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# Outsourcing, Factor Prices and Skill Formation in Countries with Non-overlapping Time Zones<sup>1</sup>

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# Outsourcing, Factor Prices and Skill Formation in Countries with Non-overlapping Time Zones

## **Abstract**

Time Zone difference induced changes in trade and factor prices are relatively new concerns in trade literature. Here in this paper we formulate a trade model capturing the issue of Time Zone difference and communication technology revolution together to show that due to these developments skilled workers benefit. Though wage inequality between skilled and unskilled workers is widened under reasonable and, of course, sensible condition. Return to capital dwindles while educational capital gets relatively high return. These changes also attract educational capital from abroad and eventually alter the sectoral composition of the economy in favor of more skill based one.

*JEL classification:* F12, F 16, F 21

*Keywords:* Time Zone Differences; Trade in Business Services; Skilled and Unskilled Labor; Day-shift and Night-shift Work, Educational Capital

## I. INTRODUCTION

Vertical fragmentation or disintegration of production process has been in the literature of international trade and industrial organization for quite a long time. The underlying reasons for fragmentation date back to two significant contributions in international trade literature by Sanyal and Jones (1982) and Sanyal (1983). Drawing on these two papers a whole lot of papers were published later. However, the prime focuses of most of the papers were the effects at industry-level (not at the firm-level) and choice between vertically integrated final good production and trade in intermediate input. Till Krugman's (1979) classic publication nobody heed much to the firm - the *black box*. A bunch of papers are also written in line of Krugman (1979). Antras (2003) and Antras and Helpman (2004) are two important latest additions into the existing stuff. However, these papers do not deal with trade in intermediate services. Though it does not matter much whether we trade in goods or services as long as the cost of production and cost of transportation are taken care of. But the issue takes an interesting turn if cost of sending and procuring either finished or unfinished services go down significantly along with the possibility of *continuity effect* (Kikuchi, 2011). *Continuity effect* comes into play heavily when we think of utilizing all 24hours as working hours: somebody, somewhere must work. The entire world cannot sleep in any given time and so the whole world cannot remain idle in the night time of any given country. Some part of the world must be awake to work. Related literature comprises of Deardorf (2003), Marjit (2007), Long et al (2005), Do and Long (2008), Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008), Kikuchi and Marjit (2011), Matsuoka and Fukushima (2010),

Kikuchi (2011), Kikuchu, Marjit and Mandal (2013), Mandal (2015), Nakanishi and Long (2015) etc. Note that revolution in information and communication technology causing significant reduction in shipping cost of intermediate service alone is not sufficient to capitalize on the cost difference between two trading partners, if any. This phenomenon coupled with difference in Time Zones (TZ) make the story more attractive and meaningful. Two trading partners would not be able to appropriate the difference in cost of production, even if it exists, if they are located in same TZ indicating identical work-leisure timeframe. Hence the success of information communication technology revolution across the globe reaches its pinnacle of gain only when we invoke the issue of TZ difference, and, this is arguably where globalization and trade touch the greatest height to exploit the advantage conferred by “*differences*” like other neo-classical trade models.<sup>2</sup>

Beside, following WTO negotiation impediments to goods’ trade and factor movements have become weaker. Different types of trade restrictions are on the fall while degree of factor movements are on the rise. Relatively speaking capital movement from one country to another historically faces less restraint than physical movement of labor. Traditional literature talks about international movement of homogeneous capital that can be used for producing any good or service. Specific capital cannot move so

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<sup>2</sup> The story that we develop in this paper and the underlying issues that are going to be taken care of are discussed quite nicely in recent literature. This comprises of Deardorf (2003), Marjit (2007), Long et al (2005), Do and Long (2008), Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008), Kikuchi and Marjit (2011), Matsuoka and Fukushima (2010), Kikuchi (2011), Kikuchu, Marjit and Mandal (2013), ), Findlay (1978), Dixit and Grossman (1982), Sanyal (1983), Sarkar (1985), Marjit (1987), Kohler (2004a), Jones and Kierzkowski (1990), Jones and Marjit (2001, 2009), Deardorff (2001), Kohler (2004a, 2004b), Long, Riezman and Soubeyran (2005). Further this work is also closely related with Antras et al (2006), Costinot et al (2012), Harms et al (2012), Dettmer (2012), Anderson (2012) Christen (2012) etc.

smoothly though the recent trend is not such depressing. Educational capital is one which now-a-days moves from developed to developing countries as the demand for skilled labor naturally grows with the process of development. Scarcity of educational capital or training facility in developing part of the globe causes this phenomenon<sup>3,4</sup>. In addition, the existing higher-education system and allotted capital, in most of the developing countries where unskilled labor supply is huge, may not generate adequate skilled human resources to satisfy the much needed demand for skilled labor. The process of inflow of educational capital may help somewhat less skilled workers get trained to be suitable for more skilled sector, the demand for which is significantly high in international market (one can cite the story of remarkable growth of IT sector in India; FICCI (2007), Azam (2008)). Hence educational capital mobility is an important catalyst of sustainable development process. Related literature comprises of Lucas (2002), Barro (1997), Easterly (2001), Findaly (1995), Banerjee and Newman (1993), Galore and Zeira (1993), Ranjan (2001) etc. However, the effect of educational capital inflow on factor prices and sectoral composition are less focused in contemporary research. Findaly (1995), Beladi et al (2011, 2011a), Kar and Beladi (2004) are some

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<sup>3</sup> India is a major trading partner of USA in this regard due to: (a) exactly non-overlapping time zone; and (b) huge supply of educated and computer-savvy youth.

