

Aronsson, Thomas; Löfgren, Karl-Gustaf

Working Paper

Human Capital, Externalities, Growth and Welfare Measurement

ETLA Discussion Papers, No. 434

Provided in Cooperation with:

The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA), Helsinki

Suggested Citation: Aronsson, Thomas; Löfgren, Karl-Gustaf (1993) : Human Capital, Externalities, Growth and Welfare Measurement, ETLA Discussion Papers, No. 434, The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA), Helsinki

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/187113>

Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

Terms of use:

Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.

You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.

If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.

Keskusteluaiheita - Discussion papers

No. 434

Thomas Aronsson* - Karl-Gustaf Löfgren*

HUMAN CAPITAL, EXTERNALITIES, GROWTH AND WELFARE MEASUREMENT

* Department of Economics
University of Umeå
S-901 87 Umeå, Sweden

ARONSSON, Thomas - LÖFGREN, Karl-Gustaf, HUMAN CAPITAL, EXTERNALITIES, GROWTH AND WELFARE MEASUREMENT. Helsinki: ETLA, Elinkeinoelämän Tutkimuslaitos, The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy, 1993. 15 p. (Keskusteluaiheita, Discussion Papers, ISSN 0781-6847; no. 434).

ABSTRACT: This paper concerns welfare measurement in an economy with human capital, using a Ramsey type growth model. Human capital accumulation is a function of the time consumers spend in education, and will, therefore, depend on the preferences for leisure as well as on the budget constraint. However, human capital is also a separate argument in the production function facing firms, which gives rise to a production externality. In a command optimum, where the externality is internalized, we show that the Hamiltonian along the optimal trajectory (which may be thought of as an augmented NNP measure) is the appropriate welfare indicator. We also discuss the tax - transfer system required for the decentralized economy to reach a command optimum.

1. Introduction

The question of how to measure economic welfare has been addressed by several authors during the last decade. In a famous article by Martin Weitzman (1976) it is shown that, under perfect foresight, the net national product (NNP) is a static equivalent of wealth measuring the maximum sustainable consumption level. From the point of view of national accounting, this result is important as it implies that the welfare level only depends on variables that are observed at the time when the measurement is conducted. Much of the more recent research on welfare measurement has focused on how to augment the NNP measure in order to take account of changes in natural resource stocks. In the papers by Dasgupta & Mäler (1991), Mäler (1991) and Hartwick (1990), it is recognized that the traditional NNP measure does not include the impact on future consumption possibilities resulting from current changes in natural resource stocks. The latter means that, in order to derive a welfare indicator related to the NNP, it is necessary to consider net investments (positive or negative) in natural resources.

Another part of the recent literature on welfare measurement deals explicitly with technological and/or environmental change. If there is disembodied technological or environmental change, which is not attributable to the factors of production, the welfare measures containing the value of investments in natural resource stocks would also be incomplete. This result was touched upon by Weitzman and was formally worked out by Aronsson & Löfgren (1992, 1993) and Löfgren (1992). The intuition is that, as disembodied (or non-attributable) technological change affects future consumption possibilities, welfare will depend on time itself. Hence, in this case, we can no longer use an augmented NNP measure as a welfare indicator. As is shown in Aronsson & Löfgren (1992, 1993), this time dependence of welfare can also be made endogenous by replacing the (exogenous) technological change with external economies. In the 1993 paper, the primary focus is on consumption externalities generated by pollution.

Non-attributable technological change or a "Solow residual" is perhaps best viewed as an artifact arising from measurement problems, and is to some extent caused by the value of investments in human capital not being accounted for in the traditional NNP measure. However, investments in human capital may also create positive externalities – endogenous growth theory is built on this notion – and as such they also represent a challenge for welfare measurement. To our knowledge, no previous attempt has been made to take account of these two aspects of human capital simultaneously in connection with the measurement of welfare. The main purposes of this paper are, therefore, to include human capital when measuring welfare and to discuss its role in national accounting by using a Ramsey type growth model.

