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The Demographic Effects of Technological Change and Capitalist Transformation – A Re-Interpretation of the Demographic Transition Theory

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The paper re-examines the Demographic Transition Model using the experiences of the demographic effects of Technological Change introduced in the Third World. In this context the two phases of technological change – extensive and intensive are analysed with their effects on the demand for labour and the consequent effects on the fertility rate. This is studied using the cases of (i) the UK where the Technological Change has evolved from the extensive phase to the intensive phase influencing the demographic change patterns, and (ii) India where Technological Change has been introduced from the UK and other developed economies when they are at their mature phase of intensive technological change.

An attempt is made to reinterpret the Demographic Transition Theory in terms of effects of (i) capitalist transformation of an economy; and (ii) two phases of technological change. These two are functionally related as experienced in developed economics.

Introduction

The paper will re-examine the Demographic Transition Model using the experience of the demographic effects of Technological Change introduced in the Third World. In this context the two phases of technological change - extensive and intensive will be analysed with their effects on the demand for labour and the consequent effects on the fertility rate. This will be studied using the cases of (i) the UK where the Technological Change has evolved from the extensive phase to the intensive phase influencing the demographic change patterns, and (ii) India where Technological Change has been introduced from the UK and other developed economies when they are at their mature phase of intensive technological change. In this connection the relationship between the technological change, demographic and capitalist transformation of an economy will also be examined using the UK and India as case studies.