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A STUDY ON FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE SELECTED CEMENT COMPANIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Cement industry forms an indispensable part of the large scale industrial sector of India. It contributes to 1.3% of GDP and employs over 0.15 million people. It is amongst the largest contributor of central excise. India's rapid economic growth and soaring demand by sectors like real estate, steel industry automobiles at home and abroad has put cement industry on the global map. The objective of this paper is to analyse the financial health of the selected cement companies in India and offer conclusion for the improvement of financial health of the cement companies.

KEYWORDS

Financial Health - 'Z' Score, 'Grey Zone', Financial Distress, Discriminant Function, Retained Earnings.

INTRODUCTION

In India, Industrial economy is dominated by various industries like iron and steel, automobile, real estate, cement, textile, medical, electronics, hardware and power industry. Of them, Cement Industry is one of the fastest growing sectors. It forms the base for all developmental activities. The Indian cement industry plays a key role in the national economy generating substantial revenue for state and central government through excise and sales taxes. It contributes substantially to India's industrial and economic development. To every development activity, from the construction of a small factory to the structuring of multi-purpose projects, cement is an important ingredient. The Indian cement industry accounts for approximately 1.3% of GDP and employs over 0.15 million people.

FINANCIAL HEALTH ANALYSIS

The survival of the company depends on its performance in the past years. The company having a sound financial position and proper utilization of resources alone will survive and perform well. Today's good performer can become sick tomorrow, if proper care is not exercised to evaluate its performance. The quantitative and qualitative financial performance should be closely monitored to avoid industrial sickness and to ensure consistent growth. The ability to discriminate either the weak or the strong or in between these two that will fail or prosper is critical to successful economic development, bankers, suppliers, stockholders and government regulatory bodies etc., It is because, they have all vested interest in appraising the strength of both emerging and established companies. To properly assess the financial health of the companies, the popular model, the Altman 'Z score' model can be used.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Indian Cement Industry is facing many financial problems. Most of the cement companies are operationally viable but suffering from financial distress. Hence, it is the need to evaluate the financial health of cement companies and improve its financial efficiency to stay in the stiff competitive market in future. By keeping this mind, it was decided to examine the financial health of the selected Indian Cement Companies. The required data were collected from the Prowess Data Base and they were analysed with the Altman 'Z' Score Model.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following is the objectives of the study:
 To analyse the financial health of selected Indian cement companies.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The null hypothesis was framed on the basis of the objectives of the study.
Ho : There is no significant difference between the size of the companies and financial health.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**SAMPLE SELECTION**

The present study was purely based on secondary data. The required data were collected from the Prowess Data Base of CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy). Several variable can be used as the measure of the firm's size. Some of them are net profit, total assets, total share capital and net sales. Out of which, total assets represent the exact overall size of the firm compare to other variables. Based on this, the size has been determined on the basis of the investment in total assets of a company. Those companies which have invested more than Rs.1000 crores in total assets during the last year of the study period have been selected for the present study.

In India, only 10 companies have invested more than Rs.1000 crores in total assets. Out of which five companies have been selected and the remaining were excluded from the study due to non-availability of data for the continuous period of 10 years. Accordingly, the following five companies constitute the sample set for the study.

| Name of the Company | Total Assets as on 31.3.2013 (Rs.in Crores) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Associated Cement Company Ltd (ACCL) | 7824.84 |
| Chettinad Cement Company Ltd (CCCL) | 2079.66 |
| India Cement Ltd (ICL) | 6843.64 |
| Ramco Cement Ltd (RCL) | 4351.90 |
| Ultra Tech Cement Company Ltd (UTCL) | 19697.50 |

PERIOD OF STUDY

The study covers a period of 10 years from 2003-04 to 2012-13.

TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS

Altman introduced the 'Z' Score Model, a technique designed to predict corporate bankruptcy. Over the past 40 years, many academics and practitioners have used the 'Z' score to test under a wide range of industries and economic environments. It is an internationally recognized method frequently used by investors, lenders and analysts. The model uses common financial information such as sales revenue and total assets to derive five basic financial ratios. Each ratio is assigned a weight and summed together to produce the 'Z' Score. Based on the Multi Discriminant Analysis (MDA), the model predicts a company's financial health based on a discriminant function of the firm.

Further, the difference between the size of the companies and 'Z' Score was also examined by framing null hypothesis and the same was tested with ANOVA at 1% level of significance. To analyse the financial health, tools like Mean, Standard Deviation, Co-efficient of Variation (CV), Compound Growth Rate (CGR), and 't' test were used.

