

A Thesis for the Degree of Master

**Empirical Analysis of the Relation between Social
Spending and Economic Growth: Developing Countries
and OECD Members**

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Abstract

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Most previous empirical approaches examined the relationship between social spending and economic growth only in developed countries or OECD member countries, and show little or no efforts to compare the effects of social spending in developing countries with those in developed or OECD member countries; however, developing countries can be in very different social, economic, and institutional settings.

Therefore, we examined this relationship, drawing a comparison between the result of developing countries and that of developed (or OECD member) and semi-developed countries with the same data source, the IMF's Government Finance Statistics data of 85 countries over the period from 1990 to 2007, using time-series cross-section regression model.

We found that estimated coefficient on social spending is positive and statistically significant in the sample of developing countries, while a significant negative relationship between social spending and economic growth is observed in the sample of developed countries. The results of this study can suggest that assumption of a tradeoff between efficiency and equity could be not well applied in the developing countries.

Therefore, this finding can imply that we have to consider not only what to do but also where to do, when we discuss the social spending effect and give policy advises to developing countries.

Keywords: social spending, developing country, economic growth

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I. INTRODUCTION

Although developmental welfare is not a new issue, social policy is now, partly because of effort by neo-liberal economists, being vigorously discussed again in the context of development (Midgley and Tang, 2001; Kwon, 2005; Mkandawire, 2001; Hall and Midgley, 2004).

Neo-liberal economic theories argue that social expenditure does harm to the economy and that spending on social policy should be reduced for the country's competitiveness. In practice, however, the programs based on this neo-liberal view seem to have made the situation much worse in many developing countries during 1980s and 1990s; World Bank's and International Monetary Foundation's stabilization programs such as austerity, privatization, and reduction of government social spending have resulted in economic and social vulnerability (Cornia et al, 1987). Conditions of these countries were worsened directly by rapidly rising food prices and elimination of basic nutritional, educational, and health services, and indirectly by slowing growth and increasing poverty (Cornia et al, 1987).

Lindert (2004, 2006) insisted that social spending does not negatively affect the growth, showing some statistical and historical records, and criticized neo-liberal economic theories as "theory-dependent bluffs." Further, Kwon (2007) pointed out that the developmental state in Korea, which considerably contributed to rapid economic growth, conducted not only economic policy but also social policy as an overall economic development strategy. Hort and Kuhnle (2000) argued that East Asian countries adopted social welfare programs as policy instruments for economic growth,

and Goodman and White (1998) suggested that these East Asian welfare states' social policy aimed at goals such as subordinating welfare to economic efficiency and discouraging dependence on the state.

In spite of many discussions and controversies about the impact of social spending on economic growth, there has been relatively little attention to the empirical support for the hypotheses mentioned above. Lindert (2006: 237) pointed out this lack of empirical approach saying that “theory has gone into overdrive” in the issue of developmental welfare with the widening gap between empirical record and a story, although theory and fact are needed to be mixed in the right proportion. Even if there are growth studies that tested effect of social spending, the data they used were, in most researches, that of OECD members and not of developing countries. This means that there is a need to test this relationship with samples covering developing countries. Further, previous studies shows little or no efforts to compare the effects of social spending in developing countries with those in developed or OECD member countries, although developing countries can be in very different social, economic, and institutional settings. Therefore, the objective of this study is to test the relationship between social spending and economic growth with cross country panel data, and draw comparison between the result of developing countries and that of developed countries.

II. WELFARE STATE MODELS AND DEVELOPMENT

Wilensky and Lebeaux (1958) preliminarily suggested the types of welfare states with “residual” and “institutional” approaches to social welfare, reflecting different thoughts in social policy and the role of the welfare state; their typology and its terms have been widely used and often mentioned in social policy literature (Sainsbury, 2007; Mishra, 1981; Bryson 1992; Graycar and Jamrozik, 1993, Esping-Andersen and Korpi, 1987). The residual approach of social welfare views that state assistance fills the gap where the primary institutions, which are the “market” and the “family,” can not meet the needs of a person or a family; that is, welfare states play a role when these institutions have proved inadequate. Therefore, social welfare, according to this view, should be kept minimal, temporary, requiring evidence of needs, and is only for the disadvantaged. On the other hand, the institutional approach of welfare sees that welfare is a dominant institution, so welfare states meet the needs of everyone and not just of the disadvantaged. In other words, it views that the role of the state is to provide comprehensive and universal social policy. In turn, the institutional view leads to higher social spending, and universal programs for the benefit of all. By contrast, the residual view leads to lower social spending, selective means-tested programs, and provision to only those who are most in need.

