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**PHILOSOPHY ASSIGNMENT**

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**CHAPTER 18**

**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

The impact of the enormity of the success of natural sciences in the 19th century was such that people began to seek the face of scientists when faced with problems that were not even remotely related to the scientists such as law and forensic evidence.

Application of science to any field was regarded to as ‘’positivism’’ at the time. Positivism grew largely in the renaissance and the enlightenment era.

The time before this was seen as the dark ages because the major influencing factor to the reasoning of the society at then was religion. This was so much that the words of the pope was capable of condemning people to death of sorcery or witchcraft. The positivists saw this as a threat to human happiness and so they began penetrating literature with the benefits of applying reason to tackle ones problems as Plato and Socrates used to do.

Emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism. Even to the point of anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral and political, was associated in the minds of the men of the Renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government.’’

The nature of science was strictly directed towards natural phenomena as they were easily predictable and only occurred in a regular manner. Not until a French social scientists called August Comte thought otherwise. He believed that the society and the people in it behaved in a regular pattern of behavior and it can be be studied and somewhat accurate predictions can be made. As a result of this, Comte is regarded till date as the father of social sciences especially sociology. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modeled on empirical sciences which propositions that could not be proven or solved by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree or abstract nature.

There are lot of obstacles 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 mistakes. These include:

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

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Social science can be defined as an area of study set aside to the explanation of human behavior, manifestation and interaction either as a person or as a group including the institutions, norms and more such interactions made.

Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science and anthropology. Social science goes out to seek to employ the method of science the investigation of social phenomena taking humans as object of study. These objectives of such endeavor include the following listed below:

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development
2. Grooming human behavior towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development.
3. The act of being able to predict human acts based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human acts especially in relation to economical based activities

**THE PROBLEMS OF REASON AND THE CAUSES**

According to David Hume’s account, for anything to be the cause of another, the causes and effect must have a constant relation that whenever the effect occurs the cause must also be present

Must be spatially contiguous, meaning the two events must occur in the same place or be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked

Must be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

Francis Offor explains this point in the following words:

The principle of cause and effects states that for every

events in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs.