REVIEW OF DOCTORAL THESIS

DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT HUMAN CAPITAL IN KAZAKHSTAN

presented by

Murat Narkulov

I must confess that the topic of measurement of human capital is not exactly my favorite. However, when I followed up the work of Murat, I learned a lot. I have the posibility to attend closely his progress during last three years. He worked hard and very systematically. Already his Master thesis with the title Development of Human Capital in Kazakhstan showed the intellectual capacity of author to continue in this topic and to achieve successfully the doctoral studies. Nevertheless when I red the sentences of acknowledgement devoted to me, I think it is an exageration.

His doctoral thesis is logically organized. It consists of nine chapters, which the first is introduction and the ninth conclusions. He started with chapters devoted to theoretical questions, as e.g. exploring the origin and development of the concept of human capital and of identification of key factors of human capital formation and reproduction. He continues with the detection of human capital structure and its main types. To this theoretical part belongs also the review of methods in chapter four. He has chosen different approaches: education based, cost based, income based and two other approaches. In addition he tried also to explore model education-based approach.

In the second part of the thesis he started with the description of demographic, economic and social situation in Kazakhstan, in chapter five. In following three chapters he uses Kazakhstan data and applied the descript methods. This part is very important and showed the practical consequences of changes in both education level and in economic participation of Kazakhstan population. He was lucky because he was able to get reliable data. So his results are well documented by his own calculations. He discussed key components of human capital formation in Kazakhstan, its specific trends and core determinants of human capital reproduction. He opens the way for further research in this field and so not only in Kazakhstan.

The presented work has all features of doctoral thesis, both from contentual and formal aspects. The text is clear and comprehensible. The size of the work is more than sufficient with 192 pages of the text itself; the amount of the biography is more than 150 titles well quoted in the work. With additional graphs and tables, whole size of the work gives 251 pages. Mgr. Narkulov exploited the large amount of literature, which is thoroughly quoted and he is using the newest possible data. He fulfills the main goal he put to himself and he showed further possible research in this fieldc.

I recommend the work of Mgr. Narkulov to be accepted for further defense. I would like to mention also his other activities, his participation in several research activities and conferences as well as his publications.

Prague, 21 September 2011   prof. Ing . Zdeněk Pavlík, DrSc.