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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 8

The positive response to science happened as a result of a change in socio-cultural milieu of time and this explains why belief in science is called positivism from then on . Europe started trusting the word of scientists and even sought out opinion on matters unrelated to science such law and forensic evidence , the success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

The socio-cultural milieu in which grew positivism is called the renaissance and enlightenment period . reason why it is called the renaissance period is because it marked the period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religious belief resigned supreme .

Discipline , intellectual, moral, and political , was associated in the minds of the men of the renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government . the period of history which is called ‘modern’ has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways

The effect of that manoeuvring was overwhelming . scientific approach to things grew out of 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 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. Positivism rejects theoretical speculation 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 propositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature . there are a lot of problem 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 facts that : observations are concept-laden, observations are hypothesis-laden, observations are theory-laden , observations are value-laden , observations are interest-laden , observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies,

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 the institutions , norms, and mores such interactions created.

Disciplines in the social sciences includes: sociology , psychology, economics , political science , archaeology and anthropology . although , the history discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works . social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study .

However, the philosophy of social sciences arouse out of curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science maybe impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. To understand the problem with social science better , we need to understand that one of the essential features of the science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause.

Francis offor explains 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 event invariably occurs offors goes further to assert that , ‘ by employing the scientific method in social investigation , the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.’

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.in fact ,in recent years, capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold longer. For example ,some android phones or Iphones applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use the 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 of 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 laws of economices?