

Study of Inequality in Iran from the Perspective of Oil Revenues

Mirnaser Mirbagheri hir

Department of economics, Assistant Professor of Economics, Payam Noor University, PO BOX 19395-3697 Tehran, I.R of IRAN

Corresponding Author Email: mirbagheri_hir@yahoo.com

Ahmad Zamani

M.Sc. student of Economics, Payam Noor University

ABSTRACT

Development as a large, complex and multidimensional process has been so important to the people and governments since the beginning of the twentieth century that it is necessary to study it many times on various issues. Researches on the impact of oil revenues on indicators such as poverty, unemployment and inequality, which are tangible and sensitive issues in Iran, will help policymakers and thinkers to accelerate and improve the development process in Iran. In this study, by the data of the period 1986 to 2016 using Excel and Eviews software and under the vector auto regression model (VAR), the effect of oil revenues on poverty, unemployment and inequality has been investigated and it has been concluded that in the period of study, oil revenues have reduced absolute poverty and increased inequality and unemployment.

Keywords: Development, Oil Revenues, Inequality.

Introduction

Today, development is considered as a necessary and inevitable thing in different countries of the world. Since the 1970s, fluctuations in oil prices have had a significant impact on the global economy and Iran, and it was expected that Iran would prosper and accumulate oil revenues on the path of rapid economic growth and development and eliminate problems such as poverty and unemployment and inequality, which has attracted the attention of various researchers. Revenues from natural resources, including oil, due to their special characteristics, need to be properly managed in order to use them to achieve development goals, otherwise these revenues can be a threat to development. Just as the economic history of Europe and the West can be divided into the pre-industrial and post-industrial periods, so can the economic history of Iran be divided into pre-industrial and post-oil periods. However, the path taken by the West after the renaissance and industrialization led to an increase in productivity, an increase in national production, an increase in economic growth, a major increase in development indicators, and so on. But the question is, what effect has revenues from oil sales had on Iran's development indicators?

Oil revenues are affected by two important factors, the selling price and the amount of extraction, which due to the fluctuations of both of these factors during the history of oil extraction, oil revenues have also experienced many ups and downs. However, as many development experts emphasize the importance of the three categories of poverty, unemployment, and inequality and their relationship to development programs, the main question of this study is what effect oil revenues have on other indicators of development, specifically poverty, unemployment and inequality?

Considering that no suitable substitute has been found for oil in terms of consumption, frequency and price, and according to the research, it will continue to be used as the main source of energy for many years, in this research, we seek to examine that what the impact of oil has been on development indicators. Oil is so rooted in the economic

sectors that it is impossible for us to imagine an economy without oil, and if we do not study the impact of oil on the country's economy, it is as if we have not studied anything (Massoud Derakhshan, 2004).

Development can be defined as an inseparable set of freedom, welfare, expansion of opportunities, and the selection and establishment of human rights principles in civil society (Mohammad Gholi Yousefi-2008). This definition is perhaps the most comprehensive definition of development. Amartya Sen defines development as enhancing capabilities and improving entitlements. People like Schumacher, Syndrome, Griffin, and Knight have focused on human development. "Development does not begin with goods, but with people, education, organization and discipline," says Schumacher. What is at stake in development are questions such as what has happened in this process of poverty? What has unemployment changed and what is the state of inequality? If all three have gone from top to bottom, this is undoubtedly a period of development, but if one or two of these issues have gotten worse, or all three of them have gotten worse together, we cannot call the result development.

Since Iran is still one of the developing countries and still deals with issues such as poverty, unemployment and inequality and the struggle against poverty and inequality is very important from a religious point of view and is one of the goals and aspirations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also considering that unemployment is one of the biggest social and economic problems and is directly related to poverty and inequality, in this study, the effect of oil revenues on the inequality index has been investigated.

Theoretical foundations and research background

Review of definitions and theories of development: Development literally means gradual growth to become more advanced, powerful, and even larger (Oxford Dictionary). Development has a broad, complex, multidimensional concept that, although almost all economists agree on some aspects of it, has never had a single concept, and since Adam Smith has found a more comprehensive and complete concept and added new dimensions to it.

