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CORSE:PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT : INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

ASSIGNMENT: summarize chapter eight of history and philosophy of science.

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND APPILIED SCIENCES

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the ancient people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and requested their opinions on matter unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. Positive response to science happened due to the change in the socio-cultural milieu, this explains why belief In science or application of science to any issue is called positivism.

The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and period of enlightenment.it is marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictateof religion as it was in the age prior to time. This aecon 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 final on any issue, be it political, social or intellectual. this was a time where men and women were burned because they were found guilty of witchcraft and sorcery .consequences of sin and idolatry was diseases, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. The intellectual community saw a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started applying literature with the benefit of using reasons to arrive at justified conclusions just as Aristotle. This became a classical period of romanticism. Russell holds that emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism, even to point of anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral, and political, was associated in the minds of the men Renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government. Science was restricted to study the of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a in a regular and predictable way.

This is the 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. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of this problem is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations , either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group. Although ,the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how the society works. Auguste Comte is regarded as the father of social sciences. social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

Some of the objective includes developing and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behaviour and advancing beyond armchair philosophy , the knowledge about the characteristics temperament.

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 objective of study in social science is a man, a rational being with freewill, desires emotions and other sentient feature that comes in play with his actions or reactions. All these factors are undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws.

Finally the thee law 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?