HUMANITIES AS A SUBJECT DOMAIN: ITS FACET PROFILE

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ABSTRACT

Growth and development of Humanities as a domain is very much inspired by different subjects. The present work intended to explore the different aspects and ideas about creation and treatment of Humanities as a subject domain. It is created by human nature, creativity, emotion, performance, culture, values, civilization in general. There are so many subjects that identified in other domain especially in 'Arts' and 'Social Science' may be kept under 'Humanities'. There exist many myths and misconception about humanities. This paper tries to provide a structural outline of various related facets which can be exclusively considered under 'Humanities' domain.

KEYWORDS: *Humanities, History, Philosophy, Literature, Language, Social Science*

INTRODUCTION

According to Adler (1974) the term 'Humanities', comes from the Latin word "Humanitatis", means the "study of humanitas". Presently the word "Humanitas" is treated as "culture, refinement, education" and specifically an "education befitting a cultivated man". In the early 15th century, 'Humanities' was designated as a course content which was consisted of grammar, poetry, rhetoric, history, and moral philosophy, primarily integrated from the study of Latin and Greek classics. When 'human' that has manner, feelings, thoughts, ability, emotions, etc. that tend to 'humanize' is known as 'Humanities'. Thus Giustiniani, (1985) explained 'Humanism' which has concerned to emphasize human welfare and dignity, belief and interests, and those are scholarly working in the humanities area they are recognized as 'Humanists'. Harrpas (1996) defined that when these human conditions and its qualitative approaches represented into a single paradigm and started study and teaching by various schools can be formed a discipline known as 'Humanities'.

Evolution of Humanities

"Humanities", treated as general education course of study was identified from classical Greek in mid-5th century BC. In the roman times seven liberal concepts of arts were included under this discipline. Those are grammar, rhetoric, logic, along with arithmetic geometry, astronomy, and music. After sometimes medieval education was also included in this domain. In the late 15th century, a major change was noticed in this domain. In the 18th century 'Humanities' designated as a subject and also took up as the subject of study. During this period practical knowledge shifted into traditional knowledge. As a result, it has been found that 'science' subjects such as arithmetic geometry has been removed from this domain. In the 19th century German philosophers affirmed that 'Humanities' is the "spiritual sciences". This

domain was inspired by religious aspects such as Mahabharata, Ramayana in Indian education and Ilias Odissi in Greek education, etc. In the 20th century, Humanities as a subject faced a major challenge by the post-modernist movement. As Encyclopedia Britannica (2010) **b**asically 'Humanities' as a domain is not set in concrete, make changes several times for various significant causes and reasons**.** In the 20th century Pradhan (2002) has seen that 'visual creativity' added in this domain and developed a new way. After the Second World War 'History' has included in this domain as one of the core subjects.

What is Humanities?

Pradhan (2002) explained 'Humanities' as a discipline, branch of knowledge which is concerned with a philosophical framework that depends on human culture & human civilization. 'Culture' is a phenomenon of the human being. It creates their thought, ideas, rational thinking, customs, rituals, attitude, imagination and experiences unique ability of the expressiveness of the people. On the other side, 'civilization' is one of the main core areas of human studies. Human culture & human civilization are considered as two major elements of human life that reflects in an artistic and creative mind. The life of human being is reflected by the language. We can trace our different historical culture in different forms and period such as classical, modern, and medieval. The cultural activity consists of human creation in arts, literature, philosophy and other fields of human activities. This creativity can be spread by different language around the world. There has been no barrier to understanding and acceptance of various wonderful creations by many people in different periods. Language helps us to unify all cultures throughout the world. The study of human seems to be incomplete without the study of the human mind and their creativity. Philosophical aspect and literary creation desperately needed for the development of society.

Humanities as a subject formed in ancient time consist of a study of philosophy, and liberal studies in the education curriculum had started for the students from Gurukul from the ashram, they were studied Vedas, religious epic and related other subjects such as Logic, Mathematics.

