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IMPACT OF FORGING DIRECT INVESTMENT ON INDIAN ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a key element in international economic integration. FDI creates direct, stable and long-lasting links between economies. It encourages the transfer of technology and know-how between countries, and allows the host economy to promote its products more widely in international markets. FDI is also an additional source of funding for investment and, under the right policy environment; it can be an important vehicle for enterprise development.

KEYWORDS

Direct Investment, development, economic, inflows.

INTRODUCTION

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is fund flow between the countries in the form of inflow or outflow by which one can able to gain some benefit from their investment whereas another can exploit the opportunity to enhance the productivity and find out better position through performance. The effectiveness and efficiency depends upon the investors perception, if investment with the purpose of long term then it is contributes positively towards economy on the other hand if it is for short term for the purpose of making profit then it may be less significant. Depending on the industry sector and type of business, a foreign direct investment may be an attractive and viable option. Any decision on investing is thus a combination of an assessment of internal resources, competitiveness, and market analysis and market expectations. The FDI may also affect due to the government trade barriers and policies for the foreign investments and leads to less or more effective towards contribution in economy as well as GDP of the economy. The studies try to find out the implications which affect the economic scenario and also measure the level of predominance by the factors for economic contribution to India.

OBJECTIVES

The present study is mainly proposed to examine the following objectives.

- To know the concept, structure and determinants of FDI
- To know the extent of inflow FDI into India.
- To evaluate the impact of FDI on the Indian economy.
- To know the flow of investment in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**DATA COLLECTION**

This study is based on secondary data. The required data have been collected from various sources, i.e., World Investment Reports, Asian Development Bank's Reports, various Bulletins of Reserve Bank of India, publications from Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India, Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, United Nations, Asian Development Outlook, Country Reports on Economic Policy and Trade Practice- Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, US Department of State and from websites of World Bank, IMF, WTO, RBI, UNCTAD, EXIM Bank, etc. It is a time series data and the relevant data have been collected for the period 2006 to 2011.

DETERMINANTS OF FDI

The determinant varies from one country to another due their unique characteristics and Opportunities for the potential investors. In specific the determinants of FDI in India are:

- 1. Stable policies:** India stable economic and socio policies have attracted investors across border. Investors prefer countries which stable economic policies. If the government makes changes in policies which will have effect on the business. The business requires a lot of funds to be deployed and any change in policy against the investor will have a negative effect.
- 2. Economic factors:** Different economic factors encourage inward FDI. These include interest loans, tax breaks, grants, subsidies and the removal of restrictions and limitation. The government of India has given many tax exemption and subsidies to the foreign investors who would help in developing the economy.
- 3. Cheap and skilled labor:** There is abundant labor available in India in terms of skilled and unskilled human resources. Foreign investors will to take advantage of the difference in the cost of labor as we have cheap and skilled labors. Example: Foreign firms have invested in BPO's in India which require skilled labor and we have been providing the same.
- 4. Basic Infrastructure:** India though is a developing country, it has developed special economic zone where there have focused to build required infrastructure such as roads, effective transportation and registered carrier departure worldwide, information and communication network/technology, powers, financial institutions, and legal system and other basic amenities which are must for the success of the business. A sound legal system and modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods and services in the host country.
- 5. Unexplored Markets:** In India there is large scope for the investors because there is a large section of markets have not explored or unutilized. In India there is enormous potential customer market with large middle class income group who would be target group for new markets. Example: BPO was one sector where the investors had large scope exploring the markets where the service was provided with just a call, with almost customer satisfaction.
- 6. Availability of Natural Resources:** As we that India has large volume of natural resources such as coal, iron ore, Natural gas etc. If natural resources are available they can be used in production process or for extraction of mines by the foreign investors.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FLOWS TO INDIA

FDI inflows to India witnessed significant moderation in 2010-11 while other EMEs in Asia and Latin America received large inflows. This had raised concerns in the wake of widening current account deficit in India beyond the perceived sustainable level of 3.0 per cent of GDP during April-December 2010. This also

assumes significance as FDI is generally known to be the most stable component of capital flows needed to finance the current account deficit. Moreover, it adds to investible resources, provides access to advanced technologies, assists in gaining production know-how and promotes exports.

A perusal of India's FDI policy *vis-à-vis* other major emerging market economies (EMEs) reveals that though India's approach towards foreign investment has been relatively conservative to begin with, it progressively started catching up with the more liberalized policy stance of other EMEs from the early 1990s onwards, *inter alia* in terms of wider access to different sectors of the economy, ease of starting business, repatriation of dividend and profits and relaxations regarding norms for owning equity. This progressive liberalization, coupled with considerable improvement in terms of macroeconomic fundamentals, reflected in growing size of FDI flows to the country that increased nearly 5 fold during first decade of the present millennium.

