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

 In chapter 8, as of the eighteenth and nineteenth century there was a huge success in the natural science as the people of Europe began trusting the words of the scientists and even met them for other matters not relating to science. This was because of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this is why belief in science or its application is called positivism. It was during the renaissance and enlightenment period that positivism grew in the socio-cultural milieu. In the renaissance period the people sought revolution to return to their Greek heritage of using reasons in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was the period as of that time prior to the renaissance. It was known as the dark ages because as of that time the decisions of the pope and the church reigned supreme and people were burnt on the stake because the church found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were said to be the direct consequence for sin and idolatry and they waged wars to exterminate the heathens. Although the intellectual community saw this as a threat to human society, survival and wellbeing so they sought other means to stop the menace. They justified their reasons by using literature just as how Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. The period known as romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French social philosopher called August Comte thought otherwise. He said that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and accurate predictions made. This marked the beginning of social sciences especially sociology. Till date August Comte is regarded as the father of sociology and social sciences in general. Still on the matter at hand, what is this social science? Social science is a study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. The discipline dates back to the early philosophers who were curious of how the society works such as St Augustine and the i4th-century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. However, August Comte is still regarded as the father of the discipline.

But however, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. There exist an incongruity in using the method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. Incongruity in the sense that human beings do not behave in the exact way objects of natural sciences behave. As it is a stone is not conscious because it is not human so it may behave in a regular and predictable way but human beings on the other hand are conscious and are rational in natural and otherwise their actions are unpredictable as they tend to behave in different ways. In order to understand the problem of reason and cause in social sciences better, we need to know that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a causal connection between an event and its cause. But what does the principle of cause and effect mean?

Francis Offor goes on to say that by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents. If the reason for something can be many but the cause of something cannot be then to what extent can we take reasons as causes? This problem can be solved if we accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. Scholars like J.S. Mill, T.M. Newcomb and August Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive, drive or intent and not cause but however, Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not just causes but also the ultimate causal power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naïve of us. Another problem is the human person as an object of study. According to Max Weber, the methods 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 which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. Even the laws of demand and supply does not work all the time on man and this is because man is not rational all the time and this is also observed by the economists themselves.