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AN EFFECTIVE STUDY ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Before the Economic reforms the flow of foreign direct investment to India has been comparatively limited because of the type of industrial development strategy and the various foreign investment policy followed by the nation. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered as an engine of economic growth. Government policy towards foreign capital was very selective. Foreign investment was normally permitted only in high technology industries in priority areas and in export oriented areas. So the inflow of FDI before 1990's was very low. To fully utilize the country's immense economic potential, the government launched Economic reforms in 1991. The new government policies are simple, transparent and promote domestic and foreign investment. India's abundant and diversified natural resources, its sound economic policy, good market condition and high skilled human resources make it a proper destination for FDI. After long years of journey FDI was also introduced in various sectors and states in India. The Investment of FDI in various states and sectors leads to rapid growth of Indian economy. According to survey conducted by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce) till November 2005, 70% of foreign investors were making profits and another 12% were breaking even. Last year, annual ranking of the world's best small companies, the Forbes 200, included 13 Indian firms but just 4 from China. While India is playing global player rising from sixth position to third position most likely to FDI position globally.

KEYWORDS

FDI, Capital Investment, Industrial Policy, Economic Reforms.

INTRODUCTION

Foreign Investment is classified in to two categories, foreign direct investment and portfolio investment. Portfolio investment includes fresh inflow of funds from foreign institutional investors (FII) and funds raised by domestic corporate through global depository receipts. Foreign direct investment is investment in distribution, production and other activities of a firm in one country by individuals or businesses from another country. **"Foreign Capital is a Good Servant, But a Bad Master"**

India is the Fourth largest country by Purchasing Power Parity. U.S. report on Global Governance has declared India as the Third most powerful nation after the United States and China. Global Wealth Report 2012 estimated India's Wealth as 13.5 Trillion. Foreign Capital is defined as transfer of capital resource from the developed to the developing countries to make a qualitative change in the structure of the economies. Foreign Capital can enter a country in the form of private foreign capital and public foreign capital. Private capital can be divided into Foreign Direct Investment and Indirect Investment. Foreign Direct Investment means investment in a foreign country where the investor retains control over the investment. It typically takes the form of starting a subsidiary, acquiring a stake in an existing firm or starting a joint venture in the foreign country. Direct investors have direct responsibility with the promotion and management of the enterprise. If the investor has only a sort of property interest in investing the capital in buying equities, bonds, or other securities abroad is referred to as Portfolio Investment. In Portfolio Investment the investor uses his capital in order to get a return on it, but has no much control over the use of the capital. In recent years, FDI become a vital part in every country more particularly with the developing countries. This is due to availability of cheap labour, uninterrupted availability of raw material, less production cost compared with other developed countries, quick and easy market penetration. The different types of Foreign Direct Investment are Greenfield Investment, Brownfield Investment, Mergers and Acquisition, Horizontal and Vertical Investment. Vertical Investment takes two forms: Backward vertical FDI and Forward vertical FDI.

THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF FDI ARE AS PER FOLLOWING:

1. **Equity Capital** – It involves purchase by the foreign investor, shares of an enterprise in another country.
2. **Reinvested earnings** – It refer to the foreign investor's share of earnings that are not distributed as dividends, but are reinvested into the enterprise in the host country.
3. **Working capital** – It involves short and long term borrowing and lending of funds by the parent investors and their associate enterprises in the host country.

MOTIVES FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Three types of motives in a country generally govern foreign investors.

1. **Resource seeking:** Foreign investors investing in another country to take advantage of available production resources like variety of raw materials and natural resources.
2. **Efficiency seeking:** Foreign investors investing in another country to take advantage of low labour cost, skilled labour to improve productivity and efficiency.
3. **Market seeking:** : Foreign investors investing in another country to access its markets and to take advantage of their market size and market growth.

WHY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SEEK FDI?

Developing countries face lack of financial resources, technological knowledge and efficient managerial techniques. These resources are important for economic growth and development. FDI is seen as important sources of capital. If channelled properly it can contribute to capital formation on the host country. Developing countries also need FDI to cover their deficits. FDI is also considered and effective mechanism for the distribution of productive information in the global economy. Thus besides increasing total capital formation in the global economy. Thus, besides increasing total capital formation, FDI can:

1. Provide access to inputs that are not available locally,
2. Provide access to state- art technology,
3. Improve management systems,
4. Expand and diversify production and export capacities and
5. Improve employment.

Developing countries require FDI if they want to incorporate into the global economy. Countries that have made a conversion from protected economies to open and liberalised economies have considered foreign investment to be important to improve their competitiveness in the international market. This helps them gain access to foreign markets and attain higher export growth. FDI flows are a more stable source of finance as compared to other form of international private capital flows. Today, FDI is the largest source of private foreign capital reaching developing countries.

In order to improve per capita income significantly the Government of India has targeted a GDP growth rate of 8.7 percent for the Tenth and Eleventh plan periods. As per the estimates this requires a savings-investment rate of 32 percent of GDP. The rate of domestic savings has been in the range of 22-24 percent

in the past years (1998-2002). Despite a projected improvement in the domestic savings rate by 4-5 percent in the next few years, a substantial gap still remains, this creates the need to mobilise foreign investment. India needs FDI to develop its technological capability base. FDI, through transfer of technology, can be a useful instrument to upgrade India's export structure needs to be made dynamic, with the help of FDI.

HOW WILL FDI BENEFIT INDIA?

Industrial studies have revealed that as foreign investors' confidence in the Indian government will increase, their levels of investment in India will also go up. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, it is expected that FDI will exceed 60 billion US dollars. In the 2013-14 fiscal year, the aggregate foreign investment amounted to 29 billion dollars. This increase owes a lot to the high expectations that foreign investors have from the Modi administration.

It has been estimated that in the ongoing Twelfth Five Year Plan, which continues till 2017, India will need almost a trillion US dollars in FDI. This money will be used to develop infrastructure such as highways, airways and ports.

INVESTMENTS IN INDIA DURING 2015-16

The ruling NDA government in the centre has announced a lot of relaxations for FDI and the business done under the FDI umbrella in India. The Union Budget presented in the Lok Sabha (the Lower House of the Parliament) by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley mentioned that the procedures through which the corporate houses attract foreign investment into India will be simplified and made uncomplicated. From now onwards, there will hardly be any difference between 'Portfolio Foreign Investment' and 'Foreign Direct Investment'. The composite cap has replaced the concept of individual cap; for instance, there is now a composite cap of 49 percent foreign investors allowed in the insurance sector.

The Indian government, during the 2014-15 fiscal year, announced that it would allow FDI worth US\$ 14.65 billion into the railways infrastructure. Some of the most expensive and largest railway projects will be carried out under these investments.

During the next three years, ADAMA Agrochemicals, an Israeli firm, has set its targets to spend US\$ 50 million in India. The company plans to enhance R&D and manufacturing facilities in India to grow at a better rate than the current industry growth rate. Hundred percent FDI into the health sector will be allowed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to enable indigenous manufacturing and reduce imports of medical devices. By the next fiscal year, the value of medical devices in the world market will be worth US\$ 400 billion. The equity investment in the real estate is expected to go twofold as the Indian government has allowed 100 percent FDI into the construction sector. As per the real estate experts' beliefs, the demand from foreign property buyers will rise. Currently valued at US\$ 1.5 billion, the real estate equity will reach a value of US\$ 3 billion in a few years, the experts and analysts opine.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE FDI

The Indian Government has taken a number of steps to show its willingness to allow more foreign direct investment in the country. In the infrastructure development sector, it has relaxed the norms pertaining to area restriction, the laws regarding gaining a comfortable exit from a particular project and the requirements relating to minimum capitalization. If companies are ready to commit 30 percent of their investments for affordable housing, then the rules for minimum capitalization and area restriction will be waived off. It is expected that this will benefit the construction sector a lot, especially in the form of investment.

