

Analyzing Growth and Distribution of Special Economic Zone (SEZs) in India

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Abstract

Special economic zone (SEZ) is a geographically delimited area which is physically secured, has single management and administrative unit and duty free environment (Zeng, 2015). In India SEZs established to solve the problem of infrastructural deficiency, complex business procedure, bureaucratic hassles and barriers raised by monetary, trade, fiscal, taxation, tariff and labour policies (Doharmann, 2008). SEZ in India was conceived by the Commerce and Industries Minister Murosoli Maran during a visit to Special Economic Zone in China in 1999. The scheme was announced at the time of annual review of Export Import Policies from 1.4.2000. The basic idea is to establish the zone as area where economic activities could take place free from all rules and regulations and to give them operational flexibility. So this paper aims at analyzing establishment of SEZ in India and to assess their spatial and sectoral distribution. To fulfill this objective data related to notification, establishment of SEZs, spatial and sectoral distribution of SEZs and contribution of SEZs in Indian GDP are collected from different sources such as Development Commissioner of SEZ and ministry of commerce and industries on temporal basis. These data are tabulated in MS Excel, where analysis part is carried out. The whole research is based on descriptive research and comparative study and analytical logic developed through the understandings from various research papers, reports, books, journals, newspapers and online data bases. Simple growth rate is calculated to show the temporal change in approval of SEZs in India. It is found in this study that SEZs causes uneven geographical developments in India. Recent developments of SEZs suggest that advanced state and city regions have attracted much of the investment in SEZs like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana have attracted a large number of SEZs in comparison to other states while under-developed areas have been ignored by the SEZ developers. In the sector-wise composition of SEZs, majority of IT/ITES SEZs are either formally approved or notified. However, as far as SEZs in principle are concerned, the numbers of Multi-product SEZs are greater as compared to other categories of SEZs. Type-wise distribution of SEZs provides that most of the SEZs belong to the category of IT/ITES, but a large area is allocated to multi-product SEZs. Size-wise distribution of SEZs shows that maximum numbers of SEZs are either tiny or small. But most of the area is allocated to large SEZs. It has also been observed that most of the tiny SEZs carry out IT/ITES activities and almost all the large size SEZs are Multi-product SEZs. It is evident from the analysis that SEZs contributes in the export and GDP of India.

Key Words: Special Economic Zone (SEZ); Growth rate; Spatial distribution; Sectoral distribution

1. Introduction

Special economic zone (SEZ) is a geographically delimited area which is physically secured, has single management and administrative unit and duty free environment (Zeng, 2015). SEZ in India was conceived by the Commerce and Industries Minister Murosoli Maran during a visit to Special Economic Zone in China in 1999. The scheme was announced at the time of annual review of Export Import Policies from 1.4.2000. The basic idea is to establish the zone as area where export production could take place free from all rules and regulations governing imports and exports and to give them operational flexibility. SEZ is a specifically delineated duty free enclave, which shall be deemed to be a foreign territory for the purposes of trade operations and duties and tariffs.

In India, the concept of Free Zones emerged during the sixties. India was the first country in Asia which set up an Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in 1965 at Kandla in Gujarat called the Kandla Free Trade Zone. After this six more EPZs were set-up in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The Basic objectives of these EPZs were to promote exports and employment opportunities, Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) are the reformed version of EPZs. The Government of India, in its Exim Policy of 2000, announced a scheme for setting up SEZs. Till February 2006, SEZs were governed by the foreign trade policy incentives. The SEZs Act passed by the parliament in May 2005. This Act came into force in February 2006, providing for single window clearance system. So, this paper aims at i) analyzing establishment of SEZ in India and ii) to assess spatial and sectoral distribution of SEZs in India.

2. Data base & Methodology

Secondary data is mainly used in this study. Data related to notification, establishment, spatial and sectoral distribution of SEZs is collected from different sources such as Development Commissioner of SEZ and ministry of commerce and industries on temporal basis (table1). The whole research is based on descriptive research and comparative study and analytical logic developed through the understandings from various research papers, reports, books, journals, newspapers and online data bases.

Table 1 Data sources and extractable information

S. No	Data source	Year	Parameters
1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	2007 to 2017	Growth of SEZ in India
2	Indian Council of Research on International Economics (ICRIER)	2007 to 2017	Growth of SEZ in India
3	Reserve Bank of India	2007 to 2016	Gross Domestic Products (GDP), contribution of export in Indian GDP, Contribution of export from SEZ in Indian GDP.
4	www.sezindia.nic.in	2007 to 2017	Spatial and Sector-wise distribution of SEZs in India

Out of the various statistical tools and techniques available, the techniques of simple tabular analysis have been followed as it is considered to be quite appropriate and accurate in its results for the study. Besides this simple growth rate (equation 1) and compound growth rate (equation 2) are calculated to show the temporal change in approval of SEZs in India.

$$\text{Simple Growth Rate (G)} = \frac{P_n - P_0}{P_0} * 100 \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation 1}$$

Where,

G = Growth Rate

P_n = value at the end of the period (Current Year)

P₀ = value at the beginning of the period (Previous Year)

3. Results & discussion

3.1 Establishment of SEZ in India

The Special Economic Zones has made Indian economy compatible with other global economies like China, UK, Japan, and USA. Kandla EPZ (1965) was first converted into Special Economic Zone followed by six other central government EPZs (Santacruz Electronics EPZ, 1973, Noida SEZ 1976, Madras EPZ, Cochin SEZ, Falta SEZ, 1984, and Vishakapattanam SEZ 1989) during the year 2000. After the SEZ Policy 2000, 11 more SEZs were established by different state governments and private sectors in different

parts of the country (West Bengal (2), Tamil Nadu (4), Madhya Pradesh (1), Uttar Pradesh (1), Gujarat (1), and Rajasthan (2)). Since the SEZ Act came into effect in 2006 there has been a tremendous increase in the number of SEZs across the country especially in IT/ITES, Pharmaceutical and Chemical sectors. As of June 2017, the government of India (GOI) has given formal approval for 424 SEZs, of which 354 are notified which includes 7 central government SEZs, 11 state government/private sector SEZs (established prior to 2005), 31 in-principle approved and 222 are operational SEZs. As per the 2007-08 data formal approval was given to 453 SEZs, among them 207 were notified and 136 were under in-principle approval (table 2).

In 2017 approved units under SEZs is 4643 which was 2263 in 2007, so between the stated periods approved units increased with 126.75% (table 3). In totality between 2007 and 2017 number of formal approved SEZs increased with 2.51%, number of notified SEZs increased with 87.29%, number of in-principle SEZs decreased with -75.04% and number of operational SEZs increased with 182.01%. Decline in formal approval and in-principle approval can also be noticed in the bar graph (figure 1). Whereas notified SEZs are facing ups and down as there is rise in notification of SEZs between 2007 and 2013 but after that there is slight decline in the number of notified SEZs. In 2013 India hits by economic crisis and there was record decline in value of Indian rupees and because of this investors pull their money back, In response, policymakers in India have unveiled a series of measures designed to support the rupee, including limits on the import of gold, oil and other key commodities which directly or indirectly affect the notification and denotification of SEZs (Venu, 2013).

Table 2 Temporal distribution of SEZs in India (2007-2017)

S. No	Types of SEZ	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	No. of formal approval	453	577	578	585	589	577	572	411	412	417	424
2	No of notified SEZs	207	325	353	381	389	389	390	348	329	330	354
3	No. of in principle approved	136	146	149	42	48	49	45	32	33	32	31
4	Operational SEZs	N.A	87	111	133	153	170	181	206	204	205	222
5	Unit approved in SEZs	N.A	2263	2850	3290	3400	3589	3861	4218	4122	4127	4643

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industries (2017)

Table 3 Growth of SEZs in India (2007-2017)

(Value in percent)

