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Qeios

Peer Review

Review of: "A Philosophical Theory of Quality Time: The Seneca Model"

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In this study, quality time is accounted for as an additional endogenous variable (beyond consumption and capital) in the Ramsey growth model. Quality time is broadly defined as time spent engaging in philosophical reflection. The approached topic is interesting and stimulating, and its inclusion in a Ramsey growth model is likely to bring new insights into the understanding of intertemporal choices. In the article, quality time has no association with the dynamic resource constraint; basically, it is an argument of the utility function and, thus, one can determine its optimal value through the simple computation of the derivative of utility with respect to quality time (this is possible because quality time generates utility but, at the same time, one must incur learning costs on how to enjoy it). At the end of the day, one can add one more equation to the solution of the Ramsey model reflecting the optimal amount of quality time.

It is my belief that although the author studies a very engaging topic, the analysis is, as it stands at the current stage, relatively superficial. It needs to be explored further, and some crucial interrogations must be addressed. For instance, the author mentions leisure time but makes no connection between this variable (widely present in optimal growth models) and quality time. What are the similarities and the differences between the two? Can we have leisure time that is not quality time? Can we have quality time that is not leisure time? Moreover, it is not clear what we should understand as 'optimal quality time'; if there is an optimal amount of quality time, then imagining that this is a fraction of the total available time, what should the agent do with the remaining hours of the day? It is my belief that a meaningful scientific contribution may be offered if the mentioned loose ends are properly addressed.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.