

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HONOLULU, HAWAII

HARROD-DOMAR MODEL

The Harrod-Domar model is a simple model of economic growth. It shows the relationship between the growth rate of income and the savings rate. This correlation is shown under the assumption that the capital-output ratio (k) is constant. Thus the H-D model shows that to increase the growth rate of income savings must be increased.

The Harrod-Domar model has several assumptions: 1) Labor is abundant (thus it is not a binding constraint or it is not a factor of production) 2) Capital or technology does not increase in efficiency (remains constant) 3) Capital-output ratio constant $k = Y/K$ 4) Keynesian savings function

$$S = \delta Y, \quad 0 < \delta < 1$$

DERIVE FORMULA:

$$S = I$$

$$\Delta K = I$$

OVER \longrightarrow

Q1.

a) THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE HARROD-DOMAR MODEL IS TO SHOW THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE GROWTH IN INCOME AND THE SAVINGS RATE. THIS CORRELATION IS SHOWN UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CAPITAL-OUTPUT RATIO (k) IS CONSTANT. THUS THE H-D MODEL SHOWS THAT TO INCREASE THE GROWTH RATE OF INCOME SAVINGS MUST BE INCREASED.

b) THE H-D MODEL HAS SEVERAL ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1) LABOR IS ABUNDANT (THUS IT IS NOT A BINDING CONSTRAINT OR IT IS NOT A FACTOR OF PRODUCTION)
- 2) CAPITAL OR TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT INCREASE IN EFFICIENCY (REMAINS CONSTANT)
- 3) CAPITAL-OUTPUT RATIO CONSTANT $k = Y/K$
- 4) KEYNESIAN SAVINGS FUNCTION

$$K = sY \quad (\text{FROM \#3})$$

$$\Delta K = s \Delta Y$$

$$\Delta Y = \Delta K / s = I / s = 5 / s$$

$$= \Delta Y / s \quad (\text{FROM \#4})$$

$$\Delta Y = \Delta Y / s$$

$$\Delta Y / Y = \Delta / s$$

$$\text{SINCE } \Delta Y / Y = g_Y$$

$$\therefore g_Y = \Delta / s \quad \checkmark$$

$$c) \delta = .26$$

$$g_Y = .086 \quad \uparrow .10$$

$$g_Y = \Delta / s$$

$$.086 = .26 / s$$

$$s = .26 / .086$$

$$= 3.023$$

$$\text{ANS: } s = \Delta / 3.023$$

$$s = \text{approximately } .302 \text{ or } 30.2\% \quad \checkmark$$

THE H-D MODEL SHOWS THAT INCREASING

THE SAVINGS RATE WILL INCREASE

INCOME GROWTH. ~~AND~~ THAILAND MUST

THEFORE ADOPT POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE SAVINGS

SUCH AS HIGHER INTEREST RATES, LOWER TAXES

ON INCOME AND CAPITAL GAINS, INCREASE CURRENT

PER CAPITA INCOME, OR IMPROVE MARKETS. ANY

OF THESE WOULD HELP INCREASE THAILAND'S GROWTH RATE.

Q2 a) STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECON. DEV.

PROCESS OF AN UNDER DEVELOPED ECONOMY IS

A CHANGE FROM A STRUCTURE DOMINANT IN

LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LOW WAGES, LOW PCG, ^{AGRICULTURE} HIGH GDP GROWTH, ...)

TO ~~BE~~ A STRUCTURE DOMINANT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (HIGHER WAGES, HIGHER PCG, LOW POP. GR, ...).

THE LEWIS MODEL DESCRIBES THE ~~TRANSITION~~ STRUCTURAL CHANGE FROM UNEMPLOYMENT ~~TO~~ OR SURPLUS

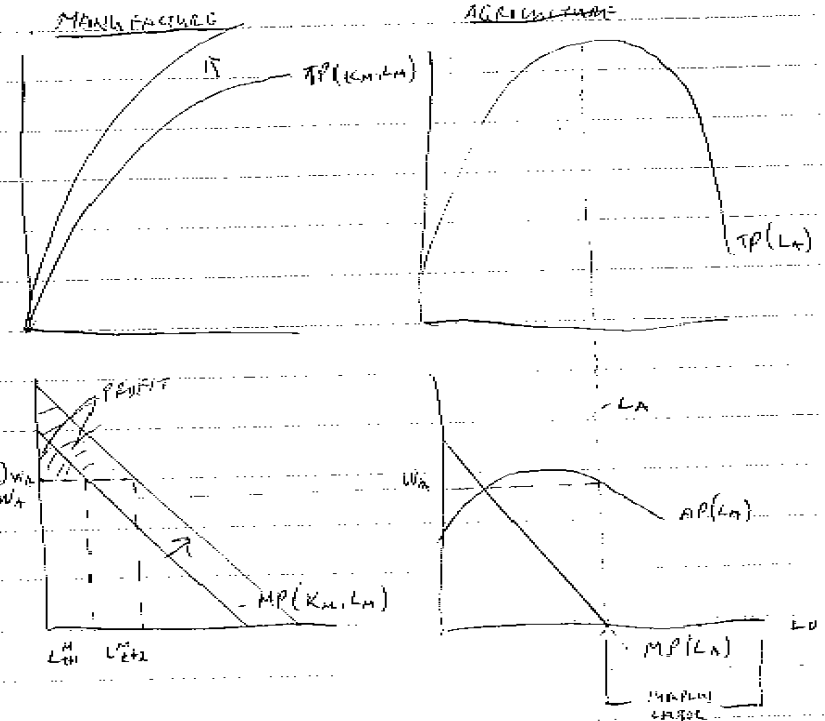
LABOR TO EMPLOYMENT. IT ALSO SHOWS THE

GROWTH OF THE URBAN/MANUFACTURING SECTOR,

AND HOW THIS GROWTH PRODUCES JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

