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Philosophy of social sciences

REVIEW

A French philosopher August Comte was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and its behavior can be studied and some what accurate predictions made. This is the beginning of social sciences especially sociology. August Comte is regarded as the father of sociology and social sciences in general.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE:

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interactions and manifestation as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including institutions, norms and mores such interactions created.

The philosophy of social science arose of the curiosity that there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society.

THE PROBLEM OF REASONS & CAUSES:

Francis Offor explains that:

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.

Employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.

One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent .

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES:

Another problem according to Max Weber is methodology 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 with which social science is known to deduce their principles.