



# JOB PROSPECTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE: INSIGHTS FROM SECONDARY LEVEL TEACHERS OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examines teachers' perceptions of the current job prospects and educational relevance of Social Science in West Bengal, India. Conducted between November and December 2025, this survey-type research employed a purposive sampling method, collecting primary data from 60 teachers across Purba Medinipur, Jhargram, and Paschim Medinipur districts of West Bengal, India. A self-constructed questionnaire and secondary sources, including NEP 2020, research papers, and information from different websites, were used to gather qualitative insights.*

*Findings reveal that a majority of teachers (65.78%) believe the importance of Social Science has increased in modern times, though student interest appears to be declining, particularly among first-generation learners from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Teachers highlighted strong employment opportunities for Social Science graduates in both government and private sectors, as well as in competitive examinations. The study also emphasizes the need for seminars, workshops, and career guidance initiatives to enhance students' awareness of Social Science-related careers. It concludes that integrating modern teaching methods, career-oriented counseling, and parent-school collaboration can significantly strengthen Social Science education and employability in West Bengal.*

**KEYWORDS:** Social Science Education, Job Prospects, Teacher Perception, Career Guidance

## INTRODUCTION

Social science subjects are academic disciplines focused on studying human society, behavior, and social relationships. The core disciplines include anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. These fields use empirical methods to analyze how individuals interact with each other and their environment. These subjects help analyze social inequalities, cultural dynamics, and human behavior to inform public policy and business strategies. Social Sciences and humanities play a very important role in making children appreciate their history, culture, language, etc. This not only fosters creativity, critical thinking skills, and ingenuity in children, but also makes them well-rounded individuals. Over the years, the scope of social sciences has widened, and an excess of opportunities wait for young people who want to follow a career in this field. A good understanding of the social sciences can help in paying a finer path for the future.

Generally, Social Science can lead us to two different career paths: academia or private sector. There is always an opportunity for a social science students in teaching and research jobs, along with a wide range of scope in various jobs in social worker, development officer, program manager, insurance, economics, and banking. Government as well as private schools offer good jobs for Social Science graduates and post-graduates as Social Science teachers. After completing a Ph.D., one can apply for an assistant professor job in various colleges/universities. Social science students can apply for research-related jobs at good remuneration and package in the university researcher, non teaching stuff, curriculum developer, and think tank analyst. The fourth pillar of our constitutions is media house. The media house and communications sector offers so many jobs likes journalist, content editor, pr specialist, social media strategist, and news producer. The students also work as a policy analyst, urban planner, Foreign Service officer, civil servant, public health analyst. Now a day the law farm offers so many jobs likes lawyers, criminologist, legal researcher, and correctional officer. Now a days, the Social Science students will prepare for higher level examinations e.g. IAS, IPS, West Bengal Civil Service (WBCS), and other government jobs.

With this background, the present study has been designed to explore teachers' perceptions of the current job prospects and educational relevance of Social Science in West Bengal, India.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the perceptions of teachers regarding the changing importance of Social Science in modern society.
2. To identify the factors affecting students' interest and engagement in learning Social Science at the school level.
3. To investigate teachers' views on existing and emerging career opportunities available for Social Science students in West Bengal.
4. To explore the challenges faced by teachers in developing students' social science skills and career awareness.



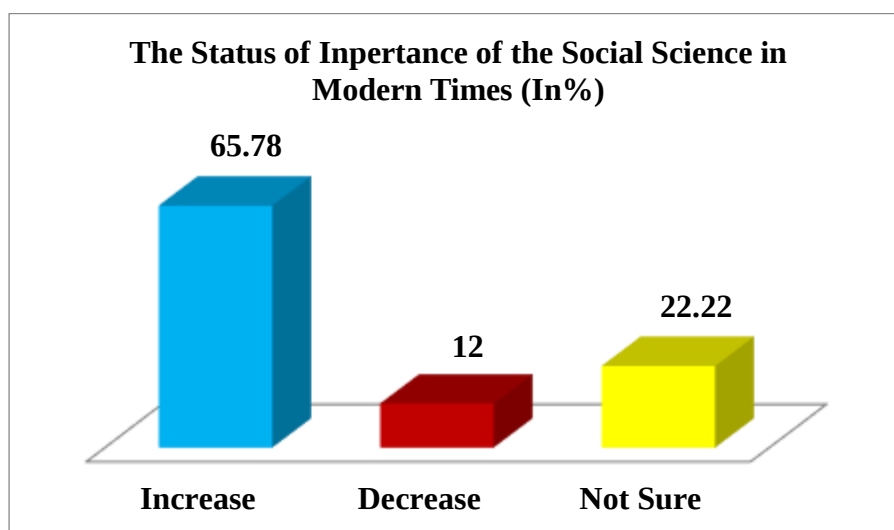
5. To understand the role of schools and government initiatives in promoting Social Science education and career guidance.
6. To suggest measures for improving students' motivation, social science learning, and employability through effective teaching, counseling, and institutional support.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is a survey-type research. The study was conducted during the month of November and December 2025 in West Bengal, India. Primary data have been collected through the self-made questionnaire scheduled by the teachers who are presently teaching in different Upper Primary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary schools in Purba Medinipur, Jhargram, and Paschim Medinipur districts of West Bengal, India, by applying the purposive sampling technique. We have received data from 60 teachers from said districts across the state. The secondary data have been collected from different sources like research articles, newspaper articles, websites, NEP-2020, etc. Then the collected data have been analyzed qualitatively.

