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## Evaluating the Effectiveness of Industrial Policies with the Approach of Production Boom in Line with Economic Development

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### Abstract

**Background and purpose:** The purpose of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of industrial policies with the approach of production boom in line with economic development.

**Method:** The current research is one of mixed and exploratory research that was carried out in two qualitative and quantitative stages. The statistical population includes the senior and executive managers of the "Interior Construction Center" in the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade. To discover the basic, organizing, and inclusive concepts, the "theme analysis" method was utilized. Also, document review tools and semi-structured interviews were used with 14 academic and executive experts specializing in the field of industry.

**Findings:** First, the dimensions, components, and indicators related to the results and consequences of the implementation of industrial policies based on strengthening national production were extracted and finally the effectiveness of the implementation of industrial policies with the approach of production boom in line with economic development was evaluated.

**Conclusion:** The results of this evaluation showed that, with the implementation of industrial policies, in the results (short-term) of the execution of these policies, although new job opportunities have been created and based on this, the number of unemployed population has decreased and also the process of obtaining business licenses has been facilitated by the government. But instead, with the implementation of these policies, the income from non-oil exports has not increased. Improvement in responding to customers' needs has not been achieved and the quality level of domestic products has not been improved.

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## 1. Introduction

Consideration of policy evaluation has increased dramatically in recent decades. Governments around the world have intensified their efforts to institutionalize policy evaluation for more efficient, effective, and democratic decision-making (Pattyn & Bouterse, 2020). From the point of view of the United Nations, evaluating the effectiveness of policies should reach three main goals. First, the governance policies and approaches should be demonstrated in such a way that their impact is shown at all levels and can be applied elsewhere. Second, the policy evaluation should identify the need for further actions to improve effectiveness, and the effectiveness should be measurable as often as possible so that they may be effective (Malik, 2020). Also, Dan (2015) believes that to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy, it should be checked whether the desired results have been achieved by implementing the policy.

Traditionally, the purpose of industrial policy is primarily to promote the performance and innovation of companies, in order to increase productivity and competitiveness and to adopt an implicit approach regarding its impact on people's life quality. Industrial policy is a broad concept, on the other hand, industrial policy, which is part of public governance, can be defined as a stimulus for promotion. Also, by jumping from one stage to another, it has developed the capacity to produce more complex goods and, in addition, it has helped to create productive structures for the production of export goods (Landa, 2020).

Considering that the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade is one of the main custodians of the implementation of industrial policies related to the field of production, and in this regard, the implementation of approved policies and laws includes the general policies of the sixth development plan, the general policies

of the resistance economy related to the prosperity of production, the law on removing barriers to production, competitiveness and the promotion of the country's financial system under Article 123 of the Constitution, the law on maximum use of the country's the production and service capacity and the protection of Iranian goods approved in 1398, the law on permanent orders of the country's development programs approved in 1396 and the law on continuous improvement of the business environment approved in 1390 is the responsibility of this ministry. So, the results of the reports and statistics show that the implementation of these policies and laws by this ministry has not been successful for several reasons, and on the other hand, the results of the evaluations are not reliable and comprehensive. Therefore, the present research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of industrial policies with the approach of production boom in line with economic development.

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1 Industrial policies

To deal with the world financial crisis in 2008, the industrial policy to strengthen infrastructure and expand investment in production undoubtedly played an important role in preventing severe economic recession. However, this policy has created many incentive distortions such as the phenomenon of striving for projects and competition for resources, and has led to serious consequences such as overinvestment, excess capacity, real estate bubbles, and local debt defaults. At the same time, although selective industrial policies are necessary, they should be kept moderate and used with caution, because market-oriented institutional reforms, rather than industrial policies, play a key role in economic development (Tian, 2019).

