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ASSIGNMENT: REVIEW CHAPTER 8  
 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. Pages 86-95.

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Natural science was recorded in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth as very successful on people’s lives especially in Europe where science was becoming trusted and relied on. This reaction to science was as a result of the rapid change in the socio-cultural milieu of time. From that time onwards, scientific issues were regarded as Positivism. This positivism grew on the grounds of the Renaissance and Enlightenment period. The renaissance period comprised of people using reasoning in public matters rather than religious dictate like the prior age. The age before the renaissance period was known as the dark age where religious beliefs reigned supremely. Every political, social or intellectual matter was judged by the pope’s final verdict.

However, the intellectual and learned community was against this and frowned deeply at it. This lead to their next moved which was to infiltration of literature to their own advantage and enlightening the people on the importance of using reason in the judgment of certain matters of importance. This is when romanticism came into place and gave rise to humanism and naturalism so literature works were regarded as classics. This method by infiltration worked ans scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was the only material seen to behave in a regular and predictable mannar. A contrary view was posed by August comte which was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern too and this was the starting point of social science. There are lots of problems intertwined with the conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. Firstly, we can see observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with errors.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

This can be seen as the study dedicated to the critical analysis and study of human behavior, interaction and manifestation individually or collectively. Under social sciences, we have disciplines such as; political science, sociology, economics, psychology, etc. Philosophers who have made critical impact on these discipline are Karl Max, Thomas Hobbes, Emile Durkheim, etc. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objective of social science includes, understanding human, being able to predict human behavior, influencing human behavior, discovering and manipulating laws governing human behavior, etc.

Problem of Reasons and Causes

We have to understand this problem with social sciences better and to do this, we need to understand that one of the features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual and 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. Firstly, we have to understand the principle of cause and effect which simply means that the cause and effect must have a variable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur. A philosopher, Francis Offor goes on to ascertain that by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents. For example, Mr A punches someone and his friends inquire why he punched one of them, Mr A says that it is because he was angry. Almost everyone will agree that this is the reason why he punched his friend. In other words, anger is the reason or the cause for punching his friend.

The Problem of Human Persons as Object of Study in Social Science

Yet another issue bothering social science is that according to Max Weber, methodologies of science are becoming inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study as seen her is man a rational being with freewill, emotion, desires etc. These features are the problem because they undermine the predictability of man. For example, we have the law of demand and supply in economics which was built on the basis of assumption of rational behavior which can faulter at anytime because as observed by economists, in some cases man go against this principle and this principle hardly exists anymore. In a nutshell, man is a an irrational being and does not often behave the way we predict him to.