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RELATIVE INFLUENCE OF SECTORS ON REGIONAL PROSPERITY - A CASE STUDY OF WEST-BENGAL

BIKASH SAHA
ASST. PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS
BOLPUR COLLEGE
BOLPUR

ABSTRACT

By the term regional prosperity, we mean wellbeing of population of a particular area. It depends upon the availability as well as proper utilization of human and non-human resources of that particular region. In economic sense we know that, the sources of available resources are subdivided into three sectors say primary, secondary and service. Therefore, regional prosperity means an increase of population's living standards through ultimate as well as sustainable utilization of three sectors. But it is reality that, due to natural or geographical disparity among regions, all sectors may not perform equally for economic growth. This is the room to take necessary decision about economic planning for future. Domestic product is one of the most pivotal factors of national prosperity. The growth of domestic product implies the growth of national income. Rise in national income increases the investment possibility of the nation which in turn increases employment as well as per-capita income. Thus, the generation of employment opportunity for all and creation of socio-economic infrastructure may increase the well-beings of population without plentiful problem of income distribution. Therefore, we need to emphasis on domestic production. However, we know that, our economy is subdivided into three sectors like primary/agriculture, secondary/industrial sector and service sector. In planning for higher domestic product, we must have to choose the sector which will have most influence on it. In this study, I have tried to analyze a comparative influence of three sectors of West-Bengal. For this I have used a time series data of period 2005-6 to 2013-14 on sectoral growth rate and the growth rate of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP). (Mainly secondary sources have been used. For the purpose of data analysis, I have calculated the elasticities of growth rate of NSDP with respect to sector's growth. Further, I have also run a multiple regression to compare the multiplier effect of sectors on domestic product. The result of my study shows that the service sector which include education, health, commerce and communication have the most pivotal influence on NSDP of West-Bengal.

KEYWORDS

regional prosperity, domestic product, sectoral growth, multiplier effect, elasticity of growth rate of NSDP, rural infrastructure and economic wellbeing.

INTRODUCTION

West Bengal is situated in eastern India and shares its borders with Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim and Assam. The state also shares international borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The Bay of Bengal is in the south of the state.

West Bengal is India's sixth largest economy, and recorded a gross state domestic product (GSDP) of US\$ 140.56 billion in 2015-16. The state's GSDP expanded at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.57 per cent from 2004-05 to 2015-16. Agriculture is the chief occupation in the state and contributed 18.8 per cent to the GSDP in 2014-15. West Bengal is the largest producer of rice in India. Rice production for the state totaled 16.1 million tonnes in FY 2015-16. West Bengal is also the largest fish producing state in India. During 2015-16, the state produced a total of 1.63 million tonnes of fish in comparison with a produce of 1.61 million tonnes during 2014-15. As of June 2016, West Bengal had a total installed power generation capacity of 9,988.4 megawatt (MW).

The State Domestic Product (SDP) (at factor cost) is regarded as the most important single economic indicator to measure the growth and pattern of economic development of a state. The structure of a state economy and its performance by economic activity can be looked upon by the estimates of its Gross/Net State Domestic Product by different sectors. The per-capita income is a useful measure of the prosperity of an economy. True, it cannot accurately capture some vital aspects of human welfare like the health and education standards of the society, nor does it take environmental degradation into account, but it is still believed to be the best single parameter of a region's welfare. This indicator is now frequently used by the Planning Commission (PC) (and Finance Commission) (FC) (for devolution of a part of plan resources and distribution of proceeds of central taxes to different states. Considering this ground reality, in this study, I am going to see the relative influences of three sectors on NSDP of our state economy. This seems to be highly effectual to plan for immediate needs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

ECONOMY OF WEST BENGAL

A state in eastern India, is primarily dependent on agriculture and medium-sized industry, although services and heavy industries play an increasingly significant role in the economy of the state. A significant part of the state is economically backward, namely, large parts of six northern districts of Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Malda, North Dinajpur and South Dinajpur; three western districts of Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum; and the Sundarbans area. Years after independence, West Bengal was still dependent on the central government for meeting its demands for food; food production remained stagnant and the Green Revolution bypassed the state. However, there has been a significant spurt in food production since the 1980s, and the state is now one of the few Indian states with a surplus in food production. It is one of the most important food producing states in India, producing nearly 20 % of the rice and 33 % of the potato yield, although accounting for only 15 % of the population of India.) W.B HDR, 2004 (The state's total financial debt stood at ₹1,918 billion (US\$30 billion) as of 2011 (*Economic Times* 2011).

