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**Philosophy of social science(chapter 8).**

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century was when the success in the natural science was recorded which was so enormous on the social life of the people of Europe which made them to start trusting the words of scientists .The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called **the renaissance** and the **enlightenment period.** It is called so because it marked the period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time. This renaissance period was however called the **dark ages** because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme in the sense that during the dark ages, human beings were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery, the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. The community sees this as a big threat to human happiness and survival and so they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at a justified conclusion just **Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle** used to do.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology, positivism declares false, all propositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature. There are alot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these is **observation** upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These include the facts that:

* Observations are concept-laden;
* Observations are hypothesis-lade;
* Observations are theory-laden;
* Observations are value-laden;
* Observations are interest-laden;
* Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

**What is Social science?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in the social sciences include: **sociology, psychology, economics, political science, anthropology and archaeology**. The father of social science is **Auguste Comte.**

Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavour include;

* Understanding human in both historical and cultural development.
* Being able to predict human behaviour.
* Influencing human behaviour.
* Discovering and manipulating the laws governing most of human behaviour if possible.
* Advancing beyond armchair philosophy the knowledge about the behaviour of a person.

**The Problem of Reasons and Causes.**

To understand the problem with social sciences one needs to understand that the features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a causal or correlational connection between an event and its cause, That is, to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. Thus one way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not the causes but motive or intent.

Nonetheless, there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes. One of such scholars is **Robin Collingwood** who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world maybe too naive for us.

However, for anything to be cause of another, the cause and effect must:

* Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the allege cause occurs, the effect must also occur.
* Be spatially contiguous, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked.
* Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect must fellow continuously from the cause
* Have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence.

**The Problem of Human Person as Object of Study in Social Sciences.**

According to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which the natural science is known to deduce their principals and laws. Using the law of demand and supply in economics for example which predicts that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is low.