Terminological Effect

There are various terms associated with 'Humanities'. For example, **"**Humanism" is associated with 'Humanities' which means specific philosophical belief and concerned about human values. Similarly, "Humanitarianism" also associated with 'humanities' which is a concern with charitable works. Giustiniani (1985) pointed out that the term 'human' comes from 'Humanitas' which was derived from 'Humanus' that was originated from 'Homo'. Longman Dictionary of American English (1983) shows that 'Humanities' is related to "Humanitarian" means to improve the peoples' living condition. Whereas, 'Art' originally comes from "ar"- means to "assemble or join" represented as "skill" has been found and specified in the thirteenth century. Where 'Science' defined as a 'process', 'Social Sciences' focuses on the "application of process and skills to the development of the human life" (Introduction to Humanities, n.d.). Art and Humanities were considered a separate subject domain in ancient time. "Art" appeared in different forms such as literature, film, music, sculpture, painting, photography etc (Technology, n.d) whereas 'Humanities' not only focused on humans' thinking, observation, feelings, etc. but also it shows how those are affected by various components of the environments.

Therefore, from the above terminological expression, it shows the fact that 'Humanities' and 'Social Sciences' conceptually overlapped in many cases.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Niiniluoto, (2017) used a report on the value and role of humanities research in Finland and found that scholars in these fields are doing reasonably well at least for the time being. Humanities disciplines are well respected, and research in these disciplines is of a high standard. It's imperative now for humanities researchers to step out of their proverbial ivory towers, to be engaged and become involved in society, the media and public decision-making. **Savelieva (2015),** Savelieva, Irina explained in modern academia, history is occasionally classified as a social science. In their paper, they concentrated on two topics i.e. the uneasy relationship between social theories and methods, and the indispensability of the cognitive potential of the humanities. The impossibility of using social science techniques ensures the autonomy of history and enables it to preserve its disciplinary core. At the same time, dealing with meanings and using the cognitive methods of the humanities, history can catch things more ephemeral than trends, patterns, mechanisms and statistical rules. **Baral, K. C (2002)** shows how the idea of tradition has been very relevance in the process of constructing the subject area or discipline of the humanities, need to look back history, culture and tradition experience helps to concretizing and understanding. It's a never endless process causes knowledge is the culture which is gained through experience. This book revealed about theories, methods, transmitting cultural disposition of humanities. The concern of the present volume to explore humanities from a broader perspective for making study socially relevant and culturally significant. **Das (1997)** explored about humanities and its meaning and its scope, literary meaning which subjects accumulated in this discipline. This article gives a more emphasis on various sources of the discipline of humanities, which is relevant for a scholar can prepare a list of the documentary, institutional and human sources. In this article explained about different approaches and products of Humanities.

Problem Identification

Arts, Fine Arts, and Visual Arts are three well-known subjects are created by or performed by or dealing with man and their behavior or emotion, passion and feelings. On the other hand, Humanities also deals with various related issues of the human being. Therefore all those subjects stated above seem to belong to "Humanities".

So, basic problems are-

- How some of them have considered under Social Sciences and few of them have tagged under Humanities?

- What is the transitional phase of humanities?

- Whether the humanities and social sciences have overlapped?

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this article is to study of the present status of the humanities domain. To be precise, the aims of this article are.

- To understand 'Humanities' by its definition and study of its development;

- To facet analysis of humanities;

- To find out new and emerging subjects which fall under the humanities domain;

- To find out the relationship or differentiation between Social Science and Humanities

METHODOLOGY

The present work follows the study and survey method. Survey and study are restricted to various literature, reference and academic course offered by various universities, schools, centers, etc.