Titmuss (1974) challenged the typology of Wilensky and Lebeaux, and elaborated it, claiming that the residual and the institutional models appear simultaneously with the third model that he named the “industrial achievement-performance model” of social welfare; he also added “redistributive” to the definition of the institutional model. The

“industrial achievement-performance model” emphasizes social policies that are closely related to performance in market economy, such as promoting higher productivity, greater motivation, more work, and so on. Titmuss's own favorite is the “industrial achievement-performance model” where the welfare policies become major integrative tools for the society as a whole, providing universalistic responses to non-stigmatizing needs in the direction of resource redistribution (Demerath, 1977).

Furniss and Tilton (1977) provided a typology of welfare state, based on the three distinctive responses to the rise of advanced industrialization. First, they describe the United States as a “positive state.” The fundamental goal of the positive state is to protect property holders from the problems of unregulated market in capitalist society, and from the influence of redistributive demands. Therefore, this type of state shows strong opposition to social policies that are not directed by concerns of efficiency. They suggested that the “positive states” depend on social insurance that is based on actuarial principles. The second response to the rise of advanced industrialization is “social security state” that United Kingdom represents. This type of state is based on two principles, which are the ‘maximalist full employment’ and the ‘guaranteed national minimum.’ This means that the principle is clearly not ‘equality’ but ‘equality of opportunity.’ The third response is the “social welfare state,” which Furniss and Tilton sees Sweden as a representative example. The goals of this state are full employment achieved by government-union cooperation, environmental planning, and solidaristic wage settlements.

George and Wilding (1976) analyzed the ideological conflicts of the welfare state, and suggested four types of thoughts; those are labeled as “anti-collectivism,” “reluctant collectivism,” “Fabian socialism,” and “Marxism.” These ideology types are based on

the analysis of representative thinkers (George, 1985); Milton Friedman, Hayek, and Enoch Powell are the anti-collectivists; Crosland, Tawney, and Titmuss are the Fabian socialists; and Strachey, Laski and Miliband are the Marxists. Their classification seems to be a variation of attitudes towards the market economy, and this approach implies that the values of capitalism and the ethic of welfare are, according to them, in conflict (George, 1985; 34). “Anti-collectivists” advocate liberty and individualism, and think that the pursuit of equality is incompatible with these values. They insist that market mechanism is the most efficient means of resource allocation. “Reluctant collectivists” have similar perception to the anti-collectivists, but have less faith in market economy. They think that the unregulated capitalist economy can be inefficient in some way, and does not necessarily produce a just distribution of resources. Therefore, state intervention is justified, but it should be the minimum required to remove the inefficiency and injustices generated by unregulated markets. Poverty, not inequality, is the concern of the welfare state, and the provision of a minimum of income security and essential services is their approach. “Fabian socialists” have a belief in equality, and also have more positive attitude to state action than reluctant collectivists do. The government plays an essential role not only in regulating but also in controlling, directing and planning the economy, to maximize growth, justice and welfare. “Marxists” regard the welfare state as inherently limited because it is rooted in a capitalist class society. They think that socialist planned economy must replace the capitalist market economy to achieve the goals of liberty, welfare and justice for all.

Esping-Andersen (1990) suggested three different types of welfare states, which remains one of the most commonly used typologies of modern welfare states. He identifies the process of de-commodification of the wage earner in relation to theoretical

classification of advanced capitalist states. His welfare states types have a resemblance to those by Titmuss; however, the difference is that Esping-Andersen identifies the social, political, economic, and historical context that these types of welfare states established in the countries, while Titmuss and others focus on the characteristics of each welfare type. Esping-Andersen insisted that categorization of welfare states cannot be based on the level of social spending, since not “all spending counts equally” and “social spending *per se* was hardly ever at the centre of major political conflict” (Esping-Andersen, 1990). He partly rejected the ‘working-class mobilization theory,’ saying that working-class mobilization is not a ‘single powerful causal force,’ but rather in interaction with other factors such as the nature of class mobilization like union structure, the opportunities of forming class-political coalition, and the historical legacy of regime institutionalization. He also rejects the idea of an evolutionary development of social reform starting with a liberal era, being displaced by a phase of social insurance establishment, and approaching an era of comprehensive protection. Esping-Andersen’s view is well represented by his expression that ‘politics not only matters, but is decisive’; That is, the types of social policy were formed by the power constellations during the stage of welfare states formation, and came from the different ideologies of those political actors as they entered certain coalitions and compromised on certain outcomes. Therefore, ‘three highly diverse regime-types’ were suggested, which were organized around its own logic of organization, stratification, and societal integration. Different historical forces were based on the origins of these types of welfare states, and “qualitatively different developmental trajectories” were shown in them (Esping-Andersen, 1990; 3).