Following recent studies on economic growth such as Lucas (1988), Razin (1972), Stokey (1991) and Sørensen (1992), we assume that the accumulation of human capital depends on the time consumers spend in education. However, contrary to these studies, we will also include leisure time in the consumers' utility function, which means that labour supply is endogenous here¹. The incentive to spend time in education follows, in this model, from the assumption that the stock of human capital affects the marginal productivity of labour and, hence, firms' willingness to pay for labour. To formalize this idea, we will consider two types of labour, skilled and unskilled labour, where the stock of human capital affects the marginal productivity of skilled (but not unskilled) labour. The ability to supply skilled labour is bounded by the stock of human capital, which explicitly relates the choice of education to the supply of labour². However, although the stock of human capital is controlled by the consumers, through their choice of education, it is also a production

¹Human capital accumulation in a model with endogenous labour supply has previously been studied by Blinder & Weiss (1976), where the primary focus is on consumer behaviour in a decentralized economy.

²This approach to describe the incentive to spend time in education is similar to the assumptions made by Grossman & Helpman (1991, p. 123), who also make a distinction between skilled and unskilled labour. As Grossman & Helpman do not include leisure time in the utility function, educational investments will be chosen such as to maximize the present value of lifetime income.

factor from the point of view of firms, which means that human capital accumulation gives rise to an external effect.

The paper is organized as follows. We start by presenting a command optimum, i.e. the solution to the central planner's optimization problem, where the external economies due to human capital accumulation are internalized. It is shown that the Hamiltonian along the optimal trajectory, which may be thought of as an augmented NNP measure, is the appropriate welfare indicator in this case. The command optimum may, therefore, be used as a reference case, with which we can compare the solution in the decentralized economy. The decentralized economy will not, by itself, result in the command optimum, because consumers, who are only concerned with their own utility, do not accumulate enough human capital. If the externality is not internalized, the augmented NNP measure will underestimate the welfare level in the decentralized economy. The final concern of the paper is, therefore, how the command optimum may also be reached in the decentralized economy by designing the tax – transfer system in an optimal way.

2. The Ramsey Growth Model With Human Capital

Command Optimum

In each interval of time, $(t, t+dt)$, the consumer's utility is assumed to be a function of the consumption of goods and leisure according to $u(c, z) = u(c, T - \ell_1 - \ell_2 - x)$, where c is the consumption of a composite commodity and z is leisure. Leisure is, in turn, defined as an infinitesimal time endowment, T , less time spent in market work, ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 , and time spent in education, x . We may think of ℓ_1 as "unskilled" labour and ℓ_2 as "skilled" labour, which will be clear below. The production function of firms is represented by $f(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h)$, where k is the ordinary capital stock, h is the stock of human capital, while $a(h)$ is a function such that $a(0)=1$ and $a'(h)>0$. Therefore, in addition to being a separate

argument in the production function, h will also affect the marginal product of skilled labour. The stock of human capital is assumed to accumulate according to the equation $dh/dt = g(x) - \gamma h$, where $g(x)$ is such that $g'(x) > 0$, while γ is the rate of depreciation.

Formally, the central planner's optimization problem is assumed to take the form:

$$\text{Max}_{c, \ell_1, \ell_2, x} \int_0^{\infty} u(c(t), T - \ell_1(t), -\ell_2(t) - x(t)) e^{-\theta t} dt \quad (1)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad dk(t)/dt = f(k(t), \ell_1(t) + a(h(t))\ell_2(t), h(t)) - c(t) \quad (2a)$$

$$dh(t)/dt = g(x(t)) - \gamma h(t) \quad (2b)$$

$$0 \leq \ell_1(t) \quad (2c)$$

$$0 \leq \ell_2(t) \leq \bar{\ell}_2(h(t)) \quad (2d)$$

$$0 \leq x(t) \quad (2e)$$

$$k(0) = k_0 \quad (2f)$$

$$h(0) = h_0 \quad (2g)$$

where the twice continuously differentiable functions $u(\cdot)$ and $f(\cdot)$ are, as usual, increasing and strictly concave, and θ is the rate of time preference. As can be seen, the incentive to spend time in education follows, in this model, from the assumption that the stock of human capital affects the marginal productivity of skilled labour and, according to (2d), that the ability to supply skilled labour is bounded by the stock of human capital. The function $\bar{\ell}_2(h)$ in (2d) is assumed to be such that $\bar{\ell}_2(0) = 0$ and $\bar{\ell}_2'(h) > 0$. In addition to (2a)–(2g), we also require that $c \geq 0$ and $z = T - \ell_1 - \ell_2 - x \geq 0$, but we will throughout the analysis assume that neither of these two constraints are binding. If we, for notational convenience, neglect the time indicator, t , the (current value) Lagrangean is written:

$$L = u(c, T - \ell_1 - \ell_2 - x) + \lambda [f(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) - c] + \mu [g(x) - \gamma h] + \nu [\bar{\ell}_2(h) - \ell_2]. \quad (3)$$

