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**QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 8 HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF
SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY**

THE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND APPLIED SCIENCES

This chapter talks about the philosophy of social sciences. It talks about social science, the objectives and the problems of studying social sciences. This is in other to give us better understanding about the topic we talking about.

The success of natural sciences was recorded in the eighteenth and nineteenth century where it had an impact on social and intellectual life. This positive response is as a result of the change in the socio-cultural milieu of time.. the socio-cultural milieu that positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period.

Scientific approach grew out of philosophical approaches to issues, but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena. That went on until a French social philosopher August Comte introduced his own opinion and thought. His opinion was that the society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things And this behaviour can be studied and some accurate predictions are made. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that's are not based on facts experiences as a mean of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of this problem is observation. There are:

- Observation are concept laden
- Observations are hypothesis-laden
- Observations are theory laden
- Observations are value laden
- Observation are interest laden
- Observations are laden with cultural specific contologies

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCES :

Social science is an area of study that deals with the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual or group in a society including the norms, institutions they created. Disciplines in social sciences are: sociology, economics, archaeologist, political science etc.

The discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St Augustine and ibn Khaldun; down to karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, Emile Durkheim and others. However August Comte is the father of social science.

The objectives of social science:

- Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factor responsible for such development contexts and factors responsible for the development.
- Being able to predict human behaviour based on belief systems, social norm and other factors.
- Influencing human behaviour in an effort to bring about development and socially desirable conducts
- Discovering and manipulating the laws governing most of human behaviour.
- Advancing beyond arm-chair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristics temperaments and associated behaviour of a person or group.

THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSES

One of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual connection between an event and its cause. What does the principle of cause and effect mean? According to this account for anything to be the cause if another, the cause and effect must:

- It must have a invariable or constant relationship in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must occur
- It must be spatially contiguous; the two events must occur in the same location or must be related to a chain if events that are spatially linked.
- It must be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time.
- It must have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that it must not be part of the original conditions that are sufficient for its occurrence.

THE PROBLEM OF HIMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES.

According to Max Weber, another problem in social science is that methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill and desires and emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions or reactions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural sciences is known to deduce their principles and laws. For example the law of demand and supply which attempt to predict humans as rational as they will buy less of a produce if the price goes higher. However it has been observed that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time. In recent years, capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behaviour to the point it is doubtful if these laws hold anymore. The law of demand and supply does not

seem to work here as consumers have no choice. If a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor very effective it cant be the scientific laws of economics any longer.