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**ASSINMENT TITLE: REVIEW CHAPTER 8**

**QUESTION: IN NOT MORE THAN 2 PAGES. DO A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF TEMIDAYO D. OLADIPO AND NOAH O. BALOGUN, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY. IBADAN: HOPE PUBLICATIONS. PAGE 86-95**

CHAPTER 8

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCIES (AND APPLIED SCIENCIES)

This chapter denotes the success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century that was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe and this made them to start trusting and believing the words of the scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This positive response to science happened as a result of 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 renaissance and the enlightenment period marked the period when people started a revolution 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 the renaissance period. 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 Pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual. This Dark Ages was brutal because the punishments given to people were brutal and harsh. The community at that time saw this period and the punishments as a big threat to human happiness and survival. 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. This became known as the classical period of romanticism.

Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Bertrand Russell put this more succinctly when he said that, the period of history which is commonly called modern has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. August Comte, a French social philosopher countered this suggestion and 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 predictions made. This is beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as father of sociology and social sciences in general. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

Social science is 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. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. 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. In other words, there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. The incongruity stem from the fact that human beings do not believe in exact way objects of natural sciences behave.

The problem of reasons and causes, to understand this 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. That is, to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of 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; 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; be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause; and have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence. Some scholars solve the problem of reasons and causes by accepting that reasons are not causes but motives or intent. Nonetheless, there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes.

The problem of human person as object of study in social sciences, 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 or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. This is trying to explain how humans act and behave due to the situation at hand for instance the law of demand and supply, as rational beings we buy more when the price of the commodity is low but buy less when the price is high. We buy things we need at the specific time or things we will want to use in the future.