**A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 (PAGES 86-95) OF TEMIDAYO D. OLADIPO AND NOAH O. BALOGUN HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

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**Chapter 8: PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND APPLIED SCIENCES.**

The enormous success recorded in the eighteenth and nineteenth century effected the trusting of scientists and they started to sought their opinion on matters unrelating to science such as law and forensic matters. This positive response to science took place as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu in which explains why the belief in science or the application of science is called positivism. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

This milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance period and the enlightenment period. It is called renaissance because it is the period where 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. It was called the dark ages because religious belief reigned supreme. The words of the pope were the final say whether political, social or intellectual. The dark age was the time where men, women and children were burnt for sorcery. Diseases were seen as direct punishment for sin and idolatry. Nonetheless, the intellectual community saw this as a threat to human happiness and survival and came up with various strategies one included infiltrating literature, arts and music with the importance of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion as Socrates, Plato and others. This became the classical period of romanticism which gave birth to humanism and naturalism. Of the two periods two factors are held significant one is the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science which led to the growth of individualism.

Scientific approach to things grew out of the philosophical approach to issues. However, it was restricted to the study of natural phenomenon because it was seen to behave in a predictable way as well as society by August Comte. Positivism states false all propositions that could not be solved or verified such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature. Observation is one of the problems on which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error, coupled with the fact that observations are theory-laden, hypothesis-laden, value-laden etc. Positivism is the birth mother of social science.

Social science is the study that deals with human behavior and their interaction as individuals and groups including institutions, norms and others. It seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of the social phenomenon Disciplines under social sciences are; sociology, economics, political science, psychology, archaeology and anthropology. Some objectives of social science are; To understand humans in both historical and cultural development, to predict human behavior and to try to influence human behavior. However there existed an incongruity that stem from the fact that man does not behave in a certain and exact way objects of natural science does. In social science, it is necessary to provide a causal or correlational connection between an event and its cause. For anything to be the cause of another the cause and effect must; have an invariable or constant relation, occur in approximately the same location or related by a chain of events that are spatially linked, be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect follows continuously from the cause and it must have an asymmetrical relation.

Francis Offor explains that by employing the scientific method in social investigation, social sciences seeks to explain the cause of action involving human agents. The problem of man as object of study in social science. The object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires and emotions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior which natural science is known to deduce their laws and principles. The fact that man is unpredictable makes it somewhat difficult to study them.