<sup>4</sup> Movement of educational capital towards India can be best corroborated by the following facts. India has: (a) 26,500 higher education institutes, greater than USA (7000) China (4000); (b) around 1,50,000 students go abroad in a year; (c) India needs Rs 20 lakh crore (FICCI (2007) in education sector by 2020 to match the demand.

notable papers in the related areas though very much different from the prime concern of the current paper.

Hence we try to formulate a model to analyze the possible consequences of massive reduction in cost of information communication technology coupled with advantage of time zones differences between countries on factor prices and inflow of educational capital. In doing such exercise we would also talk about how and why an economy may move from a mix of skilled and unskilled based composition to an absolutely skill-based one.

The rest of the paper is schematized as follows. In section II we develop the environment to formulate the model for an open economy. This sections also talks about the solution of the model. In Section III the effects of communication technology revolution and time zone difference are discussed. Such effects also consist of much hyped wage-inequality question. Then we extend our analysis for inflow of educational capital and subsequent effects in Section IV. The last section provides with some concluding remarks. Nevertheless, the relevant mathematical details are relegated to the Appendix.

## **II. ENVIRONMENT AND THE MODEL**

We start with two small open economies, Home (H) and Foreign (F), and the Rest-of-the- World (ROW). Our focus would be on the economy which outsources or insources service. The idea is identical in the sense that both these countries need to

bear the cost of virtual communication through high bandwidth network. It could be either Home (H) or Foreign (F). Let us assume that the economy is endowed with skilled labor (S), unskilled labor (L) and two different types of capital. One kind capital (K) is used directly for production and the other one, educational capital (E) is used for training unskilled labor to upgrade to the existing level of skill. We further assume that E is internationally mobile. All other factors are mobile across sectors. For brevity we would neither allow labor be it skilled or unskilled nor K to move internationally. The concerned country produces three goods viz. X, Y and Z. X is a technical sector which requires specifically trained workers or skilled labor (S) only. Specific training can easily encompass the issues such as vocational training, technical training, computer literacy, software knowledge etc. However, X requires two consecutive 12 working hours and hence two units of S in a sense.

Production function of X is  $X = f(S)$

One day (24 hours) is divided into *two periods*: day-shift working hours and night-shift working hours, both of which are of 12 hours. Wage rates are determined only for 12 hrs (day-time). Markets are competitive and open every 24 hours. So the country has essentially three options: (i) Half of the product/service can be produced today and the rest half on the next day. Only day-shifts are used as productive time. In this case the commodity is ready for sale in the third day morning. But the consumers



prefer to get it early. So there is a time preference<sup>5</sup>. (ii) Half can be produced in the day-shift and the remaining half in the night shift of the same country. But night workers wages are generally higher than day wage due to non-regular work time, some related medical problems etc. However, the product is ready in the next day morning<sup>6</sup>. (iii) Half is done in the daytime and outsource it to a country which is located in the non-overlapping time zone. Rest of the product is also finished in the daytime of other country. So the product is ready next day morning. Although it requires some cost in form of cost of communication technology, the higher wage cost for night-shift work and loss due to delayed delivery of the service are vanished. This is where TZ difference comes into play. With overlapping TZ difference between H and F option (iii) is meaningless and the underlying structure of our story breaks down. To focus on the issue of time zone we assume that out of these three options the third one is the best even if we ignore any differential in skilled wages in H and F<sup>7,8</sup>. We shall start from a situation where parts of the service are produced in countries which are in non-

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<sup>5</sup>See Marjit (2007) and Kikuchi (2011) for related issues and analysis. We deliberately relegate the mathematical notations associated with these three options in footnote 7 in order to pin point on the option which is relevant for our analysis.

<sup>6</sup>Kikuchi, Marjit and Mandal (2013) is an important reference in this connection. Here it is discussed how and why utilization of time zone difference can induce an increase in productivity and hence skilled wage across the globe. This paper also talks about the welfare implication of such a utilization.

<sup>7</sup> Option-wise (i)  $P_x = W_s(2 + \delta)$ , where  $\delta$  represents time preferences (See Marjit, 2007); (ii)  $P_x = W_s(2 + \omega)$ , where  $\omega$  reflects extra cost for night-shift work; (iii)  $P_x = W_s(2 + \rho)$ , where  $\rho$  indicates cost of communication technology. Under the condition  $\delta > \omega > \rho$ , (iii) is obviously the best option. Another point is the consistency of (iii) with the idea of non-overlapping time zones.

<sup>8</sup> If we think of outsourcing to a country where labor cost is less our story would be further strengthened. But we are not doing so to maintain symmetry in skilled wage across the globe and to be able to replicate the story also for two developed or two developing economies if they are located in different TZ.

overlapping time zones but cost of communication is quite significant. This would help us focusing on the importance of time zone difference and cost of communication as communication cost does not make any sense, per se, if countries are not situated in different time zones (non-overlapping)<sup>9</sup>. Over-lapping time zones lead us to option (i) and (ii). So in a competitive set up with constant returns to scale technology and diminishing marginal productivity assumption the cost – price equality of X becomes

$$P_x = W_s(2 + \rho) \tag{1}$$

Two units of skilled workers are used per unit production of X. Half is produced in, say, H and then it is sent to F at the end of “day” of H. F works for its “day” and finishes the final product/service. Half-done service is sent or sent back via internet at a cost  $\rho W_s$ . It does not matter whether  $\rho$  is greater or less than unity. Though sensibly we assume  $0 < \rho < 1$  as communication or transportation cost per unit should not be more than factor cost. Even if we assume  $\rho > 1$ , our story will not lose its shine and significance.

