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Business Ethics

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28 January 2017

Assignment 5 (SIB) Chapter 4

In Chapter 4 Buddhist Economics, Schumacher talks about the actual role of the worker and consumer in a western materialist and buddhist economy. Schumacher begins to show the hidden role in western economy by comparing the two societies with a major thought in mind that, “a fundamental source of wealth is human labor.” Schumacher states that in western economy a the value of human labor is perceived by the wealth that the workers can produce. If possible, theoretically an employer could produce products without the worker, but since workers are need in labor whether it be workers adding parts in a ford like car production line or the mechanics that repair the new robots that add parts to cars. In order for one to do such repetitive, cheap, labor intensive jobs companies attempt to null the worker's capabilities, thus are able to produce products more efficiently, all while conditioning employees are dependant of their position in that specific job. For example, a company will train an employe to only know how sauder or attach a specific piece of metal in a car. So if that worker wanted to leave he will only have to the ability to take jobs that are exactly like the one he quit.

With that in mind the worker just reconsiders the thought, saves himself the trouble and just stays in the same position. This is how companies solve the problem of labor and produce income from it. Buddhist economics like Schumacher believe that this organization of work “in such a manner becomes meaningless, boring, stultifying, or nerve-racking.” People in the economy only work to live and live to work, and are sacrificing their happiness just to exist. So, to escape the sad lives that the workers lives, they adapt the habit of buying products to give them temporary happiness, thus completing the cycle of the western economic. Schumacher states economics that the value of the labor was perceived differently when taken in with a small local buddhist economic eye.

From buddhist economics perspective work is seen as a tool or catalyst for the work to fulfill, and learn more about himself and community. Work gives a worker a chance to utilise and develop his peers and the environment around him, help him make a better connection with himself by cooperating with others, and create the necessary goods for themselves and their community. The catch is that in this economy someone still has sacrifice their happiness to make to produce the products that themselves and other enjoy. The only thing is that this economy doesn’t take their income and unnecessarily succumb to temporary materialistics happiness that will keep them mentality enslaved.