According to Eiginger and Roderick (2020), industrial policy should include

several key understandings, including 1- production is vital for growth and prosperity, 2- industrial policy should be systemic, not isolated or delegated to specialists, 3- the optimal scale of the industrial sector depends on the capabilities and priorities, 4- the industrial policy should take a long way to enable structural change in production, 5- the industrial policy should be expanded less to change the path of technical progress and prepare for growth, 6- social goals should be of great importance and go beyond a narrow focus on correcting "market failures", and 7- industrial policy is a search process that is open to new solutions, experiments, and learning (Dean, *et al.* 2021).

Industrial policy should not be an isolated policy that conflicts with other policy fields such as competition policy, trade policy, regional or tax policy. A successful industrial policy maximizes synergies with other policies. On the one hand, it includes elements of the sector and defines important sectors for the current and future conditions of the countries. But on the other hand, it supports horizontal activities that shape business conditions. Industrial policy should use the drivers of a rail strategy, such as innovation, education, and resilience, and give more priority to key sectors. This combination can be called matrix-oriented industrial policy because each of the rows draws the sectors that should be prioritized and relate the policy tools specifically to these sectors (Pattyn & Bouterse, 2020). Also, industrial policy can play an important role in controlling and sometimes changing the structure, since participating in the spectrum of the new structuralist economy, predicts an obvious role for government intervention in changing the industrial structure and organizational configuration of the production system. Therefore, it places economic structures on the possible path of structural transformation and creates them. It is dynamic and capable of creating a new

wave of structural changes. However, from this point of view, the industrial policy regarding the management of the complex process is changeable and is associated with any structural transformation process (Di Tommaso, *et al.*, 2020). In addition, industrial policy should not be left only to special agents, ministers, and senior managers. Rather, this should be the duty of the entire government, and the leading agents and their teams should be accountable and listen to the criticisms and suggestions provided by parliamentarians, citizens, experts, and companies (Aiginger & Rodrik, 2020). Finally, the industrial policy should create new markets and change existing markets and in this way provide a new capacity for governance and change (Nilson, *et al.* 2021).

## **2.2 production boom**

The production boom in the country, with a positive impact on the indicators of gross domestic product or gross national product, can strengthen the country's global economic position, by strengthening the ability of Iranian products to compete with foreign products to increase exports and foreign exchange, to positive the country's trade balance, and cause an increase in the market share of Iranian products and productions in the world markets and ultimately bring long-term income stability (Goran Heydari, 1398).

The main and basic condition for creating a boom in production in the country is to examine the obstacles and adopt appropriate solutions for optimal use of the existing capacity, not a new investment; because in this case, in a short time, the country's production capacity can be increased only twice the current amount. Of course, observing the quality of production products and their supply to marketing, price, and proper packaging is another condition for the prosperity of production (Khalilian, 1398). Economic stability and prevention of severe

fluctuations in the major variables of the macro economy that increase the risk of investment, trade, and production are of great importance; since it is necessary to attract capital to boost production. If the economy does not have relative stability, it will be difficult and sometimes impossible to plan for the growth and prosperity of the economy. On the other hand, the investor does not invest without a clear and hopeful forecast about the profitability of the capital in the future. Therefore, stability in the economy, especially in macroeconomic variables, is considered one of the requirements of the production boom (Khalilian, 1398). And another thing is that Ronad Cruz (1991) believes that the production base of each country, if not more than the economic aspect, at least on par with it, also affects the social, cultural, political, and national security aspects (Momeni, 1395).

### 3. Research methodology

Qualitative research data were collected through exploratory interviews and after interpretation and analysis by thematic analysis method, variables, and their relationships were extracted. Therefore, in this research, basic concepts were extracted by examining the contents of the policies

and laws examined in the current research (Table 1) and interviewing 14 experts, and a "thematic analysis strategy" was used to analyze the data.

The selection of the interviewees was purposeful, which was done in a snowball or chain method. In this method, each expert introduces another expert and the interview continues until it reaches theoretical saturation. In the selection of experts, it was tried that all of them have the necessary criteria, including a lot of experience (having executive experience in the field of industrial policy, especially in the field of production), a suitable field of study (management or engineering field related to the industry), higher education (master's degree or doctorate), and be fully familiar with the field of industrial policies.

