

**Role of Financial Inclusion, Institutional Quality and Human Capital in Economic Growth: An Empirical Analysis from Selected Asian Countries****Dr. Muhammad Shakeel<sup>1</sup>, Kifayatullah Khan<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Arfan Latif<sup>3</sup>****Abstract**

This research highlights the role of financial inclusion, institutional quality, industrialization and human capital in selected Asian economies. By using a panel data from these Asian economies, we have taken GDP per capita as the dependent variable and, financial inclusion, institutional quality and human capital were used as independent factors in this analysis. In this study, GMM results showed that financial inclusion, institutional quality, industrialization and human capital were the major factors which enhanced economic growth in these certain Asian states. The study results recommended for increased financial access and financial services for high targeted growth in the concerned economies. Government must emphasize on the improved quality of institutions for stable high economic growth. Finally, there should be much investment and production to achieve growth and development in these economies.

**Keywords:** financial inclusion, institutional quality, human capital, economic growth

**1. Introduction**

Financial inclusion makes available more financial services and empowers much of the population to make use of financial services like payments, loans, savings, and insurance offered by formal financial institutions. Afterward the subprime bank loan crisis, financial inclusion got much consideration. It was because that subsequently the world-wide economic crisis in 2008, financial exclusion has turned out to be more public among states because of regional differences, economic levels, and policy factors.

For the World Bank (2020), financial inclusion is an element of poverty decreasing and chances for growth, having availability of digital monetary facilities as perilous for connection to the novel digital state. Financial inclusion processes approach and utilization of monetary facilities. It is an aspect of financial development and an imperative financial objective, as it permits additional economic complexity, corporate nearness of financial organisations, less charges for economic statements.

Financial inclusion may be well-defined as procedure certifying that persons, families and industries in a public have sufficient approach to official monetary amenities and goods like dealings, credit cards, disbursements, savings and insurance, and that such are offered in a maintainable way (Singh et al., 2011; Shah & Ali, 2022).

Developed monetary structure may be well-defined as the development in size, efficacy and permanency of monetary marketplaces accompanied by augmented approach towards the financial markets that can have manifold compensations for the nation. For example, a strong economic marketplace allocates a country's saving to lucrative investments (Stiglitz and Weiss, 1983; Diamond, 1984), decrease factor price thus resulting improved capital distribution (Greenwood and Jovanovic, 1990; Ali & Rehman, 2015) and also decrease the price of business authority (Bencivenga and Smith, 1993).

In various economies, extraordinary and maintainable growth and decreasing inflationary issues are major goals of macroeconomic strategy. A extensively acknowledged idea in macroeconomics is that decreasing inflationary issues are significant for high growth. Though the discussion about the exact association of both leftovers exposed, the query of the survival and kind of such relationship has been the topic of substantial notice and discussion (Munir and Mansur, 2009; Shah & Ali, 2023).

Diverse institutions suggest for various proves on an association of inflationary issues and economic growth. For example, structuralists have faith in that inflation is essential for growth, however, as stated by monetarists' opinion, inflation is destructive to economic growth (Mallik and Chowdhury, 2001).

Our study reveals the role of financial inclusion, institutional quality, industrialization and human capital in determining and enhancing growth of selected Asian economies. This research may provide policy for further developments.

**1.1. Research Questions**

- i. How financial inclusion (number of commercial bank branches) affects economic growth of chosen Asian countries?
- ii. How does number of ATM affect the growth of Asian countries?
- iii. How does outstanding loans influence growth of Asian states?
- iv. Does Institutional quality promote growth in Asian countries?
- v. How does human capital affect economic growth in selected Asian countries?
- vi. What is the effect of industrialization on economic growth in Asian states?

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### 1.2. Significance of the Study

Studies regarding inflation, investment, unemployment, , foreign direct investment and other variables affecting growth of underdeveloped and industrial economies has been reviewed. Though, current study focuses on how financial inclusion, with institutional quality and human capital may affect growth of selected Asian economies .

### 1.3. Research Hypothesis

The major hypothesis of our study areas.

H1: Number of commercial bank branches are linked in a positive way with growth.

H 2: Number of ATM are positively associated with economic growth.

H 3: There is a positive link of outstanding loans and economic growth.

H 4: Institutional quality is positively associated with growth.

H5: Higher the human capital, higher the growth

H6: There is a positive link of industrialization and growth.

The structure of current study is given as. Section II indicates literature review. Section III indicates data and methodology. Section IV highlights the results and discussion. Section V finds out conclusion.