Three regime-types categorized by Esping-Andersen are “liberal welfare state,”

“conservative and corporatist welfare state,” and “social democratic welfare state”; in fact, Titmuss’s “residual,” “industrial achievement-performance,” and “institutional redistributive’ welfare state are corresponding to Esping-Andersen’s ones. He suggests that his typology categorizes social policies of the OECD countries according to decommodification, stratification, and the private-public combination in pensions. welfare markets. Decommodification is a key concept of Esping-Andersen's typology that categorizes regime types, which denotes “the degree to which individuals, or families, can uphold a socially acceptable standard of living independently of market participation” or “the ease with which an average person can opt out of the market” (Esping-Andersen, 1990: 37-49). The archetype of the liberal welfare state is the United States, which has a low level of decommodification, profound dependence on minimal means-tested benefits, and an extensive role of markets in the production of welfare. The representative example of conservative and corporatist welfare state is the German welfare state where a strong corporatist-statist legacy exists, characterized by maintenance of the status quo, not redistributive, and distinct social insurance system focused on preserving the traditional family. The prototype of social democratic welfare state is Sweden, dominated by a high level of decommodification, citizenship-based universal benefits, equal rights to have benefits and services, and a minor role of markets in social policy.

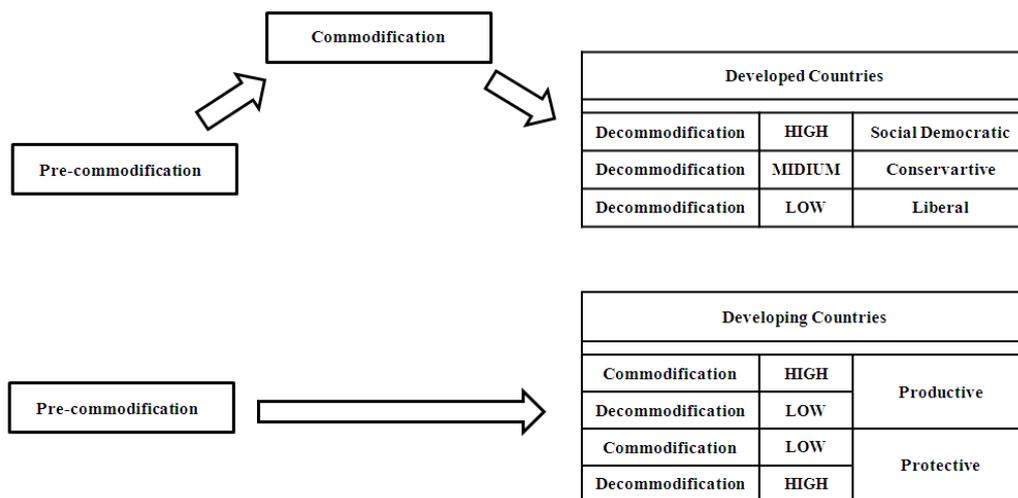
Jones (1993) suggested that East Asian states such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore would not qualify by Titmuss’s standard of welfare states or that of Esping-Andersen, and rather have their own model. For example, she says that none of them are committed to Titmuss’ institutional-redistributive model as the ultimate objective, but it became barely possible to exclude any of them from this type, once a

more multicolored set of criteria in respect of a range of different types of welfare state is allowed (Jones, 1993: 199). Further, she suggested that welfare capitalist typology by Esping-Andersen is very much a “Western” one, and it only serves to establish “what the tigers are not” (Jones, 1993). According to her, key of their welfare state model is the Confucianism which has hierarch, duty, compliance, consensus, order, harmony, stability, and staying in power. Kwon (1998) suggested four characteristics of the East Asian welfare states on the basis of empirical and comparative research on the five countries that Jones mentioned; first, the spending for social welfare is financed largely by regulator, and quasi-governmental bodies, which is normally not state agencies, manage the fund, except for Hong Kong; second, this financing made a fragmented welfare system; third, the welfare system has a less redistributive characteristics than Western welfare states, especially Singapore does; fourth, labor union and social democratic parties have very limited influence on welfare policy compared to Western states. Goodman and White (1998) suggested some strength of East Asian welfare model, stemming from the characteristics listed above. This model subordinates welfare to economic efficiency and growth, discouraging dependence on the state, promoting private sources of welfare, and diverting the financial resources of social insurance to investment in infrastructure. On the other hand, the East Asian welfare model has its inevitable shortcoming due to its selective characteristics of the system, since social policy programs covered mainly industrial workers, reinforcing socioeconomic inequalities (Goodman and White, 1998; Kwon, 2007).

Rudra (2007) attempts to highlight systematic differences among the political economies of the developing world, particularly with respect to their distribution regimes, utilizing Esping-Andersen’s decomodification concept. He suggested that that

welfare efforts in least developed countries (LDCs) are either directed towards “promoting market development” (a productive welfare state), “protecting select individuals from the market” (a protective welfare state), or both (a dual welfare state).

