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**COURSE**: GST 118 ( HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE)

**LEVEL**: 100L

**MATRIC NO**.: 19/SMS/005

**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 [PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)]**

The positive response to science happened as a result of the change in the socio – cultural milieu of the time and it explains why belief in science or implementation of science to any issue is called positivism form then on.

The socio – cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance period 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. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Discipline, intellectual, moral and political was correlated in the minds of the men of the renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government. A French social philosopher called August Comte was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern like material things and this behavior can be studied and moderately accurate predictions made. It is the beginning of social sciences especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as father of sociology and social sciences in general.

Positivism regards theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology, positivism declares false, all prepositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. Firstly, these problems is observation upon which the basis justification of positivism came is laden with error. It includes 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

**What is Social Science?**

The history of social science has origin in the common stock of western philosophy and shares various precursors, but began intentionally in the early 19th century with the positivist philosophy of science. Since the mid – 20th century, the term “social science” has come to refer more generally, not just to sociology, but to all those disciplines which analyze society and culture, from anthropology to linguistics to media studies. Social sciences came forth from the moral philosophy of the time and was influenced by the age of revolutions and the French revolution.

Social science can be defined as a branch of science that deals with the instructions and science that deals with the instructions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society. Disciplines in social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. Although, the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St. Augustine and the 14th century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. However, it was Auguste Comte that is regarded as the father of social science.

**The problem of reasons and causes**

Cause and Effect: Francis Offor explains that the principle of cause and effect states for every in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. Put differently it states that for every event ‘B’ in the universe, there is always a cause ‘A’, such that ‘B’ can always be explained by reference to the activities of event ‘A’. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

1. Have an invariable relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur.

2. Be spatially contagious, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked;

**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. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to device their principles and laws. however, it has been observed even by economists themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.