NAME: IROEGBU JENNIFER AMARACHI

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**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)**

The achievement registered in the natural science back in the 18 and 19 century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This good response to science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu. This period in which positivism grew is called the enlightened period of the renaissance period. People turned away from their old ways to the ways of science. The effect of manoeuvring was overwhelming. Scientific approach to things grew out philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the 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 behavior 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 father of sociology and social sciences in general.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanati0on of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. Although, the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St Augustine and the 14th-century historian Ibn khaldun; down to carl marx, Thomas hobbes, john locke, emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. However, it is august comte that is regarded as the father of social science. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study and the objectives of such are discovering and manipulation if possible, the laws governing most of human behavior; and advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristics temperament and associated behavior of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity etc. 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 another way, there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. However, a man as a conscious and rational being may not behave the same pattern.

The problem of reasons and causes: 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 correlation connection between an event and its cause. That is to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. But first, according to several account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must: a. have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whatever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur etc. Francis Offor explains this point in the following words: the principles 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. Put differently, the principle states that for every event ‘B’ in the universe, there is can always be explained by reference to the activities of event ‘A’, such that ‘B’ can always be explained by reference to the activities of event ‘A’. This is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science.

The problem of human person as object of study in social sciences: another 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 science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentiment features that come to play in his action or reaction. All the mentioned features and factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. Take for example the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is high and buy more when the price is low. it is on this assumption of rational behavior that the law of demand and supply was made; the higher the demand the higher the price, but the higher the supply the lower the price also referred to as market forces. 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.