In the current research, according to the saturation approach, 14 experts have been selected as samples. In this way, after interviewing 11 experts, the answers of the next experts were similar to the previous ones and the content became repetitive until after the interview with the 13th expert, his knowledge reached theoretical saturation. But to increase the usefulness of the data, the interviews continued until the fourteenth experience.

*Table 1. Policies and legal articles examined in this research*

General rule	The cases examined in this research
General policies of the sixth development plan	Rows 2-14-27
The law on removing barriers to production, competitiveness, and improving the country's financial system under Article 123 of the Constitution	All clauses of the law
The law of maximum use of production and service capacity of the country and protection of Iranian goods approved in 1398	Article 16
The law of permanent decrees of the country's development programs approved in 1396	Article 36
The law of continuous improvement of the business environment was approved in 1390	Articles 16 and 25
The general policies of the resistance economy related to the production boom	Clauses 3-4-5-6-10

Due to the qualitative nature of the theme analysis method, quantitative criteria and

positivist approach were not used to control the validity and reliability of the present

study; rather, as stated by Guba and Lincoln, the criteria of believability, reliability, verifiability, and transferability (Mohammadpour, 1390) were based and according to the recommendation of King and Harrocks (2010), from the four procedures of the coding test itself, the use of Independent coders was used to receive feedback from the interviewees while providing rich descriptions and recording the details of the reviews.

#### **4. Data analysis and findings**

By conducting the theme analysis, 172 primary concepts were extracted in the first step. In the next step, after coding the texts, 18 descriptive codes (basic theme) were finally extracted by combining the identified codes based on the degree of conceptual similarity. After analyzing them, 10 interpretive codes (organizing theme) were obtained, and finally, 2 relational codes (overarching theme) were counted with the final review.

To validate, using the Delphi technique, based on the definition of the subject and the required expertise, the members of the Delphi panel were selected in three stages using the judgmental non-random sampling method. The first round was done after extracting the primary components from theoretical texts and creating a semi-standard questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed according to 2 relational codes, 10 interpretive codes, and 18 descriptive codes. The respondents were answering the question "How effective is each of the dimensions, components, and indicators with the model for evaluating the effectiveness of industrial policies related to production boom?". A five-point Likert scale was used to measure them. After completing and collecting the distributed questionnaires, the results of the first stage were analyzed. According to the opinions of the first round of the panel, the number of 3 interpretative codes and 4 descriptive codes that had lower than mean agreement and

importance were discarded and removed, and no new indigenous codes were added to the experts' suggestion.

In the second round, Delphi, after removing the factors that did not reach consensus in the previous stage, the questionnaire was given to the panel members again. The Kendall coefficient for the second stage questionnaire was 0.653 with a significance level of 0.05. In the third round, the questionnaire was again provided to the panel members. The Kendall coefficient for the third stage questionnaire was 0.731 with a significance level of 0.05. According to Schmidt, considering that the amount of consensus and unanimity of the members in the second stage compared to the third stage has increased by 0.078 and the growth of two consecutive periods is very insignificant and considering that the number of panel members is more than 5 members and also, a very low value of  $W$  is considered significant, so the repetition of Delphi courses was stopped.

After collecting experts' opinions and adding and subtracting some codes (with the Delphi method), finally, 2 relational codes, 7 interpretive codes, and 14 descriptive codes were obtained. Descriptive, interpretive, and relational codes are presented in Table 2.

#### **4.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of industrial policies with the approach of production boom in line with economic development**

To measure the effectiveness of the policies examined in this research, it is necessary to check whether a valuable result has been obtained by implementing these policies (Dan, 2015). According to this definition, the effectiveness of industrial policies related to the production boom depends on the fact that the results and consequences obtained by implementing these policies have a positive change compared to the results and consequences before

implementation. Therefore, to measure the effectiveness of industrial policies related to the production boom, a survey was conducted with 200 managers, experts, and specialists related to the field of production through a questionnaire. It should be mentioned that it is possible to use the statistical indicators provided by the Statistics Center of Iran, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Strategic Research Center of Expediency Council to directly evaluate the effectiveness of these policies. Nevertheless, there are doubts raised by the scientific community about these data and some statistical indicators are calculated using artificial methods which lead to different results (Qolipour et al., 1398). Therefore, to evaluate the effectiveness of these policies, the mentioned method was used. The results of this test will be discussed below.

