the only field in which all other social sciences meet'.

Thus, the reciprocal relationship that exists among the diversity of subjects needs to be established. This relationship with correlation technique makes the study of history easier, inspirational, interesting and normal.

- **History and Geography:** The close relationship between history and geography has been brought out by Kant 'The description according to time is history, that according to space is geography....'

History differs from geography only in consideration of time and area. The former is a report phenomena which follow one another and has reference of time. History is narrative and geography is descriptive. Both history and geography is concerned with the interplay of all factors of human as well as physical. Rivers and Mountains have played an important role in the movement of man. Every past civilisation were along the rivers like the Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Ganges and Indus and so on.

An analysis of the history of India from a geographical perspective reveals that the broader contents of history are closely linked with the geographical features of India. The Himalaya is the source of wonder.

As per K.M. Paniker : ' There are no mountain ranges anywhere in the world which have contributed so much to shape the life of a country as the Himalayas have in respect of India.'

It is not political life of the people of India, but the religion, mythology, art and literature of the Hindus that bear the imprint of the great mountains. So, we can say that as per *Herodotus* ' *All History must be treated geographically and All Geography must be treated historically*'

- **History and Political Science:** History and Political Science are interrelated and the study of one reinforces the other.

Lord Acton.' The science of politics is one science that is deposited in the stream of history like the grains of gold in the sands of river. History is the past politics, and present politics is the future history'.

Soltau, 'History is really past tense of a subject of which political science is the present'

According to Seeley, 'History without political science has no fruit and political science without history has no root'. History is the laboratory of politics where we learn not to repeat the mistakes of others. Without historical foundations, politics become merely speculative. The origin and nature of state and other institutions can be understood by analysing history. History gives information about revolutions and political movements which help us in formulating our own strategy or theory of bringing change.

History without politics is nothing but the story of love affairs of kings and queens and the story of wars. History without descriptions and analysis of

political events becomes a cheap literature and cannot be used for furthering the interest of human knowledge. Political ideas, thoughts and motives have contributed in shaping the human history. Political revolutions have contributed in moulding the history of societies. American history begins with the American Revolutions, French Revolutions and Russian history are part of both political science and history. So, both things are inseparable and go hand in hand.

- **History and Economics:** History, today is considered not merely a story of wars or kings. It is also a study of the economic and social conditions of country at a particular time. Economic factors have been great determiners of historical event. It is a common knowledge that the economic prosperity of India had been attracting foreign invaders and these have influenced the course of history.

History tells how different country achieved rapid economic development by adopting particular economic policies and how these policies can be adopted by underdeveloped countries for betterment of their economies. Every economic problem of the present can be understood and solved in the light of historical background. The history of past events throw an important light on the present economic policies and guides us in the formulation of various laws and theories.

History describes the story of man and Economic describes the activities of man in relation to production, distribution, consumption and exchange. History describes the social nature of all economic activities of man. Economic revolutions in many have hands changed the course of history.

- **History and Literature:** History and literature are closely related. They go hand in hand. Johnson has described this relation in these words, 'History contributes to literature. It furnishes material and inspiration to literary genius. It supplies the background and events of contemporary issues and elsewhere relates time to man. Johnson states that, 'Literature contributes to history . It furnishes indications of popular taste of moral and intellectual standards...' Literature records the feelings, emotions, imagination and thought of man and history deeds of man. Literature does not hesitate to express the deeds of man.

Study of literature and history are considered as the two branches of a same tree, comparing them, interpreting man's activities in the light of deeds and illustrating deeds by sentiments and feelings.

So, we can say that history originated an ornamental fold of literature - --prose, poems, plays, fiction diaries, travel accounts sacred literatures—are products of historical circumstances.

- **History and Handwork:** A good deal of handwork could be done at the initial stages to make history interesting to children. Children love to do construct things with their hands and history affords many opportunities to the students to satisfy this instinct of constructiveness. Students should be encouraged to draw simple pictures and diagrams. History teacher with the help of handwork can plan different activities like modelling in paper, card-board, plasticine modelling and paper cutting etc. A well-planned co-operative programme with the art teacher can enable the history teacher to make history classroom and museum the hub of historical activities in the school.

History is a Science or Arts?

There has been a great deal of discussion as to whether history is a science or an art. Arguments have been advanced on both sides. As propounded by Aristotle, Science consists of a body of general truths.

Galbraith says, 'By science, I understand all knowledge that rests upon evidence and reasoning.' Scientists are interested in particular truths as exemplified in general principles, which have some following points:

- i. They are arrived as a result of the pursuit of methodical ways and means based on certain principles.
- ii. The fundamental points are not random bits of information but are systematically related.
- iii. They repeat in the real sense of world.
- iv. They are uniform.
- v. They are available for observation and experimentation.
- vi. They have a great practical value, mastery of a field helps one to control the present and predict the future.
- vii. Scientific statements are objective and free from personal prejudices.

History is a science in the sense that it pursues its own techniques to establish and interpret facts. Like physics, chemistry or natural sciences, History is also an empirical study. It employs many methods of enquiry such as observation, classification, framing hypothesis and analysing evidence before interpreting the facts. Though the historian uses scientific techniques, we must realise that human affairs are very complex. Experiment is impossible since history deals with events that have happened already and cannot be repeated. So, some scholars argue that history cannot be called a science in view of following:

- i. The facts of history are very complicated and seldom repeat in the real sense of the term.
- ii. The underlying facts of history have wide scope and they are so varied that they can seldom be uniform.
- iii. Historical data are not available for observation and experimentation.
- iv. Historical data are the products of human thoughts and action which are constantly changing. They therefore cannot provide dependable data for the formulation of general principles and laws.

They are two types of sciences--- Physical Sciences and Social Sciences. History is not a physical science but it is certainly a social science. It does employ the methods of social sciences in the following form:

- i. In history we have a collection of data from different sources.
- ii. A variety of methods are used to collect the data.
- iii. Collected data is very carefully and systematically analysed, classified and sorted.

iv. The laboratory of history is universe the ingredients of which are obtained from various human beings.

v. Certain principles and theories are laid down on the basis of observation, analysis and comparative studies of events.

Since history deals with human life and actions, we cannot expect the exactness of physical sciences. It is difficult to accept history as a science like chemistry, physics and botany. Because history is not based on certain theories and the facts of history are too complicated and unique. Historical data are not available for observation and experimentation. Historical facts are made up of human thoughts and actions.

According to G.M. Trevelyan, 'it was both science and art'. The discovery of historical facts should be scientific in method. History is a science to the extent of the collection of facts, the weighing of the evidence, establishing the validity, filling up of vacancies and framing generalisations, if any. It is an art to the extent that the historian uses his principal craft to make the narrative interesting, fascinating and almost a branch of literature. Science helps the historians in training him how to test proofs, how to shift, how to analyse, scrutinise, judge, eliminate errors, reasons and generalise. Art teaches him that with wit and humour, analogies and examples, comparisons and contrasts.

The scientist's conclusions are precise, exact and unalterable and the historian's conclusions are highly subjective and flexible. The scientist uses symbols, equations and graphs; the historian has to rely on the evidence available to him. But the meeting ground of science and history is that both use the same methods of collection of data and both have the same goal, namely the discovery of truth as the ultimate purpose. It cannot exclusively be called as a science because it does not fulfil all the conditions of a science.