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***SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES***

***MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES***

***GST118:HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE***

***SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 8***

This chapter talks about the philosophy of social sciences and how social science came to be. It also enables the reader to know the definition of social science, the problem of reasons and causes and also the problem of Human person as object of study in Social sciences.

The chapter talked of the success recorded in natural sciences in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. There were also classical period of romanticism,romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism and work of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. All the history lead to social sciences, the author defined social science as 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.The author also let us know that social science seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

The next topic in the chapter is the problem of Reasons and Causes and the only way it can be understood that one essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlations connection between an event and its cause. In reading further, the writer gave an illustration of someone who titled Mr A seeing some of his friends who demanded to know why he punched one of them at the gym and he goes ahead to say the only way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are

not causes but motive or intent. There are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes and of such scholars is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power.

The next topic in the chapter is the problem of Human person as object of study in Social sciences. In this subtopic another problem is that the object of study in Social science is a Man and through this, all these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. There was an illustration of demand and supply which predicts humans as rational beings will buy less when the price is high and buy more when the price is low. It was on the assumption of rational behaviour the law was formulated. But the author gave his own View by saying the law doesn't apply all the time as there are some goods that are of necessity to buy if one wants to make use of them.