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**MATRIC NO: 19/SMS02/011**

**DEPARTMENT: ACCOUNTING**

**COLLEGE: SOCIAL MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCES**

**COURSE: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**ASSIGNMENT: In not more than two pages do a review of chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun ‘HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE, A BREIF SURVEY’.**

 **The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe and they started trusting the words of scientist and even sought their opinions on matters relating to science such as law of forensic evidence. This positive response to science 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 issues is called positivism from then on.**

 **The socio-cultural milieu in which the positivism grew is known as renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called renaissance period because it is marked a period when people started a revolution of their return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters that of public concern and not the dedicate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time.**

 **The aoen prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. The words of the pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual. However, the intellectual community at that time as a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle used to do in the arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This became known as the classic period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to the humanism and naturalism, and works of art of literature produced at this time were also regarded as classics. Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said that ‘the period of history which is commonly called ‘MODERN’ has a mental outlook which differs from that of medieval period in many ways.**

 **Positivism rejects theoretical speculations 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.**

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

 **Social science is an area of study dedicated to the expectation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institution, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in the sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology, Although, the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St Augustine and the 14th-century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. However, it was Auguste Comte that is regarded as the father of Social Science.**

 **However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. In other words, there exist as incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society.**

**THE PROBLEMS AND CAUSES**

**To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause.**

1. **Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur;**
2. **Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effects in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.**

**Nonetheless there are some scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes. One of such scholars is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naïve of us.**