Though the liberal policy stance and strong economic fundamentals appear to have driven the steep rise in FDI flows in India over past one decade and sustained their momentum even during the period of global economic crisis (2008-09 and 2009-10), the subsequent moderation in investment flows despite faster recovery from the crisis period appears somewhat inexplicable. Survey of empirical literature and analysis presented in the paper seems to suggest that these divergent trends in FDI flows could be the result of certain institutional factors that dampened the investors' sentiments despite continued strength of economic fundamentals. Findings of the panel exercise, examining FDI trends in 10 select EMEs over the last 7 year period, suggest that apart from macro fundamentals, institutional factors such as time taken to meet various procedural requirements make significant impact on FDI inflows. This paper has been organised as follows: Section 1 presents trends in global investment flows with particular focus on EMEs and India. Section 2 traces the evolution of India's FDI policy framework, followed by cross-country experience reflecting on India's FDI policy *vis-à-vis* that of select EMEs. The last section presents the conclusions.

SECTION 1: TRENDS IN FDI INFLOWS

Widening growth differential across economies and gradual opening up of capital accounts in the emerging world resulted in a steep rise in cross border investment flows during the past two decades. This section briefly presents the recent trends in global capital flows particularly to emerging economies including India.

GLOBAL TRENDS IN FDI INFLOWS

During the period subsequent to dotcom burst, there has been an unprecedented rise in the cross-border flows and this exuberance was sustained until the occurrence of global financial crisis in the year 2008-09. Between 2003 and 2007, global FDI flows grew nearly four -fold and flows to EMEs during this period, grew by about three-fold. After reaching a peak of US\$ 2.1 trillion in 2007, global FDI flows witnessed significant moderation over the next two years to touch US\$ 1.1 trillion in 2009, following the global financial crisis. On the other hand, FDI flows to developing countries increased from US\$ 565 billion in 2007 to US\$ 630 billion in 2008 before moderating to US\$ 478 billion in 2009.

The decline in global FDI during 2009 was mainly attributed to subdued cross border merger and acquisition (M&A) activities and weaker return prospects for foreign affiliates, which adversely impacted equity investments as well as reinvested earnings. According to UNCTAD, decline in M&A activities occurred as the turmoil in stock markets obscured the price signals upon which M&As rely. There was a decline in the number of green field investment cases as well, particularly those related to business and financial services.

From an institutional perspective, FDI by private equity funds declined as their fund raising dropped on the back of investors' risk aversion and the collapse of the leveraged buyout market in tune with the deterioration in credit market conditions. On the other hand, FDI from sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) rose by 15 per cent in 2009. This was apparently due to the revised investment strategy of SWFs - who have been moving away from banking and financial sector towards primary and manufacturing sector, which are less vulnerable to financial market developments as well as focusing more on Asia.

As the world economic recovery continued to be uncertain and fragile, global FDI flows remained stagnant at US \$ 1.1 trillion in 2010. According to UNCTAD's Global Investment Trends Monitor (released on January 17, 2011), although global FDI flows at aggregate level remained stagnant, they showed an uneven pattern across regions - while it contracted further in advanced economies by about 7 per cent, FDI flows recovered by almost 10 per cent in case of developing economies as a group driven by strong rebound in FDI flows in many countries of Latin America and Asia. Rebound in FDI flows to developing countries has been on the back of improved corporate profitability and some improvement in M&A activities with improved valuations of assets in the stock markets and increased financial capability of potential buyers.

Improved macroeconomic conditions, particularly in the emerging economies, which boosted corporate profits coupled with better stock market valuations and rising business confidence augured well for global FDI prospects. According to UNCTAD, these favorable developments may help translate MNC's record level of cash holdings (estimated to be in the range of US\$ 4-5 trillion among developed countries' firms alone) into new investments during 2011. The share of developing countries, which now constitutes over 50 per cent in total FDI inflows, may increase further on the back of strong growth prospects. However, currency volatility, sovereign debt problems and potential protectionist policies may pose some risks to this positive outlook. Nonetheless, according to the Institute of International Finance (January 2011), net FDI flows to EMEs was projected to increase by over 11 per cent in 2011. FDI flows into select countries are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1: COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FDI INFLOWS THAN INDIA IN 2010

