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**Introduction:**

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

**This is basically a summary about the philosophy of science. The topic brings us to know about the things and issues relating to this topic. It’s also going to enlighten us about issues like positivism, socio-cultural milieu and even the scientific approach to philosophical issues etc. I’m also going to point out what social science means and its problem, reasons and causes.**

It was recorded in natural science in the 18th and 19th century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the people of Europe when they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinions on matters that where not related to science such as law and forensic evidence. This response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why the belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on.

 Socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it marked a 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 religion as it was in the age prior to this time. There was a time when men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft and sorcery. Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens at this time it was seen as a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefit of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do.

 Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues 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 materialistic things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This was 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 speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. 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 problems due to these conceptions of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism is laden with error. These include some of the facts that:

1. Observations are value-laden
2. Observations are theory-laden
3. Observations are interest-laden

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

This is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestation either as an individual in the society or collectively as a group.

 However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the motive of social science maybe impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. There exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and society this stem is from the fact that human beings don’t behave in the exact way as objects of natural sciences.

**THE PROBLEM REASONS AND CAUSES**

For anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

1. 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.
2. Be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

Francis Offor made a point in the following words

The principle of cause and effect states that for every even in

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

 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 a man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions and reaction. One way to solve the problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent.