PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)

Its stated in chapter eight of this text that the positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and it explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. Its stated that the socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. Its renaissance because it marked a period when people started 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 of this time. It was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. The word of the Pope was the final authority on matters. It was this same time people were burnt because they were found guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. It was also stated that diseases was a consequence of sin and idolatry.

Bertrand Russell puts 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. Russell hold that emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism, even to the point of anarchy. 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. Until a French social philosopher called 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 predictions made. Comte is well known as the father of sociology and social sciences in general. There are lots of problem with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. The first one is Observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. It includes the facts that :Observations are concept-laden, observations are hypothesis-laden, Observations are theory-laden, Observations are value-laden, Observations are interest-laden, Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions and such interactions created. Disciplines in the social sciences include; psychology, sociology, economics, political science etc. its stated here that some philosophers wanted to see and know how the society work which are St Augustine and the 14th-century historian ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Max, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. Its Auguste Comte that is regarded as the father of social science. Social sciences seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human persons as objects of study. The obj… of such endeavor include;1)understanding human in both historical and cultural dev ((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 economic and political activities. (3) influencing human behavior, grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development. (4) discovering and manipulating if possible , the laws governing most of human behavior. (5) advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behavior of a person or group.

The problem of reasons and causes; to understand this problems with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of sciences and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its causes. The principle of cause and 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.\* be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause and \* have a relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect. Take for example a man steals and get caught. He was beaten by the police men and taken to court but then he was really poor and he needed money to cater for himself. The cause here is poverty. We can see clearly that reasons and causes are stated below. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motives or intent. Thus some scholars like J.S.Mill, T.M.Newcomb and Auguste Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reasons as motive, drive or intent and not cause.

PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

According to Max Weber, methodology of science is that becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science ia man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other 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 law. Take for example the lower the price the higher the demand, the higher the price the lower the demand or the higher the demand the higher the price and then the higher the higher the supply the lower the price. That Is also referred to as the market force. Capitalist have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer