

## Effects of Human Capital on Economic Growth in Selected Asian Countries

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### Özet

Dünyada yapılan araştırmalarda ülkelerin iktisadi kalkınması üzerinde beşeri sermayenin önemli payının olduğu vurgulanmaktadır. Özellikle 20.yy ortalarından itibaren ülkelerin kalkınma ve büyüme sürecinde yaşadıkları sorunların çözümünde beşeri sermaye dikkat çekmeye başlamıştır. Büyümenin itici gücü olan faktörlerin birikimini ve büyüme sürecinin işleyişini araştıran İçsel Büyüme Teorisi, ekonomilerde yaşanan büyüme sürecinde fiziki sermaye ile açıklanamayan faktörlerinde var olduğu düşüncesine dayanmaktadır. Günümüz ekonomilerinin büyüme süreçlerinde de büyük bir yere sahip olan beşeri sermaye faktörü çalışmada insani gelişim endeksi olarak ele alınmış ve ekonomik büyüme üzerindeki etkisi seçilmiş 5 Asya Ülkesi (Hong Kong, Japonya, Çin, Singapur, Kore) için 1990-2016 yılları arasında panel veri analizi yardımıyla incelenmiştir. Değişkenler için öncelikle yatay kesit bağımlılığı ve homojenlik testleri yapılmıştır. Paneli oluşturan ülkeler arasında yatay kesit bağımlılığı tespit edildiği için serilerin durağanlığını incelemek üzere yatay kesit bağımlılığını dikkate alan ikinci nesil birim kök testlerinden Hadri-Kruzomi testi ve nedensellik testi için ise Emirmahmutoğlu ve Köse (2011) nedensellik testi kullanılmıştır. Analiz sonuçlarına göre ekonomik büyümeden insani gelişim endeksine doğru tek yönlü nedensellik ilişkisi tespit edilmiştir.

### Anahtar Kelimeler

İçsel Büyüme Teorisi  
Beşeri Sermaye  
Ekonomik Büyüme  
Panel veri Analizi

### Makale Hakkında

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### Abstract

In researches which are conducted in the world, it has been pointed out that there is an important share of human capital on countries' development. Especially since the middle of 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, human capital had been started to get attention in solving problems which countries went through during development and growth. Intrinsic Growth Theory that searches savings of factors which are driving power of growth and mechanism of growth process has been based on thought which there is also factors that cannot be explained by physical capital in the growth process of economies. Human capital factor which has also a big place in growth processes of today's economies had been taken as humanitarian development index and effect on economic growth had been chosen; it had been analyzed for 5 Asian countries (Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore, Korea) in between years of 1990 and 2016 by the help of panel data analysis. Firstly, cross-sectional dependency and homogeneity tests had been performed for variables. Since cross-sectional dependency was found between countries constituting the panel, Hadri-Kruzomi (2012) test which is one of second-generation unit root tests and considers cross-sectional dependency had been used to examine the stability of series and Emirmahmutoğlu and Köse (2011) causality test had been used for causality test. According to analysis results, unidirectional causality relation had been determined from economic growth to humanitarian development index.

### Keywords

Intrinsic Growth Theory  
Human Capital  
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Panel Data Analysis

### About Article

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## Introduction

Intrinsic Growth models had taken place in economy literature by years of 1980 and 1990 when liberalization movements accelerated. Economic growth is an economic indicator that is arrived at a consensus in point performance of world economies' situation. Dynamics of such an important indicator has taken place in focus of economists all along. At this point, intrinsic growth models had brought a new dynamic to economic growth concept and it has been gone to look the source of growth into intrinsic factors.