S. No	Types of SEZ	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	No. of formal approval	27.37	0.17	1.21	0.68	-2.04	-0.87	-28.15	0.24	1.21	1.68
2	No of notified SEZs	57.00	8.62	7.93	2.10	0.00	0.26	-10.77	-5.46	0.30	7.27
3	No. of in principle approved	7.35	2.05	-71.81	14.29	2.08	-8.16	-28.89	3.13	-3.03	-3.13
4	Operational SEZs (as on date)	N.A	27.59	19.82	15.04	11.11	6.47	13.81	-0.97	0.49	8.29
5	Approved units	N.A	25.94	15.44	3.34	5.56	7.58	9.25	-2.28	0.12	12.50

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industries, 2017

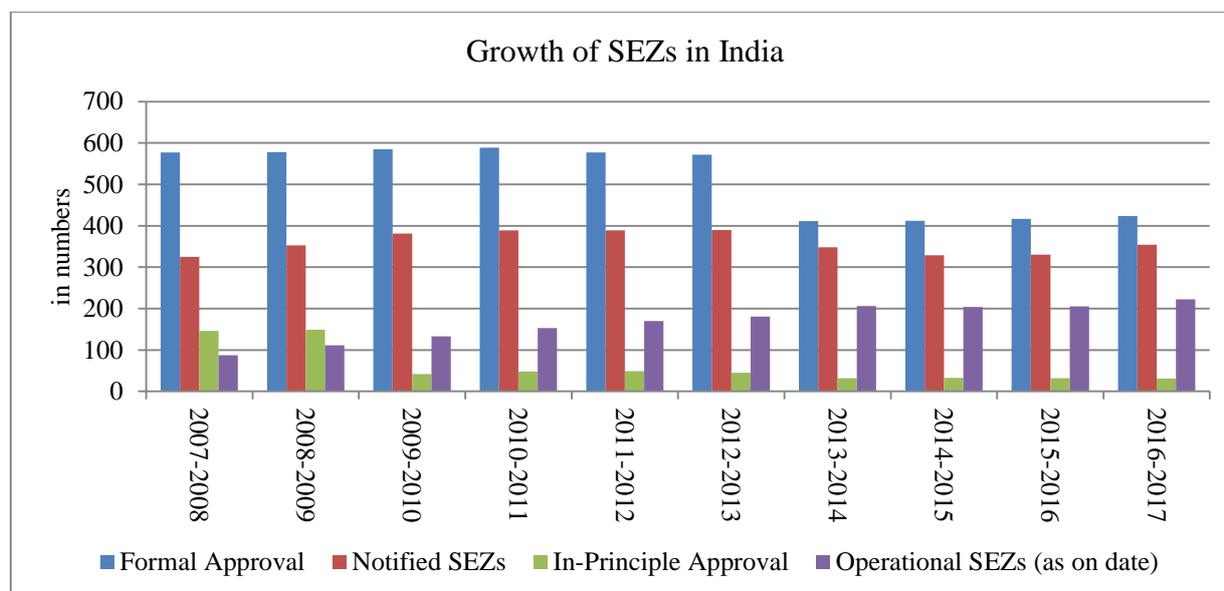


Fig. 1

3.2 Spatial distribution of SEZs

Table 4 shows the state wise distribution of SEZs in India as on 2016. Where total number of formal approved SEZs is 417, principle approved SEZs is 32, notified SEZs is 330 and exporting SEZs is 205. Highest number of formally approved SEZs lies in Karnataka i.e. 61 which is 14.63% of total formally approved SEZs followed by Maharashtra where 59 formally approved SEZs present which is 14.15% of formally approved SEZs. Principally approved SEZs is highest in Maharashtra i.e. 9 which is 28.13% of total in-principle approved SEZs. Notified approved SEZs is highest in Maharashtra i.e. 50 which is 15.15% of total notified SEZs followed by Tamil Nadu i.e. 46 in number and constitutes 13.94% of total notified SEZs. Exporting SEZs is highest in Tamil Nadu i.e. 36 (17.56%) followed by Karnataka and Telangana i.e. 26 in number (12.68%).

