



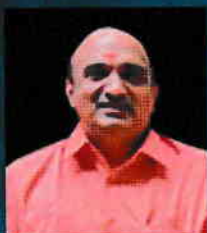
FACET OF ECONOMY YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW



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FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

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Abstract

Foreign investment is widely regarded as a future accelerator for economic progress. Foreign investment comes in many forms, with foreign direct investment being one of the most prevalent. FDI determines the flow of capital across national borders in a manner that generates the investor control over the assets acquired. India seems to be another emerging country that relies on FDI for economic growth and advancement. This chapter investigates the notion of foreign direct investment, its ups and downs, and India's FDI strategy.

Keywords: Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Development

Introduction

Savings and investment are the soul of a country's economic development. Savings and investment may be domestic or imported. Overseas money serves as a spur for industrialization and economic development in underdeveloped countries. Both the home country and the host country benefit from foreign capital flows. It generates demand for the home country by increasing commercial activities globally, while it stimulates production activities and domestic exports in the host country, ultimately leading to economic progress. For India's economic development, foreign direct investment is the most important source of non-debt financial resource. The steady inflow of FDI into India, which is now permitted across a wide range of industries, demonstrates the confidence that foreign investors have in the country's economy. The Indian government has built a conducive trade environment and has efficient business policy tools in place to ensure an uninterrupted intake of FDI.

Foreign Direct Investment

"Foreign Direct Investment" is an expression used to designate an investment made by a foreign individual or company in the industrial capacity of another country. FDI refers to the flow of funds across national borders in a way that the investor preserves control over the assets secured. The flow of foreign direct investment is strongly linked to a country's economic conditions. If the country's economy is in good shape, FDI inflows will be higher, and if the economy is in bad shape, FDI inflows will be lower. FDI is defined as an investment made in order to gain a stable and long-term interest in businesses that operate outside of the investor's economy. It is a financial investment as well as a technological, managerial, and intellectual competence investment. If an investment in a foreign enterprise generates a long-term interest, it is considered FDI. When an investor secures at least 10% of a company's voting power, a permanent interest is developed. All sources of foreign capital, apart from FDI, have proven to be unsustainable and erratic. As a result, FDI outperforms other types of foreign capital.

Types of Foreign Direct Investment

Horizontal FDI

Horizontal FDI comprises funds invested in the same industry but in a foreign country. The investment will be undertaken in a foreign firm that manufactures identical goods in this case. For instance, Nike, a US-based company, may buy Puma, a German company. Both of these organizations are in the sportswear sector. As a result, it is known as horizontal Foreign Direct Investment.

Vertical FDI

The investment will be made in the supply chain rather than in a similar industry in this circumstance. Vertical FDI is when a foreign company invests in a company that it may supply or sell to. Forward vertical FDI and backward vertical FDI are two types of FDI. In the case of forward vertical FDI, the company will invest in another country's manufacturing facilities. Toyota, for example, purchased a car logistics company in the United Kingdom. The company will be closer to the market as a result of forward FDI. Backward vertical FDI, on the other hand, occurs when a company invests in a supplier or a potential supplier. For example, Hershey's, a chocolate company based in the United States, may consider investing in cocoa farmers in Brazil.

Conglomerate FDI:

Conglomerate FDI involves investments in a variety of different industries.

...up the possibility of expanding and diversifying into new sectors. Typically, entrepreneurs when demand for their core business begins to dwindle, forcing them to invest in new endeavours in order to stay afloat. Walmart, a US store, may, for example, invest in Mercedes-Benz, a German automaker.