Conducted studies have revealed the effects of social factors besides physical factors in countries' economic growths. Intrinsic growth models that does not reject neo-classic growth models has strengthen the basics of neo-classic growth and had placed the human capital concept to basis of economic growth. Economic growth has occurred by taking action of these qualified education system which is source of growth, quality health system, technologic development based on R&D and economic growth in intrinsic growth models that based on public policies which support all of them. Important point in intrinsic growth is qualitative development rather than numerical development. Being high of schooling rates, literacy rates are not effective in economic growth by oneself. What is important here is qualified literacy and schooling rates which all needs are covered. While raising individuals who has analytic thinking ability is based on firstly sufficiency of health indicator, it is the most important source of human capital. Thus, fund of knowledge can be performed by relevant education system. Fund of knowledge and human capital which are constituted as part of qualified education system has also created the source of technologic development. Production increases that mentioned technologic development will provide have also strengthen the R&D initiatives and economic growth has occurred by promoting this loop with public investments.

Intrinsic growth theory which is developed by Romer against Neo-Classic Growth Theories that explain the economic growth by physical production factors has suggested that human capital has also an important place in economic growth dynamics. Human capital investments that countries made to improve the qualification of manpower in this context have affected the economic growth by providing adoption of new product and technologies.

Human capital factor that has a big place in growing processes of today's economies has been discussed as humanitarian development index and it had been examined for 5 Asian countries (Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore, Korea) which effect on growth rate was chosen in between years of 1990 and 2016 by the help of panel data analysis. According to analysis results, unidirectional causality relation had been determined from economic growth to humanitarian development index.

## Intrinsic Growth Models

Intrinsic Growth Models assume that economic powers which operate in market mechanism specify the economic growth as internal and define the intrinsic growth as driving power of economic growth (Ercan, 2000). Elements of economic growth of intrinsic growth concept that is started with P. Romer (1986) and R. Lucas (1988) and developed in years of 1990 had been searched in the system. Intrinsic growth concept consists of modelling variables such as education, health, R&D, technologic innovations, new role of government, fund of knowledge, financial innovations, economies of scale and distribution of income (Berber, 2006). Intrinsic growth theories have rejected the exteriority of technologic developments and has included that to model (Karabulut and Emsen, 1997).

Basic identifiers of intrinsic growth have been gathered in three groups as education policy, health policy and technology policy beside countries' religious, regional and cultural factors have been also identified as basic identifiers of intrinsic growth. Working of these factors have revealed education, health and expenses which are done to technologic background and it has occurred as that activates the search and development activities. New products have been found at the result of mentioned process, more effective production methods have been developed or existing products have been improved and economic growth has occurred (Kibritçioğlu, 1998).

The concept of human capital, which constitutes one of the main sources of economic growth, is used to express all the concepts such as knowledge, skills, abilities, health status, place in social relations and education level of the individual or society. In response to this emergence of internal growth theory, Mankiw, Romer and Weil (1992) empirically tested the neoclassical growth theory to include human capital. The authors state that the power of neo-classical growth theory, expanded with human capital, to explain real life is greatly increased. Barro (1991) states that the inclusion of human capital in the model does not change the results and predictions of the neo-classical theory unless there is an increasing return (Taban and Kar, 2006).

The importance of human capital has been pointed out in intrinsic growth models. Human capital concept that constitutes the primary resource of economic growth has been used to define all concepts as individual's or society's knowledge, skill, abilities, health situation, place in social relations and education level. In near past, Lucas (1988) and Rebelo (1991) had counted human capital as one of production factors such as physical capital. How economy needs physical capital investments, it has also needed human capital investments. Concept emphasized as human capital has showed up or it may also come into being by itself with learning by doing in study process. Investments which are made to human capital had been defined as opportunity cost of spending time in education (Kar and Ağır, 2003:6). Lucas had indicated that increase in individual's human capital contributed to productivity of all production factors in reality except that it increase the self-productivity, every type of investments that government will make in education and to develop the background of technology will affect growth more than investments on physical capital by making positive effects on human capital accumulation. According to approach of Lucas, production function is as follows when production level (Y), physical capital (K) and efficient labor ( $N_e$ ) is in an economy that neo-classic market conditions are valid:

$$Y = F(K, N_e)$$

Concentration in model is on explanation of effective labor. Effective labor stock in country has been defined as  $N_e = uhN$  by relating average ability level of society (h), spending time of worker in production (u) and demand of labor force in country (N). In this case, production function has turned into as below (Lucas, 1988):