Here, λ is the marginal value in utility terms of capital, k , while μ is the marginal value in utility terms of human capital. In addition to the transversality conditions and to (2a), (2b), (2c), (2d) and (2e), the necessary conditions are:

$$\partial L / \partial c = u_c(c, z) - \lambda = 0 \quad (4a)$$

$$\partial L / \partial \ell_1 = -u_z(c, z) + \lambda f_\ell(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial \ell_1)\ell_1 = 0 \quad (4b)$$

$$\partial L / \partial \ell_2 = -u_z(c, z) + \lambda a(h)f_\ell(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) - \nu \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial \ell_2)\ell_2 = 0 \quad (4c)$$

$$\partial L / \partial x = -u_z(c, z) + \mu g'(x) \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial x)x = 0 \quad (4d)$$

$$d\lambda / dt = \lambda\theta - \lambda f_k(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) \quad (4e)$$

$$d\mu / dt = \mu(\theta + \gamma) - \lambda df(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) / dh - \nu \bar{\ell}_2'(h) \quad (4f)$$

$$\nu \geq 0 \text{ (=0 if } \bar{\ell}_2(h) > \ell_2) \quad (4g)$$

where $u_c(\cdot) = \partial u(\cdot) / \partial c$, $u_z(\cdot) = \partial u(\cdot) / \partial z$, $f_\ell(\cdot) = \partial f(\cdot) / \partial (\ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2)$, $f_k(\cdot) = \partial f(\cdot) / \partial k$, $f_h(\cdot) = \partial f(\cdot) / \partial h$ and $df(\cdot) / dh = a'(h)\ell_2 f_\ell(\cdot) + f_h$.

Although we will only focus attention on cases where $\ell_2 > 0$ and $x > 0$, there are two distinct regimes concerning the labour supply behaviour. First, if $\ell_2 \in (0, \bar{\ell}_2(h))$, the first part of (4c) will hold as a strict equality (i.e. $\partial L / \partial \ell_2 = 0$), while at the same time $\nu = 0$. In this case, the utility value of education, $\mu g'(x)$, will equal the return in utility terms of skilled labour, $\lambda a(h)f_\ell(\cdot)$. Moreover, as the first part of (4b) will hold as a strict inequality in this case, it turns out that $\ell_1 = 0$. On the other hand, if $\ell_2 = \bar{\ell}_2(h)$, which implies that $\nu > 0$, the consumer will wish to substitute x for ℓ_2 , although such a substitution is not possible. In this case, there may also be a positive supply of unskilled labour, i.e. $\ell_1 > 0$. Therefore, the consumer will choose $\ell_1 > 0$ only if $\ell_2 = \bar{\ell}_2(h)$, as education in this case will not pay off in terms of returns on skilled labour. In other words, $\ell_2 = \bar{\ell}_2(h)$ implies that the return in utility terms of skilled labour, $\lambda a(h)f_\ell(\cdot)$, exceeds the utility value of education, $\mu g'(x)$. In the latter case, the consumer may be better off by substituting x for ℓ_1 .

What would be the appropriate measure of welfare in this economy? Let us denote the optimal path of the economy by $c^*(t)$, $\ell_1^*(t)$, $\ell_2^*(t)$, $x^*(t)$, $k^*(t)$, $h^*(t)$, $\lambda^*(t)$, $\mu^*(t)$ and $\nu^*(t)$. Along the optimal path, the Lagrangean is written:

$$L^* = u(c^*, T - \ell_1^* - \ell_2^* - x^*) + \lambda^* [(k^* \ell_1^* + a(h^*) \ell_2^* h^*) - c^*] + \mu^* [g(x^*) - \gamma h^*] + \nu^* [\bar{\ell}_2(h^*) - \ell_2^*] \quad (5)$$

By differentiating (5) totally with respect to time and rearrange we obtain:

$$dL^*/dt = \theta [L^* - u(c^*, T - \ell_1^* - \ell_2^* - x^*)], \quad (6)$$

which has a solution of the form:

$$\theta \int_t^{\infty} u(c^*(s), T - \ell_1^*(s) - \ell_2^*(s) - x^*(s)) e^{-\theta(s-t)} ds = L^*(t) = u(c^*(t), T - \ell_1^*(t) - \ell_2^*(t) - x^*(t)) + \lambda^*(t) dk^*(t)/dt + \mu^*(t) dh^*(t)/dt = H^*(t) \quad (7)$$

where $H^*(t)$ is the Hamiltonian along the optimal path. Equation (7) means that welfare, here measured as the interest on the present value of future utility, equals the Lagrangean (or Hamiltonian) along the optimal path. The latter may be thought of as an augmented NNP measure, as the welfare at time t is measured solely by variables observed at time t .

The Decentralized Economy

In the decentralized economy, firms maximize profit at each instant of time by solving the optimization problem:

$$\text{Max}_{k, \ell_1, \ell_2} \pi = f(k, \ell_1 + a(h) \ell_2, h) - rk - w_1 \ell_1 - w_2 \ell_2 \quad (8)$$

where r is the interest rate, w_1 is the wage rate paid to unskilled labour and w_2 is the wage rate paid to skilled labour. The first-order conditions for profit maximization are:

$$f_k(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) - r = 0 \quad (9a)$$

$$f_{\ell_1}(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) - w_1 = 0 \quad (9b)$$

$$a(h)f_{\ell_2}(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) - w_2 = 0 \quad (9c)$$

Turning to consumer behaviour in the decentralized economy, the utility maximization problem is written (if we neglect the time indicator):

$$\text{Max}_{c, \ell_1, \ell_2, x} \int_0^{\infty} u(c, T - \ell_1 - \ell_2 - x) e^{-\theta t} dt \quad (10)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad dk/dt = \pi + rk + w_1\ell_1 + w_2\ell_2 - c \quad (11a)$$

$$dh/dt = g(x) - \gamma h \quad (11b)$$

$$0 \leq \ell_1 \quad (11c)$$

$$0 \leq \ell_2 \leq \bar{\ell}_2(h) \quad (11d)$$

$$0 \leq x \quad (11e)$$

$$k(0) = k_0 \quad (11f)$$

$$h(0) = h_0 \quad (11g)$$

where the income of the consumer is the sum of labour income, $w_1\ell_1 + w_2\ell_2$, capital income, rk , and possible pure profit, π (as the consumer is assumed to own the firm). The constraints represented by (11b)–(11g) coincide with (2b)–(2g) in the central planner's optimization problem. Since the consumer takes account of the fact that his/her accumulation of human capital affects the return on skilled labour, i.e. $w_2 = a(h)w_1$, the Lagrangean might be written as:

$$L = u(c, T - \ell_1 - \ell_2 - x) + \psi[\pi + rk + w_1 \ell_1 + a(h)w_1 \ell_2 - c] + \phi[g(x) - \gamma h] + \eta[\bar{\ell}_2(h) - \ell_2] \quad (12)$$

where η is the Lagrange multiplier, and ψ and ϕ are costate variables, i.e. ψ measures the value in utility terms of a one unit increase in k , while ϕ measures the value in utility terms of a one unit increase in h . In addition to the transversality conditions and to (11a), (11b), (11c), (11d) and (11e), the necessary conditions read:

$$\partial L / \partial c = u_c(c, z) - \psi = 0 \quad (13a)$$

$$\partial L / \partial \ell_1 = -u_z(c, z) + \psi w_1 \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial \ell_1) \ell_1 = 0 \quad (13b)$$

$$\partial L / \partial \ell_2 = -u_z(c, z) + \psi a(h)w_1 - \eta \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial \ell_2) \ell_2 = 0 \quad (13c)$$

$$\partial L / \partial x = -u_z(c, z) + \phi g'(x) \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L / \partial x)x = 0 \quad (13d)$$