**Findings and Discussion:** The findings of the study along with discussion are given below

- 1) **The Status of the Importance of Social Science in Modern Times:** In this present study, we show that the majority numbers of teacher (65.78%) said that the importance of Social Science increased in modern time. Some respondents (12%) reported that the significance of Social Science decreased in modern times. A significant number of teachers (22.22%) were unsure about the issue. It can be learnt that the great majority of students are aware of the importance of said subject. Studying Social Science can find many similarities with human society and the relationship between the individual and society. If we do not know history, we will not be able to learn about the ancient aspects of the place where we live. Therefore, to learn about ancient times, we must know history



**Figure 01: The Status of the Importance of Social Science in Modern Times,**  
Source: Primary Data

- 2) **Observation Students' Interest in Social Science:** It is generally believed that the interest in the Social Science subject decreased day to day. Keeping this notion, an attempt is made to assess why students are bored with the selected subject. The teachers are given so many reasons for this situation. They are not interest above subjects. They thought it is roots learning subject for taking marks in examination. The students bored in these subjects. They do not want to study Social Science anymore. Social Science now seems like a burden or a hardship to them. Nowadays, the average number of students does not put any effort into Social Science. They think it would be better if they avoided Social Science, and when should they give up on Social Science? Another reason, they are socioeconomically very poor and first-generation learner. The parents are not conscious of studying.
- 3) **Social Science Students Profession in the Future:** All competitive examination includes Social Science. To do well in all competitive examination, it is essential to know Social Science well up to the 10th grade.  
**Teacher:** Government as well as private schools offers good jobs for Social Science graduates and post-graduates as Social Science teachers. After completing a Ph.D., one can apply for an assistant professor job in various colleges/universities.  
**Administrative Job in Govt. Sector:** Nowadays, the Social Science students will prepare for higher level examinations, e.g., IAS, IPS, WBCS & other govt. jobs.  
**Government & Public Sector:** They will get high salary package in govt. and public sector as a Policy Analyst, Urban Planner, Foreign Service Officer, Civil Servant, Public Health Analyst.  
**Non-Profit & NGOs:** The students also get jobs in NGO as a Social Worker, Development Officer, and Program Manager (likes UN, World Bank, local charities organizations).



**Business & Corporate:** The jobs in business & corporate are likes HR Manager, Market Research Analyst, Business Analyst, CSR Manager, Consultant, and UX Researcher.

**Media & Communications:** The fourth pillar of our constitutions is media house. The media house and communications sector offers so many jobs likes Journalist, Content Editor, PR Specialist, Social Media Strategist, and News Producer.

**Education & Research:** The students also work as a University Researcher, non teaching stuff, Curriculum Developer, and Think Tank Analyst.

**Law & Criminology:** Now a day the law firm offers so many jobs likes lawyers, Criminologist, Legal Researcher, and Correctional Officer.

**Tax Consultants:** Tax consultants are professionals who assist individuals and businesses with tax-related matters. Those who are from commerce background, work as a tax consultants.

**Psychologist:** Psychologists specialize in areas such as clinical, counseling, or school psychology to treat conditions like anxiety, depression, or trauma.