$$Y = F(K, uhN)$$

According to Lucas, increase of worker ability is related with time falling outside of working time (1-u). Then, human capital accumulation equation is as follows:

$$h = h\epsilon(1-u) \text{ (}\epsilon \text{ amortization )}$$

Importance which human capital carried has pointed out importance of the mission which government undertake about this subject. The most important mission of government is to provide qualified primary education to public. Emphasized in here is the extension of primary education time. Extension of primary education time has affected the economic growth by three ways:

- a. More educated manpower has an important role in adapting and developing new technologies.
- b. It will cause in increase of physical capital investments.
- c. More educated population will result in decrease of fertility rate and families may invest more in their children.

In the development process of countries, Human Development Report 1994 started to explain human development indices. Human Development Indices (HDI) published by UNDP since 1990 focused on 3 main indicators.

- a. Long and healthy life measured by life expectancy at birth,
- b. Literacy rate and schooling rate,
- c. Income per capita converted to purchasing power (Çolak et al., 2007).

Romer's study that is accepted as beginning of Intrinsic Growth Models has based on Arrow who approach in the direction of internalization of technologic development in the process of growth and firstly reveals the effect of learning by doing in the process growth. Arrow has argued that contribution of increase in information production by learning by doing will be more than contributions which it provides in specific to company (Ercan, 2000:132). Romer had determined that technologic development became intrinsic in economic model and investments which are made increased the technologic information, so it was used as free input in other economic models and this spread to general of sector as a result of spill-over (Kar and Ađır, 2005).

Below points have been pointed out about technology that is taken as intrinsic to model and using information in intrinsic growth models:

Consumers are not opponent to each other in using information and nobody had been excluded.

- a. The extent to which economical units had benefited from information that come out as a result of technological development is extremely important.
- b. If technologic externalities come into question, it is fact that private sector will not draw into production of information and market will fail.
- c. There is relation between technologic development and physical and human capital investments (Kibritçiođlu, 1998).

Romer had taken the indicator of produced information as capital stock in process in the country. This means that the more investment made in that country before, more economic information will be produced. When production function is improved like this, increasing yields has been discussed for capital under definite assumptions. Therefore, when more

investments are done, yield of every new investment will be more than before one (Berber, 2006).

In search that Kar and Taban (2003) made on intrinsic growth, while they emphasize that education and social security expenditures have positive effect on economic growth in Turkey, they affected negatively on health and infrastructural investments. Therefore, result had been found as that education and social security expenditures are distributed efficiently while health and infrastructural expenditures are distributed insufficiently.

### Literature Review

In the international growth literature, the impact of human capital on economic growth is frequently explored. The positive relationship between the variables used in most of the studies examining the relationship between human capital and economic growth was determined. The studies examining the relationship between economic growth and human capital is divided into studies and international studies conducted in Turkey.

**Table 1.** National Studies Investigating the Relationship Human Capital and Economic Growth

Author(s)	Period	Method	Results
Taban and Kar (2006)	1969-2001	Johansen Cointegration	Human Capital Education Index ↔ Economic Growth
Ay and Pınar (2008)	1950-2000	Johansen Cointegration and Causality Test	Positive relationship
İzgi and Arslan (2008)	1988-2008	Least Squares Method	Positive and Significant Relationship
Afşar (2009)	1963-2005	Granger Causality	Education Investments → Economic Growth
Varsak and Bakırtaş (2009)	1970-2008	Johansen Cointegration Test, Vector Error Correction (VEC) and Variance Separation Analysis	Positive effect on education expenditure and income distribution
Şimşek and Kadılar (2010)	1960-2004	Boundary Test Approach	It is concluded that the increase in growth nourishes human capital.
Altıntaş and Çetintaş (2011)	1970-2007	Granger Causality	Positive and Significant Relationship
Çalışkan et.al., (2013)	1923-2011	Johansen Cointegration	Positive relationship
Koç (2013)	2012	Panel Data Analysis	Positive relationship
Topallı (2017)	1960-2012	VEC Model and Toda-Yamamoto Causality Test	Human Capital Economic Growth