b) LEWIS MODEL ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1) TWO SECTORS: AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING
- 2) THERE IS SURPLUS LABOUR IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR
- 3) THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR HIRES LABOUR UP TO THE POINT AT WHICH THE MP OF THAT UNIT OF LABOUR EQUALS ZERO ($MP=0$)
- 4) WAGES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR ARE DETERMINED BY THE POINT ON THE AP CURVE AT WHICH THE CORRESPONDING POINT ON THE MP CURVE EQUALS ZERO
- 5) WAGES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE FIXED AT $(1+x)w_a$
- 6) NO CAPITAL FLIGHT
- 7) CAPITALIST REINVEST IN THE SAME TECHNOLOGY
- 8) NO POPULATION GROWTH
- 9) NO SUBSTITUTION OF LABOUR FOR CAPITAL



IN THE ~~MAN~~ AGRICULTURE SECTOR THERE IS A "LABOR SURPLUS". A "LABOR SURPLUS" CAN BE DEFINED AS THE AMOUNT OF LABOUR IN EXCESS OF THE UNIT OF LABOUR AT WHICH ~~IT~~ $MP=0$. LET L_0 = TOTAL LABOUR FORCE AND L_A = LABOUR EMPLOYED BY AGRICULTURE.

OVER \rightarrow

THUS LABOR SURPLUS = $L_0 - L_1$ IN ESSENCE

IT IS UNEMPLOYED LABOR. THE LEWIS MODEL

SHOWS HOW AN ECONOMY WITH A DEVELOPING

MANUFACTURING SECTOR EMPLOY THESE "SURPLUS

LABORERS" THROUGH A PROCESS CALLED THE

"LABOR ABSORPTION PROCESS." AT $t=1$ THE MANUFACTURING

SECTOR EMPLOY SOME OF THESE LABORERS AS DETERMINED

BY ITS ^{WAGE RATE} ~~WAGE RATE~~ AND THE CORRESPONDING POINT ON

THE MP CURVE. PROFITS ARE INVESTED INTO

THE SAME CAPITAL/TECHNOLOGY CAUSING THE MP

TO SHIFT UP. THIS IN TURN INCREASES THE

DEMAND FOR LABOR AT $t=2$. THE PROCESS

CONTINUES UNTIL THE SURPLUS LABOR IS

EXHAUSTED.

C) IF CAPITAL FLIGHT WAS ALLOWED IT WOULD SLOW

THE LABOR ABSORPTION PROCESS BECAUSE PROFITS

WOULD NOT BE REINVESTED IN ADDITIONAL CAPITAL.

THIS WOULD NOT ALLOW THE MP CURVE TO SHIFT

WHICH INCREASES LABOR THUS NO ADDITIONAL LABOR

WOULD BE DEMANDED MAINTAINING LABOR ABSORPTION

AND HENCE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. CAPITAL FLIGHT

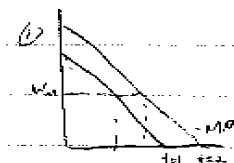
OCCURS IF A HIGHER RETURN ON INVESTMENT

EXISTS IN MARKETS ABROAD. FREE IMPORT OF TECH

COULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT. CAPITALISTS ARE ABLE

TO CHOOSE BETWEEN 3 TYPES. THE FIRST IS

THE SAME TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WOULD INCREASE



THE DEMAND FOR LABOR DEPENDS

ON HOW MUCH IS INVESTED.

THE SECOND IS INVESTING IN LABOR

INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WOULD

INCREASE THE DEMAND FOR LABOR

EVEN MORE THAN THE FIRST OPTION.

THE FINAL OPTION IS LABOR SAVING

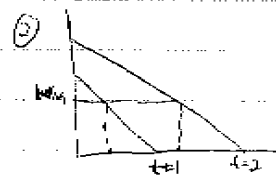
TECHNOLOGY. THIS COULD REDUCE, KEEP

CONSTANT, OR AT BEST SLIGHTLY

INCREASE DEMAND FOR LABOR. THE

CAPITALIST WOULD PICK THE

OPTION THAT MAXIMIZED



HIS PROFITS. IF HE PICKED ③, IT WOULD

SLOW DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE
LITTLE OR NO INCREASE IN LABOR DEMAND.
TWO POLICY GOV'TS COULD USE TO PREVENT
THESE SITUATIONS IS TO TAX IMPORTS OF
~~TECHNOLOGY~~ OR LABOR SAVING TECHNOLOGY OR
RESTRICT ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE THUS
RESTRICTING IMPORTS OF TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL
FLIGHT.