

Journal of Business Management and Economic Research

2018, 2(10): 1-14 DOI: 10.29226/TR1001.2018.66 Journal Homepage: https://www.jobmer.org



Determinants of Gross Domestic Saving: An Evidence from Asian Countries

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Abstract

This paper investigates determinants of gross domestic saving of eighteen Asian countries. Eighteen Asian countries were selected, based on the availability of data from the year 1995-2016. Secondary panel data of the determinants of gross domestic saving were obtained from the official website of the World Bank. Different statistical techniques such as fixed effect model, descriptive statistics and correlation matrix were employed in this research study. The results of the secondary data revealed that gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money and inflation have statistically significant effect on the gross domestic savings while Tax revenue have non-significant effect on gross domestic saving. Gross domestic product, broad money and tax revenue have positive effect on gross domestic saving while age dependency ratio and inflation have negative effect on gross domestic saving. It is recommended that government of selected countries should adopt proper policies for financial institutions in order to encourage saving behavior among the people of their countries.

Keywords: Gross domestic saving (GDS), gross domestic product (GDP), age dependency ratio (ADR), broad money (BM), Tax Revenue (TR) and inflation (CPI).

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic savings are important for the economic growth of every country. Saving is an important factor which finance investment, creates job opportunities and mainly improve the level of productivity in developing countries. Therefore, it would be vital to look at the factors which affect the level of gross domestic saving and improve the economic growth of a country. Gross domestic saving offers an important association between past, present and future economic growth (Kazmi, 1993). Gross domestic saving is gross domestic product minus final consumption expenditure. The savings of public sector, private corporate sector and household sector in a country is called gross domestic saving. Domestic saving helps in maintaining high growth rates through its effect on the capital formation and investment. According to (Nga, 2007) domestic saving plays a vital and collective role for the sustainability and growth of an economy because it encourage investment eliminate poverty and create employment opportunities for the citizens. Mboweni (2008) has stated in his study that high rate of saving is a safeguard which save economies from bankruptcy, devaluation of currency and inflation. The high rate or percentage of domestic saving plays a pivotal role for the economic growth because high rate of saving and their channelization to investment not only ensures the growth of the economy but it also creates employment opportunities for the citizens and also attract foreign investors for investment (Mboweni, 2008). According to (Khan, 1993) high rate of saving is required for every country for the purpose to achieve sustainable growth, capital formation and mobilization of domestic resources. In case of achievement of investment and growth rates targets, appropriate domestic saving rate is an essential and important component (Kazmi, 1993).

According to Lucas (1988) high rate of saving and related growth in wealth or capital formation can affect economic growth of the country very positively. The domestic saving rates in many Asian countries have been weakened. However as per the economic concepts 22-25 % of domestic saving rate is essential for financial development of an economy. Solow (1956) concluded in his research work that growth of economy is influenced by the rate of saving because high rate of saving is important for the economic growth. The economic growth and capital formation is the main goal of every country because citizens of developed countries live with more comfortable and holding a better welfare than the citizens of developing countries. To reduce poverty, unemployment, inflation and to improve the level of per capita income are the main goals of every country.

This research study has focused the gross domestic saving of different countries i.e. China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Georgia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. This study has employed secondary data regarding determinants of gross domestic saving of the selected countries in the research. The data was collected for period of 1995-2016. Literature review related to dependent variable and all independent variables of study was compiled from published research papers and research reports of different research journals etc. The current research has focused gross domestic saving, gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation.

Importance of this study arises due to significant role of gross domestic saving in growth of a nation's economy. Saving has provided important services for individuals of any state. The research study has examined the impact of key elements of gross domestic saving. The present research has used sufficient logical outline of gross domestic saving of China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Georgia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. This research work has examined the

independent variables as base in several other research studies of similar area of research. This study has provided comprehensive framework and published literature regarding factors affecting gross domestic saving. The current study has identified the effect of gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation on gross domestic saving of the selected countries. This study has evaluated the factors which have provided a ground for further studies on the role of determinants in term of gross domestic saving. The importance of gross domestic saving and its awareness has been recognized on international as well as on national levels because it has played central role in decreasing inflation of a country. In this study, data regarding elements which affect the rate of domestic saving in the selected countries i.e. China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Philippines, Georgia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Russia, Iran, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Bhutan was compiled from secondary sources (Websites of World Bank). The effect of independent variables on dependent variable (Gross domestic saving) was evaluated and analyzed.

Domestic saving has received importance and attention from economists (i.e. research community and academic) due to its important role in economic development. Previously research studies have been conducted by Jappelli et al. (1994); Blomstorm et al. (1996); Gavin et al. (1997). Sinha et al. (1998) and Weller et al. (2010) on this topic of research. However previous studies have emphasized on domestic saving of one country or countries chosen from other different regions of the world. Our research study is different from other research studies in term of geographical location, sample, and number of countries. The present study has considered a sample of eighteen Asian countries.

1.1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The Life-Cycle Hypothesis (LCH)

This theory was developed by Franco Modigliani and his student in the year 1950. Richard Brumberg, developed a theory which was based on the observations that the consumption decision of many people mainly depend on their available assets over their lifetime, and on their current life stage. Brumberg and Modigliani observed that people make up different kinds of assets at the initial stages of their working lives and use it after their retirements.

Relative Income Hypothesis

The Theory of relative income hypothesis was developed by James Duesenberry. This theory states that the behavior saving and consumption behavior of the people depends on their income level in relation to others than by abstract standard of living. The percentage of resources consumed by a person mainly depends on his percentile position within the income or resources distribution.

The Permanent Income Hypothesis

It is an economics theory which explains that how an agent extends utilization of resources over his lifetime. This theory was developed by Milton Friedman, it supposes that a consumption of a person at a point in time is determined not just by their available resources but it also depends on their expected future permanent income.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

It is known fact that one element may not affect the rate of domestic saving. However, different elements together such as gross domestic product & broad money growth rate of country, foreign direct investment, per capita income, inflation, age dependency ratio, macroeconomic certainty level, financial liberalization, and economic policy will influence the rate of domestic

saving. Published Literature is available on saving pattern; determinants of domestic saving of various countries of the world .Important published literature on domestic saving is summarized as under:

Paxson. (1997) reported negative relation between per capita income and saving. Basely et al. (1998) revealed that opposite income effect was dominated by positive alternatives causes and therefore savings rates has optimistic link or relationship with rate of interest. Narayan et al. (2005) reported basic components of Oman's national savings, from the year 1977-2003 by means of bound testing approach and ARDL model. Aggregate saving was dependent variable in his study while domestic credit, rate of population, rate of per capita income, money supply rate, current account deficit and urbanization rate were independent variables in his research study. The results showed that domestic credit, current account deficit and urbanization rate has encouraged influence on rate of saving while urban population rates, money supply and rates of per capita income has negatively affected the savings rate of Oman.

Narayan and Narayan (2006) reported saving activities in Fiji during 1968-2000 via ARDL method to co-integration rectification model. In this research study dependent variable was aggregate saving while rate of interest, deficit of current account, and dependency ratio of age were independent variables. This research proposed that both on long term and short term basis, 1% increase in growing rate of per capita income enhanced the saving rate by 0.05 and 0.07%. Which showed constructive effect on the rate of saving. Rate of real interest and rate of age dependency ratio revealed synthesis consequences with saving.

Vincelette (2006) studied the saving factors of Pakistan. The research has compiled data for the year 1973-2005. He employed the method of OLS regression. Rate of saving was considered as dependent variable while, income of financial development, rate of interest, financial policy and factors of demography as independent variables. The results illustrated that there was negative and important connection among development of financial sector and aggregate saving. Direct inverse connection among economic or monetary imbalances and saving on the other hand income and demographic factors have major effect on rate of saving.

Newman et al. (2008) conducted research study on causes of saving which emphasized that three different elements has affected domestic saving performance in Africa. In which one was the ability of a person or individual to save money as his disposable income. The 2nd was the tendency to save as influenced by socio-cultural and financial elements like domestic expenses to educate offspring. However to save and return on saving was the third opportunity. In addition to that size of family has controversial and negative influence on individual savings signifying that grand families have more sources constrained than little one's with disposable earnings and assuredly a worse level of savings.

Abbas and Bashir (2010) reported the factors of National Savings for short and long term in Pakistan. Time series data was applied by the author for the period or time from 1972-2008 by using vector error correction model (VECM) and Johansson Co integration method. The descriptive factors that influence the rates of National Savings in long term were price index, interest rate, exports, workers remittance, public loans, consumer and government spending. In long term public loans were inversely connected to rate of saving while interest rates, export, consumer price index, workers remittance and Government spending have vital and constructive or positive effect on rates of national savings. The interest rates and workers remittance was positively related with saving rates for short period.

Imran et al. (2010) reported consumer price inflation, public loans, interest rates, government consumption and remittances were as main factors of national saving. They revealed that these independent variables owns long run connection with dependent variable i.e. national savings,

somehow or other these variables are co-integrated. Weller and Rao (2010) conducted study on tax revenue and domestic savings. They reported direct relationship of tax revenue and domestic savings. Rehman et al. (2010) studied the causes of families saving and recognized that age has positive connection with rate of savings. Issahaku (2011) reported that age structure and properties does not have major influence on saving. Components which make families or domestic investment were expenditure and occupation.

Turner and Manturuk (2012) studied that how single, formal, and fundamental factors influence the procedures of decisions making which supported domestic savings in New York. The outcomes revealed the factors of single elements such as requirement of family, upbringing effect of individuals toward savings and their self-reliance in their capability to save. Formal elements allowances, disincentives, and structural values form households' trust in economic institutes and their readiness towards contributing in savings programs.

Girma et al. (2014) reported the causes of domestic savings in Oroomia region, Ethiopia. In this research study different nine important factors, explanatory variables of domestic savings were analyzed which contains family head's education status and level, profit, capital, income, access to credit services, training membership, contact with extension, forms of savings and saving objects. Samantaraya et al. (2014) used Autoregressive Distributive Lag (ARDL) techniques in their study in order to investigate those factors which influencing household savings in India during the year 1992 – 2012. Variables included in their study were age dependency ration, inflation, gross fiscal deficit-GDP, real GDP ratio, personal income tax to GDP ratio, share of agriculture in total GDP, and external terms of trade. They found the existence of a long run association between the variables. Income and age dependency showed a positive impact while interest rate and inflation were negative. The terms of trade and fiscal were insignificant in explaining household saving in India.

M.Imran Khan et al. (2017) investigated determinants of national saving in six south Asian countries including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Bhutan. Panel data were used for econometrics analysis of the selected countries from the year 1989-2013. Results of their study indicates that inflation, tax and gross domestic product have statistically significant effect on the gross domestic savings while per capita income, interest, money supply growth and age dependency ratio have non-significant effect on gross domestic saving. Inflation, tax revenue and gross domestic product showed positive effect on gross domestic saving.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Panel Data

Panel data were used for econometric analysis in order to examine the Determinants of gross domestic saving in China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Georgia and Bhutan. With the features of heterogeneity, as compare to cross-sectional and time series regression, panel data technique has advantage over them. The method of panel data has furnished accurate information. The results obtained from panel data technique were more accurate and generalized because of less Co-linearity between the selected variables.

Fixed Effect Model

It is the kind of Panel data. In this research study fixed effects model has used for the robustness in the result because it shows vigorous average errors where Heteroskedasticity is available in data. According to Wooldridge (2001) fixed effect model furnish the imbalanced results in

regression model, generated due to omitted variables. Intercepts are different for people while coefficient's slopes are constant in fixed effects model Gujrati (2003); Baltagi (2008).

