

Two-day Workshop
on
75 Years of Productivity Growth in India:
Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts
at
Centre for Development Economics
Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi, North Campus
Delhi 110007, India
Date: 24-25th February 2023

Productivity growth, driven by technology, efficiency, and the market, plays a prime role in accelerating the economic growth, development, and welfare of an economy. It shifts the domain of production and hence brings opulence to human life. It plays a detrimental role in affecting long-run growth. Moreover, the dynamics of productivity growth governing the short-run economic activities and business cycles have appeared as a growing topic for both academics and practices. A fair understanding of productivity dynamics is the key to the question of sustained growth and stabilisation strategies of an economy. This apart, the catch-up of economic development to the frontier which lies in the progress of the modern sector in the developing world is essentially rooted in the question of productivity convergence between the sectors that exist therein.

The post-Independence period, commencing from the inception of planning in 1950 to the onset of the pandemic crisis in the 2020s was characterised by a massive improvement over pre-Independence performance coupled with some avoidable inadequacies, particularly, in terms of incentives and institutional structures and punctuated with droughts, natural disasters, wars, epidemics, and oil-crisis. The economy witnessed a transformation from almost zero growth in the pre-independence period during 1990-1950 to the Hindu rate of growth of 3.5% in the first three decades of post-independence India to the present growth regime. But, the growth rate has seen its ups and downs and has slowed down in recent years. However, the role of productivity growth in the transition continues to be debated. Though the economy has witnessed a significant improvement in economic development during the past 75 years since independence, still the number of development outcomes (e.g. poverty, informality, decent employment, and inequality) that seems to have been influenced by the way productivity growth has progressed are bothering the scholars and policy-makers engaged in the development debate.

Therefore, the dynamics of productivity growth in India continue to engage economists and policymakers and still remain much debated. The trends and patterns of the productivity growth observed in India seem to have accelerated in the period following macroeconomic reforms and policy changes in investment and trade regimes. However, the growing uncertainties in the global market and changing strategies of financial institutions to cope with the uncertainties affecting investment and trade behaviours must be playing detrimental roles in designing productivity growth in the recent time and will be affecting the economic growth and stabilisation in the near future.

The workshop aims to bring scholars and policymakers for in-depth discussions on the issues. This will house academic papers for detailed discussion, giving equal emphasis on both theoretical and empirical issues to unfold some of these issues with a particular focus on the productivity growth of the economy. A segment of the workshop will be devoted to a discussion on the findings of the recently released *India Productivity Report*, which has been prepared under the India KLEMS project housed at the CDE since 2014, financially supported by the Reserve Bank of India.

Papers based on high-quality research works dealing with the theme outlined above are invited to be presented at the workshop. A detailed abstract (at least 1000 words) or the full-paper is requested to be submitted by timelines indicated below. Limited funding will be available to subsidize travel and accommodate one of the authors from the selected papers as per the university guidelines. The workshop may be conducted in a hybrid mode depending on the government decisions on travel restrictions. A Special issue in a reputed journal and/or an edited book may be published from a select set of papers presented at the workshop, with the object of bringing to light and documenting the experiences of productivity growth in from Indian economy during the last 75 years since Independence.

Important dates:

- Deadline for submitting a detailed abstract (1000 words) or full papers: 7th January 2023. All papers must be submitted online: <https://forms.gle/sw2gFZ5mDmbbae7j6>
- The notification date of acceptance: 14th January 2023
- The last date for submitting the full paper: 7th February 2023
- Workshop dates: 24-25th February 2023

Advisory Organising Committee:

Professor K L Krishna (Principal Investigator, India KLEMS Project)

Professor T C A Anant (Secretary, UPSC and Ex-Professor, Delhi School of Economics)

Professor Surender Kumar (Professor and Head, Department of Economics, University of Delhi)

Professor Uday Bhanu Sinha (Professor, Delhi School of Economics and Editor-in-Chief, Indian Economic Review)

Professor Suresh Aggarwal (Ex-Professor, University of Delhi and Member, India KLEMS Project)

Workshop Conveners

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