## 2. Literature Review

Much of the studies concerning major macroeconomic variables like financial development, remittances, trade openness and population growth have been conducted in many countries. However, our research highlights the role of financial inclusion, institutional quality, industrialization, and human capital on growth of selected Asian states.

Nabende et al., (2003) highlighted the role of foreign direct investment on economic growth in Asian countries. They used VAR model in order to find this link of both factors. Result revealed that such investment had enhanced growth in the concerned economies.

Recently in 1980 and 2006, Leita (2010) examined that financial development enhanced growth for 27 European Union nations and five BRICS nations.

However, Estrada et al. (2010) focused on how economic structures, banks, and equity markets affected growth of 125 underdeveloped economies. It was found that monetary structure's outreach postulated a substantial influence on growth.

Isiksal (2016) analysed that how agriculture, industry and services sector affected growth in Nigeria. Findings indicated that agriculture, industry and services have increased growth in Nigeria.

In twenty Asian economies, Le et al. (2019) also focused on financial inclusion and growth links. By collecting data during the time span of 2011 to 2016. The random effect result showed that growth was increased because of financial inclusion.

Neamie and Gasset (2018) used data from 2000 to 2015 and GMM method to find out an association of financial inclusion, poverty and disparity in 8 MENA countries. Result highlighted that financial inclusion has increased growth and made less disparity. However, population size and inflation led to decrease growth.

In another work, Kim et al. (2017) highlighted that high growth was much result of financial inclusion. An association of financial inclusion and growth was highlighted by Malinda and Maya (2018). The authors found a long-run relationship of both the factors.

Likewise, Makina and Walle (2019) found that how financial inclusion enhanced economic growth in forty-two African states 2004 to 2014. GMM results showed that financial inclusion indicated by use of number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults caused for high growth.

By using data from 2010 to 2015, Van and Linh (2019) found a positive relationship of numbers of bank branches, ATMs, domestic credit in the private sector and economic growth and development in twenty three Asian countries.

Chatterjee (2020) focused on the role of financial inclusion and information and communication technology on growth in forty-one developing nations. Fixed effect result showed that financial inclusion separately and when joined with mobile and internet has found better growth.

By collecting data of seventeen years, Ul-Ain and Sabir (2020) focused on role of infrastructure in determining growth. The ARDL results showed that However, usage of electricity and energy consumption, life expectancy and secondary education enrolment have boosted up growth.

In a study of EU twenty seven states, Similarly, Huang et al. (2021) analysed an association of financial inclusion and economic development by using data from 1995 and 2015. The ARDL model findings indicated that financial inclusion increased economic growth.

Nakoa and Song (2020) found that how institutional quality influenced financial inclusion and growth in 51 African states. GMM results showed that institutional quality has enhanced financial inclusion as with penetration, accessibility, and usage of financial facilities.

Similarly, Ali et al., (2022) also found a positive association of institutional quality, financial inclusion and financial development in forty-five OIC countries.

In India, Lenka (2022) estimated the unidirectional link of financial inclusion and financial development which showed that financial inclusion was important factor for financial sector development.

Using data from 1984 to 2018, Pal and Bandyopadhyay (2022) found that high population share in each nation must be result of financial inclusion to get high growth.

### 3. Data and Methodology

By using data of the major factors from time span of 2012 to 2018, this research makes an effort to reveal the role of institutional quality, financial inclusion, industrialization and human capital in determining growth of the selected 8 Asian states like Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Phillipines. The entire required data for significant factors has been obtained from World Development Indicators. In our study, GDP per capita (\$ US) is taken as dependent variable and independent variables financial inclusion (Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adult, Number of ATM machines per 100,000 adults and Outstanding loans), Institutional quality index (voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, Government effectiveness, control of corruption, rule of law and regulatory quality), Human capital (secondary school enrolment % of GDP) and Industrialization (manufacturing value added growth) to check the relationship between variables.

In our research, we have used panel data, to examine how financial inclusion with institutional quality and human capital affects growth of selected Asian states. The GMM technique has been applied to avoid the endogeneity problem.

The econometric model being used is given as

The equation is:

$$GDPPC = \beta_0 + \beta_1 NCMB_{it} + \beta_2 NATM_{it} + \beta_3 OUSL_{it} + \beta_4 INSTQ_{it} + \beta_5 HMC_{it} + \beta_6 INDUS_{it} + u_{it}$$

GDPPC= Economic growth (GDP per capita)

NCMB= Number of commercial bank branches per 100,00 adults

NATM=Number of ATM machines per 100,00 adults

OUSL= Outstanding loans from commercial banks

INSTQ= Institutional quality index

HMC= Human capital (secondary school enrolment)

INDUS= Industrialization

$it$  = (time trend)

$u_{it}$  = (error term)

### 4. Results and Empirical Analysis

In this section, we are showing summary statistics of the major factors which seems very imperative to be used here.

