

The success recorded in Natural Science in the 18th and 19th century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the 10 people in Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinions on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This positive response to science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the Renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a 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 and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to the time. The aeon prior to the Renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief resigned Supreme. The word of the pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual. It was a time men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. The intellectual community saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival so they used reason to arrive at justified conclusions just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism so works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic as the period was regarded as classic period of romance. Russell holds that emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism and Discipline, intellectual, moral, and political were associated in the minds of men of Renaissance. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena. A French social philosopher called August Comte thought that society behaves in a regular pattern. This is the beginning of social sciences especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as the father of sociology and social sciences in general. Positivism declares false, all prepositions that could not be solved or verified by experience. There are problems with these conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise and first of these problems is Observation and these includes the facts that:

- Observations are concept-laden;
- Observations are hypothesis-laden;
- Observations are theory-laden;
- Observations are value-laden;
- Observations are internet-laden;
- Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

### Social Sciences.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in the society or collectively as a group. Disciplines in the social sciences includes: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study and the objectives of such endeavor includes:

- Understanding humans
- Being able to predict human behavior
- Influencing human behavior

- Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behavior
- Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behavior of a person or group.

The philosophy of social sciences arose out of curiosity. There exists an incongruity in using the method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society.

#### The problem of reasons and causes.

One of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. For anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

- Have an invariable or constant relation
- Be spatially contiguous
- Be temporally related
- Have an asymmetrical relation.

The principle of cause states that for every event B in the universe, there is always a cause A such that B can always be explained by reference to the activities of event A.

#### The problem of human person as object to study in social sciences.

According to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social sciences is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions, and other sentient features that come into play in his actions or reactions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior. For example, the law of demand and supply in economics. However, these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.