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Philosophy of social science [and applied science]

The people of Europe started trusting the world of scientist and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to issues of science such as law and forensic evidence. The positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and enlightenment period it is called this because it marked the period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reasons in matters of public concern and not dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to the time. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme.

Positivism rejected theoretical speculation that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical science provides methodology while positivism declares false, all proposition that could not be solved by experience such as metaphysical statement due to a high degree of abstract nature. We should also know that there are lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise and some of this are observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came as laden error and some of this problems include

1. Observation of concept- laden
2. Observation of hypothesis- laden
3. Observation of theory- laden
4. Observation of value-laden
5. Observation of interest- laden
6. Observation are laden with culture- specific ontologies

And Irrespective of the shortcoming of positivism, we should explicate on the idea of social science it birthed

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group. Some of the discipline in social science include: sociology, psychology, economics and political science. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study, the main aim for these includes:

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development.
2. Being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economics and political activities
3. Influencing human behavior; grooming towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development
4. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most if the human behaviors

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

**The problem of reasons and causes**

To understand the problems of social science better, we need to understand one of the essential features of science. The causes of effect must:

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur
2. Be spatially contiguous, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked
3. Be temporally related such that the cause proceeds the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause
4. Have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence.

The problem of human person object of study in social sciences

Another problem with the project with project of social sciences 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 futures that come into play in his action or reaction now all these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principals of laws. however it has been observed by even by economists that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time. The laws of demand and supply does not seem to work here as consumers have no choice. Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific laws of economics?