$$d\psi/dt = \psi(\theta - r) \quad (13e)$$

$$d\phi/dt = \phi(\theta + \gamma) - \psi a'(h)w_1 \ell_2 - \eta \bar{\ell}_2'(h) \quad (13f)$$

$$\eta \geq 0 \text{ (=0 if } \bar{\ell}_2(h) > \ell_2) \quad (13g)$$

If we replace w_1 , and r in (13b), (13c) and (13e) by $f_k(\cdot)$ and $f_k(\cdot)$, respectively, from the first-order conditions for the firm, we see that the difference between the decentralized solution and the command optimum has to do with the marginal valuation of the stock of human capital. To be specific, the differential equation for ϕ in (13f) differs from the differential equation for μ in (4f), as (13f) does not contain the term $f_h = \partial f(\cdot) / \partial h$. The reason is, of course, that the consumer in the decentralized economy does not take account of the fact that the stock of human capital also appears as a separate argument in the firm's production function. As a consequence, the consumer will spend less time in education and, hence, accumulate less human capital than what is socially optimal. This also means that, as the source of the externality is the appearance of h as a separate argument in the production function, a production function of the type $f(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2)$ implies that the decentralized solution coincides with the command optimum. In the latter

case, human capital accumulation gives rise to what is usually referred to as "Harrod – neutral" technological progress, which Razin (1972) has shown to be a both necessary and sufficient condition for the perfect foresight market economy to represent a social optimum.

To measure welfare in the decentralized economy, let $c^0(t)$, $\ell_1^0(t)$, $\ell_2^0(t)$, $x^0(t)$, $k^0(t)$, $h^0(t)$, $\psi^0(t)$, $\phi^0(t)$ and $\eta^0(t)$ denote the general equilibrium solution. Along the optimal path, the Lagrangean is written:

$$\begin{aligned} L^0 = & u(c^0, T - \ell_1^0 - \ell_2^0 - x^0) + \psi^0 [f(k^0, \ell_1^0 + a(h^0)\ell_2^0, h^0) - c^0] + \phi^0 [g(x^0) - \gamma h^0] \\ & + \eta^0 [\ell_2(h^0) - \ell_2^0] \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

If we differentiate (14) totally with respect to time and rearrange, we obtain the differential equation:

$$dL^0/dt = \theta [L^0 - u(c^0, T - \ell_1^0 - \ell_2^0 - x^0)] + \psi^0 f_h(k, \ell_1 + a(h)\ell_2, h) \frac{dh^0}{dt} \quad (15)$$

which has a solution corresponding to:

$$\theta \int_t^{\infty} u(c^0(s), z^0(s)) e^{-\theta(s-t)} ds = L^0(t) + \int_t^{\infty} \psi^0(s) f_h(s) \frac{dh^0(s)}{dt} e^{-\theta(s-t)} ds \quad (16)$$

where $z^0 = T - \ell_1^0 - \ell_2^0 - x^0$. In equation (16), the second term on the right hand side should be interpreted as the present value of the marginal external effect along the optimal path. In this case, when the external effect is not properly internalized, it is evident that the Lagrangean does not measure welfare appropriately. It is also notable that the welfare level given by (16) is smaller in comparison with the command optimum, which represents the first best solution. A natural question is, therefore, whether we can construct a tax – transfer system such that the command optimum is also attainable in the decentralized

economy. This is indeed possible and the argument goes as follows. There is an extra gain, $\partial f(\cdot)/\partial h = f_h(\cdot) > 0$, from the stock of human capital, which is not internalized in the consumer's investment decision, i.e. $f_h(\cdot)$ does not affect the costate variable ϕ corresponding to human capital in the decentralized economy. By taxing the firm for its use of human capital at a rate $f_h(\cdot)$, and then redistributing the tax revenues to the consumer, investments in human capital will be valued correctly from society's point of view. Therefore, the best way to think about the tax is, perhaps, in terms of a subsidy from the firm to the consumer. The optimal tax structure is formally described in Proposition 1.

PROPOSITION 1: If the firm's use of human capital in production is taxed at a rate $p_h = f_h(k^*, \ell_1^* + a(h^*)\ell_2^*, h^*)$, and if the tax revenue, $p_h h$, is redistributed to the consumer, the decentralized solution will represent a command optimum.