Another commodity Y is produced by S and K (capital) whereas Z uses K along with L (unskilled labor, per se). Therefore production functions for Y and Z can be respectively represented by

$$Y = f(S, K) \quad \text{and} \quad Z = f(K, L)$$

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<sup>9</sup> Communication cost can also play an important role for countries located in overlapping time zones if there exist difference in skilled wages between trading partners.

Here it must be mentioned that we also have another kind of capital in this set up. This is educational capital, E. It can only be used to upgrade L to S. Return to and supply of E are not related with K though there could be some influence through price and quantity adjustment mechanism.

All markets are assumed to be competitive and by virtue of small country assumption prices of goods are determined in the rest of the world (ROW). Following Jones ('65, '71) the full employment general equilibrium blanket ensures the subsequent cost-price equality of goods/services and factor market clearing conditions. Price equation for X is already mentioned in (1). The same for Y and Z are

$$P_y = W_s a_{sy} + r a_{ky} \quad (2)$$

$$P_z = W a_{lz} + r a_{kz} \quad (3)$$

Here  $P_j$ s ( $j=x, y, z$ ) represent prices,  $a_{ij}$ s ( $i= s, k, l$ ) indicate technology of production;  $W_s$  is the return to skilled workers;  $W$  and  $r$  are the return to unskilled workers and capital, K respectively.  $\rho W_s$  captures disutility of night shift work or communication cost or waiting decay or interest rate<sup>10</sup>. Y and Z are produced in 12 hrs only (day-time) while X requires two consecutive 12hrs or two units of skilled labors plus the cost represented by  $\rho W_s$ . Therefore,  $a_{ij}$  for X is 2 and it is fixed throughout the model.

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<sup>10</sup> For further details see Marjit (2007) and Kikuchi et al (2013). Different forms and types of cost are already indicated in footnote 7. In what follows here  $\rho$  implies only communication cost.

Domestic endowments of skilled labor, unskilled labor, and capital, K are fixed and given by S, L and K respectively. Competitive full employment conditions guarantee the following

$$2X + a_{sy}Y = S + S_1 \quad (4)$$

$$a_{lz}Z = L - L_1 \quad (5)$$

$$a_{ky}Y + a_{kz}Z = K \quad (6)$$

$S_1$  is the newly trained or upgraded labor. These labors are originally L and thus assumed that some L ( $= L_1$ ) opted to be trained to work in either Y or X. Eventually they are transformed into  $S_1$ , indicating equality between  $L_1$  and  $S_1$ . Upgrading L requires some cost as proper training can only be provided with educational capital, E which is not supplied free of cost. Per unit cost of E is given by  $\tau$  and  $\mu_{ES}$  denotes the quantity requirement of E to upgrade one unit of L into identical unit of S. So in a sense S is produced by two factors, viz. L and E<sup>11</sup>. Production function for S is represented as

$$S_1(E) = \varphi(E)L_1(E) \quad (7)^{12}$$

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<sup>11</sup> Alternatively production function for  $S_1$  can be defined as  $S_1 = H(E, L_1)$ . H satisfies neoclassical properties. From this production function  $L_1$  maximizes the surplus to determine the demand for E. The surplus function looks like:  $W_s S_1 - W L_1 - \tau E$ . Using standard first order condition for surplus maximization we get  $W_s \frac{\partial(E, L_1)}{\partial E} = \tau$ . Eventually this helps to calculate the demand for E by  $L_1$ . Therefore the unit cost function for the production function we defined here is  $C_H(W, \tau) = W_s$ . Following this, the cost-price equality for skilled labor in a competitive set up is described like equation (9) in the text.

<sup>12</sup> One can easily call it transformation or upgradation function.

Here  $\varphi(E)$  is essentially a quality parameter that may capture productivity of E over time. This idea goes with the literature on educational capital and human capital formation. We assume away such intricate issues to remain focused on our prime concern<sup>13</sup>. Therefore, we assume  $\varphi(E)$  as equal to unity as one L can be transformed into one S only. Nevertheless, in efficiency terms  $\varphi(E)$  can take any value greater than unity since productivity of S has to be greater than that of L if it is properly trained. We also restrain ourselves from considering the quality issue of labor. Thus productivity of E becomes

$$\frac{1}{\mu_{ES}} = \frac{S_1(E)}{E} = \frac{\varphi(E)L_1(E)}{E} = \frac{1}{\alpha(E)} \text{ (say)} \quad (8)$$

Equation (7) helps arriving at

$$S'_1(E) = \varphi'(E)L_1(E) + L'_1(E)\varphi(E)$$

Greater supply of E indicates that more L can be upgraded to S i.e,  $L'_1(E) > 0$ . Even if  $\varphi(E)$  is assumed as constant  $S'_1(E) > 0$  as  $L'_1(E) > 0$ .