In 2009-10, the tertiary sector of the economy (service industries) was the largest contributor to the gross domestic product of the state, contributing 57.8 % of the state domestic product compared to 24 % from primary sector (agriculture, forestry, mining) and 18.2 % from secondary sector (industrial and manufacturing). In 2009-10, the tertiary sector contributed 57.8 per cent to the state's GSDP at current prices, followed by primary sector (24.0 per cent) and secondary sector (18.2 per cent). At a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15.2 per cent, the tertiary sector has been the fastest growing among the three sectors from 2004-05 to 2009-10. The growth has been driven by trade, hotels, real estate, finance, insurance, transport, communications and other services. The primary sector grew at a CAGR of 12.7 per cent between 2004-05 and 2009-10. The secondary sector grew at a CAGR of 11.5 per cent between 2004-05 and 2009-10. It was driven by manufacturing, construction and electricity, gas and water supply. The per capita NSDP increased at an average rate of 11.6 per cent between 2004-05 and 2009-10. (West-Bengal, 2011)

NATIONAL PICTURE

India, the fourth largest economy after Japan, is emerging very fast as a global economy. It is the second most populous country in the world after China whereas China is the most populous country with the second largest economy in the world. At the time of Indian independence, the speed of economic growth was slow but now the economy is growing substantially due to changes in economic structure in the country. A series of economic reforms is taking place aimed at deregulating the country, and stimulating foreign investment has moved India into the front ranks in the Asian region. A primary reason for the surge in the economic growth rate in the first two decades after independence was the high priority attached to and large public investments undertaken in higher and technical education in the country immediately after independence. Since investments in public sector and education have a long gestation period, it is likely that these effects became visible only after the 1980s. The decline in public sector investments with the gradual dilution of Nehruvian economic agenda adversely affected the total factor productivity in India.

The Indian Economic policy after independent was influenced by the colonial experience, which was seen as exploitative by Indian leaders exposed to British social democracy and the planned economy of the Soviet Union. Domestic policy tended towards protectionism, with a strong emphasis on import substitution, industrialization, economic interventionism, a large gov.-run public sector, business regulation and central planning, while trade and foreign investment policies were

relatively liberal. Five-Year Plans of India resembled central planning in Soviet Union. Steel, mining, machine tools, telecommunications, insurance and power plants, among other industries, were effectively nationalized in the mid-1950s. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, along with the statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, formulated and oversaw economic policy during the initial years of the country's independence. The expected favourable outcomes from their strategy, involving the rapid development of heavy industry by both public and private sectors, and based on direct and indirect state intervention, rather than the more extreme Soviet-Style central command system.

The recent spurt of economic growth during the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) regime was even more fragile than the earlier occurrences of growth in the 1980s and mid-1990s. The growth of over 8 per cent achieved in the year 2003-4 was only a recovery and not a consistent trend. It was based on the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) upsurge which centered on a small fraction of the economy. By extrapolating the economic growth in a narrow segment of the economy, the NDA government started indulging in the self-created fantasy of 'India shining and feel good factor', indicating that India was on the verge of explosive economic growth. The fact is that it is the explosion of IT-related services that has propelled the recent growth, and economic reforms in India cannot be a sustainable source of growth because it currently accounts for a small share of GDP and employment. So, emphasis must be given to those sectors that have linkages and have a strong economy wide growth impact.

Changes in the economic scenario have started to accelerate economic growth recently when economic reforms were introduced during the 1980s in India. Since then, India has undergone major reforms consisting of opening up the economy to more foreign trade and investment and dismantling the industrial licensing system. But the speed of reforms accelerated actually in 1990s. By introducing new reforms policy India's growth rate picked up, foreign exchange started to flow into the country at an unprecedented rate, and the information technology sector boomed making India a major player on the global scene. This has led to a worldwide interest in the Indian economy not witnessed since the time of India's independence. No doubt, Indian economy is growing however; the question does remain about what is happening to poverty and inequality in India, whether the fiscal policy being followed is sustainable, whether the information technology boom is here to stay. The answer lies in the fact that there is an unequal growth in the agriculture, industry, and service sectors. In 1979-80, the GDP was Rs. 372,373 crore at factor cost. About 40 per cent of the GDP originated in the primary sector, around 22 per cent in the manufacturing sector, and 38 per cent in the services sector. *Kumar, Naresh (2008).*

AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry, logging and fishing accounted for 17 % of the GDP and employed 49 % of the total workforce in 2014. As the Indian economy has diversified and grown, agriculture's contribution to GDP has steadily declined from 1951 to 2011, yet it is still the country's largest employment source and a significant piece of its overall socio-economic development. Crop-yield-per-unit-area of all crops has grown since 1950, due to the special emphasis placed on agriculture in the five-year plans and steady improvements in irrigation, technology, application of modern agricultural practices and provision of agricultural credit and subsidies since the Green Revolution in India. However, international comparisons reveal the average yield in India is generally 30 % to 50 % of the highest average yield in the world. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, West-Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra are key contributors to Indian agriculture.

India receives an average annual rainfall of 1,208 millimetres (47.6 in) and a total annual precipitation of 4000 billion cubic metres, with the total utilisable water resources, including surface and ground water, amounting to 1123 billion cubic metres. 546,820 square kilometres (211,130 sq mi) of the land area, or about 39 % of the total cultivated area, is irrigated. India's inland water resources and marine resources provide employment to nearly six million people in the fisheries sector. In 2010, India had the world's sixth-largest fishing industry. *Wikipedia*

INDUSTRY

Industry accounts for 26 % of GDP and employs 22 % of the total workforce. According to the World Bank, India's industrial manufacturing GDP output in 2015 was 6th largest in the world on current US dollar basis (\$559 billion), and 9th largest on inflation-adjusted constant 2005 US dollar basis (\$197.1 billion). The industrial sector underwent significant changes due to the 1991 economic reforms, which removed import restrictions, brought in foreign competition, led to the privatization of certain government-owned public-sector industries, liberalized the foreign direct investment (FDI) regime, improved infrastructure and led to an expansion in the production of fast-moving consumer goods. Post-liberalization, the Indian private sector was faced with increasing domestic and foreign competition, including the threat of cheaper Chinese imports. It has since handled the change by squeezing costs, revamping management, and relying on cheap labour and new technology. However, this has also reduced employment generation, even among smaller manufacturers who previously relied on labour-intensive processes.

SERVICE

The services sector has the largest share of India's GDP, accounting for 57 % in 2012, up from 15 % in 1950. It is the seventh largest service sector by nominal GDP, and third largest when purchasing power is taken into account. The services sector provides employment to 27 % of the work force. Information technology and business process outsourcing is among the fastest-growing sectors, having a cumulative growth rate of revenue 33.6 % between fiscal years 1997-98 and 2002-03, and contributing to 25 % of the country's total exports in 2007-08.

(.....Agriculture in India, Forestry in India, Animal husbandry in India, Fishing in India and Natural resource in India. Wikipedia)

Economic growth is the increase in the inflation-adjusted market value of the goods and services produced by an economy over time. It is conventionally measured as the percent rate of increase in real gross domestic product, or real GDP, usually in per capita terms. Growth is usually calculated in *real* terms –i.e., inflation-adjusted terms –to eliminate the distorting effect of inflation on the price of goods produced. Measurement of economic growth uses national income accounting since economic growth is measured as the annual percent change of gross domestic product (GDP); it has all the advantages and drawbacks of that measure.

The "rate of economic growth" refers to the geometric annual rate of growth in GDP between the first and the last year over a period of time. Implicitly, this growth rate is the trend in the average level of GDP over the period, which implicitly ignores the fluctuations in the GDP around this trend.... *Wikipedia*).

Economic reforms have affected all sectors of Indian economy. Before reforms, the pace of economic growth was slow and the growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) was imperceptibly above the population growth rate. After reforms, Indian economy has transformed relatively from stagnation to a dynamic stage due to growth in primary, secondary, and tertiary or service sectors. However, pattern of growth in agriculture, industry, and service sectors along with developments in the reforms and liberalization process shows that growth in agriculture sector has not increased substantially though other sectors, particularly service sector demonstrates the boost. Therefore, the objective of the paper is to examine the nature of growth and direction of different sectors namely agriculture, industry, and service sectors in India using regression analysis.

In this study, I shall try to find the linkages between agriculture, industry, and services sectors with NDP and also try to analyse the expected path for economic growth in West-Bengal. The regression model will be estimated on annual data for the period 2004-05 to 2013-2014. Thus, the objective of my study is to **find the relative influence of three sectors on NDP in our state economy**. I think it will be helpful for regional planning for development.