Table 4 Spatial distribution of SEZs in India (2016)

S. No	States/UTs	Formal Approvals		In-principle approvals		Notified SEZs		Exporting SEZs (Central Govt. + State Govt./Pvt. SEZs + notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005)	
		in no.	in (%)	in no.	in (%)	in no.	in (%)	in no.	in (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	30	7.19	4	12.50	26	7.88	19	9.27
2	Chandigarh	2	0.48	0	0.00	2	0.61	2	0.98
3	Chhattisgarh	2	0.48	1	3.13	1	0.30	1	0.49
4	Delhi	2	0.48	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
5	Goa	7	1.68	0	0.00	3	0.91	0	0.00
6	Gujarat	31	7.43	4	12.50	27	8.18	18	8.78
7	Haryana	23	5.52	3	9.38	20	6.06	7	3.41
8	Jharkhand	1	0.24	0	0.00	1	0.30	0	0.00
9	Karnataka	61	14.63	0	0.00	39	11.82	26	12.68
10	Kerala	29	6.95	0	0.00	25	7.58	16	7.80
11	Madhya Pradesh	9	2.16	1	3.13	5	1.52	2	0.98
12	Maharashtra	59	14.15	9	28.13	50	15.15	25	12.20
13	Manipur	1	0.24	0	0.00	1	0.30	0	0.00

14	Nagaland	2	0.48	0	0.00	2	0.61	0	0.00
15	Odisha	8	1.92	1	3.13	5	1.52	3	1.46
16	Puducherry	1	0.24	1	3.13	0	0.00	0	0.00
17	Punjab	5	1.20	0	0.00	2	0.61	2	0.98
18	Rajasthan	9	2.16	1	3.13	8	2.42	4	1.95
19	Tamil Nadu	48	11.51	4	12.50	46	13.94	36	17.56
20	Telangana	53	12.71	0	0.00	43	13.03	26	12.68
21	Uttar Pradesh	22	5.28	1	3.13	19	5.76	11	5.37
22	West Bengal	12	2.88	2	6.25	5	1.52	7	3.41
23	Total	417	100	32	100	330	100	205	100

Source: www.sezindia.nic.in (2016)

Figure 2 and 3 also shows the unequal distribution of SEZs among Indian state. Main motive behind the development of SEZs is the provision of better investment climate and preferential policy treatment which attract investors but backward states of the country are not able to attract investors like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orrisa and Rajasthan. Some part of India is also affected by rebel movements like Naxalites and Maoists movement mainly in central and eastern part of India and due to this reason economic development of these states is also affected. The economic and political instability in these areas compel the investors to search for other peaceful areas. Due to the establishment of SEZs in already developed areas, affect the development of backward areas. Then it becomes very difficult for these states to attract investments for their industrial development because of high interstate competition among states from the reforms of SEZs scheme. Less developed states lack investments because investors are not willing to invest and these states are not able to offer attractive offers to private investors. IT/ITES contributes highest among other sectors in these zones which require internet and other communication technologies for generation of exports. Therefore these zones need proper supply of skilled labour. Due to this reason majority of SEZs are established in those states which have high literacy rate and skilled labour force. Investors also attracted towards the formation of industrial clusters in these states so that they can have benefits of agglomeration economies (Storper, Christopherson, 1987; Yeung, 2000; Dicken, Malmberg, 2001; Scott, Storper, 2003; Mudambi, 2008). This can further leads to increase the intra-regional disparities in backward state as well as developed state also.

