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Department: Media and Communication Studies.

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Course Title: History And Philosophy of Science.

Assignment

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of science: A Brief Survey. Ibadan : hope publications. Page 86-95.

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuary was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinions on matters unrelated to the science such as law and forensive evidence.

The words of the pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social , or intellectual. Diseases were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. The effect of that manoeuvring was overwhelming scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise first of the problem is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These include the facts that;

-observations are concept-laden

- observations are value- laden

-observations are hypothesis- laden

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 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. To understand this problem with social sciences better we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlation connection between event and its cause.

The principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there is a set of condition such that if the condition are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. A good example of this is the case of a man who went to supermarket to buy canned beef. However, what if he gets to supermarket and could not find canned beef and thus he buys soda drink? Would we say the cause changed after the effect has already taken places. Another problem with the project of social science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction.

However, it has been observed even by economist themselves that these laws do not hold all the times since man does not behaviour to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer

In conclusion the law of demand and supply does not seem to work here as consumers have no choice.