Table 1 consists of empirical studies to show the effect of human capital on economic growth in Turkey. It has been concluded that human capital influences economic growth positively in all 10 studies in the table. Time series are used in this study such as Regression Analysis, Granger Causality, Vector Error Correction (VEC) and Variance Separation Analysis, Johansen Cointegration Test analyzes have been used. In these studies, variables such as human capital index and human capital education index were used as dependent variables.

**Table 2.** International Studies Investigating the Relationship Human Capital and Economic Growth

Author(s)	Period	Country(s)	Method	Results
Levin-Rault (1997)	1965-1984	30 industrialized countries	Panel Data Analysis	Long Term Relationship
In Doucouliagos (1997)	and 1949-1984	USA	Granger Causality	Strong causality relationship
Brempong et.al., (2006)	1960-2000	African countries	Panel Data Analysis	A positive and meaningful relationship
Sarkar (2007)	1970-1987	92 Countries	Panel Data Analysis	Positive Impact
Baharumshah and Almasaied (2009)	1974-2004 Quarterly data	Malezya	ARDL modeli	Positive Impact
Bal et.al. (2014)	1995-2011	BRICS countries and Turkey	Panel Data Analysis	Long-term relationship
Manga et.al., (2015)	1995-2011	BRICS countries and Turkey	Panel Data Analysis	Long-term relationship
Pelinescu (2015)	2000-2012	EU Member States	Panel Data Analysis	A positive and meaningful relationship

Table 2 presents the studies on the relationship between human capital and economic growth in the world. In the results obtained from 8 studies, it was determined that there is a strong causal relationship and positive relationship between human capital and economic growth. It is observed that human capital positively affects economic growth in world studies.

### Method

Annual data between period of 1990-2016 belonging to 5 Asian Countries (Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore, and Korea) had been used in the study. To show the economic growth, GDP had been used as dependent variable, gross fixed capital formation, life expectation at birth and humanitarian development index had been used as independent variable. Logarithms of all variables except humanitarian development index had been included to study. Gauss 10 program and codes that are written for this program had been used for the analysis.

The model to be estimated in the study is as follows:

$$\text{loggdp}_{it} = \alpha_{it} + \beta_1 \text{hdi}_{it} + \beta_2 \text{logcap}_{it} + \beta_3 \text{logleb} + e_{it} \quad (1)$$

For the variables, cross-sectional dependency and homogeneity tests were performed first. Cross-sectional dependency and unit root tests of homogeneity testing are not considered when selecting, which will make the results of the analysis performed unbiased and consistent. While there is cross-sectional dependency between the series, analysis without consideration of this situation significantly affects the results to be obtained (Peseran, 2004).

### Homogeneity Test

The homogeneity test is being investigated by delta tests of Peseran and Yamagata (2008). Under the absence hypothesis of slope homogeneity, error terms exhibit a normal distribution of  $\sqrt{N}/T \rightarrow \infty$  so Peseran and Yamagata's delta\_tilde statistic shows a standard normal distribution. For the small sample, Peseran and Yamagata (2008) suggested a corrected delta\_tilde statistic. This statistic also has normal distribution characteristics. Therefore, if the probability values of the test statistics are less than the significance level of 0.05, the null hypothesis that the slope coefficients are homogeneous will be rejected. The zero and alternative hypotheses of the homogeneity test, which allows the slope coefficients to be tested for homogeneity or heterogeneity for each country, are as follows:

H<sub>0</sub>: The slope coefficients are homogeneous

H<sub>1</sub>: The slope coefficients are not homogeneous

**Table 3.** Results of Homegeneity Test

	Test Statistic	Probability
delta_tilde	19.897	0.000***
delta_tilde_adj	21.492	0.000***

**Note:** \*, \*\*, \*\*\* indicate significance levels of 10%, 5% and 1%, respectively.

The null hypothesis that the slope coefficients are homogeneous is rejected because the probability values of delta and corrected delta test statistics according to Table 3 are smaller than 0.05 significance level. So the slope coefficients are heterogeneous.

