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**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/159**

**COURSE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**COURSE CODE: GST118**

**ASSIGNMENT**

In not more than two 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 Publications. Pages 86-95.

**A REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8 OF TEMIDAYO D. OLADIPO AND NOAH O. BALOGUN’S; HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.**

The success recorded in natural sciences in the 18th and 19th century was so tremendous on the social as well as the intellectual life of the people of Europe as they begun to trust the words of scientists on matters unrelated to natural science such as Law and Forensic Evidence.

The positive response to science at the time occured as a result of a change in the socio-cultural environment, hence explaining why belief in science or application of science to any issue has been termed positivism from then onwards.

The socio-cultural environment in which positivism blossomed is known as the Renaissance and The Enlighteenment period. It is called the renaissance period because it marked a very significant time in history when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictates of religion which was unlike how it was in the ages past.

Sickness and diseases were said to be a direct consequence of all sin, so the church waged wars to extinguish the heathens because they were seen as a big threat to humanities survival at that time. They began to infiltrate literature like in the time of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle who were major propagators of the previous ages of development in Greece and Europe.

The Theory of Positivism rejects the 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. These include the fact that: observations are; concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, theory-laden, and value-laden and are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Social Science is a field of study which is dedicated to the study and attempted explanation of human behavior, interactions, reactions and inactions of a collective group of individuals. It is any discipline or branch of science that deals with human behaviour in it’s cultural or social aspects. Social Sciences include Economics, Political Science, Psychology, etc.

The Philosophy of Social Science springs out of the curiousity that the central focus and the motive of Social Science as a field of study is impossible to achieve. It is unachievable due to the methodological mismatch as well as its discruptancies.

**THE PROBLEMS OF REASON AND CAUSES**

Ernest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to our analysis. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must; have an invariable relation, be spatially contiguous, be temporarily related and have an asymmetrical relation.

Francis Offor explains the principle of cause and effect by adding 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 the event ‘A’. This is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science.

Thus some scholars like J.S. Mill, T.M. Newcomb, and Auguste Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive, drive, or intent and not cause.

Nonetheless, there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes. One of such scholars is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naive to us.

**THE PROBLEMS OF HUMANS AS AN OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**

According to Max Weber a major problem with the study of Social Sciences is that the methodological approach to the study of this form of Science is deemed inapplocable owing to the fact that the object of study is man, arational being wioth freewill, desires, emotions, sentiments and a host of all other salient factors that manifest in his action or reaction. All these factors when in play makes the average man to behave in a manner that is unpredictable, hence undermining the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural science deduces their principles, rules as well as their laws.