In the development, people are important, not economic statistics. development focuses on human well-being, not on measuring the coefficient of investment and the ratio of capital to production. Accordingly, focusing on human well-being requires his study in a particular social perspective. Since every society has its own culture and characteristics, development must necessarily be based on those characteristics and be realized. The World Bank considers the main goal of economic, social and cultural development to be to improve the living standards and quality of life of the people (World Bank. World Development Report 1983, page 14)

None of the great economists such as Adam Smith, Marx, Ricardo, Malthus, Keynes, etc. have ever provided a comprehensive definition of the concept of development in its modern meaning. From the economic point of view, they have paid attention only to the concept of economic growth and development. But a number of scientists such as Arthur Lewis, Higgins, Simon Kuznets, Baldwin have paid attention to its economic development and have only dealt with the concept of economic growth and development. Amartya Sen and Sir William Patten are considered to be among the firsts to scientifically research development on "national income", "public safety" and "the special happiness of every human being". He also considers the book "Research on Nature and reasons of The Nation's Wealth" of Adam Smith to address the fundamental issues of development economics. He also considers solving economic problems as a kind of engineering and considers improving living conditions as one of the biggest goals of economics. He also defines development as increasing capabilities and improving entitlements. In the definition of development, Atfield and Wilkins say: "Development is a comprehensive process of economic, social, political and cultural activities that aims at the continuous improvement of the entire population and its activities, freedom, proper participation and equitable distribution of benefits are its basic pillars." "Humans are both the goal and the means of development, and the ultimate goal and goal is the development of human welfare and well-being, not the figures of GDP, etc. If people are the center of development, democracy and human civilization can enter a new era," said Pakistani scientist Mahbub ul Haq. Instead of being on the margins of development, human beings will eventually be the main goal and subject of development. Todaro considers the following three goals necessary for the implementation of development in all societies:

- 1- The possibility of more access to life-sustaining goods such as food, housing, health, and security.
- 2- Increasing the standard of living, including higher incomes, providing more employment, better education and paying more attention to cultural and human values, all of which not only contribute to material progress but also create personal and national self-respect.
- 3- Expanding the scope of economic and social choice of individuals and nations through their liberation from slavery and dependence not only on other individuals and countries but also on the force of human ignorance and misery.

Mohammad Gholi Yousefi defines development as an inseparable set of freedom, prosperity, expansion of opportunities, and choices and the establishment of human rights principles in civil society. Abraham Maslow considers the goal, the main ideal and human merit to reach a high human level or self-fulfillment, but he believed that in order to reach this high human level, human beings must go through a hierarchy known as the Maslow hierarchy pyramid. These hierarchies are: 1- Physiological or physical needs such as food, housing, clothing, basic needs, etc. 2- Security needs such as not being afraid of being attacked by strangers and

other humans, having a stable job, etc. 3- Needs Social such as friendly and social relations and love, etc. 4- Needs of self-esteem such as being respected, great successes, power, superiority, etc. 5- Needs of self-fulfillment.

Definition of poverty: Poverty or deprivation means not having the minimum of wealth or income that prevents a person from the normal movement of life and the person in the field of life due to this lack of competition with the middle class and is at a lower level than the middle class. Poverty also means the inability to meet the basic needs of life such as food, clothing, housing, family livelihood and The concept of basic needs varies by time and place, from the minimum survival needs to the average standard of living. Economic poverty is a manifestation of intellectual, cultural and spiritual poverty, just as the poor man, despite having innate and potential human abilities and talents, is desperate, self-defeating, despairing and trapped in the well of ignorance and deprivation, and prone to destroying God-given talents. Laying down and ruining one's life, from which the power of right thinking has been taken away, and one's physical and mental strength not in the way of reviving and rebuilding and empowering oneself and excellence, but in the way of one's limited, false and hopeless thoughts or desires and desires. Sacrifices rulers and those in power and wealth. Hence, economic poverty is a good measure of governments and systems. Then to measure poverty and the degree of government and rulers, we do not need to go to the types of poverty, including cultural and intellectual poverty, and so on. The problem of the poverty of history arises from the fact that history is removed from humanity, from nature and, in a word, from reality (truth). It is in this state that the poor arise and stand out. Therefore, addressing the issue of human poverty is a very delicate and precise task that requires understanding the history prepared, anti-rational and anti-human poverty. (Ahmadi-2004)

Inequality and income distribution: Equality and justice have been one of the innate desires of man and have always been one of the greatest ideals of humanity throughout history. As in ancient Iran, a person like Mazdak builds a social movement that justice is one of the most important indicators of his movement. Also in the Holy Quran, the main purpose of sending prophets is to establish installments and justice on earth (Surah Hadid - verse 25), but it should be known that many people consider equality equal to justice. But equality is not the same as justice. As Aristotle considers among the eight types of justice, distributive justice is the most important because he considers justice according to his thoughts not as equality but proportion and says that the position of everyone's rights in society should be equal to his merit and knowledge. (Enayat-2014)

Research background: Sachs and Warner (1995) equate dependence on raw materials with the abundance of natural resources. They claim that countries whose economies are based on natural resources are failed examples of economic growth. In contrast, countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Switzerland, which had only limited access to natural resources, experienced high economic growth rates.

