

Essays on Political Economy

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Abstract: This paper is about essays on political economy. These essays are about interdisciplinary proportions in the study of economics, the economic education as a communication laboratory between tax communication and society, determining the excellent number of students/three who participate in the formation of an innovative educational program for social relations between students/three with rational criteria, the tax obligations and religious freedom, the methodology from macro to micro economic analysis in education of management of environmental goods, the assumptive assessment method for assessing the will of citizens to participate in the excavation and restoration of the ancient theater of Lefkada, the public evaluation of aesthetic pollution in a democracy. Cooperation between the private and public sectors can improve the urban environment and the position of socially vulnerable groups by the “invisible hand” of the economy according to Adam Smith’s theory.

Key words: Goods, benefit public, cost, environment, optimization.

1. Interdisciplinary Proportions in the Study of Economics

The interdisciplinary approach is both the cause and the result of the synergy that develops between the various branches of science. Economics borrows tools and methods of analytical approach from other sciences in order to complete its contribution to knowledge. Thus the main economic problem associated with the unlimited needs of the people and the limited means available to meet these needs begins with the theological teaching of the Old Testament and the expulsion of the first ones from the Garden of Eden. The “Invisible Hand” that leads the economy to the optimal level of prosperity is another presentation of the “Invisible Hand” of Divine Providence, as it appears in the works of Thomas Aquinas. The decisions of the civil courts that are called upon to assess money are usually non-market goods using the WTP-WTA (Willingness to Pay, Willingness to Accept) Experimental Economics method. Criminal court decisions weigh the costs and benefits to social welfare of each decision by

applying a CBA (Cost-Benefit Analysis) method. But also the economics of labor presents the work produced by the worker expressed not in units of energy but in monetary units (wages), while the surplus of energy that the entrepreneur reaps in order for the system to benefit him, is presented as business profit. In these and other cases, finding interdisciplinary proportions leads the researcher to take a holistic approach to the knowledge and science of economics and the functioning of society [1, 2].

2. Economic Education as a Communication Laboratory between Tax Communication and Society

The purpose of this work is to analyze the importance of economic education as a tool of communication between the tax administration and society, as well as the interpretation of taxation (direct-indirect) in the context of tax education, as well as the promotion of social justice they involve direct taxes as opposed to indirect taxes. Initially, a theoretical approach is made to the general concepts and principles governing tax law. Then the Greek tax and fiscal system is presented, in combination with the harmonization of tax legislation in the context of EU (Community) law in accordance with the instructions

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of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). Reference is made to those features that demonstrate the integration of the Agency's guidelines so far. Any future amendment or reform of the national tax system should incorporate the fundamental principles of national tax policy but also be in line with the principles and guidelines of the OECD. Further implementation of the Agency's recommendations will shift the balance between direct and indirect taxation, leading to the strengthening of the former and the reduction of the latter. Direct taxes have been rising steadily in recent decades compared to indirect ones, especially in developed countries. The main reason is that direct taxation is socially just and effective [3, 4].

3. Determining the Excellent Number of Students/Three Who Participate in the Formation of an Innovative Educational Program for Social Relations between Students/Three and Rational Criteria

It is considered that the burden that the educational system receives from the participation of students in the formation of programs for social relations between students is measurable and depends on the number of students/three. We define this size as "CS" (Participation Cost) and see it increase as the number of students/three increases. The burden that students receive from not participating in the development of social relations programs between students is the opposite, it is also considered measurable and constitutes the "CSF" (Non-Participation Cost). The CSF decreases as more students participate in the formation of social relations programs between students. Therefore, the "SC" (Total Cost) from the participation or not of the students/three in the formation of the programs for the social relations between the students/three is the sum of the CS and the CSF. It is diagrammatically depicted by a curve that initially declines, reaches its minimum point, and then begins to increase. Our goal is to reach this

minimum point of the curve that expresses the total charge. This corresponds to the optimal number of students/three (optimum) required by rational criteria to participate in the formation of a special education training program [5, 6].

4. Tax Obligations and Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is one of the fundamental individual human rights guaranteed both internationally and nationally. All modern states must, within their domestic law, defend the right to religious freedom in order to maintain the peaceful character of a modern society. This paper attempts to study the existing literature, conduct a comparative law study and critique the current situation linking religious freedom as a supreme and constitutional good and the tax liability of natural persons contributing to their compulsory contribution to public burdens based on their taxing ability and their social role [7].

5. From Macro-to Micro-Economic Analysis in Education of Management of Environmental Goods

The purpose of this work is to present a modified model of an internalizing external cost caused by the operation of a manufacturing unit in conjunction with the new reality created. The environment is characterized as a public good. Public goods are goods that provide benefits for society as a whole or part of it, usually regardless of whether the individual people are willing to pay to have these benefits. All entities, whether individuals or businesses or public agencies, have some financial resources with which they seek to achieve specific objectives (e.g. profit maximization). To achieve a specific objective usually there are many alternatives and possibilities. To be effective, i.e. to utilize the existing resources in the best manner possible, should be selected the solution that maximizes the desired outcome or minimizes the required sacrifices [8].

6. Assumptive Assessment Method for Assessing the Will of Citizens to Participate in the Excavation and Restoration of the Ancient Theater of Lefkada

Preserving cultural heritage entails excessive costs (paid by citizens through taxation), and is a source of additional income for the state and individuals due to tourism. Since the valuation of this good cannot be in market terms, we apply a modified version of the CVM (Contingent Valuation Method), which is often used in experimental economics to investigate (a) the value that people give to a public and non-market goods and (b) how willing they may be to pay for the support of activities related to the preservation of these antiquities. The research was carried out in Lefkada where 200 respondents took part, in order to examine whether they want to participate voluntarily in the excavation and restoration of the ancient theater of Lefkada. Half of them received the questionnaire uninformed about this archeological site and half of them received an update. Then the questionnaire with information text is given to those who answered before without any information. The aim of this study is to compare the WTP (Willingness to Participate) between those who received the questionnaire uninformed and those who received information. In addition, it should be checked whether the willingness of those who responded uninformed changed after receiving information about the archeological site [9].

7. Public Evaluation of Aesthetic Pollution in a Democracy. Cooperation between the Private and Public Sectors to Improve the Urban Environment

Legislative restrictions such as prohibition of outdoor advertising in a city environment are common to protect non marketable public goods such as the aesthetics of urban environment. Public evaluation of such goods is affair and democratic approach. However, these restrictions hinder the activities of

certain industries such as advertising. The purpose of this study is to present a modified model of internalizing external costs caused by the operation of a manufacturing unit in conjunction with a new reality created. The environment is characterized as a public good.

The case examined is the city of Athens. Contingent Valuation Method and expert opinions were used to evaluate the effect of aesthetic pollution and estimate the potential of our proposal. The proposal describes an exemplary collaboration between private and public sector that brings multiple benefits without burdening any social group, on the basis of a Pigouvian subsidy scheme for renovation of city building facades, including motive to encourage advertising on the scaffoldings used for the renovation (which is allowed by law). Advertisers will place advertising screens on the scaffold while revenues from advertising will fund the renovation of the facade of the building. The suggested solution combines two seemingly competing activities of the city, outdoor advertising and the aesthetic reconstruction of building facades. Activity is transferred from micro- to macro-economic level, while at the same time Pareto criterion of optimality is met [10].

8. Improving the Position of Socially Vulnerable Groups by the “Invisible Hand” of the Economy according to Adam Smith’s Theory

Adam Smith in his work *The Wealth of Nations* presents the invisible hand of the economy which will lead society to the highest level of prosperity. But in order for this invisible hand to work in the mentioned direction, individuals must be possessed by human sympathy. The term sympathy means the disposition of each to see the world from the other’s point of view, to feel the needs of his fellow man and to act accordingly for mutual benefit. Thus, the objective of this paper is to reduce Adam Smith’s theory of human sympathy for the compulsory provision that society

owes to members of so-called vulnerable groups in order to improve the position of these members, to seek the overall maximization of social prosperity with socio-economic criteria. The invisible problem of vulnerable groups can be addressed by the invisible hand of Adam Smith's economy. The methodology of the present work is based on the corresponding approach of psychology of dealing with the invisible problems of some members of society with Ethical Philosophy—Economics of Adam Smith, where the invisible hand can help in dealing with these problems. Counseling borrows knowledge from various scientific fields and addresses the problem with a focus on its solution taking into account its economic, social, psychological, moral parameters. This work can theoretically be included in a framework of interdisciplinary analysis, and the often referred to by the advisers as “entering someone else's shoes”, finding theoretical foundation and substance [11, 12].

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