Assignment

Review chapter 8. To be submitted 2020­-4-15

Answer

CHAPTER 8; PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (APPLIED SCIENCE)

Success in natural science in past century was so enormous on the social and intellectual part of life of the people of Europe that they started to sort their opinion on matter not related to science from science. The positive response from science was as a result of socio-cultural milieu of the time, that’s why the use of science to any issue is called positivism. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called renaissance also the enlightenment period because it marked a period when people revolution of using reasons in matter of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was before. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it religious belief was supreme over any matter be it political social or intellectual. At that time diseases were said to be consequences of sin (idolatry) .The church waged several ways to eliminate the heathens. The intellectual people was it was a threat to humans, so they started the use of literature with the benefit of using reason to arrive at a conclusion as Plato did. Literature alongside with arts and science were views which the Greek used to express themselves and this became known as classical period of romanticism, and it also gave rise to humanism and naturalism.

Bertrand Russell puts this to be when he said “the period of history which is commonly called “modern” has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways. Two important ones are the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science which led to the growth of individuals to the point of anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral and so on was associated either the mind of the Renaissance men. Science was restricted to the study of natural phenomenon because it was only material that was believed to have behave in a regular and predictable way. August comte a French social philosophy and the father of social science was on the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern like material things and this behaviour can be studied and predictions made. Positivism rejects speculations that as means of acquiring knowledge. There are a lots of problem with the ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. And the first problem is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These includes the facts that; observations are concepts-laden; observations are hypothesis-laden; observations are theory laden; observations are value-laden; observations are interest-laden and they are laden with culture-specific ontologies

**Social science**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the examination of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or a collectively group. Disciplines under this field include sociology, economics, political science etc. the philosophers under this discipline includes Augustine, Ibn khaldun, Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes etc. social science employ the method of science in investigation of social phenomena and taking human as object of study. The objectives include

* Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context responsible for change
* Being able to predict human behaviour based on pattern of interaction, belief system in relation to economic and political activities
* Influencing human behaviour towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective efforts towards development
* Discovering and manipulating the laws governing most of human behaviour
* Advancing beyond philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament associated behaviour of a persons or that is exhibited by those engaged in those activity.

The philosophy of social science was established out of curiosity that the central focus of social science may be unachievable due to methodological mismatch because human as rational and conscious being do not behave the exact way objects of natural sciences behave

**The problem of reason and causes**

As philosophers we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and its explanation is to provide a correlational connection between the events and causes (for example why event A is the cause of event B). To understand the principle of cause and effects, we move down to David Hume that is Hume’s explanation of the notion of cause. For anything to be a cause of another, the cause and effect must have the following;

* whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur
* The two events occur in approximately the same location
* The causes precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow the cause continuously
* The occurrence of the alleged cause must be an actual event which brings about the effect and such effects must be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence

The principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are fulfilled, then the constantly occurs (there is a cause A such that B can always explain in reference to the activity of the event A. This is the principle that underlines the method of explanation in science .This principle was stated by Francis Offor. He further explains that by using scientific method in social matters, social sciences explain the cause of action involving human. To what extent can we take reasons to cause? One way to solve this, is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. Nevertheless, some scholars insists that reasons can be treated as causes and such scholars include Robin Collingwood.

**The problem of human person as object of study in social sciences**

Another problem, in social science according to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the study in social science is that man with desires and other sentient features come to play in his actions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and law, however these laws (using the law of demand and supply for example) do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time. Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we call continue to call it scientific law of economics