Random Effect Model

Random effect h is the most important type of panel data analysis. In this model the mean of all intercepts of the cross sectional units is the value of intercepts. It was applied for robust errors, where Heteroskedasticity was found in data.

Chow Test

This test was applied to select among Fixed Effects Model and Pooled regression Model.

Breush-Pagan Test

For selecting between pooled Model and Random Effects Model, Breusch-Pagan Test has been used in this research study.

Hausman Test:

In this research study Hausman test (1978) was applied to select among Fixed Effects Model and Random effect model.

Regression Model

Below is the model which was used for the assessment of present research study.

 $GDS_{i,t} = + \beta_1 GDP_{i,t} + \beta_2 ADR_{i,t} + \beta_3 BM_{i,t} + \beta_4 TR_{i,t} + \beta_5 INF_{i,t}$

Where

i is for country.

t is for year

GDS: Growth of gross domestic saving

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

ADR: Age Dependency Ratio

BM: Broad Money

TR: Tax Revenue

INF: inflation rate

While, α : constant β 1, β 2, β 3, β 4 and β 5 are called the regression coefficients, and ε is the random error terms.

Dependent Variable

Domestic Saving

Gross domestic saving is the dependent variable of this research study. The percentage or rate of gross domestic product (GDP) held by households in a country is called gross domestic saving (GDS). The overall private corporate and public saving in the form of liquid assets in a country is called domestic savings. An adequate domestic saving rate is an essential condition for attainment of investment or capital formation and growth rate target of a country. (Kazmi, 1993). Saving is a shield which protects economies from bankruptcy. (Mboweni, 2008).

Independant Variables

Gross Domestic Product

The value of all finished commodities or products and services produced in a state or country in a particular time (i.e. one year) is known as Gross Domestic Product. There is a positive and durable connection among growth and domestic saving. According to Maddison (1992) and Bosworth (1993) GDP has constructive relationship with the rate of saving and economic growth.

Age Dependency Ratio

Age dependency ratio is the percentage of dependents which includes from people younger than 15 or older than 64, to the working-age population (ages 15-64). According to previous relevant research studies it seems that demographics (size, age and structure of households) affect the rate of domestic saving of a country. According to Modigliani (1970) people save more and more money at the middle age as compare to young or old age. The proportion of the working age population to total population of a country is called the percentage of age dependency ratio. According to Masson et.al. (1998) countries with high percentage of working age population present high saving percentage rate as compared with other nations with minimum ratio of working age population.

Broad Money

Brookin (2001); Narayan and Siyabi (2005) reported in their researches that money supply (M2) have opposite and inverse connection or link with aggregate savings. As money supply will increase then aggregate savings will be decreased.

Tax Revenue

All type of Excise duty and custom duty plus Interests and Penalties collected by government itself depend on Provincial and Local Government to perform as its gathering facilitators. Weller and Rao (2010) conducted a study on tax revenue and domestic savings, the result showed that they have direct relationship among each other. The tax revenue has positive relationship with national savings.

Inflation (Cpi)

It can be defined as when prices of commodities increase and value of money decrease in an economy. When prices of commodities rises, individuals have to consume extra on purchasing which declines the amount of domestic saving which reveals negative trend. According to (Kazmi, 1993) that there exists a negative connection among inflation and domestic saving.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistics

VARIABLES	OBS	MEAN	S.D	MIN	MAX
GDS	396	25.11458	11.92634	-12.79198	51.25779
GDP	396	5.452594	3.553076	-13.12673	17.92582
ADR	396	56.91351	13.11578	35.59041	98.05256
BM	396	61.82837	38.35612	6.82303	208.3067
TR	396	12.42009	4.333958	4.994378	28.70997
INF	396	9.939888	17.32484	-18.10863	197.147

