

* Positive Externality in Consumption :

This case is illustrated in figure 4.

The MSC curve is the supply curve.

The demand curve DD is the MPB

curve. Since there are external benefits, MSB > MPB and MSB curve lies above the demand curve.

The socially optimal output is given by Q_0 where $MSB = MSC$. Without any intervention, the quantity produced is Q_1 and price is P_1 . Thus, there is under-production as compared to the socially optimal level.

If Q_0 is produced at a price P_0 , the marginal cost of production will be C_0 . Then, the consumer needs to be given a subsidy equal to $(C_0 - P_0)$.

Part of the subsidy $(C_0 - P_0) \times Q_0$ could possibly be collected from those reaping the external benefits arising from the consumption of this good.

The net benefit to society from the subsidy is ~~measured~~ measured by the area AEH triangle in figure 4. It is the excess of social benefit over social cost for the output range Q_1 to Q_0 .

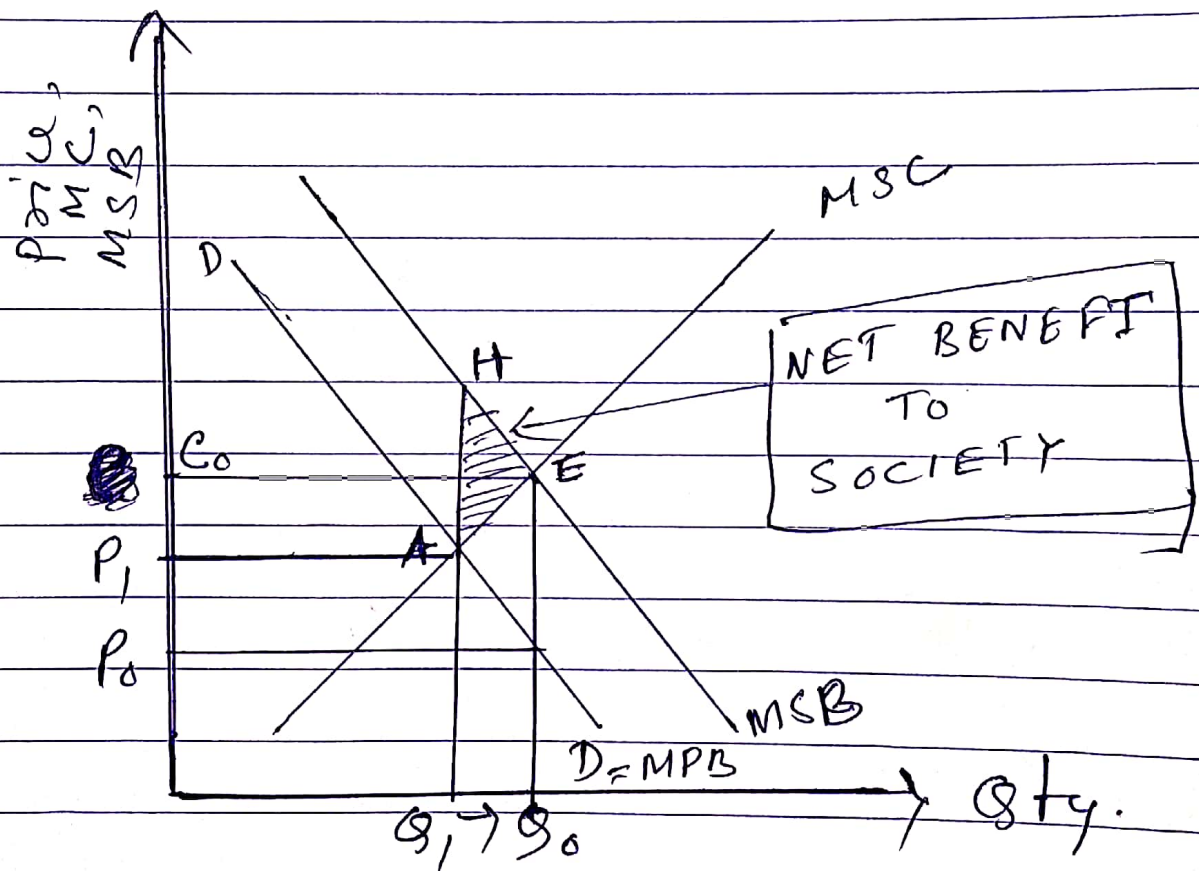


Fig. (4)

Positive externality in consumption