

## Absolute Scarcity and Relative Scarcity in Islamic and Orthodox Economics: Rereading the Concept

Alireza Lashkari\*

DOI: 10.22096/esp.2022.539817.1575

Received Date: 17/04/2022 - Accepted Date: 13/09/2022

### Abstract

Examining some concepts, in addition to clearly helping to understand its meaning and better understanding of the subject literature and following it in the view of Islamic economics, is useful and even necessary in that it has a decisive effect on the structure and arrangements of a system. Scarcity is one of the structural concepts in social and economic systems, and research on it can explain the position of Islamic thought in comparison with other economic schools and affect the structure appropriate to the Islamic economic system. This article, while examining the concept of scarcity in the knowledge of economics, provides an explanation of its meaning in Islamic economics and emphasizes the difference between the meaning of this word in two perspectives. The method used in this study is in the library collection stage and in the position of content analysis evaluation. The article concludes that in Islamic economics there is absolute scarcity and relative scarcity in a completely different sense from the concept in conventional economics.

**Keywords:** Absolute; Scarcity; Relative scarcity; Wants; Needs; Welfare; Resources.

**JEL Classification:** A13, D91, I31, P52.

---

\* Assistant Professor, Reaserch Institute of Hawzeh and University, Qom, Iran.

Email: alilashkari@rihu.ac.ir



### Bibliography

The Holy Quran

Akram Khan, M. "Islamic Economics: Nature and Need, J. Res." *Islamic Econ* 1, no. 2 (1404/1984): 51-55.

Al-Sadr, Al-Sayed Mohammad Baqer. *Eqtesadana*. Beirut: Dar al-Taarif Lilmatboat, 1408. [In Arabic]

Buchanan, Allen. *Ethics, efficiency and the Market*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985.

Chapra, Mohammad Umar. "What Is Islamic Economics?." *Islamic Development Bank Prize Winners' Lecture Series*, no. 9 (1996).

Chapra, Mohammad Umar. *Islam and the Economic Challenge*. Translated by Aliasgar Haadavinia, Naser Jahanian, Ahmadali Yoosofi and Sayyed Hosain Mirmoezi. Qom: Sazman EPajoheshgah Farhang ve Andishe Islami, 2005. [In Persian]

Dadgar, Yadollah. "Efficiency, Welfare and Justice in Islam and Conventional Economy." *Mofid Letter*, no. 17 (1999): 72-41. [In Persian]

Daly, Herman E. *Steady Freeman.-State Economics: The Economics of Biophysical Equilibrium and Moral Growth*. San Francisco: Calif: Freeman, 1977.

Daoud, Adel. *Robbins versus Malthus' view of scarcity: absolute and relative scarcity*. Gothenburg: Department of Sociology, Gothenburg University, 2009.

Daryabandari, Najaf. *Darde bikhishtani*. Tehran: Parvaz, 1989. [In Persian]

Fadhillah, Hanif, Muhammad Nafik, Ririn Ratnasari, Tika Widiastuti, and Sri Herianingrum. "Concept of Scarcity in the Islamic Economic Perspective." In *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference Postgraduate School (ICPS)*, 93-96. Surabaya, Indonesia: SCITEPRESS – Science and Technology Publications, Lda, 2018.

Fitzpatrick, tony. *Welfare Theory an introduction*. Translated by Hormoz Homayonpoor. Tehran: Gaame no Social Security Organization Research Institute, 2002. [In Persian]

Gordon, Scott. "The Economics of the Afterlife." *The Journal of Political Economy* 88, no. 1 (1980): 213-214.

Hirschman, Albert O. *The Passions and the Interests: Political Arguments for Capitalism before Its Triumph*. Translated by Mohammad Maljo. Tehran: Shiraz Publishing and Research, 2000. [In Persian]

Jonsson, F.A. *Scarcity in the Modern World: History, Politics, Society and Sustainability, 1800–2075*. Bloombury: Bloombury Academic and the Diana logo are trademarks of Bloombury Publishing Plc, 2019.

Mir Moazi, Seyyed Hossein, Mojtabi Ghafari, and Hamed Abbasi. "The concept of scarcity in capitalist economics and Islamic economics."

*Ma'rifat-e Eghtesād-e Islāmī* 11, no. 1 (Fall & Winter 2019-2020):151-164. [In Persian]

Moini, Jahangir. *Methodology of new theories of politics*. Tehran: Tehran University, 2006. [In Persian]

Motahari Morteza. *Majmueh Asar Ostad Shahid Motahari*. Tehran: sadra, 2012. [In Persian]

Robbins, Lionel. *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science*. 3th edition, London: Macmillan, 1984.

Rowls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971.

Samuelson, Paul A., and William D. Nordhaus. *Economics*. 19th edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Turner, Bryan S., and Chris Rojek. *SOCIETY AND CULTURE: Principles of Scarcity and Solidarity*. London: Publications Ltd, 2001.