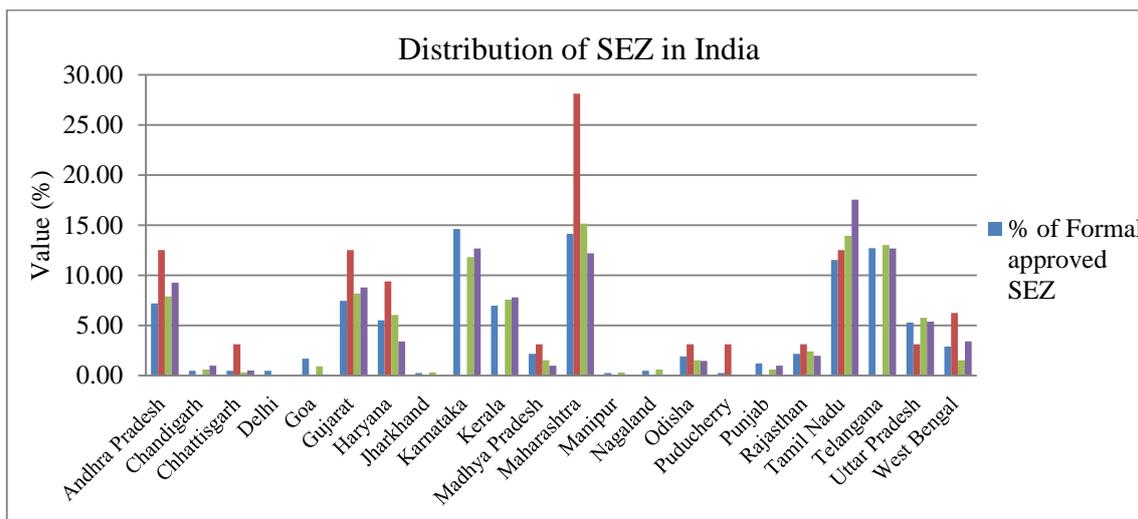


Fig. 2

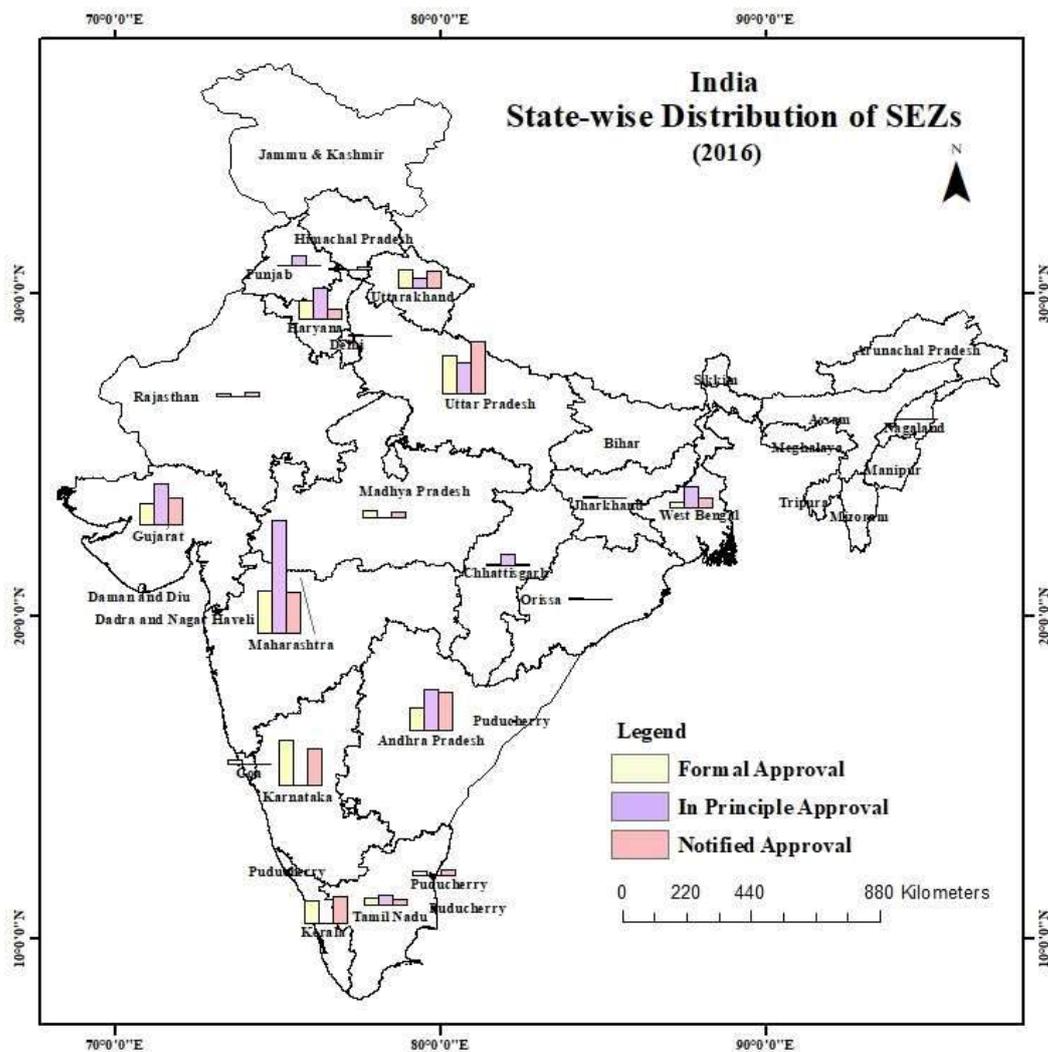


Fig. 3

3.3. Sectoral distribution of SEZs in India

Sectoral distribution of SEZs is also give very interesting facts like spatial distribution. Labour-intensive industries are dominated in the zone during 1970s and 1980s that requires cheap and abundant labour (Frobel et al., 1981)). Until 1980s development of these zones are mainly dominated by textiles, footwear, plastic processing, building materials, gems and jewellery and assembly plants for industries for example for car engines and other industrial products that need unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Before the SEZs Act of 2005 17 SEZs out off 19 are dominated by labour-intensive manufacturing industries. Most of the formally approved SEZs were developed in the sector of information technology and related services as shown in (Table 5).

The reason behind the development of large number of IT industries are fact that much of since 1990 India’s growth is based on the service sector, especially in IT and software development. From 1970’s there is extraordinary growth in the service sector of the world economy, especially in financial markets, transaction of currency and industries of business outsourcing (Amin, 1994; Harvey, 2005), all these industries are mainly dependent upon IT, software and other communication technologies and concentrated in the developed countries of the world. Service sector of India contributes 57 percent of the GDP of the country and its growth rate is 10.1 percent in last ten years and contributes around 35 percent of the total export of the country (Economic Survey of India, 2010–11). Most of the service sector dependent upon the outsourcing industry in India which fulfill the requirement of the advanced markets of the US and European Union. According to the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) India,

contribution of IT-BPO to total export have increased 4 to 26 percent from 1998 to 2011. Besides this IT service industry was the fastest growing industry in terms of export at 22.7 percent, total export amount to US is \$ 33.5 billion, which contributes more than 50 percent of the total export amount from the IT-BPO sector (NASSCOM, 2012). Interesting fact about this development