PROOF: Note that if the consumer receives a transfer payment of $p_h h$, the necessary conditions in (13a)–(13g) will change to:

$$\partial L/\partial c = u_c(c, z) - \psi = 0 \quad (17a)$$

$$\partial L/\partial \ell_1 = -u_z(c, z) + \psi w_1 \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L/\partial \ell_1)\ell_1 = 0 \quad (17b)$$

$$\partial L/\partial \ell_2 = -u_z(c, z) + \psi a(h)w_1 - \eta \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L/\partial \ell_2)\ell_2 = 0 \quad (17c)$$

$$\partial L/\partial x = -u_x(c, z) + \phi g'(x) \leq 0, \text{ and } (\partial L/\partial x)x = 0 \quad (17d)$$

$$d\psi/dt = \psi(\theta - r) \quad (17e)$$

$$d\phi/dt = \phi(\theta + \gamma) - \psi(a'(h)w_1\ell_2 + p_h) - \eta\bar{\ell}_2'(h) \quad (17f)$$

$$\eta \geq 0 \text{ (=0 if } \bar{\ell}_2(h) > \ell_2). \quad (17g)$$

Using equations (17) together with the first-order conditions for firm behaviour, which are given by $f_k(\cdot) = r$, $f_\ell(\cdot) = w_1$, $a(h)f_\ell(\cdot) = w_2$ and (as a consequence of the tax) $f_h(\cdot) = p_h$, we see that the necessary conditions in the decentralized economy will coincide with those of the command optimum, Q.E.D.

The reader should note that, as the tax rate, p_h , varies over time according to the development of $f_h(\cdot)$, the government has to determine the command optimum in order to impose the appropriate tax – transfer structure. Therefore, although there exists an optimal tax structure such that the market economy results in the socially optimal solution, the informational requirements are (at the very least) demanding. Another interesting observation is that the consumer receives a stock subsidy, i.e. the subsidy is directed to the stock of human capital, and not to the consumer's decision to spend time in education (which leads to accumulation of human capital). An alternative policy may, therefore, seem to be to subsidize education. However, as will be discussed below, such a subsidization scheme would not bring the economy to a social optimum.

To see this, suppose, for the moment, that we replace the policy suggested in Proposition 1 with a subsidy directed to the time the consumer spends in education. If the consumer receives a transfer payment of $p_x x$, where p_x is a subsidy per unit of education, (13d) will change to $u_z(\cdot) + \psi p_x + \phi g'(x) \leq 0$ (if we ignore the complementary slackness condition), while the equation for the development over time of ϕ will remain as in (13f). Hence, if the subsidy is directed to the time spent in education, it is not possible to choose a subsidy per unit of education, p_x , such that the decentralized economy replicates the command optimum. The reason is that the consumer's valuation of the stock of human capital is incorrect in the decentralized economy, and a subsidy directed to education will not eliminate this problem. In other words, as the differential equation for ϕ remains different from the differential equation for μ , which is given by (4f), ϕ is not the social value of a one unit increase in the stock of human capital. Therefore, in order to construct a tax – transfer system such that the decentralized economy becomes efficient, it is necessary to use a stock subsidy in order to make the consumer value the stock of human capital appropriately.

3. Summary and Conclusions

This paper concerns welfare measurement in a model with externalities due to human capital. As in previous studies of optimal growth, we assume that the accumulation of human capital depends on the time consumers spend in education. Education and human capital accumulation are also related to the labour supply decision made by the consumer. To be specific, the paper considers two types of labour, skilled and unskilled labour, where the stock of human capital affects the marginal productivity of skilled (but not unskilled) labour. The ability to supply skilled labour is bounded by the stock of human capital. However, the stock of human capital also appears as a separate argument in the production function of firms, which means that human capital accumulation leads to a production externality.

