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 Philosophy Of Social Sciences (And Applied Sciences)

 The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the 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.

 The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it marked a 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 as it was in the age prior to this time.

 Diseases were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens.

 Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking Enterprise. First of these problem is observation upon which the basis justification of positivism came is laden with error. These includes facts that:

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 ontologies

What is social science?

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

Disciplines in the social sciences include: Sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology.

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

 However, the philosophy of social science arouse out the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch.

 In other words, there exists an incongruity In using methods of scientific enquiry to study human and his society.

 The Problem Of Human Person As Object Of Study In Social Sciences

 Another problem with the project of social science is that, according to Max Weber, methodology of 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.

 All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. Take for instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is high and more when the price is low

It is on the basic assumption that the law of demand and supply was formulated. The higher the demand, higher the price, but the higher the supply the lower the price.

 However, it has been observed even by economists themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.