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**Level: 100 level**

**Matric no: 19/law01/060**

**Course: GST 118**

**Department: Law**

**Question: Review chapter 8 Of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of Science**

**Philosophy of social Science (And Applied Science)**

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century the success recorded in natural science was very enormous on the social and intellectual of the then people of Europe that the word of scientists was trusted and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science. The positive response to science happened as a result of a changes in the socio- cultural milieu of the time and why the belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism.

The socio – cultural milieu in which the positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark age because it was the time where religious belief reigned supreme, the word of the pope was the final authority in any matter be it political, social, and intellectual. However, the intellectual community at that time saw this a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefit of using reason to arrive at justified conclusions, this became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave way to humanism and naturalism and works of art and literature produced at that time was called classic. Russell holds that the “emancipation from the authority of the church led to growth of individualism even to the point of anarchy

Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to studying of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was hard to believe to behave in a regular and predictable way. August comte was of the opinion that society behaves in regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This is the beginning of social science especially sociology and comte is regarded as the father of sociology and social science in general.

Positivism declares false all propositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements Due to a high degree of abstract nature.

**What is social science?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in the society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and more and more such interactions created. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavour include:

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development contexts.
2. Being able to predict human behaviour based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behaviour especially in relations to economic and political activities.
3. Influencing human behaviour; grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channelling collective efforts towards development.
4. Discovering and manipulating if possible the laws governing most of human behaviour
5. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behaviour of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity.

However, the philosophy of social science arouses out of the curiosity that the central focus and propelling motives of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. In other words, there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society, humans do not behave in the exact way objects of natural science behave a stone is not a conscious being, so it may behave in a regular and predictable way when pushed but a man is a conscious and rational being and may not behave in the same pattern

**The problem of reason and causessss**

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

To solve the problem of reason and cause is to accept reasons are causes not motives or intent. “reason” and “cause” can be substituted for one another without any loss of meaning. Many scholars like J.S Mill, T.M Newcomb and Auguste Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motives, drives or intent and not cause.

Nonetheless, there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as cause. One of such scholars are Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reason is not only cause but they are ultimate causal power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naïve of us.

**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 in social science is man, a rational being with freewill and desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. Take for instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predict that humans as rational beings will buy less when the price is high and will buy more when the price is low this is also referred to as market forces. However it has been observed even by economist themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally at all times. If a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific law of economics?