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Assignment: Summary of chapter 8 of the book History and philosophy of science.

**Summary**

The European people trusted the words of the scientists and even reached out to sort their opinion or ideas on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This was because, the success recorded in natural science was enormous in the 18th and 19th century on the social and intellectual of the then people of Europe and also made them to trust them. This response was said to be positive because of the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why believe in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The renaissance and enlightenment period was formed because it marked a period when people started a revolution of returning to their Greek heritage of using reason of matters in public concern and not to dictate of religion in their age period of this time. Also the aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. The words of the religious leaders became authentic and vital regarding any issues at all. The church started taking drastic measures whereby they burned people alive because of their sins and diseases where the consequences for this sins also. Making people venture into literature with the aim of using reason to arrive at a justified conclusion. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, this can also be said when people started gaining knowledge of their own. Literature produced at that time was called classic otherwise known as the classical period.

The effect of that maneuvering was overwhelming. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical context to issue, but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. August Comte was of a different opinion, saying that society behaves in a regular manner much like material things and this behavior can be studied and accurate precautions can be made. This brought about social science meaning the study of society making August Comte the founding father of sociology.

Positivism rejects speculations meaning the it should be based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. It declares everything false if its based out of Speculations and not facts and not verified by experience. The problems regarding this idea includes;

1. Observations as concept-laden
2. Observation are hypothesis-laden
3. Observations are theory-laden
4. Observations are values-laden
5. Observations are interest-laden
6. Observations are laden with culture-specific anthologies.

What is social science?

This is an area that studies human behavior, interaction and ,manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Sociology, psychology, economics ,political science, archaeology and anthropology are the disciplines involved on social science. It seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as an object of study,. This objectives include:

1. Understanding humans in all aspects and the factors responsible for such development or change.
2. Being able to predict human behavior.
3. Influencing human behavior.
4. Discovering and manipulating laws governing human behavior.
5. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy.

The Problems of Reasons an d cause

In order to understanding fully the problems of social science, the essentialities must be said and that is to provide a casual or correlational connection between events and its cause. The cause and events must;

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whatever cause occurs the effect must also occur.
2. The two events must occur in approximately the sane location or related by a chain of events that are spatially linked.
3. The cause must precede the effects in time just as the effect must flow continuously from the cause and;
4. The alleged case must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effects must not be part of the original conditions.

The problems of human person as object of study in social science.

Man is a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions or reactions. This factors influence the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce the principles of laws.