To implement statistical methods and calculate appropriate test statistics and logical inferences about research hypotheses; the most important action is to choose the appropriate statistical method for the research before any action. For this purpose, knowledge of data distribution has

a basic priority. So, in this research, the valid Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to check the assumption of normality of the research data. This test examines the normality of the data according to the following assumptions.

H<sub>0</sub>: The data has a normal distribution.

H<sub>1</sub>: The data does not have a normal distribution.

According to the One-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test table, the method of judging is that if the significance level (sig) for all variables is greater than the test level (0.05), the data distribution is normal. The result of this test is shown in Table 3. Because the sig obtained for all variables is greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that the research hypothesis is rejected and the null hypothesis is confirmed, as a result, the data distribution of all variables is normal.

As shown in Table 3, in all cases, a significance value greater than 0.05 was obtained. Therefore, there is no reason to reject the null hypothesis based on the normality of the data. In other words, the distribution of research data is normal, and parametric tests can be performed.

*Table 2. Descriptive, interpretive, and relational codes extracted from the present research (created by the researcher)*

Descriptive codes	Interpretation codes	Relational codes
Increase in income from non-oil exports	Export Development	Results (short-term)
Reducing the number of unemployed people	Employment	
Increase employment opportunities	Improving the business conditions	
Facilitating the process of obtaining a business license		
Improved response to customer needs		Consequences (long-term)
Improving the quality of domestic products		
Increasing labor productivity index		
Capital productivity index growth		
Reducing the cost of domestic products	Increase customer satisfaction	
Global Competitiveness Index growth	Productivity growth	
The growth of the global index of innovation	Competitiveness	
GDP growth	Sustainable economic growth	
Reducing class distance (Gini coefficient)		
Increasing domestic production of institutions and basic goods		

*Table 3. Calculation of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test*

Components	Number	Normal parameters		The maximum amount of differences		The value of the test statistic	The significance level of Sig	Test result
		Mean	Standard deviation	Absolute Positive	Absolute Negative			
Employment	200	3.2125	0.84240	0.149	0.111	2.149	0.225	The distribution is normal
Continuous improvement of the business environment	200	3.2050	1.15309	0.190	0.137	1.290	0.335	The distribution is normal
Export Development	200	3.1250	1.31071	0.178	0.113	1.178	0.445	The distribution is normal
Results (short-term)	200	3.1888	0.61875	0.143	0.86	1.143	0.224	The distribution is normal
Increase customer satisfaction	200	3.0375	0.90495	0.175	0.110	1.175	0.125	The distribution is normal
Interest growth	200	3.0683	0.78604	0.142	0.80	1.142	0.127	The distribution is normal
Sustainable economic growth	200	3.2183	0.69744	0.122	0.95	1.122	0.075	The distribution is normal
Competitiveness	200	3.1600	0.90332	0.147	0.88	1.147	0.122	The distribution is normal
Consequences (long-term)	200	3.125	0.46872	0.100	0.76	1.100	0.113	The distribution is normal

#### 4.2 Inferential statistics

To measure the effectiveness of industrial policies with the approach of increasing production, according to the indicators identified for the results and consequences related to the research topic, 14 questions were prepared in the form of a questionnaire with a 5-point spectrum and were given to 200 experts in this field. Then the collected data was evaluated using a one-group t-test.

