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In not more than 2 pages, do a review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, *History and Philosophy of Science: A Brief Survey.* Ibadan: Hope Publcations. pages 86-95.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, there was an enormous success recorded in the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe; they started trusting the words of the scientist. This approach is regarded as the “positivist approach” and this approach brought about the “renaissance and enlightenment period”.

It’s called a renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution to 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; prior to the renaissance period, there was a period referred to as the “dark ages” period where the words of the pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual.

The harmful acts which were perpetuated against the human race was seen by the intellectual community as a threat to human happiness and survival and to solve this, they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do.

The era of Romanticism, gave rise to ‘humanism and naturalism’. Works of art and literature produced at this time was referred to as “classics”. Bertrand Russell explains that this period of history which is referred to as the modern period has a mental outlook which differs from the medieval period in many ways.

The effects of the medieval period being mixed with the modern period was overwhelming; Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to be predictable. This changed however, when French philosopher Auguste Comte thought otherwise. This also marked the beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte till date is still said to be the father of sociology and social sciences in general.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. Some of these include; observations being concept-laden, observation being hypothesis-laden and observation are value-laden.

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; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created.

Disciplines in social sciences include; sociology, political science, philosophy and archaeology. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

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The objectives of such endeavor include; to influence human behavior, understand humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change, being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economic and political activities.

Like every other area of study, social sciences have its own issues. To further understand the problems of social science, its important that one understands the essential features of science and scientific explanation to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause.

According to Francis Offor, “the principle of cause and effect 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. Put differently, the principle 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’. This is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science.

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 who has freewill, desires, emotions, and other sentiment features that come into play in his or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws.

In conclusion, through the great works of the intellectual society we can see how the renaissance period which was birthed through the positivist approach came in to place to replace the dark ages. Also, we are able to grasp the definition of Positivism, its objectives and we take a look at the concept of Social sciences, disciplines under it and the advantages and disadvantages (problems of social sciences)