The Economic Transition and Employment Generation in Indian Economy: Role of Market, Policy and Institutions

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Outline of Presentation

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- 2. **Research Questions**
- 3. Economic Transition in India: Theoretical Understanding
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Motivation

- Hyper economic growth but declining employment opportunities
- Emphasis on industrialisation as agriculture is overcrowded
- Acquisition of farmland for the purpose of industrialisation
- Strong resistance by the farmers

Objectives of the Study

- Critically examine the recent process of economic transition from agriculture to modern sector
- Understand the implications of economic transition in the context of employment and unemployment

Research Questions

- Why are the farmers so reluctant to give up their farmland if agriculture is no longer a profitable venture and suffers from the problem of disguised unemployment?
- Do they still believe that the growth of agriculture sector can be accelerated? Or
- Are they unsure on whether industrialisation will bring in gainful employment opportunities for them?

Economic Transition in India: Theoretical Understanding

- Lewis two sector development model
- Economic transition from agricultural sector to modern sector
- Low/zero marginal productivity of labour in agriculture
- Higher wage rate in modern sector and shift of workforce from agriculture to modern sector
- Improvement in marginal productivity of labour in agriculture

Economic Transition in India: Theoretical Understanding (Cont.)

- Assumption of spontaneous labour movement
- Disguised unemployment in agriculture-a common perception
- Emphasis on aggressive industrialisation
- Low marginal productivity of labour in agriculture-disguised unemployment not the only cause
- Deceleration in agriculture-caused by a combination of economy, ecology/ environment, technology, policy and institution related factor
- Accomodating surplus workforce in manufacturing-contraint by knowledge, skills and attitude

Table 1 Average Annual Rate of Growth of Major Sector, 1980-2007					
Sector	Average Annual Growth Rate (%)				
	1980-1991	1992-2000	2000-2007	1992-2007	
Agriculture & Allied	3.5	3.4	2.5	2.9	
Agriculture	3.7	3.4	2.5	3.0	
Industry	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	
Mining and Quarrying	8.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	
Manufacturing	6.2	7.3	7.7	7.5	
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	8.6	7.1	4.8	5.9	
Services	6.3	7.9	8.6	8.2	
Construction	4.7	5.6	9.9	7.7	
Trade, Hotels & Transport	5.9	8.8	10.3	9.5	
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	9.1	8.3	7.9	8.1	
Community, Social, Personal Services	5.9	7.4	6.0	6.7	
Total	5.4	6.4	6.9	6.6	

Table 2: Share of GDP at Factor Cost across Major Sectors, 1980-2007					
Sector	Average Share (%)				
	1980-1991	1992-2000	2000-2007		
Agriculture & Allied	34.7	27.8	21.4		
Agriculture	31.7	25.5	19.9		
Industry	18.8	20.2	19.6		
Mining and Quarrying	2.3	2.5	2.2		
Manufacturing	14.5	15.3	15.1		
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1.9	2.5	2.3		
Services	46.5	52.0	59.0		
Construction	6.0	5.7	6.3		
Trade, Hotels & Transport	18.1	20.2	24.8		
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	9.1	12.2	13.5		
Community, Social and Personal Services	13.4	13.9	14.5		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0		

	Rate of Growth (%)			
	1983 to 1993-94	1993-94 to 1999-00	1999-00 to 2004-05	
Population	2.11	1.98	1.69	
Labour Force	2.28	1.47	2.84	
Workforce	2.61	1.25	2.62	

Table 4 I	Rate of Grow	th of Employ	ment and Self-	Employment (%), 1983-2005		
Category		Employment		Self-Employment			
				Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
		1983-94	1993-2005	1983-94	1993-2005	1983-94	1993-2005
Rural	Male	1.91	1.41	0.99	0.82	3.31	3.67
	Female	1.39	1.55	0.29	2.12	5.79	3.43
	Total	1.73	1.46	0.72	1.34	3.91	3.61
Urban	Male	3.03	3.10	2.08	0.99	3.23	4.15
	Female	3.33	3.07	6.88	1.03	1.81	4.71
	Total	3.09	3.10	3.76	1.01	2.95	4.25
Total	Male	2.19	1.87	1.03	0.83	3.27	3.91
	Female	1.65	1.78	0.50	2.07	4.06	3.94
	Total	2.01	1.84	0.82	1.32	3.44	3.92

Table 5: Number and Rate of Unemployment in India, 1993-2005				
Year	No. of unemployed	Rate of Unemployment		
1983	24.	34 9.22		
1993-94	20.2	27 6.06		
1999-00	26.0	58 7.31		
2004-05	34.'	74 8.28		

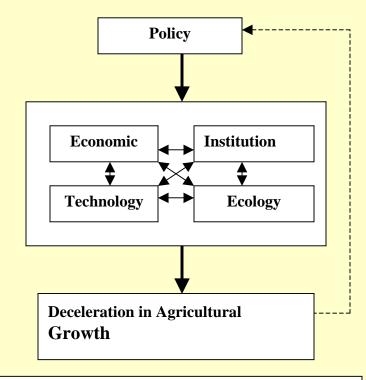
Table 6: Share of Sectors in Employm	ent, 1983-2005					
Sector	Share in Employment (%)					
	1983	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05		
Agriculture	65.42	61.03	56.64	52.06		
Mining & Quarrying	0.66	0.78	0.67	0.63		
Manufacturing	11.27	11.10	12.13	12.90		
Electricity & Water Supply	0.34	0.41	0.34	0.35		
Construction	2.56	3.63	4.44	5.57		
Trade, Hotel and Restaurant	6.98	8.26	11.20	12.62		
Transport, Storage and Communication	2.88	3.22	4.06	4.61		
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	0.78	1.08	1.36	2.00		
Community, Social and Personal Services	9.10	10.50	9.16	9.24		
	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.00		

Economic Trnaisition: Emerging Issues

Emerging issues:

- (1) Factors causing deceleration in agriculture
- (2) Constraints to acquisition of farmland for industrialisation

Economic Trnaisition: Emerging Issues



Note: ---- Line for policy corrections

Economic Trnaisition: Emerging Issues

- Resistance from the farmers against acquisition of farmland.
- The incidences in Singur and Nandigram of West Bengal or in Jagatsingpur of Orissa.
- Reasons:
 - (1) Agency Problems
 - (2) High Transaction Costs
 - (3) Insecure Property Rights

Conclusion

- Economic transition from agrarian economy to modern sector - an obvious phenomenon in the development process.
- Debate on how to realise and sustain transition without loosing economic welfare.
- High growth rate of manufacturing does not necessarily result in enlargement of employment opportunities.
- Similarly, declining employment intensity does not lead to high rate of growth of agriculture.
- Hence, conventional theories of spontaneous labour movement from agriculture to modern sector are unlikely to be valid in Indian context.

Conclusion

- Issues associated with economic transition in general and agriculture sector in particular.
- Agriculture has potential to grow
- Smooth transition from agriculture to modern sector requires a consistently reasonable rate of growth of agriculture.
- To achieve that the key bottlenecks need to be resolved on an urgent basis.
- Emphasis on addressing problems relating to institutions and policies.

Policy implications

- Need for a comprehensive policy framework to address the issues relating to the economic, ecological and technological factors.
- Necessary institutions at micro, meso and macro level for successful implementation of policies and programmes.
- Adequate emphasis on institutions in the context of farmland acquisition for industrialisation.
- Transparency and accountability for land transaction between the farmers and companies
- Necessity of institutions to remove product and factor market imperfections for sustainable agricultural development and industrial growth.

Thank you for your attention!