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COURSE TITLE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

ASSIGNMENT

Chapter 8 starts out to discuss the philosophy of social science. The positive response to science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science and application of science to any issue is generally termed positivism from then on.

This socio-cultural milieu which positivism grew out of is called the renaissance period and the enlightenment period. It is called renaissance because it is marked period where people mark to haves 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 at this time. The words of the pope was seen to have been the final authority on any matter, be it political social or intellectual, this existed in the dark ages of the renaissance period. This time was a time where wickedness took place, disease were said to be direct consequence of sin and idolatry. This was a big threat to human.

As then just as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle used to do they started infiltrating literature to arrive at a justified conclusion. This then introduced the romanticism period. The romanticism period gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of an art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic.

Science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way not until August Comte a French philosopher thought otherwise, he says that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made and this is the beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded as the father of sociology and social sciences till date in general.

Problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came in laden with error include; observations are concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, theory-laden, value-laden, interest-laden and finally are laden with culture-specific ontologies

WHAT IS THIS SOCIAL SCIENCE ABOUT?

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.

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.

Because for another, the cause and effect must; be temporarily related such that the cause and effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause. Note there are four but take this part seriously.

Moving onto the principle of cause and effect, Francis Offor says 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. Further to assert that, by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.

Let us imagine a scenario Mr. Johnson makes this statement upon seeing some of his friends who demanded to know why he punched one of them at the gym. The man then says; “I gave him a punch due to the fact that I was angry” nearly everyone would agree to that fact. This given explanation pretends the words ‘reason’ and ‘cause’ can be substitute for one another without any loss or meaning, even when we can see another purely mechanistic angle as presented above. Although if the reason for something can be so many but the cause of something can’t be, to what extent can we take reasons as causes?

Generally one way to solve all this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. A further good example is if a woman goes to the store with the intent to buy tinned tomatoes and then she arrives there then if on getting there she realizes that the tinned tomatoes she supposed to get wasn’t there and then she gets yoghurt? Would we say the cause changed after the effect has already taken place?

Further economist observed themselves that these laws do not hold all the since man does not behave rationally all the time, In fact, in recent years, capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer. The law of demand and supply does not seem to work here as consumers have no choice.

THANK YOU.