is that most of these zones are primarily established for the promotion of BPO units within the SEZ (SEZ News March, 2009). The developers who got approvals from Board of Approval for setting up of SEZs report that formally approved SEZs in India are mostly developed by private entrepreneurs from real-estate. IT-BPO sector of India also simultaneously developed the real estate sector in India. IT –BPO sector requires the simultaneous development of real estate industry to facilitate their office complexes and other commercial and residential spaces.

According to Corporate Catalyst India (CCI), a specialist firm providing business solutions, the realty sector is largely driven by growth in the Indian economy which has spurred the demand for residential, commercial and retail real estate. Besides this permission of 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the realty sector cause increase in demand potential of projects. Eventually, SEZs development has creates significantly large investments into real estate (CCI, 2013). Some observers have also assumed that the rapid development of SEZs may cause huge real-estate scam (Ranjan, 2006; Citizen Research Collective Report, 2009). It was depicted by Export Promotion Council for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and SEZs in India (EPCES) that approximately 60 percent of SEZs approvals to real-estate industry (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, 2014a). The traditional sectors that define the production activities in these zones were labour-intensive export-oriented manufacturing for the gain of foreign exchange. But the development of real estate in SEZs depicts divergence from the earlier goals of SEZs with which they were initiated. So there is a chance of divergence from manufacturing for exports towards regeneration of capital from creation of enclosed space for further accumulation. It was very difficult to compete with world economy for IT/ITES and real –estate developers since 2008. Due to this reason the speed of approval of SEZs in India does not able to match with the speed of operational SEZs. Large interaction with the international economy has huge impact on domestic economic activities. Investors react accordingly with the situation of world market and world economy most of the times.