In what follows we have a price equation for skilled labor written as

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<sup>13</sup> A careful observation of equation (7) entails that, in turn, how many L can be upgraded to S depends on E. Simultaneously, E also determines the quantity of E requires for training and upgradation purposes as transformation of  $L_1$  into  $S_1$  crucially depends on educational infrastructure which is again a product of E. Hence E determines how much L can be upgraded to S, and L also determines how much E is demanded. Furthermore, here we do not distinguish between high and low quality S as otherwise technological requirement in X and Y would have to be different. At this juncture we cannot afford to invoke such complicated issues. However, in doing this kind of analysis we may have to think of allocating E between  $\varphi$  and  $L_1$  implying a quantity-quality trade-off.

$$W + \tau\mu_{ES} = W_s \quad (9)^{14}$$

Implications for  $\mu_{ES}$  and  $\alpha(E)$  are identical.

Before we enter into the focal point of the paper let us make sure that the return to E has to be identical across the globe. Even if  $\tau$  goes up somewhere and attracts more E, it has to come down automatically. This is where the average productivity of E in upgrading unskilled workers becomes pivotal. As it is evident from previous analysis,  $L'_1(E) > 0$ . Average productivity of E ( $AP_E$ ) represented by  $\frac{1}{\alpha(E)}$  or  $\frac{1}{\mu_{ES}}$  must change (see equation 8) even when  $\varphi(E)$  remains fixed by assumption. Therefore, return to E denoted by  $\tau$  will also adjust. This can be shown as follows:

$$\tau = \frac{W_s - W}{\mu_{ES}} = \frac{W_s - W}{\alpha(E)}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \widehat{W}_s - \widehat{W}\theta_{ls} = \theta_{ES}(\hat{\tau} + \hat{\mu}_{ES}) \quad (10)^{15}$$

$$\text{where, } \theta_{ls} = \frac{1 \cdot W}{W_s} \text{ and } \theta_{ES} = \frac{\alpha(E) \cdot \tau}{W_s}$$

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<sup>14</sup> This equation helps us to know what will happen to  $\tau$  when  $W_s$  and  $W$  change due to any change in  $\rho$ . But it cannot capture the effect of E on  $\mu_{ES}$  and hence on  $\tau$ . We will come to this issue in a moment.

<sup>15</sup>  $\theta_{ij}$  represents the value share of  $i$ th factor in  $j$ th good, and '^' over a variable implies proportional change.

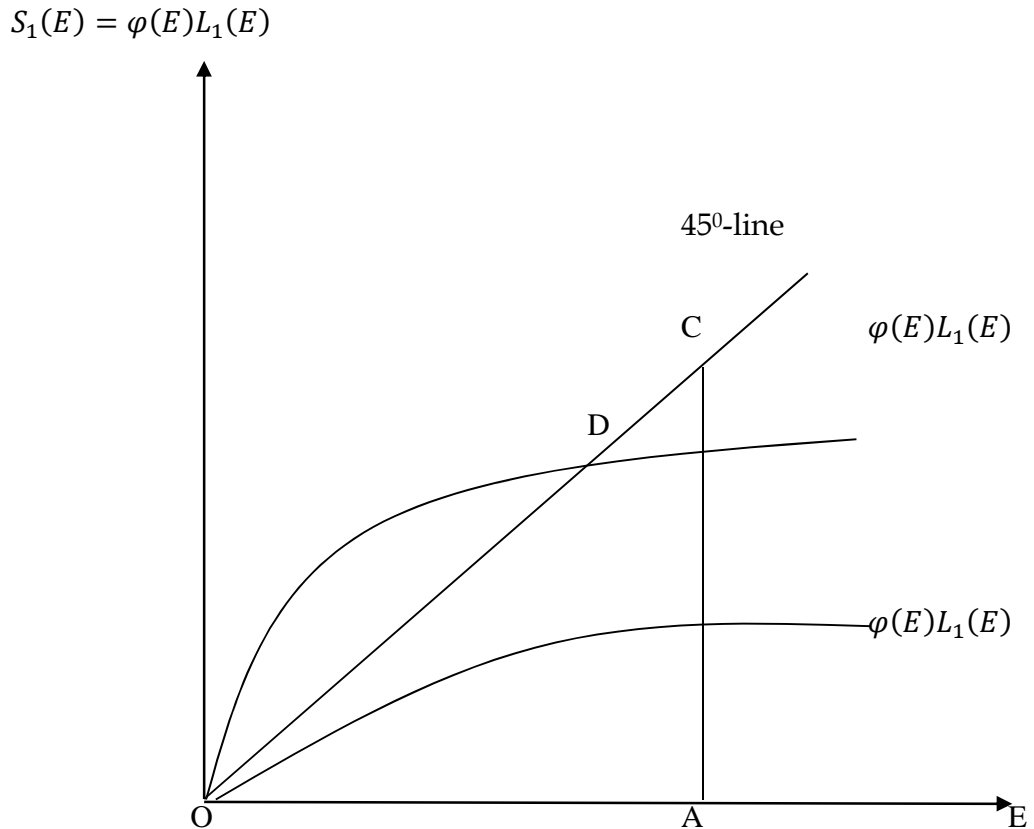


Figure-1: Average productivity of E at C is  $\frac{AC}{OA}$

If for some reasons  $\tau$  goes up, it would draw some E from abroad. And hence  $\mu_{ES}$  has to fall as there had been no change in  $W_s$  and  $W$ . This indicates that change in  $AP_E$  with more inflow of E would be negative though  $AP_E$  itself may take any positive value<sup>16</sup>. Figure-1 can give us some idea about that<sup>17</sup>. Note that irrespective of the position of

<sup>16</sup> If  $\varphi(E)L_1(E)$  rises at an identical rate or higher than that of E, change in  $\frac{\varphi(E)L_1(E)}{E} \geq 0$  indicating change in  $\frac{1}{\mu_{ES}} = \text{change in } \frac{1}{a(E)} \geq 0$  due to an increase in E. This will either raise  $\tau$  further or  $\tau$  will remain fixed at a higher level as  $\tau = \frac{W_s - W}{\mu_{ES}}$ . Therefore, E will continue to come in – implying instability in the international market for E.