In table 1, it has been shown that on average log GDP per capita is 3.4499 percent in selected Asian states. Data shows that in terms of institutional quality index, the sample having countries have index from the range of -1.904 per cent to 0.4883 per cent. On average, NCMB across selected Asian countries is 14.1811 percent during 2012 to 2018. On average outstanding loans from commercial banks are 48.4464 percent. Moreover, number of ATM are 31.5633 percent in these economies. On average, 3.0616 percent in selected Asian states.

**Table 1: Descriptive statistics of significant variables**

Variables	Observations	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum
LGDP	56	3.4499	0.3471	2.9374	4.0831
NCMB	56	14.1911	6.9547	7.9336	32.3071
NATM	56	31.5633	21.6851	4.040	88.6476
OUSL	56	48.4464	29.7449	15	114
INSTQ	56	-0.5995	0.5935	-1.9041	0.4883
HMC	56	73.0616	15.6155	34.9049	88.9102
INDUS	56	5.3430	3.8211	-5.2512	13.4021

Table 2 appears to highlight the GMM results.

The study results using GMM method are revealed in table 2. The result shows that one percent increase in previous year gdp per capita may lead to increase the growth by 0.1824 percent in selected Asian economies.

Financial inclusion contributes too much towards economic growth in Asian economies. Increasing financial access may provide much chances of investment which results in high growth. Result shows that one percent increase in number of commercial bank branches lead to increase growth by 0.0018 percent. Our result is consistent with finding by Makina and Walle (2019).

Number of ATM may also improves economic growth. Use and access of such kind of financial services may resolve the financial issues in time and people are involved in investment and earning activities. This result in much growth in the economies. It is found that one percent increase in number of ATM results in increased growth by 0.0027 percent. Our result is supported by findings of Le et al.,(2019).

**Table 2: GMM Results, Dependent Variable is Log GDP per capita**

Variables	Coefficients, Standard Errors and Z-values
L1 GDPPC	0.1824*** 0.0871 (2.09)
L2GDPPC	0.0024 0.0058 (0.41)
NCMB	0.0018* 0.0005 (3.47)
NATM	0.0027* 0.0007 (3.84)
OUST	0.0006** 0.0002 (2.70)
INSTQ	0.8079* 0.6768 (11.94)
HMC	0.0021* 0.0005 (4.43)
INDUS	0.0019* 0.0005 (3.60)
AR1	0.07
AR2	0.45
Hanson test	0.51

t-values are in parentheses \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1 and \*\*\*p< 0.01

Outstanding loans from commercial banks also increase economic growth as it is indicated by positive coefficient. The finding is supported by Le et al.,(2019).

Role of institutions seems to be very impressive in fostering economic growth in Asian countries. With the help of improved institutional quality, it is possible to have much financial services access for high growth. The study result points out that increase in institutional quality index fosters economic growth by 0.8079 percent. The study results are favoured by result of Nakoa and Song(2020).

Human capital plays a noteworthy role in economic growth. Educated and skilled people may easily have access and to financial services and use them for much production and growth. Result reveals that one percent increase in secondary school enrolment may lead to increased growth by 0.0021 percent. Findings are supported by Ul-Ain and Sabir(2020).

Industrialization also promotes economic growth in selected Asian economies. Educated and urban population may utilize financial services in a better way and enhances economic growth. It is found that one unit increased industrialization results in increase in growth by 0.0019 percent. Our result is supported by Isiksal (2016).

## 5. Conclusion

The existing research has shown that how financial inclusion with institutional quality and human capital fosters economic growth in selected Asian countries. The study has used the data from 2012 to 2018 and checked the relationship between dependent and independent variable in 8 Asian economies. By employing a GMM technique, it is indicated that financial inclusion indicated by number of commercial bank branches and number of ATM have determined and promoted economic growth in these selected Asian economies. Result also seems to show that role of institutional quality is also significant for high growth. Moreover, human capital also well played in promoting economic growth in these states. Finally, industrialization remains also helpful for achieving high economic growth in such selected Asian economies. It is recommended that there should be more financial access and opportunities should be provided to general public. For this, banking sector must play a positive role. Role of

institutions must be influential in all states. Government must focus on improved human capital for high growth. Government must also focus on industrial sector to improve economic growth in the concerned economies.

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