

Nationalism and Gross Domestic Product: Causal Model for Economic Productivity

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ABSTRACT

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A country's productivity is generally defined as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This value determines the primary macroeconomic activity of a country and ultimately, its periodic accomplishment and global standing. Throughout history, this indicator was the primary goal of every nation. This study suggests that nationalism is an integral factor of productivity. Nationalism is operationally defined in 3 segments – a country's (1) consolidated official language, (2) traditional writing system, and (3) net migration. These independent variables are factors that may have a significant causal effect towards a country's productivity, which is measured as the GDP. Using secondary data from published global statistical websites, this study employed multiple regression analysis to demonstrate the hypothetical claim. According to the data gathered from 90 country's GDP for year 2023, it is found out that having more adopted official language tends to increase a country's productivity. However, it appears that a country's adherence to its traditional writing system is not an indicator of high productivity. More importantly, it is proven that the more a country retains its citizens residency and attract expatriates and emigrants, the more productive it may become. Ultimately, this study highly recommends that a country should formulate initiatives that can nourish nationalism primarily through decreasing citizen migration, increasing foreign emigrants, and putting up sound policies in education and language.

Keywords: Causal Model, Economic Productivity, Nationalism, Writing System.

INTRODUCTION

Nationalism is the sense of attachment of an individual to one particular nation [1]. It is often interchanged with the term patriotism which is associated with military. This paper focuses on 3 perspectives that operationally defines nationalism. Language, writing systems and migration activities are hypothesized to have significant effects on the overall productivity of a country.

Since the beginning of time, spoken language has been the essential tool in communication. A single language is proven to encourage productivity due to the fact that it can unify thoughts, instructions and directions. The Roman Catholic teachings tells us the story of the Tower of Babel. It states that a united human race speaking a single language agrees to build a city with a tower that would reach the sky. God, observing these efforts and remarking on humanity's power in unity, confounds their speech so that they can no longer understand each other thus leaving the city unfinished. These early writings mark the significance of language as a form of unifying tool that applies up to this day. This paper prescribes that in order for a country to be more effective in producing goods and services, it has to adopt a common communicating platform – Official Language and Writing Systems.

On the other hand, it is also indicated in some studies that a country with several adopted language tends to be productive [2]. Several articles established a positive relationship of bilingualism or multilingualism to a country's economic development.

Moreover, nationalism is also defined in this paper as the act of migration of citizens. It is often regarded as a sign of negative nationalism if a person or citizen decides to leave their country of residence and move to other countries either for work, residency, study or for any other reason. On the other hand, a positive nationalism is regarded when a country is attractive enough, to culturally or traditionally attract immigrants.

Lastly, these 3 perspectives of nationalism are believed to have an effect to the overall productivity of a country which is commonly defined as the ability to generate economic produce, either goods or services and is measured on a standard metric as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ultimately, this study aimed to answer the specific question on what nationalistic factors that are determinants of a country's gross domestic product.