The above tables reveals descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum of gross domestics savings (GDS), gross domestic product, age dependency ratio,

broad money, tax revenue and inflation during the period from 1995 to 2016 of eighteen different Asian countries i.e China, Pakistan, Iran, Mongolia, Malaysia, Russia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Georgia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. According to the above table gross domestics saving has mean value of 25.11 % in gross domestic saving of the selected countries other variables such as gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation 5.45, 56.9, 61.8, 12.4 and 9.93 respectively while the minimum values of gross domestics saving, gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation are -12.79, -13.12, 35.5, 6.82, 4.99 and -18.1 respectively. The maximum values of gross domestics saving, gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation are 51.25, 17.9, 98.5, 208.3, 28.7 and 197.1 respectively.

Correlation Matrix

Variables	GDS	GDP	ADR	BM	TR	INF
GDS	1.0000					
GDP	0.1304	1.0000				
ADR	-0.5254	-0.0318	1.0000			
BM	0.5869	0.1005	-0.4280	1.0000		
TR	-0.0175	-0.0217	-0.3407	0.1280	1.0000	
INF	-0.0831	-0.2368	-0.0039	-0.2726	-0.0400	1.0000

The above table reveals the correlation matrix of dependent and independent variables for China, Pakistan, Iran, Mongolia, Malaysia, Russia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Georgia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Bhutan for the period from 1995 to 2016. Gross domestic savings have positive correlation with gross domestic product and broad money, but have negative correlation with age dependency ratio, Tax revenue and inflation.

Chow Test

S.No	Variables				
1	GDP = 0				
2	ADR = 0				
3	BM = 0				
4	4 TR = 0				
5	5 $INF = 0$				
Chi2 (5) = 84.47					
Prob> chi2= 0.0000					

The above table shows result of chow test. This table was used for the selection purpose of fixed effect model and Pooled OLS Model. P Value of chow test indicates that P value is less than 0.05 so we reject null hypothesis because fixed effects model is more suitable than pooled regression model.

Breusch And Pagan Lagrangian Multiplier Test

	Var	SD = sqrt (Var)
GDS	142.2375	11.92634
Е	20.4322	4.5202
U	51.68923	7.189522
Var(u) =	0	
Chibar ² (01) =	1404.47	
Prob > Chibar ² =	0.0000	

The above table indicates variation and standard deviation of gross domestic saving. The variation and SD of gross domestic saving (GDS) was 142.23 and 11.92 respectively. On the basis of p-value we reject null hypothesis which indicates that pooled OLS model is better than random effects model.

Hausman Test

Variables	Fixed Effect	Random Effect	Var(Diff.)	Prob.
GDP	0.272709	0.280152	0.000049	0.2876
ADR	-0.113456	-0.115012	0.000092	0.8712
В	0.043232	0.055705	0.000045	0.0622
M				
TR	0.063976	0.024447	0.000286	0.0195
INF	-0.030807	-0.029327	0.000001	0.1477

Test Summary	Test Summary Chi-Sq Statistic		Prob.	
Cross-section	16.874442	5	0.0047	

The above table reveals the results of the Hausman specification test. This test was used for the purpose of selecting whether to use fixed effect model or random effect model. The p-value of chi² is .0047 which is less than .05. Under this assumption fixed effect model is more efficient than random effect model.

Fixed Effect Model

Dependent variable: GDS

	Coeffic	ient	Std. E	Error	t-ratio	1	v-value
Const	26.9234	26.92347		058	7.967746	(0.001
GDP	0.27270	0.272709		310	3.669874	(0.003
ADR	-0.1134	-0.113456		076	-2.979726	(0.031
BM	0.043232		0.019286		2.241646	(0.025
TR	0.063976		0.090891		0.703879	(0.481
INF	-0.030807		0.015350		-2.006939	(0.045
R-squared		0.864352		Adjusted R-squared			0.856352
F Statistic		108.0349 P-val		P-value (F)	P-value (F)		0.00000

In the above table, results of the fixed effects model are presented. It can be observed that gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money and inflation were statistically significant because the P value of these variables are less than 0.05 i.e. 0.003, 0.031, 0.025 and 0.045 respectively. The value of R-squared shows that independent variables explains 86 % of

the entire panel's variation. The coefficient of fixed effect model shows that gross domestic product, broad money and tax revenue have positive effect on gross domestic saving while age dependency ratio and inflation, have negative effect on gross domestic savings.

