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劳动与经济增长

作者近照



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作者介绍

周天勇,1958年生于青海省民和县城一个支边家庭。1975年高中毕业后当过知识青年、公社干部。1980年考入辽宁财经学院基本建设经济系(现为东北财经大学投资经济系),1984年毕业获经济学学士学位,并留校任教,1987年任助理研究员,1989年考取东北财经大学工业经济专业博士研究生,1992年获得经济学博士学位。现为东北财经大学副研究员,《财经问题研究》编辑部副主任。

自1982年以来,周天勇在《经济研究》等刊物上发表了《适度劳动力人口容量与我国劳动力的就业转移》、《劳动行为不规范状况下的资本消耗型产出和增长》、《我国的短缺和通货膨胀究竟是怎样形成的?》和《高效稳定增长的根本出路在于增长模式的转轨》等160余篇论文。主编、副主编和合著了4部著作。本书是周天勇独立完成的第一部专著,较为系统地探讨了劳动与经济增长之间的关系,填补了国内在这方面研究的空白。

出版前言

为了全面地、系统地反映当代经济学的全貌及其进程,总结与挖掘当代经济学已有的和潜在的成果,展示当代经济学新的发展方向,我们决定出版“当代经济学系列丛书”。

“当代经济学系列丛书”是大型的、高层次的、综合性的经济学术理论丛书。它包括四个子系列:(1)当代经济学文库;(2)当代经济学译库;(3)当代经济学教学参考书系;(4)当代经济学新知文丛。该丛书在学科领域方面,不仅着眼于各传统经济学科的新成果,更注重经济前沿学科、边缘学科和综合学科的新成就;在选题的采择上,广泛联系海内外学者,努力开掘学术功力深厚、思想新颖独到、作品水平拔尖的“高、新、尖”著作。“文库”力求达到中国经济学界当前的最高水平;“译库”翻译当代经济学的名人名著;“教学参考书系”主要出版国外著名高等院校 80 年代后期 90 年代初期的通用教材;“新知文丛”则运用通俗易懂的语言,介绍国际上当代经济学

的最新发展。

本丛书致力于推动中国经济学的现代化和国际标准化,力图在一个不太长的时期内,从研究范围、研究内容、研究方法、分析技术等方面逐步完成中国经济学从传统向现代的转轨。我们渴望经济学家们支持我们的追求,向这套丛书提供高质量的标准经济学著作,进而为提高中国经济学的水平,使之立足于世界经济学之林而共同努力。

我们和经济学家一起瞻望着中国经济学的未来。

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ABSTRACT

LABOUR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic growth is the basis of economic development for some countries, then, how should we, with our given input, set the economic growth so as to realize the desired ends? From the point of view of economics, the heart of the problem is to search for where the bottlenecks are and by which means the bottlenecks may be decongested.

The dissertation that takes the form of the present book is an attempt to address the above problems. Included in the book are 8 chapters which in turn make up 4 parts.

In part I, or chapter 2 and 3, are the main contents: (1) the economic growth rate for the given objectives of economic development (the objectives are defined as a comfortable level of livelihood for Chinese in 2000 and a level comparable to that of the medium-advanced countries in terms of economic development in or around 2050); (2) the demands of natural resources, capital and labour for such economic growth;

and (3) promotions for and limitations on such economic growth rate by the domestic capital accumulation and the supply of natural resources and labour. Though domestic supply of labour resources relies mainly on the total population and its growth rate, it is necessary to take account of both output and demands for economic growth to make a conclusion of either surplus or shortage of labour resources for such growth. Hence, two questions must be clarified:

First, the quantitative relationships between demand of labour and many other variables, such as the economic growth (output growth and demand growth), productivity, the social demand on average for one labourer to be employed, investments and so on, must be theoretically deduced, and a series of economic models to embody the relationship between labour and growth must be set up. Second, the relationship must be clarified between the ways of domestic economic growth and the expansion of capacity for labour population.