According to the scale of the questionnaire, which was a 5-point Likert, the basis of the decision was considered based on a score of 3. As Table 5 shows, in the results (short-term), the t-statistic calculated 3.816, 3.110, and 2.514 in the indicators "with the implementation of

industrial policies, the number of unemployed population has decreased", "with the implementation of industrial policies, new job opportunities have been created", and "with the implementation of industrial policies, the process of obtaining business licenses has been facilitated by the government", respectively which is significant at the 0.05 level. Comparing the mean of these dimensions, respectively (3.1600), (3.2650), (3.2050) with the expected mean (score 3) shows that these three components are valid from the point of view of experts and have been confirmed with 95% confidence. Concerning other indicators of results (short-term), the t statistic calculated for the indicators "with the implementation of industrial policies,

the income from non-oil exports has increased", "with the implementation of industrial policies, responding to the needs of customers has improved", "with the implementation of industrial policies, the quality level of domestic products has been improved", "with the implementation of industrial policies, the labor productivity index has increased", "with the implementation of industrial policies, the cost price of domestic products has decreased", and "with the implementation of industrial policies, the capital productivity index has grown" were not significant at the 0.05 level, and their mean was not different from the expected mean (score 3). Therefore, according to experts, these indicators have had a moderate impact on the effectiveness of industrial policies with the approach of strengthening production.

In the consequences (long-term) indicators, in the indicators related to the "sustainable economic growth" component,

the t-statistics calculated 3.1800, 3.2250, and 3.2500 for the indicators of "with the implementation of industrial policies, the amount of domestic production of inputs and basic goods has increased", "with the implementation of industrial policies, GDP has grown", and "with the implementation of industrial policies, the Gini coefficient (class distance) has decreased", respectively, and at the component of "competitiveness" in 2 indices including "with the implementation of industrial policies, the country's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) has grown" the t of 3.2650 and "with the implementation of industrial policies, the country's Global Innovation Index (GII) has grown" with the t of 3.0550 is significant at the 0.05 level and their mean is higher than the expected mean (score 3). Therefore, according to experts, they have had a great impact on the effectiveness of industrial policies with the approach of strengthening production.

**Table 4. The results of the one-sample t-test to examine the current situation of the dimensions of evaluating the effectiveness of industrial policies with the production boom approach**

Components	Expected mean=3						
	T	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Mean	Mean difference	95% confidence interval meaning of differences	
						Lower limit	Upper limit
With the implementation of industrial policies, the number of unemployed population has decreased	3.816	199	0.041	3.1600	0.16000	-0.0137	0.3337
With the implementation of industrial policies, new job opportunities have been created	3.110	199	0.002	3.2650	0.26500	0.0970	0.4330
With the implementation of industrial policies, the process of obtaining business licenses has been facilitated by the government	2.514	199	0.013	3.2050	0.20500	0.0442	0.3658
With the implementation of industrial policies, incomes from non-oil exports have increased	1.349	199	0.179	3.1250	0.12500	-0.0578	0.3078
With the implementation of industrial policies,	0.169	199	0.866	3.0150	0.01500	-0.1604	0.1904



Components	Expected mean=3						95% confidence interval meaning of differences	
	T	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Mean	Mean difference	Lower limit	Upper limit	
responding to the needs of customers has improved								
With the implementation of industrial policies, the quality level of domestic products has been improved	0.650	199	0.517	3.0600	0.06000	-0.1221	0.2421	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the labor productivity index has increased	0.997	199	0.320	3.0900	0.09000	-0.0880	0.2680	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the cost price of domestic products has decreased	1.576	199	0.117	3.1400	0.14000	-0.0352	0.3152	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the capital productivity index has grown	-0.274	199	0.784	2.9750	-0.02500	-0.2048	0.1548	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the amount of domestic production of inputs and basic goods has increased	2.009	199	0.046	3.1800	0.18000	0.0033	0.3567	
With the implementation of industrial policies, GDP has grown	2.769	199	0.006	3.2250	0.22500	0.0647	0.3853	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the Gini coefficient (class distance) has decreased	2.790	199	0.006	3.2500	0.25000	0.0733	0.4267	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the country's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) has grown	2.970	199	0.003	3.2650	0.26500	0.0890	0.4410	
With the implementation of industrial policies, the country's Global Innovation Index (GII) has grown	0.586	199	0.558	3.0550	0.05500	-0.1300	0.2400	