<sup>17</sup> See Appendix A.I for an alternative explanation for such phenomenon.

$\varphi(E)L_1(E)$  - curve, whether it crosses the 45<sup>o</sup>-line or not, as shown in Figure-1 our arguments hold true.  $AP_E < 1$  for any amount of E falling to the right of D. To the left of D we may have different implications. This indicates that  $AP_E$  should gradually fall with E to guarantee stability in the international market.

The underlying arguments can also be presented in a different way. If both  $\tau$  and  $AP_E$  go up simultaneously, more and more E will flow into the economy pulling up  $\tau$  further. In what follows all E will flock into the economy where  $\tau$  had gone up initially

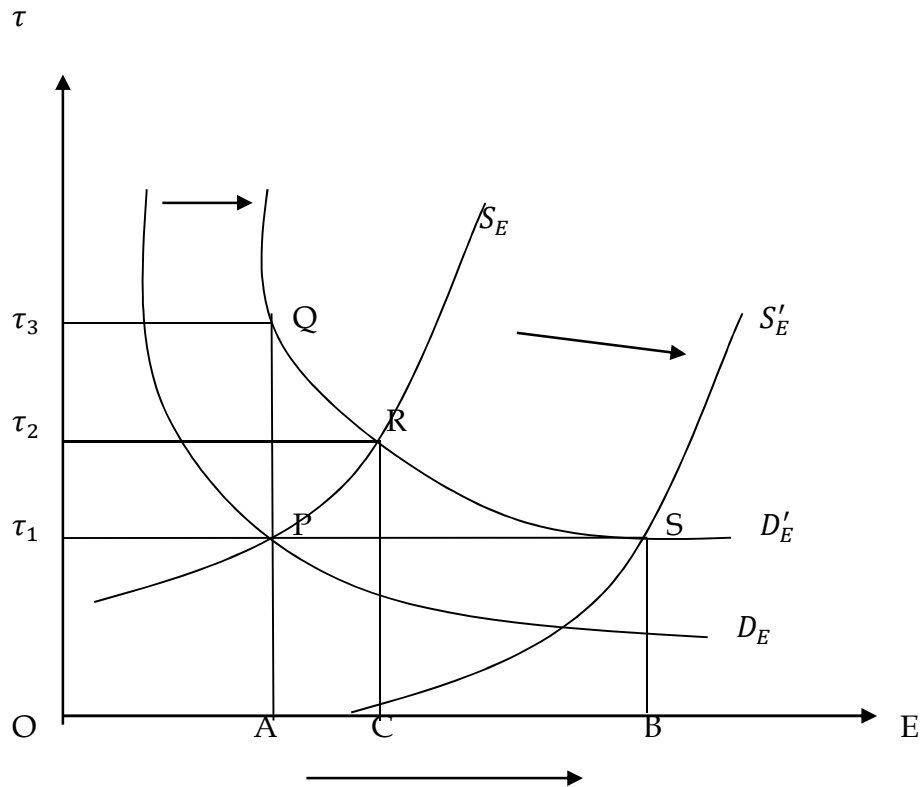


Figure-2: Return to E and equilibrium supply of E

and the world economy would be at a great imbalance. Desired movements of  $\tau$  and E are shown in figure-2. Initially return to E was  $\tau_1$  given the domestic demand for and



supply of E represented by  $D_E$  and  $S_E$ , respectively. Equilibrium is determined at P. When domestic demand for E goes up to  $D'_E$ ,  $\tau$  becomes  $\tau_3$  for any given supply of E fixed at A. Consequently when supply slides up along PR,  $\tau$  falls to  $\tau_2$  and equilibrium supply of E increases by AC. However, the differential in  $\tau$  between this country and the ROW attracts E and  $S_E$  shifts to  $S'_E$  in such a way that the new equilibrium is established at S yielding  $\tau_1$  as return to E and OB as equilibrium supply of E. And there would not be further international movement of E.<sup>18</sup>

Nevertheless, if E does not change, there won't be any change in  $\mu_{ES}$ . The change in  $\tau$  would be triggered by and shared between  $W_s$  and  $W$  only. This is shown as

$$\widehat{W}_s - \widehat{W}\theta_{ls} = \theta_{Es} \hat{\tau} \quad (10A)$$

### III. BASIC RESULTS

In this section we focus on the effects of TZ differences. Basically this is the effect of change or reduction in cost of communication that is made possible only through usage of high bandwidth network in information technology. We relate these two aspects in the sense that high bandwidth network won't be extremely useful if countries are not located in absolutely non-overlapping TZ. This is precisely why, here in this paper, we use cost of communication technology as the proxy of TZ difference.

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<sup>18</sup> We are thankful to Fumio Dei for clarifying such arguments.