In the socially optimal solution, where the externality is properly accounted for, welfare (in terms of the interest on the present value of future utility) is measured by the Hamiltonian along the optimal trajectory, which may be thought of as an augmented NNP measure. The latter result is interesting from the point of view of national accounting, as it implies that welfare can be measured solely by observable variables. On the other hand, the decentralized economy will not, by itself, result in a command optimum. The reason is that, as the consumer is only concerned with his/her own utility, he/she does not take account of the fact that the stock of human capital is a production factor from the point of view of the firm. Hence, the external effect has to do with the fact that the consumer's valuation of the stock of human capital is incorrect from society's point of view, which here means that the consumer will spend less time in education and accumulate less human capital than is socially optimal. When the external effect is not accounted for in the optimization problem, we also find that the Hamiltonian along the resulting (suboptimal) trajectory underestimates welfare by an amount equal to the present value of the marginal external effect. As a final concern of the paper, we determine an optimal tax-transfer

structure, such that the decentralized economy results in the first best optimum. The suggested policy rule means essentially that the firm pays a tax for its use of human capital, and that the resulting tax revenues are redistributed as a stock subsidy to the consumer. As this policy rule implies that the consumer will value human capital in the same way as society, the external effect will be fully internalized.

References

- Aronsson, T. & Löfgren, K–G. (1992) Welfare Consequences of Technological and Environmental Externalities in the Ramsey Growth Model. Forthcoming in *Natural Resource Modeling*.
- Aronsson, T. & Löfgren, K–G. (1993) *The Measurement of Economic Welfare in the Presence of Externalities*. Umeå Economic Studies no 299.
- Blinder, A.S. & Weiss, Y. (1976) Human Capital and Labor Supply: A Synthesis. *Journal of Political Economy* 84, 449–472.
- Dasgupta, P. & Mäler, K–G. (1991) *The Environment and Emerging Developing Issues*. Beijer Reprint Series no 1, The Royal Swedish Academy of Science.
- Grossman, G.M. & Helpman, E. (1991) *Innovation and Growth in the Global Economy*. MIT Press.
- Hartwick, J. (1990) Natural Resources, National Accounting and Economic Depreciation. *Journal of Public Economics* 43, 291–304.
- Lucas, Jr, R.E. (1988) On the Mechanics of Economic Development. *Journal of Monetary Economics* 22, 3–42.
- Löfgren, K–G. (1992) Comments on C.R. Hulten, Accounting for the Wealth of Nations: The Net Versus Gross Output Controversy and its Ramifications. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 94 supplement, 25–28.
- Mäler, K–G. (1991) National Accounts and Environmental Resources. *Environmental and Resource Economics* 1, 1–15.
- Razin, A. (1972) Optimum Investment in Human Capital. *Review of Economic Studies* 39, 455–460.
- Stokey, N.L. (1991) Human Capital, Product Quality and Growth. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 106, 587–616.
- Sörensen, P.B. (1992) *Human Capital Investment, Government and Endogenous Growth*. Working paper no 6, Center for Economic Studies, Munich.
- Weitzman, M.L. (1976) On the Welfare Significance of National Product in a Dynamic Economy. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 90, 156–162.

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (ETLA)
THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY
LÖNNROTINKATU 4 B, SF-00120 HELSINKI

