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Belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism. The socio-cultural milieu which positivism grew is called the renaissance or enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it marked the revolutionary return of people to their Greek heritage. This time prior to this was called the dark ages because it was the period where religious beliefs reign supreme. The words of the pope where the final words of any matter whether political, social or intellectual. Men and women were burned at stakes because the church found them guilty of a crime and when diseases were seen to be consequences of sin gradually the authority of the church began to diminish and the authority of science began to increase.

The effect of this manoeuvring was overwhelming. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to things, but science was restricted to only the study of natural things because it was the only material thing believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. French social philosopher August Comte thought otherwise, that society also behaved in regular and predictable ways and that assumption too could be made from these. This was the beginning of social scene and till date Comte is referred to as father of sociology and social sciences in general.

Positivism rejects speculations that are not based on experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. It declares false all speculations that cannot be verified by experience. There are a lot of problems with this particular technique, they include:

1. Observations are concept laden
2. Observations are hypothesis laden
3. Observations are theory laden
4. Observations are value laden
5. Observations are interest laden
6. Observations are laden with culture specific-ontology

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations either as an individual, group or institution. Disciplines in the social science include psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. It seeks to employ scientific methods in the investigation of social phenomenon taking human beings as an object of study.

The objectives include:

1. Understanding human beings in both historical and cultural context
2. Being able to predict human behaviour
3. Influencing human behaviour
4. Discovering and manipulating laws governing human behaviour
5. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy.

THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSES

Reason and cause is one of the essential features of scientific methods employed in the in vestigation of social phenomenon

Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whatever cause occurs the effect must also occur.

The two events must occur in approximately the same location or related by a chain of events that are spatially linked.

The cause must precede the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

The alleged cause must be the actual event, which brings about effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions.

THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Man is a rational being with freedom, desires emotions and other sentient features so his behaviour cannot be predicted. This factor undermines, the motion of predictability from which natural science deduces its principles and laws.