(i) *TZ and Factor Prices*

Change in  $\rho$  will put its mark first on the return to other factors through standard Stolper-Samuelson arguments. A reduction in  $\rho$  will promptly increase  $W_s$  since price of skilled commodity is fixed by assumption. Using conventional “hat” algebra to denote proportional change

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \widehat{W}_s &= (-)\widehat{\rho} \theta_{dx} \\ \widehat{r} &= \widehat{\rho} \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}} \\ \widehat{W} &= (-)\widehat{\rho} \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy} \theta_{kz}}{\theta_{ky} \theta_{lz}} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (11)^{19}$$

When  $\rho$  goes down  $r$  will also fall while both types of labor gain. A fall in  $\rho$  means disutility or extra cost in form of communication cost diminishes. This helps S to capitalize some gains since product price is unchanged. When  $W_s$  increases, the complementary factor in Y must lose to absorb such gains of S. Loss to capital, K would help L to ask for higher wage,  $W$  in Z. So wage disparity may go either way.

$$(\widehat{W}_s - \widehat{W}) = (-)\widehat{\rho} \theta_{dx} \left( \frac{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz} - \theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}}{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz}} \right) \quad (12)$$

Nature of wage inequality crucially hinges upon whether  $\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz} \geq \theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}$ . Y is relatively K-intensive, and Z is L-intensive. Therefore,  $\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz} > \theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}$ .

**Proposition I:** *Wage inequality widens due to a fall in  $\rho$  if and only if  $\frac{\theta_{lz}}{\theta_{kz}} > \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}}$ .*

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<sup>19</sup> Here,  $\theta_{sx} = \frac{W_s(2+\rho)}{P_x} = 1$  implies productive skilled share in X,  $\theta_{dx} = \frac{W_s\rho}{P_x}$  indicates (disutility wage) or communication cost share in X, and  $\theta_{ky}, \theta_{sy}, \theta_{kz}, \theta_{lz}$  have usual interpretation following Jones ('65 and '71).

Proof: See discussion above

(ii) *TZ and Educational Capital*

Now we move to the effect on  $\tau$ . This is the most important point of our analysis as E will be channelized to the economy through changes in  $\tau$  only. Subsequently there would be some additional changes in sectoral output through Rybczynski effect. However, as factor prices are altered, this will also generate factor substitution and changes in output. We will, nevertheless, see later if endowment change in E augments the output effects further or weakens it.

Following arguments in Section II, change in  $\tau$  without any change in endowment is shown as

$$\hat{\tau} = (-)\hat{\rho} \frac{\theta_{dx}}{\theta_{Es}} \left( \frac{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz} - \theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}\theta_{ls}}{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz}} \right) \quad (13)^{20}$$

Reasoning of Proposition I and the fact that  $0 < \theta_{ls} < 1$  ensure an increase in  $\tau$  due to a reduction in  $\rho$ . In fact, an increase in wage inequality indicates  $\widehat{W}_s > \widehat{W} \Rightarrow \widehat{W}_s \gg \widehat{W}\theta_{ls}$  as  $0 < \theta_{ls} < 1 \Rightarrow \hat{\tau} > 0$  (see equation (10A)). So, in a sense, a relatively egalitarian society won't be able to attract more educational capital as  $\tau$  must have to fall in that case due to exploitation of TZ difference and communication network. Instead E will flow out of the country. This issue points to a provocative choice problem for the country concerned: whether it should go for a society with more unequal income distribution in

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<sup>20</sup> Readers are referred to Appendix A.II for explanation.

conjunction with increasing educational capital to educate the relatively unskilled or to keep the youth unskilled and have relatively less income disparity between skilled and unskilled. This is certainly a question of political economy itself and that is more importantly why any government should be very cautious in designing both domestic policies of supporting IT revolution, per se and international policy regarding movement of educational capital.

The underlying economic argument for low  $\tau$  and low wage disparity is somewhat like this. Exploitation of TZ differences through IT revolution benefits unskilled workers more than skilled workers. This acts as a less motivating factor for L to be trained and hence demand for E falls significantly in domestic market. In extreme situation  $\tau$  may even go down and push domestic E out of the country. Consequently the economy may end up with no extra training, educational institution for skill upgradation etc. Therefore the society may remain trapped in low-skilled or unskilled sector(s).

**Proposition II:**  $\tau$  will increase following a fall in  $\rho$  if  $(\widehat{W}_s - \widehat{W}) > 0$ . ■

*(iii) Sectoral Composition*

Factor prices naturally determine the technology of production. Therefore, changes in factor price ratios also induce changes in usage of different factors even in a competitive set up. Exploitation of TZ difference makes this adjustment possible here, and hence producers start substituting among different inputs. This specifies alteration

of output combination in the basic set up. Using elasticity of substitution in Z, denoted by  $\sigma_z$ , we arrive at

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{Z} &= (-)\hat{\rho} \sigma_z \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}} > 0 \\ \hat{Y} &= \hat{\rho} \sigma_z \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}} \frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}} < 0 \\ \hat{X} &= (-)\hat{\rho} \sigma_z \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}} \frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}} \frac{\lambda_{sy}}{\lambda_{sx}} > 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (14)$$

Here  $\lambda$ s bear usual interpretation of employment share of any factor in a commodity.

L is a specific factor in Z. An increase in W leads to economizing on its usage implying an expansion of Z for any given L (insured by non-changing E). Alongside, Z shares same capital with Y. This promises a contraction of Y and outflow of S from Y simultaneously. Again as Y shares same S with X, released S will move to X and causes its expansion. Hence we find some sort of complementarity between service sector (X) and low-value L-intensive sector (Z).

Now let's go back to  $\tau$ . As  $\hat{\tau} > 0$ , some E will come in and induce further changes in output combination. This is the standard endowment effect. Inflow of E will immediately pull some unskilled labor out of Z. This  $L_1$  will be trained to be employed in X and/or Y. So apparently output of Z will contract with immediate effect whereas that of X and Y will depend on factor intensity comparison between X and Y.