Puh./Tel. (90) 609 900
Int. 358-0-609 900

Telefax (90) 601 753
Int. 358-0-601 753

KESKUSTELUAIHEITA - DISCUSSION PAPERS ISSN 0781-6847

- No 407 OLAVI RANTALA, Luottotappioriskin hinnoittelu. 01.06.1992. 30 s.
- No 408 MARKKU KOTILAINEN, Euroopan raha- ja talousunioni ja Suomi. (The European Economic and Monetary Union and Finland). 25.06.1992. 31 s.
- No 409 RISTO MURTO - TEEMU VÄÄNÄNEN, Linear and Nonlinear Dependence in the Finnish Forward Rate Agreement Markets. 03.08.1992. 29 p.
- No 410 MARKKU LAMMI, An Imperfect Competition Model in an Industry with Differentiated Domestic and Foreign Products. 24.08.1992. 11 p.
- No 411 RISTO MURTO, Korkorakennemallien käyttö korkoriskin arvioinnissa ja hallinnassa. 28.08.1992. 41 s.
- No 412 MIKA MALIRANTA, Paperiteollisuuden palkat ja tehdasteollisuuden palkkarakenne. 28.08.1992. 37 s.
- No 413 SYNNOVE VUORI - PEKKA YLÄ-ANTTILA, Industrial Transformation in Finland - From Factor Driven to Technology-Based Growth. 15.09.1992. 37 p.
- No 414 RITA ASPLUND, Occupational Earnings Differentials in Finland - Empirical Evidence from a Cross Section of Individuals. 16.09.1992. 51 p.
- No 415 JUHA KETTUNEN, Increasing Incentives for Reemployment. 16.09.1992. 30 p.
- No 416 TIMO MYLLYNTAUS, Technology Transfer and the Contextual Filter in the Finnish Setting. Transfer Channels and Mechanisms in an Historical Perspective. 18.09.1992. 52 p.
- No 417 RITA ASPLUND (Ed.), Human Capital Creation in an Economic Perspective. 12.10.1992.
- No 418 V. BUSHENKOV - V. KAITALA - A. LOTOV - M. POHJOLA, Decision and Negotiation Support for Transboundary Air Pollution Control between Finland, Russia and Estonia. 15.10.1992. 25 p.
- No 419 HARRI LUUKKANEN, Helsingin palvelualan yritykset: Suljettu sektori murroksessa; esitutkimus. 07.10.1992. 93 s.

- No 420 JUHA JUNTTILA, Kotitalouksien pankkitalletusten kysyntä Suomen vapautuneilla rahoitusmarkkinoilla. 10.11.1992. 93 s.
- No 421 PETER SJÖBLOM, ETLAs databastjänst och dess marknad. 01.12.1992. 97 s.
- No 422 PASI AHDE - TEET RAJASALU (eds.), On the Economic Structure of Estonia and Finland before the 1990's. 01.12.1992. 101 s.
- No 423 PER HEUM - PEKKA YLÄ-ANTTILA, Firm Dynamics in a Nordic Perspective - Large Corporations and Industrial Transformation. 15.12.1992. 81 p.
- No 424 MARKKU RAHIALA - TAPANI KOVALAINEN, Wage Formation in Finland in the 1980's; An Econometric Study. 17.12.1992. 41 p.
- No 425 JUHA KETTUNEN - REIJO MARJANEN, Suomen työnantajain keskusliiton palkkatilastot: Syntymistoria, sisältö ja käyttötarkoitus. 17.12.1992. 42 s.
- No 426 PETRI ROUVINEN, Data-guide to OECD Exports. 15.01.1993. 75 p.
- No 427 RITA ASPLUND, Private- and Public-Sector Earnings Structures in Finland. 25.01.1993. 72 p.
- No 428 RITA ASPLUND, Human Capital and Industry Wage Differentials in Finland. 25.01.1993. 94 p.
- No 429 KARI ALHO, Growth, the Environment and Environmental Aid in the International Economy. 26.01.1993. 36 p.
- No 430 OLAVI LEHTORANTA, Technology Diffusion and Lifetimes of Paper Machines, Posing the Question and Description of the Data. 10.02.1993. 30 p.
- No 431 JUHA KETTUNEN - JUHANA VARTIAINEN, Suomen teollisuuden työntekijöiden palkkarakenne. 15.02.1993. 35 s.
- No 432 KARI ALHO, Terms-of-Trade Booms, Sectoral Adjustment and Fiscal Policy in a Small Open Economy. 18.02.1993. 27 p.
- No 433 MIKA WIDGRÉN, Voting Power in Trade Policy and Social Regulation of an Expanded EC: A Partial Homogeneity Approach. 04.03.1993. 21 p.
- No 434 THOMAS ARONSSON - KARL-GUSTAF LÖFGREN, Human Capital, Externalities, Growth and Welfare Measurement. 16.04.1993. 15 p.

Elinkeinoelämän Tutkimuslaitoksen julkaisemat "Keskusteluaiheet" ovat raportteja alustavista tutkimustuloksista ja väliraportteja tekeillä olevista tutkimuksista. Tässä sarjassa julkaistuja monisteita on rajoitetusti saatavissa ETLAn kirjastosta tai ao. tutkijalta.

Papers in this series are reports on preliminary research results and on studies in progress; they can be obtained, on request, by the author's permission.

E:\sekal\DPjulk.chp/16.04.1993