### Cross-Sectional Dependence Test

The existence of cross-section dependency; when the time dimension is larger than the cross-section size; Peseran (2004) is controlled by CDLM<sub>2</sub> when the time dimension is equal to the cross-section size by Breusch-Pagan (1980) CDLM<sub>1</sub> test and by Peseran (2004) CDLM test when the time dimension is smaller than the cross-section size by the CDLM<sub>1</sub> test. These tests deviate when the group mean is different from zero. The LM test statistic is as follows:

$$LM = T \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N (\hat{\rho}_{ij}^2) \sim \frac{\chi_{N(N-1)}^2}{2} \quad (2)$$

Peseran and Yamagata (2008) corrected this deviation by adding the variance and the mean to the test statistic. For this reason, the nominal deviation is expressed as corrected LM test (LM<sub>adj</sub>). LM<sub>adj</sub> statistic is as follow:

$$LM_{adj} = \left( \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \right)^{1/2} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \hat{\rho}_{ij}^2 \left( \frac{(T-K-1)\hat{\rho}_{ij} - \hat{\mu}_{Tij}}{v_{Tij}} \right) \sim N(0,1) \quad (3)$$

The zero and alternative hypotheses of the cross-section dependency test that test the existence of cross-sectional dependence in the study is as follows:

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no cross-section dependency.

H<sub>1</sub>: There is cross-section dependency.

When the probability value obtained in the test result is less than 0.05, the H<sub>0</sub> hypothesis is rejected at the level of 5% significance and it is decided that there is cross-section dependency (Pesaran and Yamagata, 2008).

The presence of cross-section dependency between variables is shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4.** Cross Sectional Dependence

Constant	Test Statistic	p-value
CD <sub>lm</sub> (BP,1980)	20.852	0.022**
CD <sub>lm</sub> (Pesaran,2004)	2.427	0.008***
CD (Pesaran, 2004)	2.631	0.004***
LM <sub>adj</sub> (PUY, 2008)	2.812	0.002***

**Note:** \*, \*\*, \*\*\* indicate significance levels of 10%, 5% and 1%, respectively.

H<sub>0</sub> hypotheses were strongly rejected as the probability values were smaller than 0.05, as seen in Table 4. It has been decided that there is a cross-section dependency in the series. In this case, second generation unit root tests that consider cross-sectional dependency and can be applied for heterogeneous panels at the same time are going to be used while unit root specifications of series were searched.

**Unit Root Tests**

Panel unit root tests which are frequently used in the literature are Levin et al. (2002) and Im, Pesaran and Shin (1997). These tests are described as first-generation unit root tests in the literature and do not consider cross-section dependency. Thus, despite commonly mentioned the mutual interaction between economic variables; first generation unit root tests assume cross-section dependency of the panel is independent.

In the study, since it's detected a cross-sectional dependence among panel countries, one of the second-generation considering cross-sectional dependence unit root tests developed by Hadri- Kruzomi is used to analyse the stationarity of the series.

The Hadri-Kruzomi (2012) test was developed as a panel unit root test that takes into account the cross-section dependency of the KPSS test in the time series. The test statistics calculated as follows:

$$Z_A^{SPC} = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_{ISPC}^2 T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T (S_{it}^W)^2 \quad (4)$$



$$Z_A^{LA} = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_{iLA}^2 T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T (S_{it}^W)^2 \quad (5)$$

Unit root hypotheses are given below (Hadri and Kruzomi, 2012):

$H_0: \rho_i \neq 0$ : Series is not stationary.

$H_0: \rho_i = 0$ : Series is stationary.

Table 5 below gives the Hadri-Kruzomi panel unit root test results.

