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**MATRIC NUMBER- 19/ LAW 01/098**

**COURSE TITLE- HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**COURSE CODE- GST 118**

**CHAPTER 8- PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES ( AND APPLIED SCIENCES)**

The chapter begins stating that 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 people that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. The 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 to any issue is called positivism from then on. The socio-cultural period in which positivism grew is called the reinaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called the reinaissance period because it marked the 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 in matters of concern and not dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time. The aeon before the renaissance period as called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. It was the time men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty for witch craft. Diseases were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens.

The philosophy of science arouse out of the curiousity and the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Positivism declares false, all preposition that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestation, either as individual in a society or collectively as a group

Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavour is to

1. Understand humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development and change.
2. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behaviour and
3. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about characteristics temperament and associated behaviour of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity.

**THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES**

To understand the problem of reasons and causes better with social sciences, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause. David Hume, Earnest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of caustion in a bullet form which is endearing to the analysis here. According tothis account, for anything to be cause of another, the cause and effect must-

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur including the institutions, norms and mores such as interactions created.
2. 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 spartially linked;
3. Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause and
4. Have an asymetrical relation in that occurence of 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.