In some cases, discussion and interview methods have also been used by meeting some well-known experts in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Humanities: Facet Analysis

It is very difficult to make a definite boundary or zone for 'Liberal Arts', 'Humanities' and 'Social Science' as all these domains are highly related. Basically, in the academic arena, 'Humanities' and 'Liberal Arts' are mostly considered along with the Social Sciences. In India, Radhakrishnan Commission submitted a report in 1948 where he defined 'Natural Science' as nature or facts, 'Social Science' as facts and related activities of a "society or events" and "Humanities" as a "values or spirit" of the human being (IFA, 2010). During the 1980s, most of the regular universities offered Humanities and Social Sciences separately within their course curriculum. However, all the subjects in Humanities or Social Sciences may be grouped under one broad category 'The Arts'. Universities offered basic subjects such as literature, language, philosophy, history, education, psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, geography and economics and so on under "The Arts" degree. Simultaneously the other departments formed in the name of 'fine arts' and 'performing arts' comprised on the visual and plastic arts; dance, theatre, and music respectively. The facets under these degrees overlapped in many cases with "The Arts" and recognized as "Humanities and Arts," or "Arts and Humanities", and also sometimes "humanistically-oriented social sciences".

Identification of Facet under Humanities

Bush, (1964) stated that the natural science and the social sciences identified themselves as a separate course but Humanities have faced many transitions. For example, history has taken from Humanities and put into the Social Sciences whereas music and the fine art included in the Humanities. Mcllwainw (1999) shows that facet analysis under a specific domain can be identified through the documents, and other related information describes and represents according to their content.

So, the observation and findings of this study are restricted to documentary sources and the academic zone which is indentified in the university educational perspective. Various documentary sources such as Encyclopedia, Dictionary and the reports of Research projects, Humanities councils worldwide have been studied to map Humanities. The top ten universities globally according to Times Higher--QS ranking and in India separately according to NIRF ranking have also been chosen for this study.

Six Encyclopedias as given in table 1 has been studied to understand the facets of Humanities and found that history, philosophy, poetry, and rhetoric are the topmost facets included in humanities followed by liberal art, grammar and literature as shown in Figure 1

Table 1: Encyclopedia

| Encyclopedia	Year	Publication	Place
Encyclopedia Americana International Edition	1966	Americana corporation	USA
The New Encyclopedia Britannica	1974	Encyclopedia Britannica Inc.	USA
International Encyclopedia of the Social Science	2008	Macmillan Reference	USA
The Encyclopedia of Philosophy	1967	Macmillan Company	Great Britain
The New Caxton Encyclopedia	1977	The Caxton Publishing company limited	London
Arts & Humanities Through The Eras	2005	Thomson Gale	New York
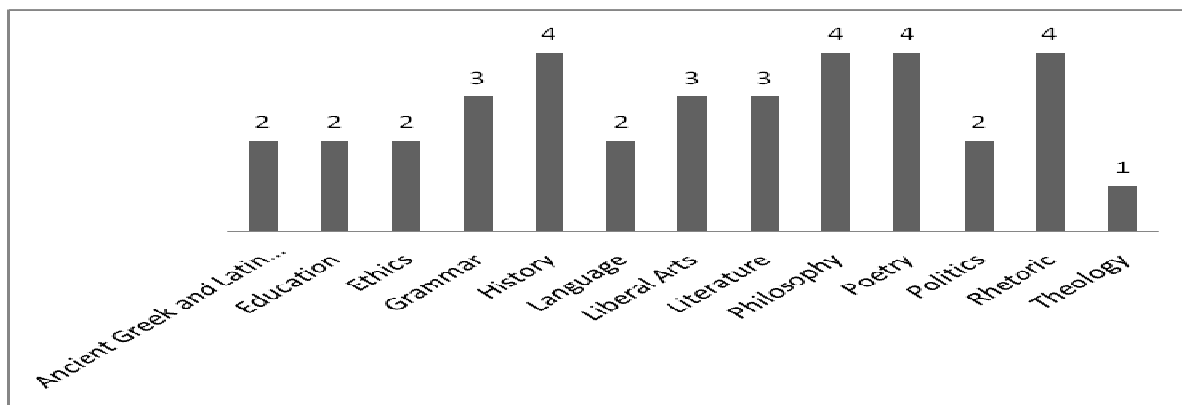
Figure 1

