An Alternative Conceptualization of Political Tolerance: Illusory Increases 1950s-1970s

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The article has conceptualized of tolerance in politics. It presents tolerance as a concept based on evolving social phenomena. The authors have attempted to introduce this concept in a kind of systematic manner. They argue that tolerance is a kind of political objection and both of these variables are linked to each other. Tolerance is subjected to the emergence of political objections. The article is based on the hypothesis that previous societal efforts to quantify tolerance have failed. In order to test the hypothesis, the article has employed some quantitative data analysis skills and have limited the research findings to just two decades I. e from the 1950s to 1970. Another important literary aspect of this article is its detachment from some pressing political concepts. For example, throughout the article, the authors have managed to keep the debate intact and limited to tolerance as a concept in politics and have avoided its clash with some political norms. In contradiction to this, there are many scholarly articles related to this subject which talks about politics in relation to the established political concepts.

Other than some research questions designed for the data collection and analysis, the article has sought the answer related to how political objection is linked to changing notions of tolerance in society. The authors have used the content controlled strategy in order to seek the answers. The primary question that led the research throughout is how tolerance is related to political objections? The theoretical approach followed in the article is related to the classical view of democracy, which has earlier been used in some empirical study relating to the similar concept. Since the article has implied the empirical analysis strategy, the participants were therefore provided with some content controlled questions. For example, the participants were not allowed to opt for the options outside of the drafted area or from a time period not mentioned in the questionnaire. Throughout the article, there have been no distractions related to the conceptualization of variables, but it has followed a too narrow approach for the empirical analysis. For example, as argued by P Mayring that content control strategy must not conform to the desired results always[[1]](#footnote-1). Therefore in order to be more elaborative, the article could have expanded the time duration from more than two decades and the participants could have been provided with some more choices in the questionnaire.

Conceptualization and operationalization in social sciences help in narrowing down the research area. In addition to providing help in being critical and specific, such techniques provide help in creating specific responses. Lincoln and Guba argue that conceptualization helps in managing variables in qualitative research, further they also help in developing the relationship between the research question and the hypothesis being tested[[2]](#footnote-2). Similarly, this approach helps the researchers in substantiating variables in order to find some valid measures during the research. Since the article is the continuation of research on a topic searched before, therefore, such measures of conceptualizing are evident throughout the article. Guba has also argued that the scholarly work which implies such measures have more concrete arguments and normally ends with strong recommendations[[3]](#footnote-3). Lastly, the use of restricted measures such as the constrained time duration in history along with the specifically designed questionnaire suggests that people in America lack sense regarding political obligations.

The research technique used in the article can help in sorting out other problems of social importance. For example, since social sciences is a vast area of research, therefore such techniques help in being specific in research. The evolving research field of social sciences could be more deliverable if such systematic approaches are followed. Defining and accurately measuring the attitudes in Social Sciences is important in order to gauge the opinion of selected public regarding any social issue.

Bibliography:

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1. Philipp Mayring, “Qualitative Content Analysis,” *A Companion to Qualitative Research* 1 (2004): 164. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Egon G. Guba and Yvonna S. Lincoln, “Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research,” *Handbook of Qualitative Research* 2, no. 163–194 (1994): 105. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Guba and Lincoln. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)