In part I the author offers to present the

following arguments. Natural resources and capital accumulation are stiff constraints on the given growth rate of our domestic economy in future. Labour is abundant in our country, and indeed is one of important factors for economic growth, but at the same time, employment of labour is also a task or even a burden for economic growth. In terms of related industries and a dynamic and continuous process, the answer to solve the employment problem fundamentally lies in improving productivity.

Chapters 4 and 5 are included in part II, mainly concerned with analysing the relationship between labour behaviour and labour quality and output and economic growth. Since the scarce supply of the natural resources and the domestic capital accumulation are the bottlenecks that are difficult to be decongested and indeed are limitations on further economic growth, we should pay attention to various peculiarly Chinese conditions in which abundant labour resources must be used as adequately as possible for the future economic growth. Traditional economic theo-

ries, both Western and Eastern, all embody a general assumption; normal is the behaviour of labour who participate in the production process. In Chapter 4 is presented the coefficient of labour behaviour, which is used in the analysis of production function and growth model for the purpose of revealing the inactive substitution with capital for lower efficiency of labour, thereby defining the intrinsic mechanism by which China has realized the economic growth with a heavy input, swift rate and lower efficiency in the case of labour with anomalous behaviour. In addition, the reasons are also discussed in this chapter why the anomalous behaviour of labour and the inactive substitution with capital for lower efficiency of labour result in shortage and inflation in China.

The main contents in Chapter 5 are; the relations between the quality of labour and the variables of output and economic growth; the model of human capital formation and the relations between the quality of labour and human investment; the calculation of the sub-aggregate

of domestic human capital at different levels and the aggregate of human capital as a whole; the discussion of human capital performed in promoting Chinese economic growth.

In view of the fact that whether or not the allocation of labour is optimal has a important effect on economic growth, in part III, i. e. , Chapter 6, the author firstly discusses in theory the effect of labour allocation among sectors on economic growth and those of industrial allocation for economic growth on enlarging opportunities of employment. Secondly, he presents a concrete account of labour surplus in agriculture and a serious problem arising therefrom. In section 3 of the chapter the key points are on labour surplus under socialism due to the advance of organic composition of capital in the industrial sector, and section 4 deals with the conditions, objectives and focal factors concerning the development of the tertiary industry.

Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 make up part IV, containing mainly a discussion of labour resources, use of human capital and ways of its

allocation and organization.

Prior to approaching the subject matter in Chapter 7, a brief survey is made of the theories and practices that were previously opted for both to stimulate the behaviour of labour and to allocate the labour resources under traditional socialism. Secondly, the relations are analysed between the right to labour and the market structure of labour economy. Thirdly, the relationships are discussed between the real supply of labour in production process and other variables such as payment, competition and jobinsecurity. Moreover, two subjects are also included in Chapter 7; one is that what effect the return of human capital and the exchange of qualified labour have on the investment of human capital, efficiency of educated labour and allocation of specialists, and the other is that what relationship can be formed between the use of human resources and the variables of the property system and operation mechanism adopted by organisations hiring labour.

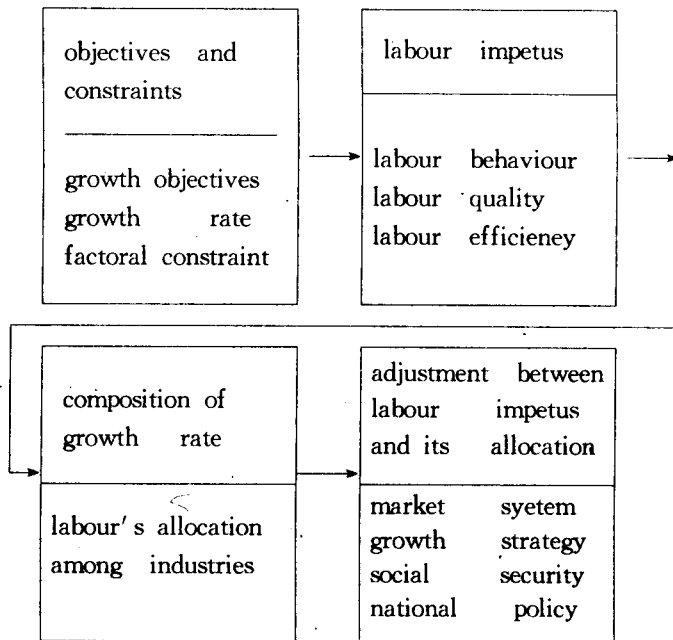
More specifically , discussed separately in