While studding of six dictionaries as shown in table 2 it is found that literature is the top most important facet in humanities followed by language and then history and philosophy as shown in figure 2

Table 2: Dictionary

| Name	Year	Publisher	Place	Editor
The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology	1966	Oxford University press	New York	C.T onions
The Lexicon Webster Dictionary	1978	The English-Language Institute of America Inc.	New York	Arley Grey
Longman Dictionary of American English	1983	Longman	New York	Leah Berkowitz
The Oxford Reference Dictionary	1986	Oxford University press	New York	Joyce M. Hawkins
The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy	1994	Oxford University press	New York	Simon Blackburn
Harrap's Essential English Dictionary	1995	Allied chambers limited	New Delhi	Elaine Higgleton
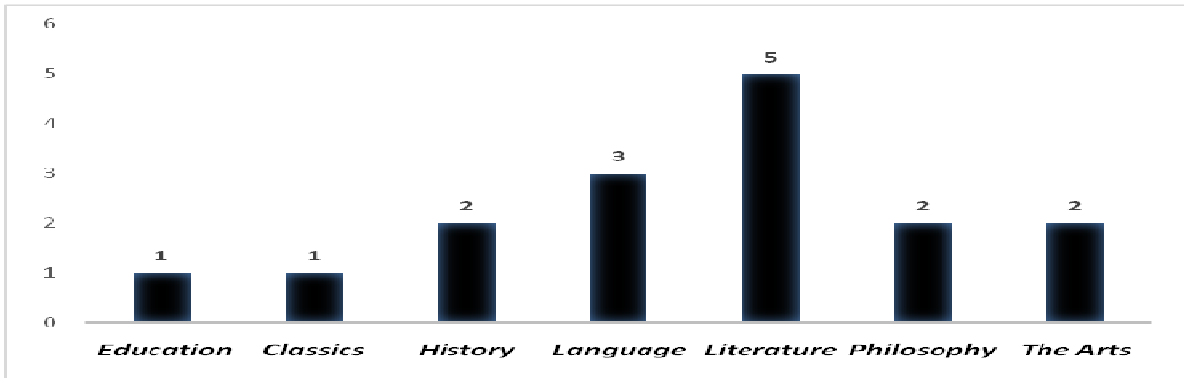
Figure 2

By studying five research reports as given in table 3, it is found that history, philosophy, and religion have given top priority followed by literature and language as shown in figure 3

Table 3: Research Projects

| Project Report	Place
Humanities Research Centre : University of York	England
The Heart of the Matter Report of the American Academy of Arts & Science's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences to the U. S. Congress in June 2013	United states
National Endowment for the Humanities	United states
Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research	Norway
Humanities at the Crossroads: The Indiana Case Study Survey Report	United states
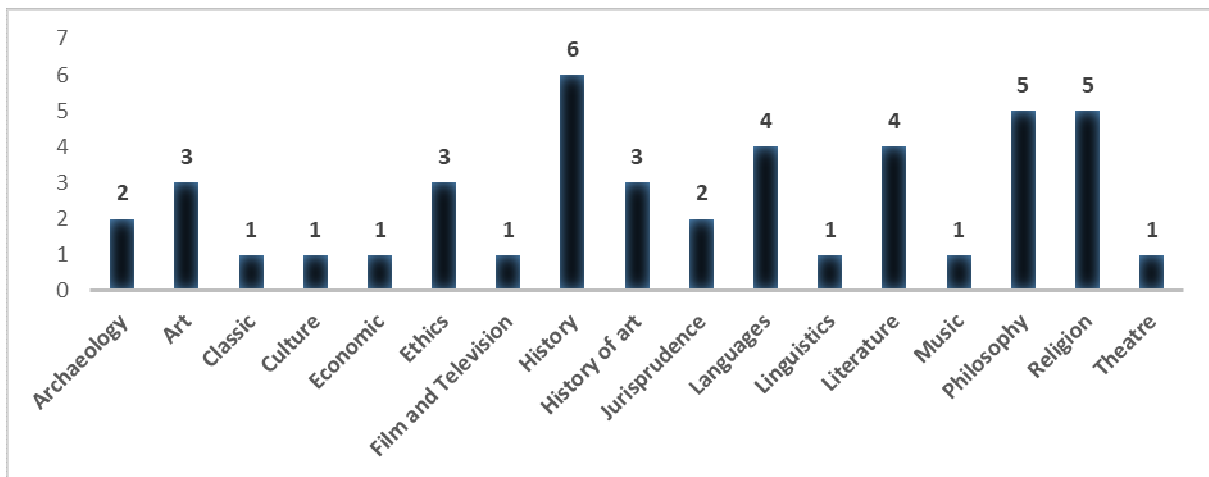
Figure 3