Table 5 Sectoral distribution of SEZs (2017)

S. No	Sectors	Formal approvals	In-principle approvals	Notified SEZs	Exporting SEZs
1	Agro	4	2	4	1
2	Airport based multiproduct	3	0	0	0
3	Auto and related	1	1	1	1
4	Aviation/Aerospace/ Animation & Gaming/ Copper	6	1	5	5
5	Beach & mineral/ metals	2	0	2	0
6	Biotechnology	23	0	16	2
7	Building prod./mal./ transport equipments / ceramic and glass	2	2	2	2
8	Electronic product/Industries	2	0	2	2
9	Engineering	15	1	15	13
10	Footwear/Leather	6	0	5	3
11	Food Processing	4	0	3	3
12	FTWZ	10	4	7	3
13	Gems and Jewellery	7	3	4	3
14	Handicrafts & Carpets	3	0	2	2
15	IT/ITES/Electronic Hardware/Semiconductor/Services	262	0	204	116
16	Alumina/Aluminium	2	0	2	1

17	Light Engineering/Metallurgical Engineering /Automotive Components	1	0	0	0
18	Multi-Product	19	11	17	20
19	Multi-Services	7	1	7	2
20	Non-Conventional Energy	2	0	2	2
21	Petrochemicals & petro./oil and gas	2	1	0	0
22	Pharmaceuticals/chemicals	16	2	16	12
23	Port-based multi-product	5	1	3	2
24	Power/alternate energy/ solar	4	1	3	3
25	Textiles/Apparel/Wool	6	1	6	7
26	Writing and printing paper mills	1	0	1	0
27	Granite processing Industries and other allied machinery/ manufacturing	2	0	1	0
28	Total	416	32	330	205

Source: www.sezindia.nic.in (2017)

3.4 Contribution of SEZs in Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The significance of any variable with respect to the economy can be measured by its impact on country's GDP (Elangovan, 2013). Henceforth Export contribution to Indian GDP and Export contribution through SEZ to Indian GDP is measured shown in table 6. By the analysis of data it can be said that there is substantial rise in the contribution of export from SEZs to the GDP of India between 2006 and 2016. It was just 0.67% in 2006 and increased to 5.07 % in 2013 and after that reduced to 3.72% in 2016. Because after 2012 government change some policies related to SEZs like imposition of minimum alternate tax(MAT) and divided distribution tax (DDT) which affect finally the performance of SEZs. For example the numbers of approved and notified SEZs declined to 412 and 329 respectively by 31 December 2015. Between July 2012 and January 2015 more than 15000 hectares of SEZ land was de-notified. Because of this that there is gradual fall in export from SEZ after 2014 and contribution of SEZ in Indian GDP (Aradhna A, 2016).

Table 6 Growth in Contribution of SEZs in GDP growth (2006-2016)

S. No	Year	Export (Rs. Crores)	Export From SEZ (Rs. Crores)	GDP (Rs. Crores)	GDP Contribution by Export (%)	GDP Contribution by Export from SEZ (%)
1	2006	456418	22840	3,390,503	13.46	0.67
2	2007	571779	34615	3,953,276	14.46	0.88
3	2008	655864	66638	4,582,086	14.31	1.45
4	2009	840755	99689	5,303,567	15.85	1.88
5	2010	845534	220711	6,108,903	13.84	3.61
6	2011	1136964	315868	7,248,860	15.68	4.36
7	2012	1465959	364478	8,391,691	17.47	4.34
8	2013	1634318	476159	9,388,876	17.41	5.07
9	2014	1905011	494077	10,472,807	18.19	4.72
10	2015	1716378	463770	12541208	13.69	3.70
11	2016	2351270	467337	12552556	18.73	3.72

Source: Reserve Bank of India, 2016

Through the calculation made, it is been found that there exists no correlation between GDP contribution by export and GDP contribution by export from SEZ (Sharma, 2009). From table 6 and figure 4 it can be noted that from 2006 to 2013 there is continuous increase in the contribution of export from SEZs

to GDP of India but within same period contribution of export in GDP of India decline between 2007 and 2008 and again between 2009 and 2010. After 2013 there is decline in both the cases of contribution of export from SEZs and contribution of export to GDP of India.