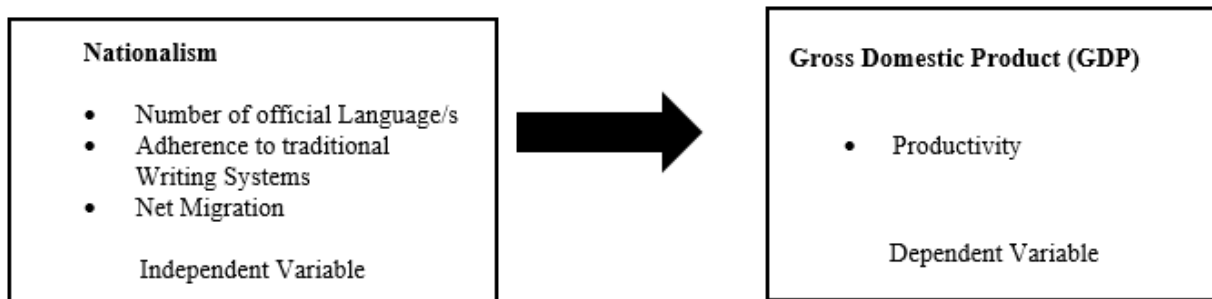


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

LITERATURE REVIEW

This paper aims to prove the relationship between nationalism and a country's productivity. Three (3) perspectives are introduced to operationally define nationalism – Language, Writing Systems and Net Migrate. These are hypothetical independent variables or the causes of the dependent variable. The latter is defined for this study as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is important to note that although there are several economic factors that directly affect the increase or decrease in GDP of a country, it is still made out of the contributions of citizens' individual productivity. These citizens are actors, that produces goods and services, that ultimately makes up the formula for periodic GDP. Hypothetically, if a citizen adheres to nationalism factors, the more likely a country to have higher productivity.

Language:

Language maybe considered a factor for economic development. It can unite organizations towards attainment of common goals. Relatively, according to Rezakhanlou, Kiana (2018) [3], nationalism, or the endeavor to keep a nation as 'pure' and homogeneous as possible, is based on an idealized picture of society that is mono-ethnic, mono-ideological, mono-religious, and mono-lingual. She also mentioned that language recognition is at the heart of such nationalism. If a language is not represented in legislation or governance, it will inevitably vanish from the nation's perception of itself.

Also, as emphasized by Yufan Li [2], they insisted that people must understand the language/s that connect them to the country in which they reside and where they came from and that language has the capacity to join, bind, dissolve, separate, and sever. This is because it plays a crucial role in shaping national identity. Further the study added that, as long as the importance of language is upheld in this manner, linguistic nationalism will persist within nations, whether it seeks to synthesize disparate vernaculars to form a single national language or pursues a policy of eliminating competing linguistic influences in order to impose a single language.

On a similar note, Ghosh [4], investigated nationalism and its impact on multilingualism. Nationalism ideology is strongly embedded in a polity's notion of sociocultural uniformity. Diversity and multiplicity in culture, including language, are viewed within this framework as undesirable and even detrimental to a cohesive united nation. However, field research and historical study have shown that such assumptions are unfounded. The study explores the problematic outlook that nationalism adopts toward multilingualism, dives into the erroneous assumptions

linked with this outlook, and ends with a brief survey result indicating the effect of such ideology on a part of Kolkata (West Bengal) inhabitants.

On the other hand, several research articles explain that if a country has many adopted languages, it may tend to be competent and ultimately economically well. Establishing this is the study by Yufan Li [2], which mentioned that bilingualism or multilingualism is believed by some researchers to benefit economic development. They further added examples from Grin [5], that 10% of Switzerland's gross domestic product is attributed to its multilingual heritage. Likewise, they also mentioned a study by Foreman-Peck and Wang [6], which prescribed that a lack of foreign language skills and cultural awareness in the workforce has cost the United Kingdom approximately 3.5% of its annual GDP.

The recent published data from the World Fact Book-Languages [19]

Writing Systems:

Writing systems is also predicted have a significant effect to productivity. Gang [7], in their study on ethnologies and economic growth, stated that reducing language complexity has a significant positive effect on economic output. This means that the simple the language script system the country has, the more productive it may become. This is probably because writing system has a cohesive effect in relaying instructions and directions of a business specially in correspondences.

Also, they further added and proved that the positive effect of linguistic complexity on economic growth is stronger for countries with isolating languages compared to those with other language families, as well as for middle and low-income countries than high-income countries. Relatively, this provides support on the hypothesis on nationalism and economy.

The published data was collated and consolidated from [16,17,18].

NET Migration:

Similar to global economic standards, Net Migration is defined in this paper as the difference between the number of immigrants (people coming into a country) and the number of emigrants (people leaving a country) [8].

Engler [9] estimated that 270 million individuals worldwide are migrants, which are defined as persons who do not live in their place of birth. Since 1990, some studies showed that the migrant population has expanded by 120 million. However, the proportion of migrants in the world's population has remained around 3% over the past 60 years.