World five most popular Humanities Councils as shown in table 4 describe the facets of Humanities as shown in figure 4. They have shown that history is the main facet of Humanities followed by language, literature, archaeology, and philosophy.

Table 4: Humanities Council

Humanities Council of Washington, DC,	Washington, DC	http://www.wdchumanities.org/docs/defininghumanities.pdf
North Carolina Humanities Council	United States	http://www.nchumanities.org/content/what-are-humanities http://www.nchumanities.org/content/humanities-national
South Dakota Humanities Council (SDHC)	United States	http://sdhumanities.org/about/humanities-definition-what-are-the-humanities/
American Council of Learned Societies	United States	https://www.acls.org/about/faq/
Arts and Humanities Research Council	United States	https://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/AHRC.html
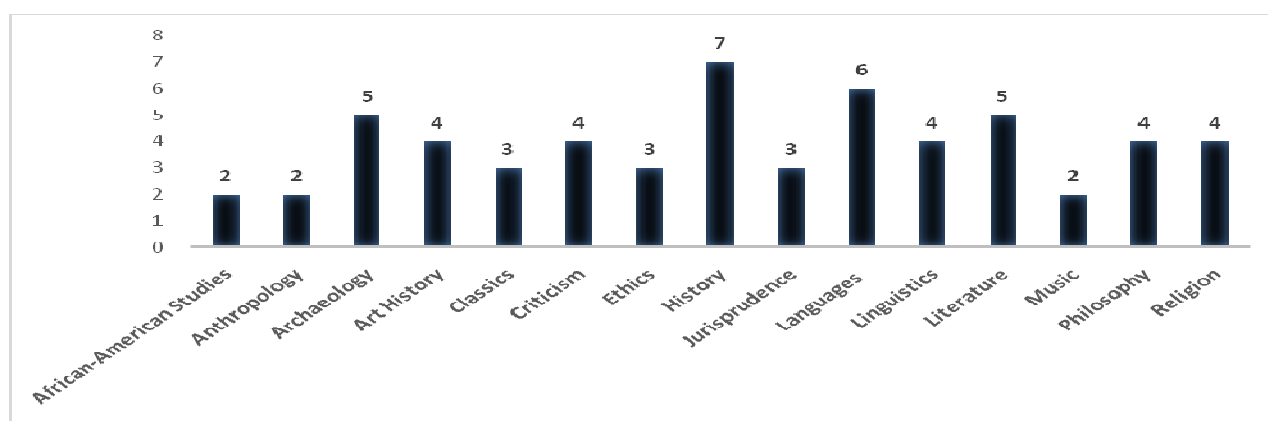
Figure 4

In Academic Arena

Already we have discussed the nature and main facets fall under humanities according to various documentary sources. Now let us see how various facets have considered in Humanities by world top ten (Times Higher ranking- see table 5) and Indian top ten (NIRF ranking –table 6) universities as its courses under Humanities.