Richard J. Reind (1999) in an article entitled "Oil Price Movements and the Persian Gulf Economies" shows that during the period of declining oil revenues, sectors that depended on government subsidies and support grew less, but sectors that were less dependent on the government. They have better growth and their share of total GDP has increased. Oti (1994), Fields (1989), Saraf and Giovanji (2001) and Bocclato (2009) have also emphasized in their research that the abundance of natural resources has exacerbated income inequality.

Ebrahimi and Salarian (2009) have studied the phenomenon of resource curse in oil exporting countries from 1994 to 2004. The results showed that oil revenues alone are not detrimental to economic growth, but when we include other explanatory variables such as corruption, physical investment, trade-offs, and education into the model, the effect of oil revenues on economic growth is negative. Jarjarzadeh (2011) in an article examines the relationship between abundance of natural resources and poverty. The findings show that the abundance of natural resources hurts the poor through a number of different mechanisms, including instability in primary export prices, rising inequality, declining growth rates, political governance and structure, Dutch disease, and civil war.

Research methodology

Introduction: The research method is a set of rules, tools and a specific and systematic way to investigate the reality of discovering unknowns and finding solutions to problems. The research method is the most effective way to find the facts and the new homogeneous scientific progress is due to the emergence of this method. Data analysis of this research and testing of its hypotheses was performed by Excel software, Eviews. In this way, the information provided by the databases is first categorized and sorted in Excel software and then transferred to Eviews software to perform the desired statistical tests on them. In this research, a vector auto regression model has been selected for analysis, which is a suitable model for analyzing the analytical model of the study, because the method is very simple, does not involve the researcher in detecting endogenous and exogenous variables, predictions based on patterns the VAR are better than the predictions presented by the simultaneous equations, and has the ability to express the dynamic structure of the model and rational expectations in the short run, the ability to remove the constraints and constraints that often accompany economic theories. For these reasons, it is said that the VAR method does not require a clear economic model to estimate the model.

Vector auto regression patterns: When we want to study the behavior of time series multivariates, it is necessary to pay attention to the interrelationship of these variables in the form of a model of simultaneous equation system. The vector autoregression (VAR) method is used to estimate the pattern of the system of simultaneous equations.

One of the main goals of the Jenkins Box approach is to find models in which the number of interrupt variables is minimal. On the other hand, achieving short-term and accurate predictions requires removing meaningless variables from the model. Sims' (1980) critique of structural models involving invalid detection constraints actually means that in some cases it is necessary to adopt a different strategy for estimating models. To further explain this issue, we consider the following generalized multivariate autoregressive model:

$$X_t = A_0 + A_1X_{t-1} + A_2X_{t-2} + \dots + A_pX_{t-p} + e_t \quad (3-1)$$

Just as an autoregressive equation can be turned into a moving average process; Also made a vector autoregressive process convertible; A vector autoregression process can also be converted to a moving average vector (VMA). In Equation (12-3) the variables y_t and z_t are written in terms of present and e_{1t} and e_{2t} are past values. Conversion is a key feature of The Sims (1980) method because it makes it possible to examine the timing of shocks to variables in a VAR system. To further explain this issue, continue the first-order two-variable model used in the previous two sections; We use. For this purpose, we write the two-variable VAR model in the form of a matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_t \\ z_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{10} \\ a_{20} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{t-1} \\ z_{t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_{1t} \\ e_{2t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2-3)$$

The main problem with instantaneous reaction (shock-reaction) is that these functions are constructed based on estimated coefficients. Since each coefficient is inaccurately estimated; Therefore, immediate reactions are also associated with error. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the confidence intervals around the instantaneous reactions of generalization and thus the uncertainty in the estimated coefficients. To explain this, we consider the estimation of an AR model (1) as follows:

$$y_t = 0.6y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

Since unrestrained VAR models contain excessive parameters; They cannot be used for short-term forecasting. But knowing the characteristics of the prediction error sequence will be very effective in discovering the interrelationships between system variables. Assume that we know the values of the coefficients A_0 and A_1 and want to predict the different values of X_{t+i} subject to the observed values of X_t . If we take equation (3-3) one period further, we will have:

$$X_{t+1} = A_0 + A_1X_t + e_{t+1}$$

Introduction of patterns used in research: The coexistence of a set of economic variables provides a statistical basis for the use of error correction patterns. These patterns have become increasingly popular in experimental work. The main reason for the popularity of error correction models is that they relate short-term fluctuations of variables to their long-run equilibrium values. From what has been discussed so far, it is clear that when the two variables x_t and y_t are congruent, there is a long-run equilibrium relationship between them. Of course, in the short term there may be imbalances. In this case, the following equation error sentence can be considered as "equilibrium error":

