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Matric Number: 19/law01/143

COURSE TITILE: History and Philosophy of science

College: Law Level: 100 level

REVIEW OF CHAPTER EIGHT

The change in the socio-cultural milieu of time resulted to so many positive response in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, this socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It’s called the 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. Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. However, the intellectual community at the same time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive to justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. In arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. However, the philosophy of social science arouse as a result of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social sciences may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. In other words, there exists an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and its society. The incongruity stem from the fact of human beings do not behave in exact way objects of natural sciences behave. Positivism rejects theorical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

Social sciences 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 associated behavior of a person or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavor include; understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible foe such development or change, being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interpretation, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economic and political activities, etc.

To the 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 correlational connection between an event and its cause. That is to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must; have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur, 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, be temporally related such that the cause exceeds the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause. Francis Offor explains this point in the following words; 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. Put differently, the principle states that for every event ‘B’ in the universe, there is always a cause ‘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. Offor 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. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. If we go with the substitution thesis, we will say the cause of his going to the supermarket is to buy canned beef. In other words, the intent or motive which is to buy canned beef is the cause and going to supermarket is the effect.

However, what if he gets to supermarket and could not find canned beef and thus he buys soda drink? Would we say the cause changed after the effect has already taken place? It’s 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 currency of the internet of nowadays. The law od demand and supply does not seem to work here as customers 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 economics?