

## **ROLE OF HUMANITIES IN MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD**

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**Abstract--**The significance of Humanities cannot be ignored in the advanced and modern era too. Although it gets importance gradually, yet no one can ignore it completely. From a historical point of view, until the mid-19th century, the humanities held the upper hand. However, in 1847 Yale College broke with this tradition and formed the School of Applied Chemistry. Science had begun its separation and was ascending visa-visa the liberal arts in universities the world over. Authorities both within and outside of science have expressed concern that scientists do not learn enough about the humanities to the detriment of society. There are some reasons why students pursuing science careers should augment their education with a strong foundation in the humanities. A successful society depends upon altruism, charity, civility, compassion, and generosity and the humanities evaluate and emphasize the importance of these characteristics. Humanities study helps you understand the impact that science, technology, and medicine has had on society and understand the future scientific needs of society. It is a general belief among scientists that science deals with facts and the humanities deals with values.

**Keywords--** Humanities, modern technological world, science

The humanities came into existence around the time of the Renaissance to distinguish the study of human matters from the things that were concerned with theology on the one hand & nature on the other. The things concerned with nature became the source of modern science, but that still left the study of humankind itself. It is common to hear undergraduates and recent college graduates preparing for a career in science complain: "I think I wasted a lot of time in college being forced to take humanities classes that had nothing to do with my area of study." This is one of many manifestations of the ongoing centuries-long battle over the relationship between the sciences and the

humanities. From a historical point of view, until the mid-19th century, the humanities held the upper hand. However, in 1847 Yale College broke with this tradition and formed the School of Applied Chemistry. Science had begun its separation and was ascending visa-visa the liberal arts in universities the world over. The need for science majors to take courses in the humanities has been contentious ever since. Authorities both within and outside of science have expressed concern that scientists do not learn enough about the humanities to the detriment of society. There are some reasons why students pursuing science careers should augment their education with a strong foundation in the humanities. The humanities prepare you to fulfill your civic and cultural responsibilities. The humanities provide an insightful understanding into moral, ethical, political, and ideological forces. A successful society depends upon altruism, charity, civility, compassion, and generosity and the humanities evaluate and emphasize the importance of these characteristics. The liberal arts introduce aesthetic values to the student. While it may not be obvious how these characteristics are essential to finding a research position in academia or industry, they are keys to a full and meaningful life. Studying the humanities allows you to become familiar with and use the creative ideas from great minds outside of science. Biography, literature, and history offer a window into the understanding of human nature and society. They introduce us to thoughts and ideas from outside our specialist

areas and can have relevance to finding new directions and enhance creative thinking. For example, a classic case that demonstrates the influence of humanities on science can be seen in Charles Darwin's development of the theory of evolution by natural selection. In his *On the Origin of Species*, his autobiography, and other writings, Darwin revealed that the principal insight that led to his theory of evolution was his knowledge of Malthus' population theory. This states that populations increase geometrically while food supplies grow arithmetically. Robert Young, who carefully traced this link in his 1969 publication, *Malthus and the Evolutionists: the Common Context of Biological and Social Theory*, points out those assumptions in the humanities about human nature and society contribute fundamentally to approaches taken in the scientific study of nature. The state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and techniques you learn in college have a limited shelf life; mastering the humanities provides tools for extending it. The preparation for a scientific career one receives in graduate school leaves the individual competitive for a finite period only. The study of humanities, both in its pursuit and the perspective it provides, rewards the student with the skills needed for self-critical reflection, adaptability, and self-teaching. These are the functions needed to be an independent learner, thereby extending one's scientific knowledge and teaching abilities throughout his or her professional career. Humanities study strengthens your ability to communicate and work with others. Scientists chafe at the stereotype held by some that they belong to a class of socially awkward "geeks" that are unable to communicate their ideas clearly. The old "classical" liberal arts education was pursued in large measure because the materials studied and the methods of study enhanced one's ability to work well with others and communicate properly via the spoken and written word. These rewards still apply and

remain useful in securing good jobs, gaining advancement and promotions, and obtaining grants. You will gain knowledge of foreign languages and foreign cultures. With globalization, this is increasingly seen as a requirement for a successful career in commerce and industry. It is also helpful in science and medicine. Although we assume English to be the universal language of science and medicine, this isn't the case in every country. Moreover, all non-English speaking countries retain their national pride. The walls that exist among disciplines have been lowered and students can move across disciplines more freely. The concept of a core curriculum has changed and students have increasing flexibility, largely as a result of information technology. Students can benefit from advice on which courses to take. Without the benefit of experience or advice, students choosing courses in an abstract manner can make poor decisions. Humanities study helps you understand the impact that science, technology, and medicine has had on society and understand the future scientific needs of society. The study of literature, history, and philosophy shed light on the influence science has had on the quality of people's lives and on the shaping of society, both positively and negatively. These studies also inform us of society's needs and are important considerations for the concerned scientist to appreciate and learn from, including the consideration in where he or she chooses to work and what projects they undertake. Interdisciplinary learning adds value to one's degree. In a significant measure, the diploma we receive at graduation defines and symbolizes who we are and what we are qualified to do. But its true value is derived from what we have put into our head and our heart. A broad knowledge that includes the essentials of the humanities is an important complement to our scientific training. Humanities study teaches you that the supposedly sharp dichotomies that separate science from

humanities do not really exist. It is a general belief among scientists that science deals with facts and the humanities deals with values. But as Robert Young astutely notes: "Science, technology and medicine -- far from being value-neutral are the embodiment of values in theories, things and therapies, in facts and artifacts, in procedures and programs. I am suggesting that science is part of culture and that research traditions cannot be reasonably claimed to be set above the prevailing world view of the epoch." It

is believed that it is the most compelling reason why the knowledge of values gained through the study of the humanities is important to one.

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