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Assignment:

The social cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it is marked a period when people started a revolution of return of 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. Disciple, intellectual, moral, and political was associated in the minds of men of the renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government. The effect of the manoeuvring 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 the only material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French social philosopher called August Comte thought otherwise. He was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This is the beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as the father of sociology and social sciences in general.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experiences as a means of obtaining knowledge. Social science is an area of study dedicated to the study of human behaviour, interaction and manipulation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institution, norms and mores such interactions created.

However the philosophy of social science arouse out of curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. In other words, there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society.

The congruity stem from the fact that human beings do not behave in exact way objects of natural sciences behave. A stone is not a conscious being, so it may behave in a regular and thus predictable way when pushed. However, a man as a conscious and rational being may not behave in the same way.

To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its causes.

A 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 sciences is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions or reactions.

All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science is known to deduce 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.

In fact in recent years, capitalists have been a leading to manipulate consumer behaviour to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer. For example some android phones and iPhone applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use the phone. The law of demand and supply does not apply here because the consumer has no choice.