Again equation (7) with non-changing quality parameter,  $\varphi(E)$ , ensures that  $\hat{S}_1(E) = \hat{L}_1(E)$ . Therefore the number of unskilled workers abandoned from Z and the

number of newly trained workers awaiting employment in X and Y are identical.

Mathematically,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{Z} &= (-)\hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{l1l}}{\lambda_{lz}} < 0 \\ \hat{Y} &= \hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{l1l}}{\lambda_{lz}} \frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}} > 0 \\ \hat{X} &= \hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{s1s}\lambda_{lz} - \lambda_{l1l}\lambda_{kz}\lambda_{sy}}{\lambda_{lz}\lambda_{sx}} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (15)^{21}$$

Where  $\lambda_{l1l} = \frac{L_1}{L}$ ;  $\lambda_{lz} = \frac{a_{lz}Z}{L}$ ;  $\lambda_{s1s} = \frac{S_1}{S}$  etc.

Interestingly  $S_1$  can be used either in X or Y or both. But significantly shrinkage of Z also relinquishes some K that must be employed in Y only. X does not use this. So Y must expand, and this requires some more  $S_1$ . Now the question is whether excess demand for  $S_1$  in Y is greater or less than the newly trained  $S_1$ . This will determine the eventual effect on X. X will expand if  $\lambda_{s1s}\lambda_{lz} > \lambda_{l1l}\lambda_{kz}\lambda_{sy}$ . If the economy does not start with huge supply of S,  $\lambda_{s1s}$  is likely to be significant and  $\lambda_{l1l}$  cannot be so high for any economy. Therefore,  $\lambda_{s1s} > \lambda_{l1l}$ . On the other hand L-intensity of Z confirms  $\lambda_{lz} > \lambda_{kz}$ . Therefore,

$$\lambda_{s1s}\lambda_{lz} > \lambda_{l1l}\lambda_{kz}\lambda_{sy} \text{ as } 0 < \lambda_{sy} < 1.$$

In what follows, both X and Y may expand simultaneously exhibiting complementarity. The economy may end up as a skill-based one due to TZ difference induced inflow of E. Notably, TZ difference creates complementarity between X and Z and, in contrast,

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<sup>21</sup> More detailed explanations are provided in Appendix A.III.

inflow of E creates complementarity between X and Y. Though eventual effect on Z and Y is uncertain, X must expand (compare (14) and (15))

**Proposition III:** *Due to TZ difference induced changes in  $\tau$  and E, X must expand if  $\lambda_{S1S}\lambda_{Lz} > \lambda_{L1L}\lambda_{kz}\lambda_{sy}$ .* ■

So far we have not talked about the relation among  $\rho$ ,  $\tau$  and E in a packed-in way. Before we conclude we attempt to figure out the desired channel. This would help us establishing direct trajectory from  $\rho$  to E and hence outputs. Basically,  $E = E(\tau)$  while return to E again depends on  $\rho$  as we have explained before i.e.  $\tau = \tau(\rho)$ . Therefore,  $E = E(\tau(\rho)) = g(\rho)$  (say).

Tracking arguments established in the foregoing sections it is very easy to understand that  $\tau'(\rho) < 0$  whereas  $E'(\tau) > 0$ . If we take the final expression for E as  $E = g(\rho)$ ;  $g'(\rho) < 0$ . In words, when cost of communication is reduced, E will flow into the economy.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper we have developed a simple trade theoretic model to examine the effects of TZ difference of trading partners on factor prices and sectoral compositions. Starting with the assumption that outsourcing through internet is the best possible way to get the unfinished work done early; we proceed to the effects of information communication technology revolution reflected by a reduction in cost of communication. It is shown in this set up that both skilled and unskilled workers gain

due to such changes while one kind of capital lose and educational capital promises higher return. When E does not come from abroad, the concerned country experiences complementarity between most skilled sector and low-value unskilled sector. Inflow of E, however, changes the complementarity structure. Eventually output of most skilled sector must expand whilst others are uncertain. Interestingly this process of transformation comes with widening wage disparity between skilled and unskilled. This paper can also corroborate some recent policy initiatives in some parts of the developing world in general and India in particular where some states have already started allowing private educational capital to promote skill development and to exploit the advantages conferred by TZ difference.



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## APPENDIX

### A.I. Adjustments in $\tau$ and E

Following arguments in the main text we understand that  $\tau$  influences E which in turn changes  $\mu_{ES}$ , productivity of educational capital in upgrading L. An increase in E owing to increment in  $\tau$  initially raises average productivity. Such phenomenon is quite sensible as the supply of complementing factor, L, is huge in supply. Therefore,  $\frac{1}{\mu_{ES}}$  goes up or  $\mu_{ES}$  goes down. But in the long run, productivity of E must fall gradually because of the similar reason iterated before. So E demonstrates a positive relation with  $\tau$ , before reaching a certain level, but beyond that level E drags down  $\tau$  through changes in the productivity. Hence,  $\tau$  decreases and gets equalized with international level where inflow or outflow of E comes to a halt. These arguments are described in the following diagrams. Figure IA shows the relationship between  $\mu_{ES}$  and  $\tau$ , whereas Figure IB defines the desired shape of the curve showing different combinations of E and  $\tau$ . Both the points G and H denote equilibrium, but H is a stable one.

