

Conclusion

Robbins wrote his famous Essay at a time when economic thinking in the Anglo-Saxon world was consolidating the teachings of Marshall and his followers. Robbins believed that the development of Economics was being shunted wrongly onto the track of Quantitative economics. This, to his mind, was dangerous to the proper and legitimate development of economics as a science.

Robbins' claim to a place in the history of economic thought lies in the fact that he brought a new vision - new at least to the Anglo-Saxon world of economics. He opened new avenues and corrected a drift towards quantification in a science primarily dealing with human behaviour which he recognised could not be readily measured. The success of his efforts can only be measured by the controversy and debate that his Essay gave rise to in the years that followed.

To what extent his writings influenced J.M. Keynes and other writers of the age? The answer to this question lies outside the scope of our appraisal. Perhaps, it can be said that his influence was greatest in the field of Welfare Economics. It was here that his objections and doubts, with regard to the futility of making interpersonal comparisons of utility, had an impact in stimulating a new approach to economic thinking. The eventual growth ^{and} establishment of the New Welfare Economics can be traced to his Essay.

Enough has been said earlier about his specific contributions in placing the study of economics in a fundamentally new light. What is pertinent to point out is that the issues raised by Robbins in his Essay are just as ^{relevant} revelent to-day as they were some thirty years ago when he first wrote.