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COURSE TITLE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.

ASSIGNMENT: IN NOT MORE THAN TWO(2) PAGES, DO A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF TEMIDAYO .D. OLADIPO AND NOAH .O. BALOGUN, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY.

**REVIEW OF CHAPTER EIGHT (8) IN THE BOOK HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)

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

The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it market 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. The aeon 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. It was time men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic.

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 materials that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French social philosopher called August Comte thought otherwise. This beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as father of sociology and sociology and social sciences in general.

There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observations upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These include the facts that:

1. Observation are concept-laden
2. Observation are hypothesis-laden
3. Observation are theory-laden
4. Observations are value-laden
5. Observations are interest-laden
6. Observations are laden with culture-specific ontology

However, irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism let us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed.

WHAT IS SOCIALSCIENCE?

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 include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology.

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 Endeavour include;

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change.
2. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behavior
3. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behavior of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity. E.t.c

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.

THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES

To understand this problems with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a causal or correlational connection between an event and its cause. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and the effect must:

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur. E.t.c

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

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, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. In fact, in recent years, capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to point it is doubtful if these laws hold any longer. For example, some android phones or Iphones applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use the phone. Some applications 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.