



Short Research Communication

Critical review of economics definitions regarding world: A case study of Khyber Pukhthunkhwa-Pakistan

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The present study was conducted in Khyber Pakhthunkhwa Province of Pakistan. The main objective was to critically examine the definitions of economics from different eras in relation to a research study and to propose a new definition. For this, four definitions of economics by well-known economists were selected. For practical proofs, five districts of the province i.e.; Mardan, Peshawar, Sawat, Banu and Kohat were randomly selected. From each district, 80 respondents were randomly selected thus reaching a sample size of 400 respondents. A total of six components of the universe i.e.; industry, nosing, greenery, water pool, market, and sun rays were taken into account with its relation to human health. Data were collected through a pre-tested questionnaire and the respondents were asked to show their opinions regarding the effects of these variables on human beings. The study is mainly descriptive in nature. The selected definitions of economics were critically reviewed in the light of main findings of the research study. It was found that all the six variables i.e.; industry, noise, greenery, water pool, market, and sun rays are associated with human beings. These variables affect human beings either positively or negatively depending on the situation and their monetary value can be estimated. From the critical review of definitions of economics, it was also found that all the definitions were linked with universe and human beings. So the study of universe in relation with human beings comes under the domain of economics. The author developed a new definition of economics on the basis of this study which is recommended for future implementation to educational institution of the world. "Anything which is associated with human beings having positive and negative effects and measured in monetary terms is called economics".

Key words: Critical review, economics definitions, world.

INTRODUCTION

Economics has been defined by different economists in different ways, while the definition is not cleared and still confused. Economics may appear to be the study of complicated tables and charts, statistics and numbers, but, more in particular, it is the study of what constitutes rational human behavior in the endeavor, to fulfill needs and wants. As an individual, for example, it faces the dilemma of having only limited resources with which to fulfill your wants and needs, as a result, you must make

definite choices with your money. All probably spend part of their money on rent, electricity and food. Then you might use the rest to go to the movies and/or buy a new pair of jeans. Economists are paying attention in the choices you make, and inquire into why, for instance, you might choose to spend your money on a new DVD player instead of replacing your old TV. They would want to know whether you would still buy a carton of cigarettes if prices increased by \$2 per pack. The underlying essence of economics is

trying to understand how both individuals and nations behave in response to certain material constraints. To learn how economic factors are used in currency trading. We can say, therefore, that economics, often referred to as the "dismal sciences", is a study of certain aspects of society. The father of modern economics and author of the famous book "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations", spawned the discipline of economics by trying to understand why some nations prospered while others lagged behind in poverty. Others after him also explored how a nation's allocation of resources affects its wealth. To study these things, economics makes the assumption that human beings will aim to fulfill their self-interests. It also assumes that individuals are rational in their efforts to fulfill their unlimited wants and needs. Economics, therefore, is a social science, which examines people behaving according to their self interests (Adam Smith (1723 – 1790).

The definition set out at the turn of the twentieth century by Alfred Marshall, "The Principles of Economics" (1890), reflects the complexity underlying economics: "Thus it is on one side the study of wealth; and on the other, and more important side, a part of the study of man welfare of man and material society."

Economics is about goods and services; their choice, their production and their use. It is relevant to politics, the humanities and fine arts. It intrudes into almost every aspect of human life, small as well as grand. It affects what people eat, their education, the length of their life and its style. It is involved in the great issues of the world. From arms control and atoms to urban blight and welfare, there is an economics accounting of every social problem and every proposed solution (Richards, 1972).

Economics is the study of how people make their living and how they acquire the food, shelter, clothing, and other material necessities and comforts of this world. It is a study of the problems they encounter, and of the ways in which these problems can be reduced (Paul and Ronald, 1979).

Economics is the study of those activities that involve production and exchange among people. Economics analyze movements in the overall economy, trends in prices and output and unemployment. Once such phenomena are understood then economics helps in policies by which government affect the overall economy. Economics is the science of choices. It studies how people choose to use scarce or limited productive resources (land, labor, equipment, technical knowledge). To produce various commodities such as wheat, beef, overcoat, roads, missiles and distribute these goods to various member of society for their consumption. Economics is the study of how human beings go about the business of organizing consumption and production activities. Economics is the study of money, interest rates, capital and wealth. Economics is the study of how people and society choose to employ the scarce resources that could have alternatives uses in order to produce various commodities and to distribute them for consumption, now or in the future, among various persons and groups in society (Paul and William D. 1985).

As a social science economics is concerned with the behavior of individuals and institutions engaged in the production, exchange, and consumption of goods and services (Connel and Campbell, 1987).

Economics is the study mechanism and institution for the creation and control of individuals and social opportunities involving scarce resources (Denza, 1992).