Null hypothesis of the study :All sectors have equal influence in net state domestic product of West-Bengal.

Data :Mainly I have used secondary data from Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Department of Statistic & Programme implementation. Some other sources have been used for the purpose of literature survey.

For detail analysis of my study let us go through collected data in following table-1.

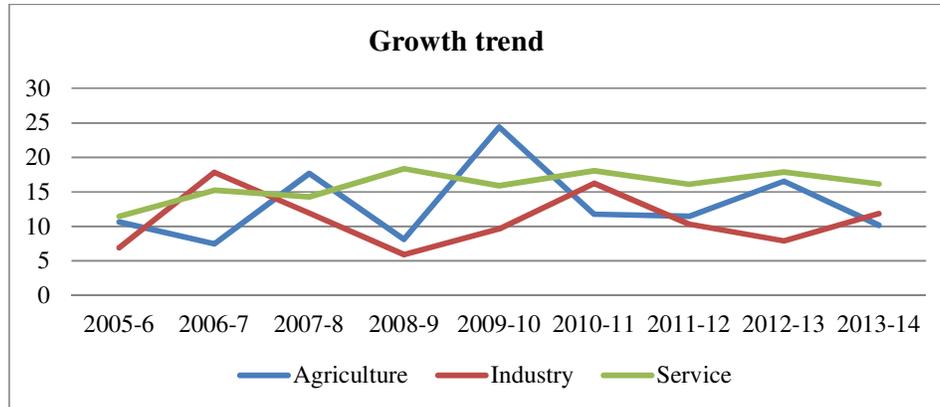
TABLE 1

Year	Agriculture & Allied (% growth)	Industry (% growth)	Service (% growth)	Per-capita NSDP (% growth)
	At current price			
2005-6	10.65	6.89	11.44	9.14
2006-7	7.48	17.85	15.23	12.55
2007-8	17.66	11.94	14.3	13.46
2008-9	8.1	5.89	18.37	12.42
2009-10	24.4	9.65	15.87	15.65
2010-11	11.76	16.24	18.04	15.12
2011-12	11.46	10.34	16.09	12.99
2012-13	16.56	7.89	17.88	12.99
2013-14	10.17	11.87	16.16	16.15

Source :Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Department of Statistic & Programme implementation, Govt. of West-Bengal, August 2014.

Note that :here agriculture and allied sector includes Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery and Industry includes Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing (registered and un-registered), Construction, Electricity, Gas & Water supply sectors. I have used only current price data for analysis.

CHART 1



In above chart, I have used only current price data and get a clear idea about the long run tendency of rate growth of three sectors in West-Bengal economy. The growth rate is more or less same in all three sectors except a sudden increase in growth rate of agriculture sector in 2009-10. This picture however not says about expected future planning of the economy. We cannot determine the relative expected level of emphasis on sectors. If we need to do so we have to determine the relative impact of three sectors on State's per-capita net domestic product (PCNDP). For the said purpose, we have regress the rate of growth of three sectors on PCNDP.

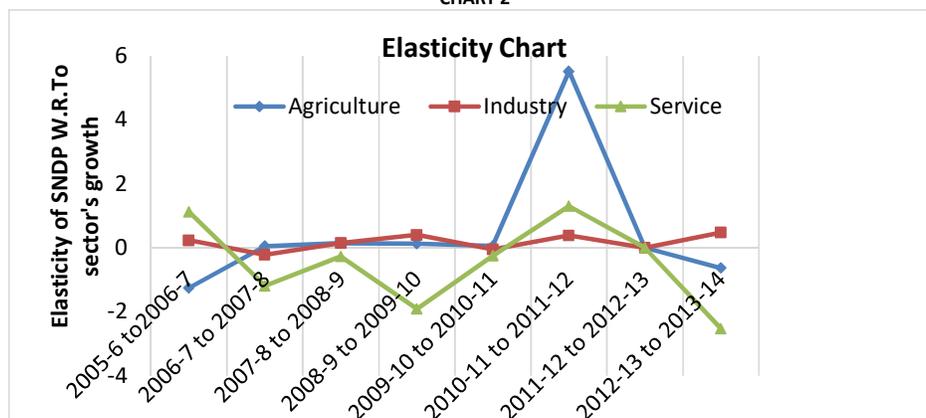
Now we shall look the sector sensitivity of SNDP in respect growth rate. The last three columns of following table represent the elasticity of SNDP with respect to Agriculture, Industry and Service sector's growth rate respectively which have termed as sector sensitivity of SNDP. To consider the sensitivity of NDP, I have used only the mod value of elasticity.