Table 5: World Top Ten Universities

| Rank	Name	Country
1	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
2	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
3	Stanford University	United States
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States
5	California Institute of Technology	United States
6	Harvard University	United States
7	Princeton University	United States
8	Yale University	United States
9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
10	University of Chicago	United States
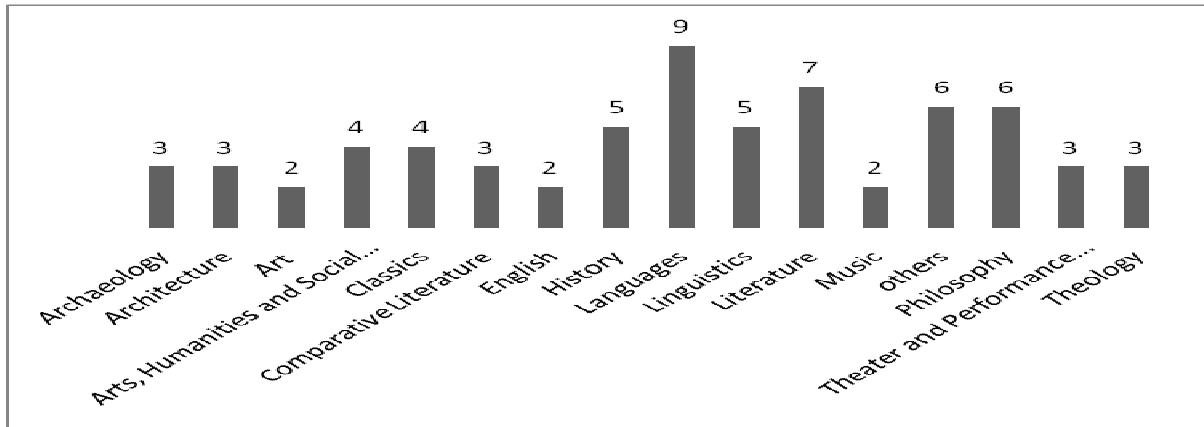
Figure 5

It is found from the above figure 5 world top ten universities consider language follows by literature, philosophy, history, etc are the most important facets in humanities, however, surprisingly those universities identified few performing art subjects and put them under Arts and Humanities.

Table 6: India's Top Ten Universities

Rank	Name	Place
1.	Indian Institute of Science (IISC)	Bangalore
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Delhi
3	Benaras Hindu University	Benaras
4	Anna University	West Bengal
5	University of Hyderabad	Hyderabad
6	Jadavpur University	Kolkata
7	University of Delhi	Delhi
8	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Coimbatore, Kerala, Kochi, Mysuru, Chennai
9	Savitribhai pule Pune University	Pune
10	Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh
11	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Karnataka

There has no departments of Humanities inthe Indian Institute of Science (IISC).
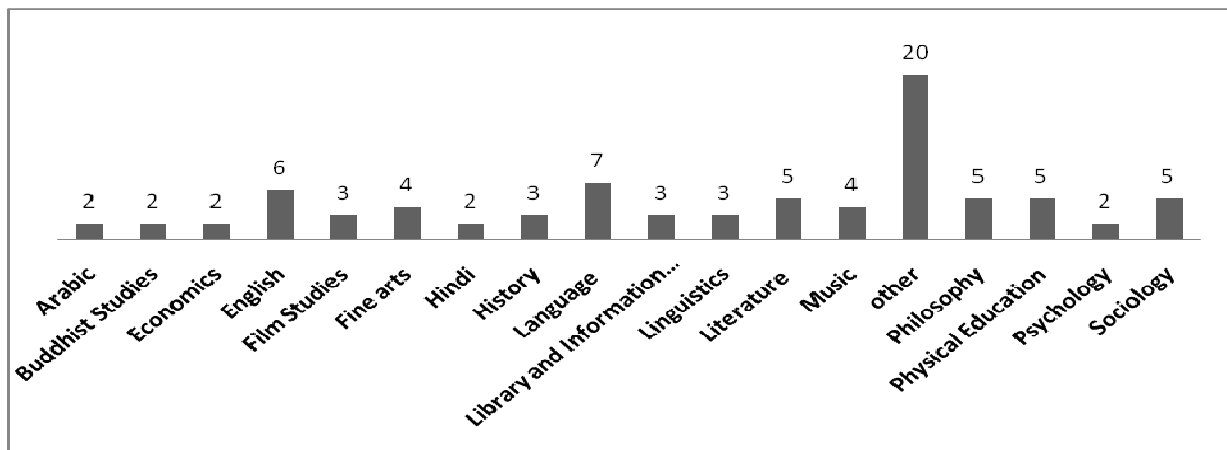
Figure 6