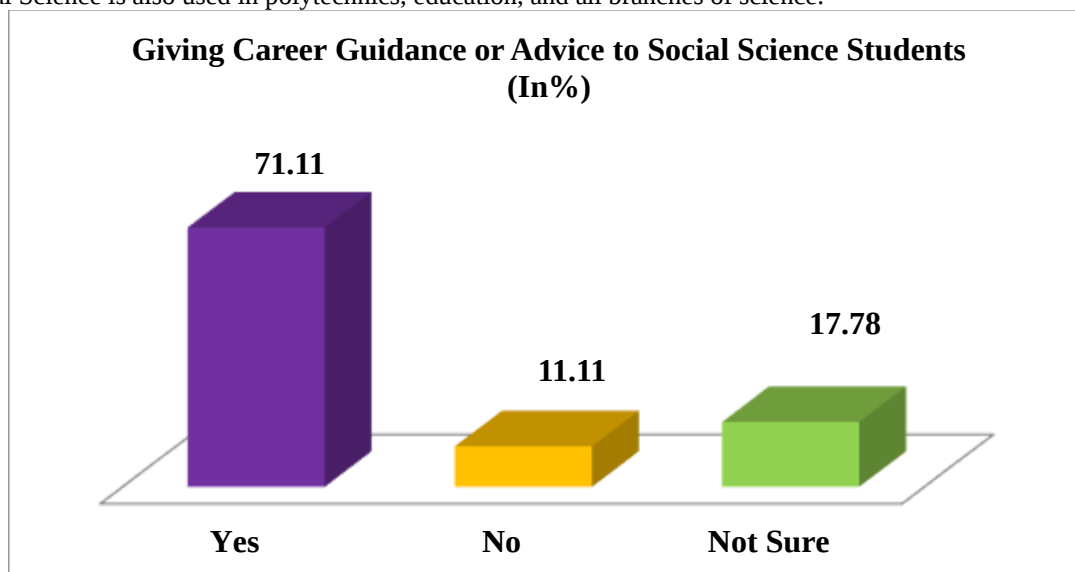
- 4) **Opportunities in Other Professions, Except Govt. Jobs:** Under knowledge on job opportunities in the Social Science subject, Teachers were asked, 'Do you think that students in Social Science are getting equal opportunities in other professions, except for government jobs? Teachers said that there are huge scopes in the private sector. Apart from government jobs, there are also scores in the examination or interview that various companies conduct for jobs. All jobs require more or less knowledge of Social Science. Without Social Science, they will not be able to do well. Opportunities in other professions, except government jobs also said in the above paragraph.

- 5) **Opinion about Improvements in Social Science Study in the School level for more Career Opportunities:** Getting students interested in Social Science at the upper primary or secondary level is very stressful. If they do not learn social science at the primary level, they will struggle at the upper primary level. This is something that needs to be learned and improved from the elementary stage. They cannot be creating interest newly in history, geography, political science and economy at the upper primary stage. They need to overcome their fear of Social Science at primary school. To create a love for Social Science, they should be given prizes or rewards in class. If students can do Social Science in the classroom, they should be encouraged with chocolates or pens.

The school should organize seminars and workshops on career guidance and counseling regularly. In the case of schools in industrial areas, people from the human resource development departments of various companies should be invited to that seminar. Seminars should discuss how studying Social Science creates job opportunities in their companies. Schools must organize job fairs every year.

- 6) **Giving Career Guidance or Advice to Social Science Students:** Figure 02 shows the proportions of teachers are give career guidance or advice to Social Science students. Most of the respondents (71.11%) are told about jobs areas in Social Science studies to Social Science students. 11.11% teachers did not give career guidance or advice to Social Science students. A significant number of teachers (17.78%) were unsure about the said subjects.

Students are told that they will face problems if they do not study Social Science until high secondary. Students will find Social Science in all areas of higher education. Due to the fear of Social Science, many students do not study in the science stream; they are admitted to the commerce stream. But after H.S., Social Science is required for higher study in commerce. Social Science is also used in polytechnics, education, and all branches of science.



**Figure 02: Giving Career Guidance or Advice to Social Science Students,**

Source: Primary Data

**7) To Promote Social Science Education Initiatives taken by Govt. or Education Board:**

In order to assess the opinion of teachers about government initiatives to promote Social Science education, a question was asked of the teachers 'In your opinion, what other initiatives should be taken by the Government Or the Secondary education board to promote Social Science education? Teachers expressed their comments and suggestion. Teachers need training to further improve Social Science education at the upper primary and secondary stages. The government or school boards should organize various seminars and training to teach the subject in an up-to-date and easy-to-understand manner. Extra classes and online educational programs should be conducted in schools. Arrangements should be made to overcome the fear of students with the help of various audio-video presentations. The school or educational board should arrange educational trip or excursion to historical place and geographical valuable place to make interest about social science subjects. The government should establish career guidance and counseling club in every school. There will be regular councilor visits and discussions made with students. Enjoyable and inspirational books for students at all levels will be developed, including through high-quality translation (technology assisted as needed) in all local and Indian languages, and will be made available extensively in both school and local public libraries. Public and school libraries will be significantly expanded to build a culture of reading across the country. Digital libraries will also be established. School libraries will be set up - particularly in villages - to serve the community during non-school hours, and book clubs may meet in public/school libraries to further facilitate and promote widespread reading. (NEP-2020)

**8) Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament:** The respondents also told about youth parliament competition event which was took place in their school to encourage students about social science subjects. The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament is a platform for students' voices to connect in national discussions and shape the vision for Viksit Bharat@2047. It fosters leadership, civic participation, and policy discussions, enabling students to deliberate on key national issues. Youth Parliament is a simulated parliamentary session for young individuals to engage in democratic processes. Participants debate policies, propose bills, and discuss national issues, fostering political awareness, public speaking skills, and leadership. Such type of event helps them to make good future leader to development the nation. As a result, the students will get jobs opportunity in all sectors.

