**NAME: EFEMENAH EMMANUELLA OMAMOKE**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/073**

**COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT: LAW**

**COURSE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE; GST 118**

**DATE: 14/04/2020**

**QUESTION: IN NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES WRITE A REVIEW ON CHAPTER EIGHT OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE TEXTBOOK.**

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

A huge success was recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It had such and impact on the people of Europe that they trusted the words of scientist and sought their advice in matter, whether scientific or not. This positive response to science was as a result of a change in socio-cultural milieu of the time; before science’ epic success dictated matters of public concern. The words of the pope were the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual but the big turn around people started to turn to science more and with continuous infiltration of culture e.g. literature, the dictatorial power or the church was gradually reduced till I was no more.

However, science was still restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was believed to be the only material to behave in a regular and predictable way. This view was opposed by a French social philosopher called August Comte who opined that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions can be made. This was the birth of social science.

Delving in this, I’ll explain what social science is. Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group. There are several examples of social science, some of which include: economics, political science, psychology etc. however, sociology is regarded as the mother of all and its father is August Comte.

Social science created certain objectives in order to achieve its aim of employing methods of science in its investigation of social phenomena. One of these objectives is to be able to predict human behavior based on pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economic and political activities. Since Comte is of the belief that social sciences also follow a certain pattern the it should be easy to predict human behavior based on the regular pattern they follow.

Considering philosophy’s major role since the existence of time its very easy to predict why social science sparked its interest. The philosophy of social science arose out of curiosity that the central focus and motive of social science may be impossible to achieve due to methodological mismatch i.e. human beings do not behave exactly as objects of natural science behave therefore it cannot exactly be said that they have a particular pattern of behavior.

Understanding that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause will automatically give a better understanding to the problem of social sciences. The principle of cause and event states that 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. This simply means that for every event that occurs in the universe there is always a cause such that the event can be explained by reference to the cause. Meaning the cause of the even can be replaced with “reason” without losing its meaning.

However, there may be no reason at all for the cause of an event or a person’s action(s) and when thus is considered it becomes a deeper problem because we cannot have people lurking around committing crimes for “no reason”. In order to solve this problem is to accept that reasons are not causes but motive or intent.

The problem of human persons as object of study is another problem in social science. According to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science us man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions and reactions. This simply means that no matter what is done in social science, human being can never be equated to a natural science phenomena because we are a conscious, living, breathing specie.