The situation will only get better once sectoral conditions are further relaxed and the terms that have been used in the policy are clarified up to a greater extent. This is likely to get more investment especially in the newer areas. This will also act as a fillip for entities eagerly interested in developing plots for serviced housing. This is going to be a major development considering the fact that the land in the urban areas is inadequate. One also needs to factor in the high costs of land in this regard. It will also lead to the creation of cost-beneficial, affordable houses. It will help with the 'Smart Cities' programme as well. In the insurance sector too, the government has increased the upper limit of FDI from 26 percent to 49 percent. It is an amalgamation of different areas of investment such as:

- Foreign portfolio investment
- Foreign venture capital investment
- Foreign institutional investment
- Non-resident investment
- Qualified foreign investment

The Indian Ministry of Finance has also proposed that 100 percent FDI will be allowed in railways-related infrastructure. However, this does not include the operational aspects. While it is true that the foreign investors will not be allowed to intervene in railway operations, they will be able to provide for high-speed trains, such as bullet train, and enhance the overall network in the process.

THE INDIAN MARKET FOR FDI

The last fiscal (2014-15) year saw a considerable increase in the FDI made in India. India's pro-growth business policies have contributed a great deal in making this possible. The first five months of the 2014-15 fiscal year noticed a net inflow of US\$ 14.1 million FDI in India, amounting to a good 33.5 percent rise in the FDI inflow registered for the corresponding period during the previous fiscal year. With an aggregate investment of US\$ 353,963 million between April 2000 and November 2014, neighbouring country Mauritius has become the country with the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into India.

SECTORS ATTRACTING HIGHEST FDI EQUITY INFLOWS

TABLE 1

[AMOUNT IN RS. CRORES (US\$ IN MILLION)]

Ranks	Sector	2012-13 (April - March)	2013-14 (April- March)	2014-15 (April '14- January, 2015)	Cumulative Inflows (April '00 - January '15)	% age to total Inflows (In terms of US\$)
1.	SERVICES SECTOR **	26,306 (4,833)	13,294 (2,225)	16,159 (2,642)	201,728 (42,101)	17 %
2.	CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT: TOWNSHIPS, HOUSING, BUILT-UP INFRASTRUCTURE	7,248 (1,332)	7,508 (1,226)	4,359 (722)	112,916 (24,028)	10 %
3.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS (radio paging, cellular mobile, basic telephone services)	1,654 (304)	7,987 (1,307)	16,978 (2,832)	83,697 (16,995)	7 %
4.	COMPUTER SOFTWARE & HARDWARE	2,656 (486)	6,896 (1,126)	8,023 (1,308)	67,694 (14,125)	6 %
5.	DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS	6,011 (1,123)	7,191 (1,279)	7,559 (1,259)	63,630 (12,856)	5 %
6.	AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY	8,384 (1,537)	9,027 (1,517)	12,529 (2,045)	60,725 (11,857)	5 %
7.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	1,596 (292)	4,738 (878)	3,408 (562)	48,642 (10,230)	4 %
8.	POWER	2,923 (536)	6,519 (1,066)	3,704 (612)	46,359 (9,512)	4 %
9.	METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES	7,878 (1,466)	3,436 (568)	2,488 (406)	40,738 (8,481)	4 %
10.	HOTEL & TOURISM	17,777 (3,259)	2,949 (486)	3,990 (656)	40,198 (7,774)	3 %

CONCLUSION

The idea of the economic power of the multinationals can be had from the fact that "Today, with the solitary exception of India whose national income is only twice the annual income of General Motors, economic resources of all other under developed countries are much less than those of multinational corporation." Foreign collaborations do have a positive role in certain fields like power generation, steel, aluminium, petroleum, cement etc., but they should not be allowed to proliferate in consumer goods, needed by the upper strata of Indian society. The activities of multinationals which increase our dependence on foreigners and drain away our resources should be restricted. But a much bolder and persistent policy has to be followed to get rid of them.

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