**MAJOR FINDINGS**

The major findings of the present study are:

1. The majority numbers of teacher (65.78%) said that the importance of Social Science increased in modern time.
2. Some respondents (12%) reported that the significance of Social Science decreased in modern times.
3. A significant number of teachers (22.22%) were unsure about the issue.
4. They are not interest above subjects. They thought it is roots learning subject for taking marks in examination.
5. The students bored in these subjects. Social Science now seems like a burden or a hardship to them.
6. Government as well as private schools offers good jobs for Social Science graduates and post-graduates as Social Science teachers.
7. Social Science students will prepare for higher level examinations, e.g., IAS, IPS, WBCS & other govt. jobs.
8. The students also get jobs in NGO as a Social Worker, Development Officer, and Program Manager (likes UN, World Bank, local charities organizations).
9. All jobs require more or less knowledge of Social Science. There are also scores in the examination or interview that various companies conduct for jobs.
10. To create a love for Social Science, they should be given prizes or rewards in class.
11. The school should organize seminars and workshops on career guidance and counseling regularly.
12. Most of the respondents (71.11%) are told about jobs areas in Social Science studies to Social Science students.
13. 11.11% teachers did not give career guidance or advice to Social Science students.
14. A significant number of teachers (17.78%) were unsure about the said subjects.
15. The government or school boards should organize various seminars and training to teach the subject in an up-to-date and easy-to-understand manner.
16. Arrangements should be made to overcome the fear of students with the help of various audio-video presentations.
17. The school or educational board should arrange educational trip or excursion to historical place and geographical valuable place to make interest about social science subjects.
18. The respondents also told about youth parliament competition event which was took place in their school to encourage students about social science subjects.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, we may highlight that the scope of Social Science is wide and full of promise. The majority numbers of teacher (65.78%) said that the importance of Social Science increased in modern time. Update the curriculum in line with NEP 2020, focusing on competency-based, skill-oriented, and application-driven social science education which is increase the importance and interest of social science subjects. There are also encouraged parental awareness programs to emphasize the value of education, particularly for first-generation learners and introduce scholarships and mentorship programs for socioeconomically disadvantaged students interested in Social Science.



Most of the respondents (71.11%) are told about jobs areas in Social Science studies to Social Science students. Schools should hold career counseling sessions and workshops highlighting diverse job prospects in social science, such as social worker, development officer, journalist, teacher, professor, and lawyer. To increase the interest and opportunity of job in social science field, the state education board should organize district-level seminars and Social Science job fairs to connect students with universities, research institutes, and industries.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings and teachers' insights, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen Social Science education and job readiness among students in West Bengal.

1. Enhance Social science Motivation:
  - Introduce reward-based learning (certificates, prizes, recognition) to increase students' enthusiasm toward Social Science.
  - Organize Social Science quizzes, exhibitions, and talent shows to make learning interactive.
2. Improve Teaching and Learning Practices:
  - Teachers should adopt audio-visual methods, interactive simulations, and practical demonstrations to make abstract concepts easier to understand.
  - Regular teacher training should be conducted to update educators with modern pedagogical strategies and digital tools.
3. Career Guidance and Awareness:
  - Schools should hold career counseling sessions and workshops highlighting diverse job prospects in Social Science, such as Social Worker, Development Officer, Journalist, Teacher, Professor, and Lawyer.
  - Include career education modules in the Social Science curriculum.
4. Government and Institutional Support:
  - The state education board should organize district-level seminars and Social Science job fairs to connect students with universities, research institutes, and industries.
  - Provide financial assistance and infrastructure for Social Science clubs and learning centers, especially in rural areas.
5. Socioeconomic Upliftment:
  - Encourage parental awareness programs to emphasize the value of education, particularly for first-generation learners.
  - Introduce scholarships and mentorship programs for socioeconomically disadvantaged students interested in Social Science.
6. Curriculum Development:
  - Update the curriculum in line with NEP 2020, focusing on competency-based, skill-oriented, and application-driven social science education.
  - Integrate real-world problem-solving and research-based learning into classroom practice.

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