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= \beta x_t + u_t \\ u_t &= y_t - \beta x_t \end{aligned} \quad (3-4)$$

This error can now be used to link the short-run y_t to its long-run equilibrium value. For this purpose, a pattern can be set as follows:

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \Delta x_t + \alpha_1 \hat{u}_{t-1} + \epsilon_t \quad \epsilon_t \sim IID(0, \sigma^2) \quad (3-5)$$

Thus, statistical inferences can be misleading, resulting in erroneous decisions about the variables that should be included in the template and the constraints that should be applied. In the second stage, the bias of the estimators is transferred, including error correction, and may affect the parameters of the short-term model (Nofaresti, 1999).

Analysis

After a relatively detailed review of the subject literature and methodology in this section, we first introduce the model variables. Then we examine the variables in terms of mania or anomaly. The trend of development indicators in the Iranian economy is discussed.

Introduction of relevant data and model: In this section, according to theoretical foundations and empirical studies, the following model has been used to examine the effect of oil revenues on development indicators, which are expressed as follows:

System pattern:

$$Gini_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 LGdp_t + \alpha_2 LOilrvnu_t + \alpha_3 Inf_t + \alpha_4 Un_t + \mu_{1t}$$

$$LGdp_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 Gini_t + \alpha_2 LOilrvnu_t + \alpha_3 Inf_t + \alpha_4 Un_t + \mu_{2t}$$

$$LOilrvnu_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 LGdp_t + \alpha_2 Gini_t + \alpha_3 Inf_t + \alpha_4 Un_t + \mu_{3t}$$

$$Inf_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 LGdp_t + \alpha_2 Gini_t + \alpha_3 LOilrvnu_t + \alpha_4 Un_t + \mu_{4t}$$

$$Un_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 LGdp_t + \alpha_2 Gini_t + \alpha_3 LOilrvnu_t + \alpha_4 Inf_t + \mu_{5t}$$

The variables of the above model are defined as follows:

Gini: Gini coefficient (representative of income distribution factor in Iran)

LGdp: Economic Growth (Annual Growth Rate of GDP at Real Price).

LOilrvnu: Oil revenues at real prices

Inf: Inflation rate

Un: Unemployment rate

Povr: The logarithm of a number of people below the multidimensional poverty line

μ_t : Component of disruption

In this research, statistical data have been prepared from the time series database of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Statistics Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the World Bank website. The period of this research is between 1396-2016.

Table 1: Results of unit root test at the level of variables using generalized Dickey-Fuller test

Variable name	Dickey-Fuller	Critical values at a significance level of 10%	Variable meaning or anonymity
LOILRVNU	-2.89	-2.62	Mana
GINI	-3.13	-2.62	Mana
POVR	-2.83	-2.62	Mana
LGDP	-6.60	-2.62	Mana
UN	-3.42	-2.62	Mana
INF	-3.08	-2.62	Mana

The results of Table (4-1) and the study of calculated statistical values and the probability of their acceptance show that all variables are significant at the level of 10% and the H0 hypothesis that there is a single root (anonymity of variables) is rejected. The H1 hypothesis that the variables mean is accepted. According to the above, it can be said that all variables used in the model are convergent from zero to a significant level of 10%.

Analysis of variance

Analysis of variance is a method to test the dynamics of the vector autoregressive model. This method examines the changes of the dependent variable due to the shocks to that variable versus the shocks to other variables. By analyzing the variance of the prediction error, it is possible to examine to what extent the changes in a sequence are affected by the perturbation components of the sequence itself and to what extent the perturbation components of other variables within the system are affected. If the disturbance component of one of the model variables (ε_{vit}) does not explain any part of the variance of the prediction error of the other model variable (y_{jt}) throughout the prediction period, it can be concluded that the sequence (y_{jt}) is exogenous. Under these conditions, the changes (y_{jt}) are independent of the perturbation component (ε_{vit}) and the sequence (y_{jt}). On the other hand, the perturbation component may explain the total variance of the prediction error (y_{jt}) during the prediction period, in which case (y_{jt}) would be completely endogenous. Collectively, analysis of variance and instantaneous response is called accounting disorders; It is an effective tool for examining the relationships between economic variables. The results of the analysis of variance of the Gini coefficient (income inequality) are presented in Table (2).

