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Review chapter 8 in not less than 2 pages

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE [AND APPLIED SCIENCES]

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinions on matter unrelated to science such as law and foreseen evidence .This positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio cultural milieu of time and this explains why belief in science or application of science positivism from then on .

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 prepositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature .There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise .First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came in laden with error. These include the facts that;

- Observations are concept-laden;
- Observations are hypothesis –laden
- Observations are theory-laden
- Observation are value-laden
- Observations are interests-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 behavior ,interaction and manifestations ,either as an individual

in a society or collectively as a group ,including the institutions ,norms and mores such interactions created.

The problem of reason and causes

1. Have invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs ,the effect must also occur
2. Be spatially contiguous ,that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related a chain of events that are spatially linked

The problem of human person as object of study In social sciences

Another problem with the project of social science is that, 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 actions or reaction .All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws .Take for instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predict that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is high and buy more when the price is low .it is on the basis assumptions of rational behaviour that the law of demand and supply was formulated .The higher the demand ,the higher the price ,but the higher the supply the lower the price .This is also referred to as market forces .However ,it has been observed even by economists that these laws do not hold all the time .In fact ,in recent years ,capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behaviour to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer .For example ,some android phones or iPhones applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use the phone.