PROBLEMS OF ACCUMULATION

PRABHAT PATNAIK

The purpose of this course is not to give one theory of growth after another but to look at the alternative approaches that have been adopted in answering to the question: What determines the pace of accumulation in a capitalist economy? Apart from discussing the four main approaches, namely classical, Marxian, neo-classical and neo-Keynesian, the course would take up some critical issues relating to growth in capitalist economies with a view to bridging the divide between Growth theory and Development economics.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. The location of surplus in the sphere of production: the contribution of classical political economy. The deployment of economic surplus as the determinant of growth. The concept of productive and unproductive labour in Adam Smith: alternative definitions. Division of labour and increasing returns. Adam Smith’s theory of economic growth and falling rate of profit.


READINGS:


Dobb, M.H. (1973) *Theories of Value and Distribution since Adam Smith* Cambridge.


