NAME: LONGE JESUDARASIMI JESUSEPATAKI

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 REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8

In the 18th and 19th there was an enormous success recorded on the social and intellectual life of Europe then that individuals consulted scientist on things not related to science. There was now a certain trust on scientist. The positive response was as a result of the change of the socio-cultural structure/ environment, which is also a milieu. This is why the belief in the application of science in any issue is called positivism.

Positivism grew in an era called the Renaissance. It is called this because, this was the period whereby people went back to the greek heritage in the aspect of using reason in public matter rather than the dictate of religion. The things were done in relation to the bible or what the pope, the bible and pope had the final authority. As a result of this, spiritual beliefs caused people to be burned due to sorcery or witchcraft. And diseases were believed to be punishment of sin and idolatry, so the church waged wars with the aim of exterminating pagans.

However intellects saw at the time as an hindrance to humanity’s happiness and survival. So slowly they started intruding into the literature, the benefits to arrive at a justified conclusion just as Socrates, plato and Aristotle used to do. Arts and music hidden greek worldwide views. This became the classical period of romantism. Which gave rise to humanism naturalism works of art and literature were regarded as classic. Bertrand Russell explains concisely when he said ‘’The period of history which is commonly called ‘’ modern’’ has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways. Of these, two are the most important: the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science. Furthermore, Russell holds that ‘’ emancipation from the authority of the church led to the point 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 result of the manoeuvring was overwhelming, the approach to scientific were as a result of philosophical issues. But then science was limited to the study of natural phenomena because it behaved in a regular and predictable pattern. Until a French social philosopher ‘’ AUGUSTE COMTE’’ he was of the perception that society has a regular way like being materialistic and this type of behaviour can be studied and can somehow predictable. This was the beginning of social sciences especially sociology and comte seen as the father of sociology and social sciences till now.

Positivism rejects theory’s not based on the actuality of an incident as a way of gaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical sciences that provided with a methodology, positivism declares false, all statements that aren’t backed up with experience such as metaphysics because of it abstract nature. There are a lot of issues on ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of the problem Is observation which is the basic justification of positivism is laden with error. These include the facts that;

1 observations are concept-laden, 2 they are hypothesis-laden, 3 they are theory-laden, 4 they are value-laden,5 they are interest-laden, 6 they are culture laden with specific ontologies. Although there are shortcomings of positivism let look at the idea of social science it birth.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE

THIS IS THE STUDY TO THE EXPLANATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR, AS AN INDIVIDUAL IN A SOCIETY. Disciplines are sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology, and anthropology. Though this dates back to early philosophers who wanted to know the society worked. Like EMILE DURHEIM, KARL MAX, JOHN LOCKE, nevertheless AUGUSTE COMTE is regarded as the father of social science. It seeks to employ the method of science of taking investigation of social phenomena by taking humans as the object of study. The objectivities are 1 understanding human in both historical and cultural developments,2 predictable human behaviours based on the individuals and things that influence he/her life. 3 Moulding human behaviour in such a way that’s good for the society. The philosophy of social science came out of existence that the central and the reasons behind an action of social science may be not be achieved due to the methodological mismatch. THE PROBLEMS OF REASON AND CAUSES. To understand that one important factor of science is to provide a causal or correlational connection between an incident and it’s cause. DAVID HUME AND ERSNEST NAGEL have left us with enough exposition which is 1 having a constant relation so whenever a cause occurs the effects follow.2 be spatially contiguous meaning the two events must occur approximately at the same location.3 it should be related temporally such that the cause precedes the effect in time. FRANCIS OFFOR explains this the principles of cause and effect states that for every events in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled then the events invariably occurs.

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

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, meaning that studies taken can not be applied to all circumstances even if not all it can only be applied to circumstances of the studies that are alike because humans are unpredictable and rational beings with freewill, desires and most humans do things based on relativity. This can be related to law of demand and supply in economics there are certain principles that they try to use with latin saying ‘’ ceteris paribus’’ meaning with other conditions remaining the same; other things being equal. All the other things remaining constant . But it has come to the notice of economists that this principle doesn’t hold much effect in every economic situation. Capitalists have been able to manoeuver consumers behaviour to the point that it is doubtful if laws hold any longer. It is just to show that to our reason if it should still be called scientific law of economics since it is neither absolute nor hold quite often.