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**Question:**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipand Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of Science: A brief Survey.

**Answer**

Due to the success of natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, people started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opiion on matters unrelated to science. The positive response to science happened as a result of change in socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called **Positivism**.

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. The age prior to this time was known as as the **Dark age because, it was the time religious belief reigned supreme.**

In arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews. This was later known as the **Classical period of romanticism**. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism. Works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic.

Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomenon because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. A French philosopher named August Comte thought otherwise. He was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate prediction made.

This marked the beginning of social science especially sociology which Comte is regarded as the father of sociology and social sciences. 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 this problem is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism can be laden with error.

**What is Social Sciences.**

Social science is an area dedicated to study the human behavior, interaction, and manifestation either as an individual in a society or the society as a whole. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in investigation of social phenomena taking the human beings as object of study. There exists an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. Human beings do not behave in the same way objects of natural science behave.

To understand the 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 correlational connection between an event and its cause. Francis Offor explains that the principle of cause and effects states that for every event in the universe, there is a set of conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs.

**Problem of Human Beings as Object of Study in Social Sciences**

According to **Max Weber,** the methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study which is man is a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions, and other sentiment features that comes into playing his action and reaction. All this factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. For instance, the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that humans as rational being will buy less when the price is high and buy more when the price is low.it is on this assumption of rational behavior that the law of demand and supply was formulated.