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**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES**

**19/SMS04/052**

**SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

**QUESTION**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of history and philosophy of science

**ANSWER**

The achievements of natural science in 18th and 19th century was a lot on social life of people that the people started trusting the word of scientists and sought their opinion on unscientific matters. This is as a result of a change in the social-cultural milieu of the time. This period is called renaissance and enlightenment period. This period was called renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern. The aeon before this period is called the dark ages.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with the conception with the ideal knowledge enterprise. First of these problems include observation in which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interactions and manifestations, either as an individual or as a group. Examples of disciplines in social science include: economics, sociology, political science, etc. Auguste Comte is regarded as the father of science. The various objectives of social science include:

* Discovering the laws of human behavior
* Influencing human behavior
* Being able to predict human behavior, etc.

However, the philosophy of science came about out of curiosity that the main focus of social science cannot be achieved due to incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. This can be explained under two problems:

1. **THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSE:** certain features of science and scientific explanation must be understood in order to bring a simple connection between an event and its cause. According to Ernest Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

* Be spatially contagious
* Be temporarily related
* Have a constant relation
* Have an asymmetrical relation

One way that can be used to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive. Nevertheless, there are some other scholars, for example; Robin Collingwood, who argue that reasons can be treated as causes- that reasons are not the only causes but the ultimate casual power which lie in humans

1. **THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSON AS AN OBJECT IF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES:** This is another problem of social science according to Max Weber: methodology of science become inapplicable, due to the fact that the object of study is rational being with free liberty, emotions, desires,etc. all these undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles. It has become observed that certain laws do not hold for a long time due to the fact that man does not behave rationally all the time. An example is the common law of demand and supply which has its exceptions because man is not always rational.