Gross domestic product is statistically significant and coefficient of gross domestic product shows positive effect on gross domestic savings. Results of gross domestic product are same to the results of the Mckinnon (1973) and Shaw (1973) they revealed that increase in the interest rate of savings boost up gross domestic product. Our results verify the results of Agarwal (2001), he analyzed the savings behavior of seven Asian countries. He concluded that most of the countries have shown significant impact of Gross Domestic Product on savings.

Age dependency ratio are statistically significant and coefficient of age dependency also show negative effect on gross domestic saving. Results of age dependency are same to the results of Masson *et.al*. Masson et.al (1998) concluded that the countries which have high ratio of working age population present high savings rate as compared to countries which have low ratio of working age population. As concluded from these studies countries like China are experiencing increasing savings rate as their young dependency population is increasing. They indicated positive and significant relationship among age dependency and saving in China.

Broad Money was statistically significant and have positive effect on gross domestic saving. Result of money supply was same to the results of of Joshi. Joshi (2007) conducted investigation on the domestic savings, capital account of the balance of payment. He used explanatory variables for the study of capital formation. The long run steady state relationship between various component of saving capital account balance and gross domestic capital formation was estimated. It was pointed out that money supply increase the capital formation and growth in economy and lead to saving. Joshi (2007) revealed significant relationship among saving and money supply.

Tax revenue have positive effect on gross domestic saving of the selected Asian countries. But the results of tax revenue has non-significant effect on gross domestic saving. Our study results are same with Rao (2010). He conducted a study on tax revenue and domestic savings, the result showed that they have direct relationship among each other. The tax revenue has positive relationship with National Savings.

Inflation has negative effect on gross domestic savings and having statistical significant value. Our result of inflation is similar with the results of Muradoglu et al. Muradoglu et al (1996) aimed at examining the differences in household savings behavior in developing and industrial countries from a cross-country perspective. The purpose of their study was to learn more about differences in nature of the household savings behavior in industrial versus developing countries. Income, wealth, rate of returns, inflation, foreign savings, and demographic variables were taken as the determinants of savings. Their results indicated that inflation has significant relationship with savings.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This research study "determinants of gross domestic saving: an evidence from Asian countries was aimed to examine the important factors of domestic saving such as gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money, tax revenue and inflation from 1995 to 2016. This research study was mainly based on secondary data compiled from "websites of World Bank". Determinants of gross domestic saving such as gross domestic product, age dependency ratio, broad money and inflation were statistically significant. The coefficient of fixed effect model shows that gross domestic product, broad money and tax revenue have

positive effect on gross domestic saving while age dependency ratio and inflation, have negative effect on gross domestic savings.

Based on outcome of this study, the major recommendations are presented as under:

It is suggested that in future research scholars may use primary data for research studies on the topic of gross domestic saving because the primary data will depict accurate impact of the determinants on gross domestic saving in different Countries of the world. Maximum independent variables will generate more valuable and accurate reports which may improve understanding on the subject as well as quality of future research studies.

Proper policies may be framed and adopt for financial institutions by the selected countries in the study for the purpose to achieve main goal of economic growth, capital formation. On the other hand Policies of income effect and prices effect should be presented and adopted for constructive changes in behavior of saving.

Governments of these countries may also adopt different kinds of policies for stimulating investment, encourage saving and increase production in order to achieve the goal of economic growth.

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