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PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)

The success recorded in naturel science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormouse on the social and intellectual life of the then people of europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This position response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultual milieu of the time and ths explain why belief in science or application of science to any issueis called positivism from then on. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology,psychology, economics, political sciences, archaeology and anthrogy. The history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St Augustine and te 14th -century hitorian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Mark, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. It was Auguste Comte ght was regarded as the father of social science.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavour, interaction and manifestation, eather as an individual in a society or collectively as group. However the problem of philosophy of science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch.

Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taken the human person a object of study. The objective of such endeavour include

•Understanding humans n both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change.

•Being able to predics human behaviour based on the partern of interaction.

•Influencing human behaviour.

•Discovering the law governing most of human behaviour

THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES

What do we understand by the principle of cuse and effect means? Although explicarion of causality goes back to the David house, ernest nagel presents humes exposition of the nation of causation in a bullet from which is endearing to our analysis here. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the and effect must:

* Have an invariable or constant relation in the scese that whenever the alleged cause occure, the effect must also occure,
* Be spatially contiguo, this is, the two event must occure in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of event that spatiallt linked.

Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

FRANCIS OFFOR EXPLAINS THIS POINT IN THE FOLLOWIMG WORDS.

The princeple of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there is set of condition such that if the condition are all fulfilled, then the event inveriably occure. Put differenty, the principle states that for any event B in the universe, there is always a cause A, such that B can always explained by reference to the activities to eventA, This is the principle that underliesn the method of explanaion in science.

Offor goes further to assert that, by employing the scientific method in social investigationn the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human gents. To make this clearer, let us imagine MR A makes this statement upone seeing some of his friends who demanded to know why he one of them at the gym. The man said

‘ I punched him because I was angry’

Nearly everybody will agree that the reason why he punched hs friend was because he was angry. In other words anger is the reason or the course for punching his friend. This explanation pretends the words ‘ reason and couse’ can be subtituted for one another without any loss of meaning.

One was to solve this problem is to accept reason are not causes but motive or intent, and a good example of this is case of a man who whent to the supermarket to buy canned beef. We can say the resone he went to the supermaerket was to buy canned beef. In other words, the intend or motive which is to buy canned beef is the cause and going to supermarket is the effect. However, what f he gets to the supermerket and could not find canned beef and thud he buys soda drink? Would we say the cause changed after has alredy taken place.

THANK YOU.