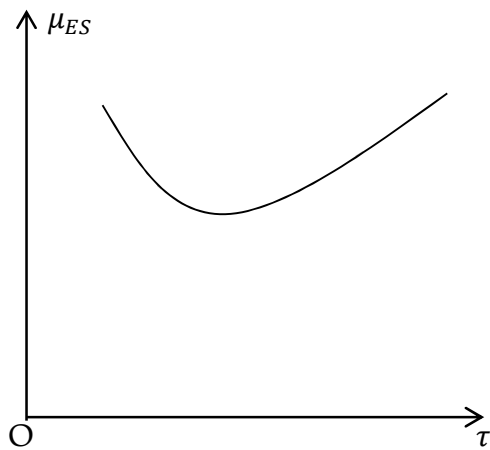


Figure-IA

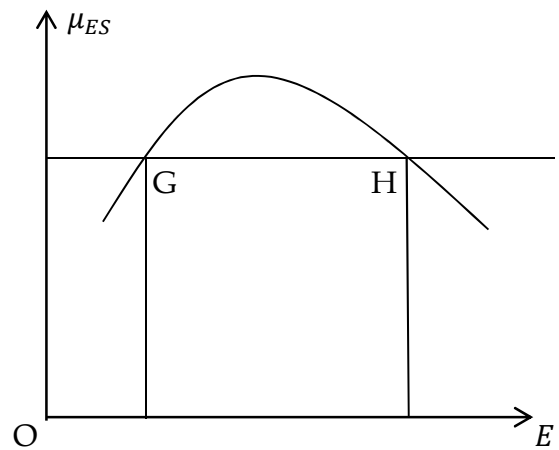


Figure-IB

### A.II. Change in $\tau$

From equation (9) we easily derive that  $\widehat{W}_s - \widehat{W}\theta_{ls} = \theta_{Es}(\hat{\tau} + \hat{\alpha})$  as  $\mu_{Es}$  and  $\alpha(E)$  both are identical and imply inverse of average productivity of educational capital. However, when there is no endowment change in E, productivity of E will not change. This is what we need to look at as change in  $\tau$  would be due to change in  $\rho$  only to start with. Substituting the values of  $\widehat{W}$  and  $\widehat{W}_s$

$$\hat{\tau}\theta_{Es} = -\hat{\rho}\theta_{dx} + \hat{\rho}\theta_{dx}\frac{\theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}}{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz}}\theta_{ls}$$

$$\hat{\tau}\theta_{Es} = -\hat{\rho}\theta_{dx}\left(1 - \frac{\theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}}{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz}}\theta_{ls}\right)$$

$$\hat{\tau} = (-)\hat{\rho}\frac{\theta_{dx}}{\theta_{Es}}\left(\frac{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz} - \theta_{sy}\theta_{kz}\theta_{ls}}{\theta_{ky}\theta_{lz}}\right)$$

This is the preferred relationship between  $\tau$  and  $\rho$  when only different input prices change and calls for an international movement of educational capital.

### A.III. Output change due to $\rho$ and E

For the time being we refrain ourselves from the issue of an inflow of E though it will take place eventually as  $\tau$  has already gone up. We will come to that later. So, here both  $L_1$  and  $S_1$  are zero. Change in output will be due to factor substitution only owing to change in factor prices triggered by change in  $\rho$ . From the zero profit condition and envelope condition

$$\hat{\alpha}_{lz} = \sigma_z(\widehat{W} - \hat{r})\theta_{lz} \text{ and } \hat{\alpha}_{kz} = (-)\sigma_z(\widehat{W} - \hat{r})\theta_{kz}$$

Using the full employment condition for L and plugging the values of  $\widehat{W}$  and  $\hat{r}$  we arrive at

$$\hat{Z} = (-)\hat{\rho}\sigma_z\theta_{dx}\frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}}$$

Again, K constraint gives the value

$$\hat{Y} = \hat{\rho}\sigma_z\theta_{dx}\frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}}\frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}}$$

If one substitutes the value of  $\hat{Y}$  in the full employment condition of skilled labor we have

$$\hat{X} = (-)\hat{\rho} \sigma_z \theta_{dx} \frac{\theta_{sy}}{\theta_{ky}} \frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}} \frac{\lambda_{sy}}{\lambda_{sx}}$$

Now let us move to the endowment effect. Equation (7) entails  $\hat{S}_1(E) = \hat{L}_1(E)$  for non-changing quality parameter of E. Note that equation (9) can also be written as  $W + \tau \frac{E}{S_1(E)} = W_s$ . This argument ensures that  $\hat{S}_1(E) = \hat{L}_1(E) = \hat{E}$  for any given  $W_s$ ,  $W$  and  $\tau$  (which is now higher than the international level). Once E flows in, however, there must be further modifications in  $\tau$ . It has to go down to restore the world wide balance. But right now we are not interested in that. Consequent upon inflow of E we will have slightly modified full employment conditions where both  $L_1$  and  $S_1$  are non-zero and positive. Using the standard Cramer's rule and substitution of  $\hat{S}_1(E) = \hat{L}_1(E) = \hat{E}$  delineates

$$\hat{Z} = (-)\hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{l1l}}{\lambda_{lz}}, \quad \hat{Y} = \hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{l1l}}{\lambda_{lz}} \frac{\lambda_{kz}}{\lambda_{ky}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{X} = \hat{E} \frac{\lambda_{s1s}\lambda_{lz} - \lambda_{l1l}\lambda_{kz}\lambda_{sy}}{\lambda_{lz}\lambda_{sx}}.$$