Difference between Utility Analysis and Indifference Curve Analysis

| Basis of Difference | Utility Analysis | Indifference Curve Analysis |
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| Independent Commodities | The main defect of this analysis that only independent goods are considered. Substitute goods and complementary goods cannot be studied under this. | This analysis is free from this assumption. It studies all types of goods such as substitute, complementary and unrelated goods. |
| Measurement of utility | Here, the utility is quantitative and can be measured in cardinal numbers 2,4,6 and 8 etc. | Here, the utility is orderable, not quantitative. Thus, the technique ' ordinal measurement of utility ' is used. |
| Assumption of Constant Marginal utility of Money | It is based on the assumption that the marginal utility of money is constant. | It is free from this unrealistic assumption of utility analysis as in real life, the marginal utility of money can never be constant. |
| Price Effect | Due to the assumption of constant marginal utility of money, the price effect cannot be split into the substitution effect and income effect. | In this, the price effect can be split into income and substitution effect defining the extent of both effects separately. |
| Giffen-Paradox | Utility Analysis fails to explain Giffen paradox which shows the positively sloped demand curve for Giffen goods. | It explains the Giffen paradox extensively by showing the strong negative income effect than the negative substitution effect due to a change in the price of Giffen goods. |
| Estimation of Welfare | This analysis does not help estimate consumer welfare as well as a change in real income due to a change in price. | It helps in estimating the welfare of consumers due to a change in price by higher or lower indifference curves. |
| Based on unrealistic Assumptions | It is based on many unrealistic assumptions of utility such as it can be added or subtracted and based on the consumption of that commodity only. | It makes an extensive study of the theory of demand due to based on fewer assumptions. |