TABLE 2

Period	Elasticity of SNDP with respect to sector's growth rate		
	Agriculture	Industry	Service
2005-6 to 2006-7	-1.25342509	0.234539962	1.126146776
2006-7 to 2007-8	0.053278438	-0.219002164	-1.187448057
2007-8 to 2008-9	0.142731913	0.152488549	-0.271475041
2008-9 to 2009-10	0.129234463	0.407388135	-1.910953301
2009-10 to 2010-11	0.065373883	-0.049591064	-0.247673032
2010-11 to 2011-12	5.522222222	0.387758945	1.303256003
2011-12 to 2012-13	0	0	0
2012-13 to 2013-14	-0.630430776	0.482249585	-2.528814652
Average*	0.974587615	0.241626897	1.071970347

*Averages have calculated by considering only mod value of elasticity.

CHART 2



In above chart –2, we see that, throughout the year the sensitivity of NDP is most frequently fluctuated in agriculture sector and this is followed by service sector. In present scenario, we see that the sensitivity of NDP w.r.t. industrial growth rate is quite lesser than the other two sectors of West-Bengal. Therefore, we may think that agriculture and service are the most influencing sectors of our state economy. From table –2, we also see that the average service sensitivity of NDP is highest which is followed by agriculture sector. This may because, our economy is nature friendly agro-based economy. Skilled manpower, communication and technology are the primary conditions for this sector’s growth; secondly, our service sector includes education, health and communication. Therefore, it is obvious that service sector’s growth will have more multiplier effect on NDP via agriculture and industrial sectors. This is why the service sector’s sensitivity on NDP is shown higher than other.

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

From the multiple regression of independent variables (rate of growth of three sectors) on dependent variable PCNDP (table :1)we also get the similar result.

TABLE 3

R	R ²	Anova sig.	Constant	β ₁	β ₂	β ₃
.808 ^a	.654	.125 ^a	.032	.475	.442	.541

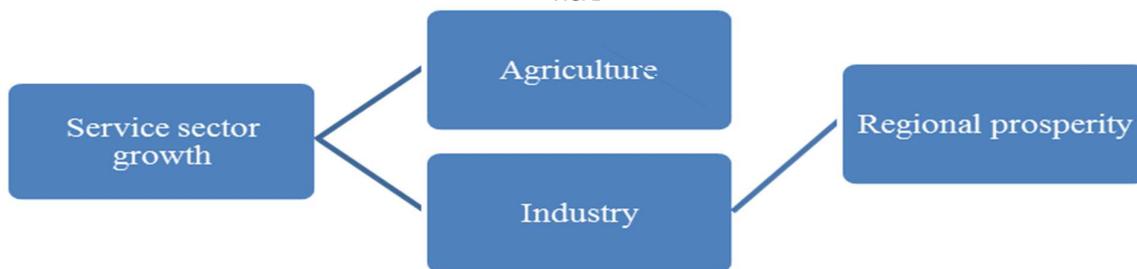
The regression equation is;

$$Y = .032 + .475X_1 + .442X_2 + .541X_3$$

Where, Y stands for PCNDP, X₁ stands for rate of growth of agriculture sector, X₂ stands for rate of growth of industry and X₃ stands for rate of growth of service sector. Here the Beta co-efficient of service sector is highest which is followed by agriculture sector. This implies that if we invest more in service sector, our NDP will be affected higher than that of other sectors.

From the above explanation, we may conclude that Service sector is the most influencing sector of West-Bengal economy. If we need to facilitate the SNDP rapidly, we must emphasis on services like education, health infrastructure and communication system (including village communication) .The development of these ensures a good socio-economic and virtual infrastructural setup.

FIG. 1



CONCLUSION

The results provide strong support for the long-run linkages between net domestic production and service sector’s growth. The development of infrastructure, health facilities and higher communication system is generally synonymous with the growth of both rural and urban economy. The services sector influences the process of both agriculture and industrialization, and presently emerged as the dominant driver and key lever of economic growth. The development strategy needs to be rebalanced to revitalize socio-economic services in order to generate efficient labour force, proper infrastructure and technology. A high multiplier effect of it will lead our economy towards more net domestic product with high retrospective effect on other sectors.

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