Foreign Direct investment Policy of India (Effective from May 12, 2015):

In 2015, the Indian government launched a special and amended foreign direct investment policy. The Indian government's goal is to obtain and maximize FDI's developmental impact and spin-offs. While the government seeks massive FDI inflows for infrastructure development, technological up gradation of Indian industry through greenfield manufacturing investments, and projects with both the potential to create large-scale employment opportunities, On March 31st, 2010, the government released a circular that streamlined all foreign direct investment policies. In most sectors, FDI up to 100 percent is permitted through the automatic route (which does not necessitate prior government approval). Foreign investors who want to open branch offices, or project offices would be subject to the Foreign Exchange Management Act's special rules. In India, FDI is forbidden in some categories such as the lottery, gambling and betting, chit funds, Nidhi firms, and cigar, cheroot, and tobacco industries among many others.

Table 1: Foreign Direct Investment flows to India: Country-Wise (US\$ million)

| Source Industry | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total FDI | 36,068 | 36,317 | 37,366 | 38,744 | 42,629 |
| Country-wise Inflows | | | | | |
| Singapore | 12,479 | 6,529 | 9,273 | 14,632 | 12,612 |
| Marshall Islands | 7,452 | 13,383 | 13,415 | 6,570 | 7,498 |
| Netherlands | 2,330 | 3,234 | 2,677 | 2,519 | 5,295 |
| Cayman Islands | 440 | 49 | 1,140 | 863 | 3,496 |
| USA | 4,124 | 2,138 | 1,973 | 2,823 | 3,401 |
| Japan | 1,818 | 4,237 | 1,313 | 2,745 | 2,308 |
| France | 392 | 487 | 403 | 375 | 1,167 |
| United Kingdom | 842 | 1,301 | 716 | 1,211 | 1,125 |
| South Korea | 241 | 466 | 293 | 982 | 777 |
| Hong Kong | 344 | 134 | 1,044 | 598 | 678 |

Source: <https://m.rbi.org.in>

Benefits of Foreign Direct Investment:

Economic growth:

One of the most essential features of FDI is that it helps a country expand economically. India's economy has benefited from a significant influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) into various manufacturing sectors.

Business:

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has opened up a wide range of prospects in the trade of products and services, both in terms of import and export production. As a result of increased FDI inflows, numerous industries are producing higher-quality products.

Employment and skill levels:

FDI has helped to create a number of job possibilities in India by assisting in the establishment of industrial units in a variety of industries.

Technology diffusion and knowledge transfer:

FDI appears to aid in the outsourcing of knowledge from India, particularly in the IT sector. It contributes to the development of India's know-how process in technological improvement.

Linkage and spill over to domestic enterprises:

Through joint ventures and collaboration concerns, various international firms are now occupying a position in the Indian market.

Consumer Benefits:

As a result of increasing FDI, consumers will be able to save 5 to 10% on their purchases because items will be available at a lower cost and of superior quality.

Constraints of Foreign Direct Investment

Investment in profitable area: Foreign investors only invest in profitable regions. This is one of the most significant constraints of FDI. FDI somehow doesn't boost the other priority sectors.

Short term investment: With the expansion of technology, financial markets are globally connected and funds can shift with the blink of an eye to take advantage of the best rate differentials between countries, the majority of investments have been short-term, which causes a reduction in the confidence of local people.

Implementation of poor countries: Foreign investment has frequently been associated with the exploitation of underdeveloped countries, as well as a destination for dumb-bell technologies and equipment. It also has an impact on the host country's autonomy and control.

Ethical and Cultural implications: Foreign investors contribute not just capital, but also their culture, values, habits, and way of life. The people of the host country gradually become slaves to outsiders' socio-cultural values.

Conclusion

FDI has gained notoriety as one of the most efficient techniques of attracting funds from outside sources. The most potential advantages of FDI implementation are enhanced aggregate productivity, increased employment possibilities, increased exports, and the transmission of technological advances between the investor and the host country. India's economy is one of the world's most promising emerging markets. Since the New Economic Policy in 1991, India began the process of soliciting foreign investment, and during 2000s, India scaled unprecedented levels in terms of FDI. The augmentation of domestic capital and the enhancement of efficiency through the transfer of new technology, marketing and managerial skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship are two major ways that FDI helps with the economic development of the host country.

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