	Amount (US\$ billion)				Variation (Per cent)		
	2007	2008	2009	2010 (Estimates)	2008	2009	2010 (Estimates)
World	2100.0	1770.9	1114.2	1122.0	-15.7	-37	0.7
Developed Economies	1444.1	1018.3	565.9	526.6	-29.5	44.4	6.9
United States	266.0	324.6	129.9	186.1	22.0	-60.0	43.3
France	96.2	62.3	59.6	57.4	-35.2	-4.3	-3.7
Belgium	118.4	110.0	33.8	50.5	-7.1	-69.3	49.4
United Kingdom	186.4	91.5	45.7	46.2	-50.9	-50.1	1.1
Germany	76.5	24.4	35.6	34.4	-68.1	45.9	-3.4
Developing Economies	564.9	630.0	478.3	524.8	11.5	-24.1	9.7
China	83.5	108.3	95.0	101.0	29.7	-12.3	6.3
Hong Kong	54.3	59.6	48.4	62.6	9.8	-18.8	29.3
Russian Federation	55.1	75.5	38.7	39.7	37.0	-48.7	2.6
Singapore	35.8	10.9	16.8	37.4	-69.6	54.1	122.6
Saudi Arabia	22.8	38.2	35.5	-	67.5	-7.1	-
Brazil	34.6	45.1	25.9	30.2	30.3	-42.6	16.6
India	25.0	40.4	34.6	23.7	61.6	-14.4	-31.5

Source: World Investment Report, 2010 and Global Investment Trends Monitor, UNCTAD.

SECTION 1.2: TRENDS IN FDI INFLOWS TO INDIA

With the tripling of the FDI flows to EMEs during the pre-crisis period of the 2000s, India also received large FDI inflows in line with its robust domestic economic performance. The attractiveness of India as a preferred investment destination could be ascertained from the large increase in FDI inflows to India, which rose from around US\$ 6 billion in 2001-02 to almost US\$ 38 billion in 2008-09. The significant increase in FDI inflows to India reflected the impact of liberalization of the economy since the early 1990s as well as gradual opening up of the capital account. As part of the capital account liberalization, FDI was gradually allowed in almost all sectors, except a few on grounds of strategic importance, subject to compliance of sector specific rules and regulations. The large and stable FDI flows also increasingly financed the current account deficit over the period. During the recent global crisis, when there was a significant deceleration in global FDI flows during 2009-10, the decline in FDI flows to India was relatively moderate reflecting robust equity flows on the back of strong rebound in domestic growth ahead of global recovery and steady reinvested earnings (with a share of almost 25 per cent) reflecting better profitability of foreign companies in India.

However, when there had been some recovery in global FDI flows, especially driven by flows to Asian EMEs, during 2010-11, gross FDI equity inflows to India witnessed significant moderation. Gross equity FDI flows to India moderated to US\$ 20.3 billion during 2010-11 from US\$ 27.1 billion in the preceding year.

TABLE 2: EQUITY FDI INFLOWS TO INDIA

Sectors	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Sectoral shares (Per cent)					
Manufactures	17.6	19.2	21.0	22.9	32.1
Services	56.9	41.2	45.1	32.8	30.1
Construction, Real estate and mining	15.5	22.4	18.6	26.6	17.6
Others	9.9	17.2	15.2	17.7	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Equity Inflows (US\$ billions)					
Manufactures	1.6	3.7	4.8	5.1	4.8
Services	5.3	8.0	10.2	7.4	4.5
Construction, Real estate and mining	1.4	4.3	4.2	6.0	2.6
Others	0.9	3.3	3.4	4.0	3.0
Total Equity FDI	9.3	19.4	22.7	22.5	14.9

From a sectoral perspective, FDI in India mainly flowed into services sector (with an average share of 41 per cent in the past five years) followed by manufacturing (around 23 per cent) and mainly routed through Mauritius (with an average share of 43 per cent in the past five years) followed by Singapore (around 11 per cent). However, the share of services declined over the years from almost 57 per cent in 2006-07 to about 30 per cent in 2010-11, while the shares of manufacturing, and „others“ largely comprising „electricity and other power generation“ increased over the same period. Sectoral information on the recent trends in FDI flows to India show that the moderation in gross equity FDI flows during 2010-11 has been mainly driven by sectors such as „construction, real estate and mining“ and services such as „business and financial services“. Manufacturing, which has been the largest recipient of FDI in India, has also witnessed some moderation.

CONCLUSIONS

An analysis of the recent trends in FDI flows at the global level as well as across regions/countries suggests that India has generally attracted higher FDI flows in line with its robust domestic economic performance and gradual liberalization of the FDI policy as part of the cautious capital account liberalization process. Even during the recent global crisis, FDI inflows to India did not show as much moderation as was the case at the global level as well as in other EMEs. However, when the global FDI flows to EMEs recovered during 2010-11, FDI flows to India remained sluggish despite relatively better domestic economic performance ahead of global recovery. This has raised questions especially in the backdrop of the widening of the current account deficit beyond the sustainable level of about 3 per cent. In order to analyze the factors behind such moderation, an empirical exercise was undertaken which did suggest the role of institutional factors (Government's to implement quality policy regime) in causing the slowdown in FDI inflows to India despite robustness of macroeconomic variables.

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