NAME: NNONYELU CHIOMA ESTHER

COLLEGE: LAW

DEPARTMENT: LAW

COURSE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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Assignment

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth 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 opinion on matters related to science such as law and forensic evidence. This positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the 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 in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period, it is called renaissance period because it marked a period people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time.

The aeon prior to the renaissance period because it was called the” dark age “, because it was time religious belief regained supreme. It was the time when men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft and sorcery. Disease were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to examine the heathens. The community saw this as a big threat to human’s happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise humanism and naturalism, and the works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. The effect of that maneuvering was overwhelming until a French social philosopher August Comet thought otherwise. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

FACTS ON OBSERVATION;

* Observation are laden with culture specific ontologies
* Observation are theory laden
* Observation are interest laden.

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

THE OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

* Understanding humans in both historical and cultural developments
* Discovering and manipulating the laws governing most of human behavior

PROBLEMS OF REASON AND CAUSES

* Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs the effects must also occur
* Be temporarily related such that the causes precede the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause

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

Another problem with the project of social sciences is that, according to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes in applicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other scientist features that come into play in his actions or reaction. However, it has been observed even by economist themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time. In fact. In recent years, capitalist have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold longer. For example, some android phones or iPhone application are of necessity to buy if you want to use phones.