**Table 5.** Hadri & Kurozumi Panel-KPSS Unit Root Test

Levels	Constant	
	Statistic	p-value
<b>loggdpc</b>		
ZA_spc	-0.9181	0.8207
ZA_la	-0.0251	0.5100
<b>hdi</b>		
ZA_spc	-1.7640	0.9611
ZA_la	-1.4492	0.9264
<b>logcap</b>		
ZA_spc	-2.3861	0.015
ZA_la	-2.8636	0.9646
<b>logleb</b>		
ZA_spc	22.3061	0.000*
ZA_la	539.358	0.000*

\* means that it is stationary in the first consciousness.

According to the results in Table 5; all variables except for life expectancy at birth seem to be stationary. After investigating the homogeneity and stability of the panels, a panel causality test was carried out according to the information obtained.

### *Causality Test*

Panel Fisher test developed by Emirmahmutoğlu and Köse (2011) relies on the time series' Toda-Yamamoto (1995) causality test logic. Superior characteristic of this test is I (0) and I (1) series can be analysed together.

In the first step following model estimation is done:

$$Z_{i,t} = U_i + A_{i1}Z_{i,t-1} + \dots + A_{ik}Z_{i,t-k_i} + \sum_{l=k_i+1}^{k_i+dmax_i} A_{il}Z_{i,t-1} + u_{i,t} \quad (6)$$

$$i = 1,2,3 \dots \dots N, \quad t = 1,2,3 \dots \dots T \quad (7)$$

When null hypothesis shows there is not a causality relationship in the panel, alternative hypothesis shows at least one series have a causality relationship between variables (Emirmahmutoğlu and Köse, 2011).

**Table 6.** Emirmahmutoglu and Köse (2011) Panel Fisher Causality Test

Variables	Statistic	p-value
loggd $\rightarrow$ hdi	18.444	0.048**
hdi $\rightarrow$ loggd	14.840	0.138
logleb $\rightarrow$ loggd	18.631	0.045**
loggd $\rightarrow$ logleb	36.600	0.000***
hdi $\rightarrow$ logleb	17.206	0.070*
logleb $\rightarrow$ hdi	19.736	0.032**
logcap $\rightarrow$ logleb	44.122	0.000***
logleb $\rightarrow$ logcap	10.339	0.411
hdi $\rightarrow$ logcap	18.069	0.054*
logcap $\rightarrow$ hdi	11.162	0.345

**Note:** \*, \*\*, \*\*\* indicate significance levels of 10%, 5% and 1%, respectively.

According to Table 6 since bootstrap p-value values are less than 0.05, null hypothesis is rejected by 5% significance level. With this test, the relationship between causality between economic growth, human capital, life expectancy at birth and capital variables is investigated. One-way causality from economic growth to human development index has been identified.

### Conclusion

The most important specification that developed countries differ from developing countries is high information and ability level of human capital which developed countries have. Human capital is information, skill and ability that help individual to increase efficiency in economic activities. If human capital that person has is qualified, it has been the reason of country's development and improvement as directly or indirectly. Making real of economic development of developing countries depends on firstly improving their human capital.

In this study, relation between human capital and economic growth had been analyzed for 5 ASIAN member countries with the help of panel data analysis by using annual data between era of 1990 and 2016.

In the research, cross-sectional dependency and homogeneity tests had been done for variables at first. Since cross-sectional dependency was found between countries constituting the panel, for examining stability of series, Hadri-Krutzomi test which is one of the second-generation unit root test that considers the cross-sectional dependency and for causality test, Emirmahmutoglu and Köse (2011) causality test had been used. According to results, unidirectional causality relation had been determined from economic growth to humanitarian development index.

Being fact that human capital activates the economic growth has revealed that there is need to give importance to develop human capital. Especially, there is need that countries which are in goal of catching the developed countries consider the human capital more. Education has officiated many important missions such as increasing individual level of income, enhancement of income distribution and decreasing poverty beyond providing economic growth. Within this context, enhancements should have been done in fields developing human

capital, increasing education quality and taking additional precautions that will increase the income of human capital have been suggested.

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