

Redefining Social Policy Including Innovation

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Abstract: Innovation, which is a key concept for capitalist system, was defined by many researchers in many different ways. For many researchers it means new methods of production, new ways of marketing, new markets or new products. Sure term innovation includes something “new” but it is not as simple as it. Innovation can be defined as the way of continuation of capitalist system. New products mean monopoly power, high rates of profit. High rates of profit must guarantee R and D so to go on as a monopolist. Social policy has two effects on innovation. First social policy in a wide range definition- including all policies related to education or health- ensures skilled and healthy labor force which innovates, and an economy with effective demand which absorbs supply of new products. In countries- especially European Countries- which have widespread social policies the innovative capacity is higher than the other countries.

The traditional definition of social policy does not include something implicit or explicit about innovation. In the strict sense it means policies which are related to work peace, like social security, unemployment insurance, pension; labor legislation. In the broad sense it means all policies about social peace including health policies, education policies, housing policies. The aim of this study is to redefine social policy from a different point of view so it includes innovative capacity. In this manner social policy can be defined as the all policies which aim to ensure the continuation of capitalist system, by creating work peace and social peace, so by increasing innovative capacity of a country to secure high income levels which guarantee such a social peace. The study will try to demystify the relation between social policy and innovation, so it will be meaningful to define social policy including innovation.