The scenario is almost the same in Indian top ten universities where they mostly emphasis on language, library and information science, sociology even Economics under humanities. Apart from those many interesting facets have included under humanities like film studies, Buddhist studies, etc. as shown in figure 6

Among the different categories such as Encyclopedia, Dictionary, Research projects, Humanities Council, and top ten universities in the world and India, only four common subjects i.e. language, literature, history and philosophy have identified under Humanities.

We have found various other subjects as shown in table 7 which are included in the Humanities domain. Few of them come in many sections repeatedly, but most of them such as Archaeology, Classics, Education, Ethics, Jurisprudence, Linguistic, Music, and Religion appear in Humanities rarely.

Table 7: Various Subjects Included

African- American studies	Criticism	Linguistic
Ancient Greek and Latin studies	Culture	Music
Anthropology	Economics	Poetry
Archaeology	Education	Politics
Architecture	Ethics	Religion
Art	Grammar	Rhetoric
Art History	History of Arts	The arts
Classics	Jurisprudence	Theology
	Liberal Arts	

Humanities as shown in table 7 we have found only three common subjects i.e. English, Linguistic, and Music.

Table 8: Curriculum Subjects in Education

Course Top Ten World Universities	Course Top Ten Indian Universities
Archaeology	Arabic
Architecture	Buddhist
Art	Economics
Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	English
Classics	Film studies
Comparative language	Fine arts
English	Hindi
Linguistic	Library and information Science
Music	Linguistic
Theatre and Performance Studies	Music
Theology	Physical education
	Psychology
	Sociology

Social Science & Humanities: Conceptual Overlapping

The demarcation between humanities and social sciences is not possible because both domain deals with human beings. Social Science concerns about human knowledge which contemplate with a life of the human being that will be transformed with human behavior and humanity, human creativity and human nature. Social Science deals with more specific of a scientific approach and Humanities deals with critical and analytical approach (Nagarjan, 2002). We can follow a transitional change after World War II, in the domain of Humanities which had included history. Social Science was inspired by the French revolution and the industrial revolution. So this domain deals with the practical value of the society, employment, major income, economical status, and production, improvement of societal live and most comfortable

lives in this society. That's why Savelieva, (2015) stated that the humanities are also regarded as social Sciences, include history, anthropology, communication studies, cultural studies, law and linguistics. Social science is considered in Humanities or vice-versa. Probably this is the reason Social Sciences is dominating over Humanities and most of the universities are abolishing Humanities from their course curricula. Even one of the world recognized classification of the universe of knowledge schedule call Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) did not put any importance in Humanities as a specific major subject domain. They have given huge emphasis to classify lots of facets under Social Sciences but we hardly found any subject or specific place for Humanities in DDC.

CONCLUSIONS

Scientists are engaged in the study of nature. Sociologist are involved in the societal aspect, whereas poet, philosopher, artist was studying human life, that's represented in literature novel, etc. But it is very strenuous to draw a definite boundary line between Science, Social Science, and Humanities. So it's practically impossible to define their activities as scientists and as humanists into their own compartment. Humanity is a value which focuses on our life and tries to build up our career, through morality and mostly important its work as a part of our life. We should give some emphasis on Humanities as Subject and inclusion this subject in study and teaching may create a better human being.

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