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COURSE:GST118(HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE)

COLLEGE:LAW

ASSIGNMENT:IN NOT MORE THAN 2 PAGES, DO A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE:A BRIEF SURVEY

Topic:PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCESS(AND APPLIED SCIENCES)

Natural science had an enormous success and effect on people in the 18th and 19th century. Natural science had a great impact on the intellectual life of people and they began to trust scientists. People responding positively to science and this happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural mileu. This socio-cultural mileu was also known as the renaissance and enlightenment period.It was called this because, it marked a certain period where people started a revolution to return to their greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time.

At that time, the words of the people was the final authority on any matter all round. It used to be a time when men and women were burnt for being suspected of witchcraft, wizardry or any other form of sorcery. At this time, diseases were everywhere, but the intellectual community saw this as a big defect to the survival of the human race. Pholosphers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle decided to use literature to correct these societal ills.. Bretrand said that there are two diminishing authorities to the modern time and these were: The diminishing authority of the church and The increasing authority of science.

It explains that positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts or experiences as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems to this conception and first of the problem is observation and they are supported with the fact that: Observations are concept-laden, Observations are theory-laden, Observations are hypothesis-laden, Observations are value-laden, Observations are interest-laden and Observations are culture-specific laden.

The chapter explains social science as an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations either individually or collectively. Some disciplines in social science include: Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Political science and Anthropology. Regardless to this, the history of the discipline is dated back to the early philosophers who wanted to study how the society works. These philosophers include, St. Augustine, Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim. Social science in its investigations tends to employ the method of science and its objectives include: Understanding humans in Historical and cultural developments, Being able to predict human behaviours based on the pattern of interaction, Influencing human behaviour, Discovering and manipulating human behaviour and Advancing beyond armchair philosophy.

Science restricted the study of natural phenomena because it was the material that was believed to have predictable ways. The philosophy of science arouse but out of curiousity. Curiousity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible to achieve and this was due to methodological mismatch. We were exposed to the problems of the reasons and causes with social science. It explains that for anything to be the cause of another, it must: Have a relationship(either variable or constant) with that whenever the alleged cause occours, the effect must also occour. For it to be spatially contigious which means two events must occur in the same location, It must be temporarily related that the cause precedes the effect in the time just as the effect must follow continuously, Must have a symmetrical relation.

Francis further asserts that, by applying scientific methods in social investigation, social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents. The chapter therefore uses a human example.