Economics is the way people make their living or it is the study of how society copes with the problems of scarcity in human life. In this sense, economics is as old as human race. All societies ; primitive or modern, and all individuals; young or old, male or female, white or black, speaking any language and living anywhere on the globe, have to take part in some activity to fulfill their material needs. Even the very first human couple on earth was not free from economic problem. They had to work and make efforts to provide for food, shelter and other basic human wants. These all such efforts is called economics (Vasser, 2005).

According to modern economist the scientific study of efficiency and growth is called economics (Nasir, 2007). The major objectives of the study were critical observation of the past definitions of economics and discoveries of new one on the bases of verified observations.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This section highlights the methodology used for analyzing the problem under study. Four definitions of well-known economists i.e.; Adam Smith, Marshal, Robins and modern economists' were critically analyzed in relation to a research study conducted in the five districts of Kyhber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. The five districts were i.e.; Mardan, Peshawar, Kohat, Sawat, Banu randomly selected. From each district, 80 respondents were randomly selected thus reaching a sample size of 400 respondents. Data were collected through a pre-tested questionnaire. The study is mainly descriptive in nature(Figure 1).

The theoretical framework of the study was that:

Dependent Variables= Human Beings

Independent Variables= Industries, Noising, Greenery, Water pools, Market and Sun rays,

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to Adam Smith the study of wealth is called economics, while Marshall told that the material welfare of society is deliberated as economics, however Robins explained that the resources are scarce, thus how to utilize these scarce resources to satisfy the unlimited wants is called economics. But the modern economist defined economics in a different way that "the scientific study of efficiency and growth is called economics". These all definitions of economics reflected one main point which is that they are linked with the human beings and without human beings all these definitions are invaluable and

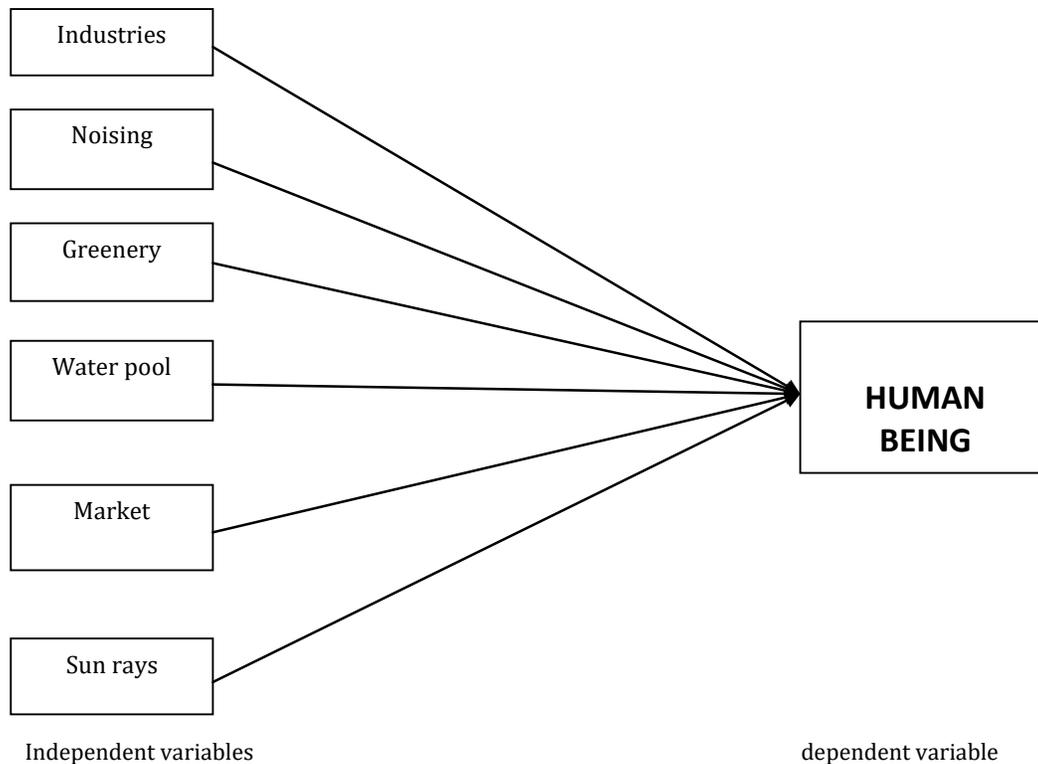


Figure 1: theoretical frame work

Table 1. Effects of Different Variables/Components of the Universe on Human Health in the Study Area

Variables	Yes	No	Total
Industry	392(98)	8(2)	400
Noising	376(94)	24(6)	400
Greenery	388(97)	12(3)	400
Water Pool	368(92)	32(8)	400
Market	360(90)	40(10)	400
Sun rays	400(100)	--	400