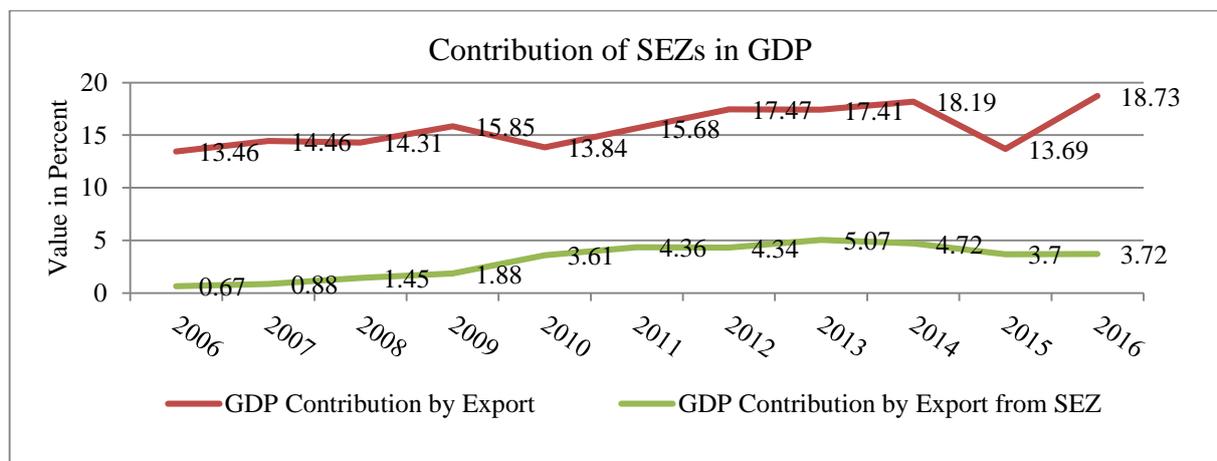


Fig. 4

4. Conclusion

SEZs in India have become an important policy designed to promote globalization and liberalization of the Indian economy. The main objectives of the SEZ policy were to initiate industrial manufacturing for exports, generate foreign exchange, employment and most importantly act as the driver for rural industrialization to help reduce poverty and inequality. This paper is mainly focused analyzing the establishment of SEZs and their spatial and sectoral distribution in India. It has been observed that after the implementation of SEZ Act, 2005, the number of SEZs increased at a rapid speed in India. As of June 2017 there are 424 SEZs under formal approval, of which 354 are notified which includes 7 central government SEZs, 11 state government/private sector SEZs (established prior to 2005), 31 in-principle approved and 222 are operational SEZs. At the same time, this policy has generated uneven geographical developments in India. Recent developments of SEZs suggest that advanced state and city regions have attracted much of the investment in SEZs while under-developed areas have been ignored by the SEZ developers. State-wise distribution of formally approved, approved in principle and notified SEZs in India revealed that Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana have attracted a large number of SEZs in comparison to other states. Karnataka consists 14.63% formally approved SEZs followed by Maharashtra (14.15%) in 2017. But there is not even a single formally approved SEZ in states like Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, etc. In the sector-wise composition of SEZs, majority of IT/ITES SEZs are either formally approved or notified. However, as far as SEZs in principle are concerned, the numbers of Multi-product SEZs are greater as compared to other categories of SEZs. Type-wise distribution of SEZs provides that most of the SEZs belong to the category of IT/ITES, but a large area is allocated to multi-product SEZs. Size-wise distribution of SEZs shows that maximum numbers of SEZs are either tiny or small. But most of the area is allocated to large SEZs. It has also been observed that most of the tiny SEZs carry out IT/ITES activities and almost all the large size SEZs are Multi-product SEZs. Out of 416 formally approved SEZs 262 SEZs are under IT related industries. So from the analysis of this paper it can be said that SEZs can help in the development of Indian economy if execution of SEZs development plan takes place in balanced manner. Like spatial and sector balance should be maintained. Besides this, for generation of more export from SEZs and more employment in SEZs policy makers and developers and other stakeholders should have to be more careful and active.

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