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 **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE**

 The success recorded in the 18th and 19th century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinions on matters unrelated to science such as law. This positive response to science started as a result of change in socio cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The socio cultural milieu which positivism grew is called renaissance and the enlightenment period. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology, positivism declares false, all proportions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statement due to a high degree of abstract nature.

 There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation based upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These include the fact that:

1. Observations are concept-laden
2. Observations are hypothesis-laden
3. Observations are theory-laden
4. Observations are value-laden
5. Observations are laden with culture specific ontologies
6. Observations are interest-laden

However, irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism, let us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interactions and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including the institutions, norms and mores such interaction created. Disciplines in social science includes; sociology, psychology, economics, etc. social sciences seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as an object of study. The objectives of such endeavors include

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change
2. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behaviors
3. Influencing human behaviors, grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and chanelling collective effort towards development, etc.

However, the philosophy of 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.

 **The problem of reasons and causes**

To understand this problem with social sciences better we need to provide casual connection between an event and its cause. For anything to be the cause of another. The cause and effect must;

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs the effect must also occur
2. Be spatially contiguous, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked, etc.

 Francis Offor explains this point in the following words;

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 even invariably occurs.

 **Problem of human person as object of study in social sciences**

Another problem with the project of social science is that 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 natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. Take for instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that humans as a rational being will buy less when the price is high and buy more when the price is low, it is on this basic assumption of rational behavior that the law of demand and supply was formulated. However, it has been observed by economists that these laws do not hold all the time since does not behave rational all the time. In fact, in recent years capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer. For example some android phones or iphones applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use phone. Some application will even force the user to update it, causing the user to spend data on the update as data is the currency of the internet nowadays. The law of demand and supply does not seem to work here as consumers have no choice. Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific law of economics?