Chapter 7 are the variables of the use and allocation of human resources. Investment in human capital and quality of labour vary with such market forces and market system as the right to labour, payment, return of human capital, exchange of qualified labour, and corporate property together with its operation mechanism. Lastly, Chapter 7 comes up with a summary of the system of market and system of contract as well as some supplementary analysis.

Discussed in Chapter 8 are the guiding ideas of the nation for the use and allocation of labour, strategic approaches, welfare security and economic policies, which are divided into 3 sections: (1) the ways of economic growth and the concrete strategies for such growth among which China should choose from; (2) the welfare security for labour in labour economy, a complement for market regulation; and (3) the economic policies for the growth strategies, market regulations and welfare securities for labour.

Taking the book as a whole, the analysis

process in logic can be diagrammed as follows:



在 社会化大生产的条件下,宏观经济问题主要有二:一个是短期的经济周期波动,主要是失业和通货膨胀问题;另一个是长期的经济增长问题。现代经济学论述的经济增长,不是实际的国民生产总值的增长,而是潜在的国民生产总值(指生产资源在正常使用强度下充分利用时生产的国民生产总值)的增长,也就是我们通常说的社会生产力的增长。社会生产力的增长与综合国力的增长和人民生活水平的提高是密切相关的。所以,从长期来看,经济增长是最重要的宏观经济问题。

经济增长理论是研究经济增长因素的理论,经济增长理论研究可以上溯到经济学创始人亚当·斯密,但是古典经济学派很少专门研究经济增长。马克思在《资本论》第3卷中分析了两大部类比例关系,即资本主义扩大再生产的条件,但没有表述经济增长模式。现代经济增长理论始于19世纪40年代发表的哈罗德—多马经济增长模式,这个模式侧

重于从资金方面分析经济增长的因素,研究资金积累率(即储蓄率)、资金使用效果(资金产出比率的倒数)与经济增长之间的关系。此后西方经济学者提出了大量的各有特色的经济增长模式。

《劳动与经济增长》这本书是在周天勇同志博士学位论文的基础上修改而成的。推动经济增长的主要因素有资本、劳动、技术进步、人力资本、资源转移、规模经济等等。作者针对中国劳动资源丰富、自然资源不足、资金积累有限的特点,深感如何充分利用劳动力资源优势,加快中国经济发展,力争隔几年上一个新台阶,是个重大问题,因而,潜心研究。与国内一般侧重资金的分析方法不同,本书从劳动方面来研究经济增长因素,开拓了另一条研究思路。

提高劳动生产率有许多因素,作者从当前中国实际出发,着重研究劳动行为、劳动力素质和劳动力配置结构这三个因素,提出若干有价值的新见解。他在分析劳动行为与经

济增长一章中提出,由于劳动行为不规范,劳动力出工不出力,劳动效率很低,在计划经济体制下,为实现计划产值,就得多投入资本代替劳动,从而揭示了长期以来中国经济增长高投入、高消耗和低效益的形成机理。在此基础上,作者对经济学界供给不足派和需求过度派长期争论的中国经济的短缺和通货膨胀的成因问题,从新的角度加以考察,提出自己的独特看法,即在劳动行为不规范状况下,以资本多投入来替代劳动少投入(低效率),通过投资过度而形成短缺和通货膨胀。这种看法解释了供给不足派不能说清的投资需求膨胀难点,也解释了需求过度派无法说明的劳动低效率对产出的影响。作者对人力资本进行了量化分析,运用美国学者舒尔茨的方法,计算了中国各知识层次人力资本含量、中国现有的人力资本总量,以及中国人力资本对某些年份经济增长的贡献;还用中国的历史数据模拟验证了斯科特的新经济增长模型。作者在第7章中分析了劳动者权利界定