The results of the findings from the one-sample t-test and exploratory factor analysis, the current situation is as follows: the components of the results (short-term) include the sub-components of job creation with the value of  $t=3.567$ , the sub-component of continuous improvement of

the business environment with the value of  $t=2.514$ , and the components of the consequence (long-term) including the sub-components of sustainable economic growth the value of  $t$  was 4.427 and for competitiveness  $t$  was 2.505, are significant at the 5% error level ( $P<0.05$ ).

**Table 5. One-sample t-test results to investigate the current state of the policy environment, requirements and support, stakeholders, policy implementation, evaluation system, time stages of evaluation, results (short-term), and consequences (long-term).**

Components	t	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Mean	Mean difference	95% confidence interval meaning of differences	
						Lower limit	Upper limit
						Expected mean=3	
Employment	3.567	199	0.000	3.2125	0.21250	0.0950	0.3300
Continuous improvement of the business environment	2.514	199	0.013	3.2050	0.20500	0.0442	0.3658
Export Development	1.349	199	0.179	3.1250	0.12500	-0.0578	0.3078
Results (short-term)	4.314	199	0.000	3.1888	0.18875	0.1025	0.2750
Increase customer satisfaction	0.586	199	0.559	3.0375	0.03750	-0.0887	0.1637
Interest growth	1.229	199	0.220	3.0683	0.06833	-0.0413	0.1779
Sustainable economic growth	4.427	199	0.000	3.2183	0.21833	0.1211	0.3156
Competitiveness	2.505	199	0.013	3.1600	0.16000	0.0340	0.2860
Consequences (long-term)	3.787	199	0.000	3.1255	0.12550	0.0601	0.1909

Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no difference between the observed and the community mean (3) is rejected and it is determined that there is a significant difference between the observed and the community mean (3). Therefore, the components of "employment", "continuous improvement of the business environment", "sustainable economic growth", and "competitiveness" have been approved by experts with 95% certainty. But in the components of the results (short-term), the component of "export development" and the sub-component of the consequences (long-term) including "productivity growth" and "sustainable economic growth", the comparison of its mean with the expected mean (score 3) does not show a significant difference that these 3 components have a moderate level of credibility according to experts.

## 5. Conclusions

The results of this evaluation showed that, with the implementation of industrial policies, in the results (short-term) resulting from the implementation of these policies, although new job opportunities have been

created and based on this, the number of unemployed population has decreased, as well as the process of obtaining permits to start a business is facilitated by the government. But instead, with the implementation of these policies, the income from non-oil exports has not increased. Improvement in responding to customers' needs has not been achieved and the quality level of domestic products has not been improved. Also, the labor productivity and capital productivity index did not grow. And finally, the cost price of domestic products has also increased excessively instead of decreasing. And in the (long-term) consequences of the implementation of these policies, the amount of domestic production of inputs and basic goods has increased. The GDP has grown and the Gini coefficient (class distance) has decreased. Also, competitiveness has increased in both the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) and the Global Innovation Index (GII) of the country.

In general, the results of this research showed that although in recent years, a series of support policies have always been

defined to support the strengthening of production, these supports were often financial, which was awarded to some producers or certain individuals and these policies have caused the creation of bribery. Therefore, it is suggested that the type of support should be such that it creates motivation and incentives for producers and does not destroy competitiveness.

Another important point is that some policies, including the policy of banning the import of foreign goods that are similar to domestic production, caused some companies to import major parts and sub-assemblies and only carry out the final assembly stage in the country, effectively creating an assembly industry and consider this movement as domestic production. This attitude destroys the competition in the domestic business environment. In addition, most of the time, the cost price of the products of this assembly industry is higher than the foreign sample. Therefore, it is suggested that reforms be made regarding these policies and strict monitoring of their implementation.

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