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**COURSE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**COURSE CODE: GST 118**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/187**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**In not more than two pages do a review chapter 8 of Temidayo D Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of Science .**

**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)**

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on the matters unrelated to science such as law and foreseen evidence. This positive response to science 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 renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a 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 to this time. This 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. Diseases were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. However, the intellectual community at the time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge .There are lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. However irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism, let us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed. These include the facts that:

(1) observations are concept-laden;

(2) observations are hypothesis-laden ;

(3) observations are theory-laden;

(4) observations are value-laden;

(5) observations are interest-laden;

(6) observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestation either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including the institutions, norms and mores such as 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. Philosophy of social science arouse out of curiosity.

Problems of Reasons and Causes

To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause.

The principle of cause and effects states for every event in the universe , there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. Offor states ‘by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.’

The Problem of Human Person as Object of Study in Social Sciences

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 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. The law of demand and supply does not seem to work here