Name: Okechukwu Lucy Chineneye.

Matric Number: 19/Law01/191.

Course Code: GST 118

Course title: History and Philosophy of Science.

Assignment Title: REVIEW CHAPTER 8

Philosophy of Social Science (And Applied Science).

The former people of Europe started trusting the words of scientists due to the success recorded in the natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The positive response to science due to change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time explains why belief in science to any issue is called positivism. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it is marked as a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. In this period, it could be seen that the words of the Pope were the final authority on any matter. Humans were burned at stake because they were found guilty of sorcery by the church. However, the intellectual community at the time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival, so they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at a justified conclusion. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. According to Bertrand Russell, ‘the period of history which is commonly called ‘modern’ has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways”. Of these, two are the most important: the diminishing authority of the church, and the increasing authority of science. French philosopher called August Comte who till date is regarded as the father of sociology and social science in general was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. 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 is laden with error. These includes the facts that:

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

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. Anthropology, Economics etc. are disciplines in social science. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavor include;

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change,
2. Being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms, and other factors influencing human behavior.
3. Influencing human behavior by grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development.
4. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most human behavior, and
5. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperature and associated behavior of a person or a group.

For anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must;

* Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whatever the alleged 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 in time just as the effect must follow 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.

Finally, human person as an object of study in social science has a problem due to the fact that humans are rational beings with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that comes into play in his actions or reactions.