Table 2: Gini coefficient analysis of variance

Period	S.E.	GINI	LGDP	LOILRVN U	INF	UN
1	0.009604	100.0000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
2	0.012946	95.47423	1.843697	1.288940	0.091206	1.301925
3	0.015325	91.52514	1.604786	3.610876	0.083747	3.175448
4	0.017300	88.14210	1.466552	5.799867	0.088235	4.503250
5	0.019020	85.33182	1.269229	7.809044	0.104324	5.485578
6	0.020562	83.04471	1.103187	9.555828	0.111568	6.184708
7	0.021974	81.14850	0.967738	11.06920	0.112975	6.701587
8	0.023286	79.56338	0.861893	12.37312	0.109982	7.091619
9	0.024520	78.22166	0.779933	13.49875	0.104925	7.394731
10	0.025688	77.07563	0.716150	14.47311	0.099087	7.636021
11	0.026803	76.08812	0.665897	15.32022	0.093211	7.832555
12	0.027871	75.23066	0.625598	16.06029	0.087637	7.995816
13	0.028900	74.48079	0.592662	16.71025	0.082500	8.133801
14	0.029894	73.82065	0.565226	17.28414	0.077829	8.252157
15	0.030856	73.23590	0.541967	17.79356	0.073606	8.354970
16	0.031790	72.71491	0.521936	18.24811	0.069792	8.445250
17	0.032699	72.24821	0.504449	18.65574	0.066345	8.525260
18	0.033584	71.82802	0.489006	19.02302	0.063223	8.596733
19	0.034448	71.44791	0.475234	19.35545	0.060386	8.661020
20	0.035292	71.10254	0.462850	19.65762	0.057801	8.719190

The table above shows the analysis of variance of the Gini coefficient variable; therefore the most Gini coefficient changes over time are related to the Gini coefficient shocks.

The first column shows the forecast error (SE) in different periods. The source of this error is the change in current values and future shocks, and since this error is calculated each year based on the previous year's error, it increases over time. Prediction error in the first period. 0.009 in the period of 0.01 and increases over time.

Most changes in the Gini coefficient are explained by the oil revenue variable and about 1.28 percent in the second year to 19.65 percent in the last year are explained by the changes in the Gini coefficient by the oil revenue. The next variable that explains the most changes in the Gini coefficient is the unemployment rate, which explains approximately 1.3 to 8.7% of the changes in the Gini coefficient over time. The economic growth variable explains the slight change of about 1.84% of the Gini coefficient, which has also decreased over time. The other variables explain the variance of the Gini coefficient very little.

Results

Test the hypotheses: In this section, the study hypothesis is examined and according to the estimated results, the hypothesis is evaluated as follows:

Hypothesis: Increasing oil revenues has a direct impact on inequality

According to the obtained results, this hypothesis is accepted. According to the results of the immediate reaction of oil revenues have a positive effect on the trend of inequality in the long run and the results of analysis of variance show that in all periods the shock of oil revenues has been effective on the trend of income distribution.

General analysis of research results: The study of the impact of oil revenues on social welfare is one of the most important and fundamental issues in the field of economic policy of oil-rich countries. Despite Iran's abundant natural gas and oil reserves, poverty and unemployment are important issues in recent years among a large part of the population.

In Iran, oil provides a significant percentage of government revenue almost independently of other sectors of the economy. One of the key issues for countries with natural resources is how to manage oil revenues or in other words the role of natural resources and underground reserves such as oil and gas in the process of economic growth and development of countries, consequently, increasing living standards and welfare and reducing poverty in Follows the community. According to the theoretical foundations and literature of the subject, oil revenues can have a continuous and positive effect on welfare if they are used to generate wealth in the country's economic system. Also,

oil revenues can have a positive and increasing effect on the welfare of society if they reduce the class gap in society. If these incomes are used as housing and spent on the import of consumer goods into the country, not only will they not have a positive effect on welfare in the long run, but they will also have a negative effect due to the resulting inflation.

The main finding of this study showed that increasing oil revenues first increases inequality and in the long run the direct effect of oil revenues on inequality remains. Therefore, it can be said that according to the results, the increase in real oil revenues has intensified inequality in the Iranian economy.

Oil revenues in the early stages of entering the government budget are mainly spent on government development programs and development and infrastructure expenditures that are effective in improving growth and social welfare. Also, with the arrival of oil revenues and the import of various goods and services and the expansion of urbanization, all have effects on improving social welfare. But this is not the whole story, because with the growing oil revenues and the increase in the share of these revenues in the country's GDP, governments become rent-seeking governments, which now spend part of these revenues on popular current expenditures to attract people's votes, which are more anti-development. And in the long run it only causes more disruption to anti-development, and in the long run it only causes more disruption to economic performance.

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