The formula to calculate the Z Score Model is as follows:

$$Z = 1.2 X_1 + 1.4 X_2 + 3.3 X_3 + 0.6 X_4 + 1.0 X_5$$

Z = Discriminant function score of a firm

X₁ = Working capital / Total assets

X₂ = Retained Earnings/ Total assets

X₃ = EBIT / Total assets

X₄ = Market value of 'Equity / Book value of Debt

X₅ = Sales / Total assets

GUIDELINES

With the help of Altman guidelines, the overall financial healths of cement companies are measured during the study period.

| Situation | Z Score | Zone | Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| I | Below 1.8 | Distress Zone | Future failure or bankrupt |
| II | Between 1.8 and 2.99 | Grey Zone | Unpredictable future status |
| III | 3.0 and above | Safe Zone | Future Success or Non-bankrupt |

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS WITH ALTMAN'S Z SCORE MODEL

TABLE – 1: FINANCIAL HEALTH OF SELECTED CEMENT COMPANIES

| Years | ACCL | CCCL | ICL | RCL | UTCL |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2003-04 | 2.41 | 1.47 | 0.42 | 1.35 | 1.35 |
| 2004-05 | 2.43 | 1.73 | 0.56 | 1.36 | 1.46 |
| 2005-06 | 3.94 | 2.01 | 0.99 | 1.88 | 2.13 |
| 2006-07 | 4.25 | 3.36 | 1.53 | 2.92 | 3.22 |
| 2007-08 | 3.62 | 2.81 | 1.80 | 2.00 | 3.05 |
| 2008-09 | 3.52 | 1.43 | 1.63 | 1.70 | 2.66 |
| 2009-10 | 2.96 | 2.15 | 1.61 | 1.64 | 2.91 |
| 2010-11 | 3.22 | 1.92 | 1.26 | 1.40 | 2.31 |
| 2011-12 | 3.43 | 2.34 | 1.68 | 1.80 | 2.71 |
| 2012-13 | 3.19 | 2.49 | 1.59 | 1.96 | 2.59 |
| MEAN | 3.30 | 2.17 | 1.31 | 1.80 | 2.44 |
| SD | 0.59 | 0.60 | 0.49 | 0.46 | 0.63 |
| CV | 18.03 | 27.84 | 37.52 | 25.65 | 25.89 |
| CGR | 1.73 | 2.83 | 13.58 | 1.18 | 6.33 |
| t Value | 17.59 | 11.38 | 8.47 | 12.06 | 12.18 |

Source : Computed from Secondary Data

The Altman's Z Score Model mentioned above for the selected cement companies are presented in the table -1. From the year-wise observation, it is understood that ACCL was in the Grey Zone for 3 years (2003-2005, 2009-10) while it was in the safe zone for 7 years (2005-2009 and 2010-2013). The ACCL was good financial health whereas ICL was in financially distress during the study period. It was in the Distress Zone for all the years except for the year 2007-08. The RCL was neither in Distress nor healthy because it was in the Distress Zone for 5 years (2003-2005, 2008-2011) and the Grey Zone for 5 years (2005-2008 and 2011-2013).

The financial Health of CCCL was in the Distress Zone for 3 years (2003-2005 and 2008-09) while it was in the Grey zone for 7 years (2005-06, 2007-08 and 2009-2013). It was in the Safe Zone for one year (2006-07) whereas the financial health of UTCL was in the Distress Zone for 2 years (2003-2005) and the Grey Zone for 6 years (2005-2006 and 2008-2013). It was in the Safe Zone for two years (2006-2008). It shows that CCCL and UTCL were financially average but it becomes unpredictable during the study period.

The compounded growth rates were positive for all the companies and the 't' value is significant at 1% level because the calculated 't' value is higher than the table value (2.82).

As financially health position varied to size of the companies, it was decided to examine the difference between these two with the help of framed null hypothesis. The details of the findings are shown in the table -2.

ANOVA

TABLE – 2: SIZE OF SELECTED CEMENT COMPANIES & FINANCIAL HEALTH

| Source of Variation | SS | df | MS | F |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Between Groups | 22.53508 | 4 | 5.63377 | 17.92962 |
| Within Groups | 14.13971 | 45 | 0.314216 | |
| Total | 36.67479 | 49 | | |

Source : Computed from Secondary Data

H₀ : There is no significant difference between the size of the companies and financial health.

With a view to test the significant difference between the size of the companies and the financial health, the F test has been applied. According to the Table -2, the calculated value (17.92) of F is higher than the table value (3.72). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the size of the companies and the financial health.

Finally, it is identified that the financial health of ACCL was good on an average over the period (Mean Z Score 3.30, in between 3 and above) whereas CCCL and UTCL were financially unpredictable over the period (Mean Z Score 2.70 and 2.44, in between 1.8 and 2.99), while ICL was in financially distress during the study period (Mean Z Score 1.30 i.e. below 1.80). But the financial health of RCL was neither in distress nor healthy on an average over the period (Mean Z Score 1.80)

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above analysis, it is clear that the efficiency of the working capital Management should be strengthened by the selected units which would help them to maintain the financial health. The Earnings before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) will adversely affect the financial health of the company. Hence, the companies can convert the EBIT into capital or reduce the fixed assets. It is suggested that the companies need to put in efforts to increase Z Score. This will help them to avoid any damage to its liquidity and solvency position, thereby avoiding financial distress and enhancing their overall financial health.

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