Surprisingly, the share of immigrants in the total population of advanced countries has increased from 7% to 12%, whilst the share of immigrants in emerging market and developing economies has remained around 2%. They also contended that the primary cause for migration is the disparity in income between the countries of origin and destination. Richer countries tend to attract a greater number of immigrants, particularly from countries with youthful populations. Emigration is more prevalent in countries with lower per capita incomes, provided that they are not exceedingly impoverished. We observe that countries with lower incomes experience a reduced rate of emigration to advanced economies when their per capita income at the origin is less than \$7000. This implies that individuals become ensnared in poverty as a result of their lack of access to the resources necessary to mitigate migration expenses. This may not be always accurate as Philippines 2023 per capita income stands at \$3,726. Relatively, we experience many citizens leaving the country.

The World Economic Outlook examines the economic impact of migration on recipient nations and concludes that migration generally boosts economic development and productivity in host countries [9].

The published data was collated and consolidated from [8,11,12].

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Kramer [10] said that the gross domestic product tracks the health of a country's economy. It represents the value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period within a country's borders. He further said that economists

can use GDP to determine whether an economy is growing or experiencing a recession. Investors can use GDP to make investment decisions—a bad economy often means lower earnings and stock prices.

Just like in United States of America, GDP is the official measure of total output of goods and services in their economy, it represents the capstone and grand summary of the world’s best system of economic statistics [13]. However, National Geographic [20] affirms to this statement that GDP can be one way to calculate the economic success or growth of a country, but it should be used in conjunction with other measures in order to get the complete picture of a society’s economy. Overall, measuring GDP may not always be accurate but it definitely projects a country’s success.

The published data from World Bank Group was from [14].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employed available quantitative data analysis using the secondary data coming from legitimate and published economic data sources. Secondary data is a form of data gathering using published information. This makes data gathering more accurate and efficient. All the identified variables are in the form of continues data.

There were 90 randomly selected country identified to extract data of the year 2023. The quantity of samples was identified using the standards stated by Voorhis and Morgan [15] which recommends that $N > 50 + 8(\text{No. of IV})$. Therefore, $N > 50 + 8(3) = 74$. To achieve optimal result, the researchers rounded up the samples to 90.

The gathered data was subjected to statistical analysis using multiple regression analysis (MRA). MRA is used to show the predictors of the dependent variable using multiple independent variables. The researchers used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for the computation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After subjecting the secondary data into inferential statistics, using Multiple Regression Analysis, the following table output was derived.

Table 1. Regression Table

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	562908.301	463470.204		1.215	.228
Language	85830.951	35741.800	.237	2.401	.019
Writing	635494.566	782532.766	.080	.812	.419
Migration	8.647	1.996	.426	4.333	.000

a. Dependent Variable: GDP

From the table above, 2 independent variables appear to have a significant causality towards the dependent variable GDP. These are, Language with a t value of 2.401 significant at .019 and; Net Migrate with a t value of 4.333 significant at .000.

This probably indicates that if a country has many adopted spoken languages, the more likely it can be productive. This may be an indication that language is an individual citizens competency that is a factor for productivity.

Also, for the Net Migrate, it is apparent that a country which retains its citizens and are not migrating to other countries, as well as attracting emigrants, is more likely to be more productive. A high positive net migration may equate to high economic productive.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study based on the samples provided, has proven that Language and Net Migrate are determinants of a country's productivity measured in GDP. Based on the findings and conclusion, the following model is derived:



Figure 2. Nationalism and Productivity Model

The recommended model suggests that in order to increase a country's productivity, enhancement of its Multi-lingual and Migration policy must be explored and implemented by the government. This means that aggressive strategies and initiatives on foreign language education may contribute to increase GDP. Likewise if there are more immigrants than emigrants, it can also yield an increased GDP. Ultimately, it is therefore recommended that the above model be used by governments to justify strategies in promoting nationalism factors and ultimately increase productivity. It is further recommended that a thorough study must be done to understand further what are the drivers of migration. This is important for the creation of a sound policy to control net migration.

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