Note: figures in the parenthesis are percentages

useless. It further reflects that the universe is linked with human health. The universe also produces positive or negative impact on human health in the shape of benefits and problems. The results presented in table supported these facts that any activity in the universe may resulted in some effect on human health, which could be beneficial or negative thus the study of universe with its link to human health is called economics. The universe is comprised of several components like sunrays, greenery ect. And the monitory value of these components can be estimated and interpreted with its positive or negative effect on human health. For example in the present study two major components as mentioned earlier i.e.; the sunrays and greenery have been taken into account to estimate their monitory value with respect to human health. The area

which is geographically more exposed to sun will receive more sun rays and thus heat, so the heat variation between the geographical areas will be different. The heat variations in these areas further affect crop production etc. and thus the human growth and health status will be also different for both the areas and thus monitory value estimation of the sunrays became possible. Similarly in case of greenery the human health is also affected. In an area where the greenery is more, the supply of oxygen will be more and thus the respiratory diseases will be low and human health status will be good.

Table 1 reveals the results about the effects of different variables/ components of the universe on human health in the study area. A total of six components of the universe i.e.; industry, nosing, greenery, water pool, market and sunrays

were taken into account with its relation to human health. The respondents were asked to show their opinions regarding the effects of these variables on human health. According to the table 98 percent respondents were of view that industries had some effects on human health which may be positive or negative. The positive effects of industries on humans are provision of job opportunities thus increasing the income level and reducing poverty of the people. The negative effects of industries included air pollution which had been damaged the ozone layer and causing health problems in the shape of cancer. The industries also creating the problem of water pollution as the solid wastes of industries were flowed into the water streams and thus causing water borne diseases. Recently, climate change the burning global issue can also be seen as the outcome of industry affect or impact. In the current study a few respondents were not aware about the effects of industry on human health, while large majority were known with its linkage to humans.

In case of the second variable noising, 94 percent respondents recorded their opinion that the variable was also linked with humans in the shape of positive or negative effects. Only 6 percent respondents were not aware about its effects on humans. Noising make the environment unfavorable and damage the nerves of the human body which latter on create the problem of blood pressure and mental torture thus revolve around the human being. Noising is also an energy which makes the environment warm, affect crops and human being growth positively and negatively depending on the situation.

In regard to greenery, 97 percent respondents told that greenery have some effect on human health while 3 percent were not aware about its effects. Greenery provides oxygen to living organism and cleans the airs which directly affects the health of the human being positively and provide satisfaction to human being by making the environment favorable. So, greenery is the variable which also affects the human being activity positively and can be measured in monitory term with respect to their effects as discussed earlier.

The fourth variable, water pool has also a linkage with humans by creating some positive or negative effects. According to the table, 92 percent respondents indicated their awareness level that water has some effect on human being while 8 percent were found to have no knowledge about the situation. Water in an area increases the moisture in the environment through evaporation resulting in increased humidity. This situation further affects human activity positively or negatively in different environments.

In regards to fifth variable market, 90 percent respondents told that market has effect on the human being positively and negatively while 10% have no knowledge about the situation. Market availability increase the production of agriculture and industries which provide jobs to people and increase the income level and alleviate poverty from the area and make the environment favorable and provide prosperity to the human while increase pollution in the nearest area which disturb the life of the

human being. So market is a variable which affect the life of the human being positively and negatively which is also measured in monitory term.

In case of sun rays effect on human health all the respondents were of the positive views that sun rays affect human health. Without sun rays survival on the earth is impossible because it plays pivotal role in photosynthesis which affect food for human population, so it has great importance for the whole universe particular for human beings. Geographically, some areas are more exposed to sunrays than others in the world resultant in hot and cold weathers which further affect human activities.

This study overall indicates that there is no variable in the universe which has no linkage with the human beings. All the variables in this study revolve around the human beings just like the definitions of economics. Thus this study, portraying a picture, that without human beings everything becomes invaluable and useless. So, economics is a subject which studies the components of universe in relation to humans. The components of the universe affect human beings positively or negatively and thus its study can be called economics.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The present study concluded that all the six variables i.e.; industry, noising, greenery, water pool, market and sun rays are associated with human beings. These variables affect human beings either positively or negatively depending on the situation and their monitory value can be estimated. From the critical review of definitions of economics, it is also concluded that all the definitions were linked with universe and human beings. So the study of universe in relation with human beings comes under the domain of economics. The author developed a new definition of economics which is recommended for future implementation to educational institution of the world. "Anything which is associated with human beings having positive and negative effects and measured in monitory terms is called economics".

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because of hard work he reached to final conclusion and developed a new definition of economics. "Anything which is associated with human beings having positive and negative effects and measured in monetary terms is called economics".

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