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**Course: - History and Philosophy of Science (GST118)**

# PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (AND APPLIED SCIENCE)

The success recorded in the 18th and 19th century that they trusted every word of scientist even in matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This happened as a result of the change in the social-cultural milieu and this explains why any belief in science and application of science to any issue is called Positivism.

The social-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the Renaissance and the enlightenment period. This marked the period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage using reason in matters of public concern and not the religious dictation of the age prior to that. The age prior to that was the Dark Age. In this period, Religious belief reigned supreme. The words of the pope were final. Men and women were burned at stake because the church found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry; so as a result, the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens.

However, the intellectual community saw this as a threat to human survival. As a result of this, they infiltrated literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusions just as the founding philosophers used to do. Some Greek worldviews were hidden in arts and music. This was known as the Romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism; and the works at this time was regarded as classic. This lead to the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science.

The effect of the maneuvering was overwhelming. Scientific approach grew out of philosophical approach to issues. But science was only restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was the only material believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. This was to August Comte stated that the ‘society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and accurate predictions can be made’. This marked the beginning of social science.

Social science is a study of human behavior, interaction and manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and more such interactions created. Disciplines include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology. Objectives of social science include;

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development.
2. Influencing human behavior; grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct.
3. Discovering and influencing the rules governing human behavior.

# Problem Of Reasons And Causes

However there is a methodological mismatch. Scientific methods can’t be used to study human and his society. This is because human beings do not behave the same way objects and natural sciences behave. For example: A stone is not a conscious being, so it may behave in a regular and predictive way when pushed. Man as a conscious and rational being may not behave in the same pattern.

In other to solve the problem, one must note that one of the essential features of science is to provide a correlational connection between an event and its cause. This is the principle of cause and effects. It explains why event A is the cause of event B. For anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must;

1. have an invariable or constant relation that whenever the alleged cause occur, the effect must also occur.
2. occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of event spatially linked.
3. be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.
4. have asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be the actual event, which brings about the effects, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence.

# Problem Of Human Person As An 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. Man is a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions, etc. All these features undermine the predictability of behavior.