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ASSIGNMENT QUESTION:

In not more than 2 pages , do a review of the chapter 8 of temidayo d. oladipio and noah o. balogun, history and philosophy of science, a brief survey. Pages 86-90.

To answer this question crush analysis of the above mentioned chapters are needed

Natural science recorded an enormous success on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe in th 18th and 19th century which made the then Europeans to start trusting the words of scientists and even consulted their opinion on matters unrelated to science (positivism). The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance. During the renaissance and enlightenment period, i.e. the period when the period when a there was the start of a revolution from the dark ages (the time when religious beliefs were supreme) to the reason in matters of public concern, a French philosopher, August Comte gave rise to the development of social sciences, especially sociology. This discovery was due to the limitation of natural sciences to the study of natural phenomena. 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 problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism is laden with error. These include facts that:

* Observations are concept-laden
* Observations are hypothesis-laden
* Observations are theory-laden
* Observations are laden with the culture-specific ontologies.

**Social sciences**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in society or collectively as a group; including institutions, norms and so on. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, archaeology and so on.

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

Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for the development of change.

Influencing human behavior ; grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development;

Discovering and manipulating if possible, laws governing most of human behavior.

Being able top predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economic and political activities; and

Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behavior of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity.

However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. There exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. The incongruity stem from the fact that humans do not behave in exact ways objects of natural sciences behave.

The problem of reasons and causes. One of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a causal connection between an event and its cause. That is, to explain why the event A is the cause of event B which is the effect? According to Hume’s notation of causation, for anything to be the cause if another, the cause and effect must:

Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur;

Have an asymmetrical relation that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such as that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence; and so on.

The principle of cause and effect states that for every event B in the universe, there is always a cause A, such that B can always be explained by reference to the activities of event A.

One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. August Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive, drive or intent and not cause. Nonetheless, there are some other scholars such as Robin Collingwood who argues to that reasons can be treated as causes.

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 and reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior sswith which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws.