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History and Philosophy of science GST118

 Read chapter eight from the text “History and Philosophy of Science” and do a two page review.

The success recorded in the eighteenth and nineteenth century on the natural science was enormous on the social and intellectual life of the European people that they trusted and believed in anything the scientist says, even matter that weren’t science related, they still came to the scientist to sought answers even in law. This positive change is as a result of the sociocultural milieu of that time and this explains why the belief and application of science to any issues which is alos known as positivism from then on.

 This milieu which positivism grew is called *Renaissance* period because or enlightenment period for this was when people started to return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion to judge public matters. The aeon prior to this period was called the dark age where religion was believed supreme as the word of the pope was final and this was not in the favour of heathens as they were charged for witchcraft and sorcery and then, people were burnt at stake because the church believed that sin and idolatry causes bad predicaments on the people. This was a threat to peoples freedom, happiness and survival as people with different view and ideologies so they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. In arts and music were hidden Greek worldwide views too. This became known as the classical period of romanticism which gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at the same time were also regarded as classic as Russell said that the modern is commonly known has a mental outlook which is different from the medical period in; the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of the church led to the growth of individualism, even to the point of anarchy.

 The effect of this maneuvering was overwhelming as scientific approach to thing grew out of philosophical approach to issues but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomenon because it was the only material that is believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French social philosopher called August Comte who is regarded as the father of sociology even till date. He was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior could be studied and somewhat accurate prediction made, this was the beginning of social science. This milieu positivism did not accept theoretical speculation that are devoid of facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge due to high degree of abstract nature . There a lot of problems in the concepts of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with errors which includes fact like; observations are concept, hypothesis, theory, value, interest and culture specific ontologically laden.

 Social science has been considered as 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 including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Discipline in the social science includes sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology. Although the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how the society works such as St Augustine and the fourteenth century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Max, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. Social sciences seeks to play the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as a study object of endeavor which includes: understanding humans, being able to protect their behavior, influencing their behavior , discovering and manipulation if possible and advancing beyond arm chair philosophy. The philosophy of social science arouse out of curiosity that the central focus and propelling motive of social science may be impossible die to methodological mismatch.

 In order to understand the problem of cause and reason with social sciences better , we need to understand the problem of cause and reason with social sciences better, we need to understand the feature is that a casual connection between an event and it’s cause so for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must; have an invariable relation i.e whenever the alleged case occur, the effect must also occur, be specifically contiguous.