Figure 1 Welfare States in Developed and Developing Countries



Notes: The figure is adopted from Rudra (2007: 383)

Protective welfare states intentionally avoid international markets and ultimately focus government efforts on decommodification. Politicians are allowed to exercise great discretion and control over the economy by focusing on protecting domestic firms from international competition politicians. Leader could provide allowances to both workers and firms in the major industrializing sectors, thanks to nonexistence the threat of international market competition and pressures of cost containment. As a result, fusion of elements of socialism and conservatism Protective welfare states is made. protective welfare states strongly distrust markets like the OECD social democratic model. However, protective welfare states in developing countries are distinguished

from both the social democratic and conservative welfare models in that highlighting on decommodification occurred prior to proletarianization and, accordingly, social rights have been directed towards a small clientele (Rudra, 2007).

In contrast, productive welfare states emphasize commodification, and originally developed from systems which actively promoted participation in export markets. Emphasis on cost containment is created by the goal of encouraging international competitiveness of domestic firms, and governments are required to surrender some control over the economy. The range of social welfare is much more restricted, as leaders are constrained from pursuing worker benefits. Thereby, the liberal model by Esping-Andersen shares certain components with Productive welfare states. In contrast to its counterpart, this regime type holds close some of the nineteenth-century liberal enthusiasm for the market and self-reliance (Rudra, 2007). The emphasis upon strengthening the commodity status of labor in a globalizing economy is the characteristics of productive welfare state that the liberal paradigm ultimately comes to distinguish. Substantial level of public intervention aims to enhance international market participation in productive welfare states. Social policies are constrained by this goal and have to be implemented without hampering business activity. In contrast, the proletarianization occurred gradually in the OECD countries over two centuries, and state intervention was less required (Rudra, 2007).

III. EMPIRICAL STUDIES ON SOCIAL SPENDING

The studies on the research that question the relationship between social spending and growth have resulted in mixed findings both theoretically and empirically.

Advocates of positive effect of social spending base their argument on that social spending can (1) help build higher quality of human capital (2) reduce social conflict, increasing the level of social cohesion of the country (3) allow laborers to adapt to radically changing industrial structure and technology (4) and stabilize economy, reducing inflation in boom days and creating effectual demand in economic depression (Rodrick, 1999; Blank, 1994; Kohl, 1981; Abramovitz, 1981; Haveman, 1988).

Empirically, several studies found the positive relationship between social spending and growth. Cashin (1994) showed that social security spending has a significant positive impact on GDP per capita growth in the 23 developed countries using annual data from 1971 to 1988 with OLS and IV method. Castles and Dowrick (1990) tested the relationship between 18 OECD countries' social spending (health and education were excluded) and per capita GDP, and found a positive effect. They used pooled time-series cross-section OLS method using data from 1971 to 1983. Korpi (1985) showed that ILO social expenditure to GDP is positively associated with the real per capita GDP in the 17 OECD countries during the period from 1950 to 1973. He used time series and cross-section estimation by unweighted OLS measuring total effects and controlling for the share of agricultural labor force. McCallum and Blais (1987) discovered a positive relationship between OECD social security transfers to GDP and Real GDP of the countries, using IV technique with controls for employment growth. They used 17

OECD countries with the period from 1960 to 1983. Castronova (2001) suggested that social spending does not seem to lower per capita incomes, using panel data of 13 OECD countries from 1961 to 1991. Using simultaneous equation model with OECD data, De Grauwe and Polan (2005) suggested that countries with high level of social spending have high IMD and WEF competitiveness scores, and countries with well developed social security systems do not necessarily face a trade-off between social spending and competitiveness,. Baldacci et al (2004) found, using social spending panel data in 120 developing countries from 1975 to 2000, that social spending on education and health in developing countries is positively associated with the accumulation of education and health capital, and education and health capital has positive impact on higher economic growth; they insisted that spending on education and health has positive “indirect impact on growth.”

On the other hand, some studies insist that social spending does harm economic growth. They argue that social spending can (1) weaken the work incentive of recipients or tax payers (2) reduce private savings that could be otherwise used in investment for growth (3) increase dependence on government (4) expand shadow economy, making distortion in resource allocation (Gilder, 1981; Murray, 1984; Feldstein, 1982; 1996; Weede, 1986; Persson and Tabellini, 1994).

Some studies showed negative effect or statistically non-significant effect of social spending on growth. Weede (1986, 1991) found that negative effect of social security transfers over GDP on the OECD countries’ real GDP. He used pooled time series and cross-section method with the period from 1960 to mid 1980s. Persson and Tabellini (1994) included the social expenditure over GDP as one of the independent variables in his growth model, and conducted a statistical test using the 13 OECD countries data

from 1960 to 1985. They used unweighted IV estimation method, and found negative but non-significant coefficients in the relationship between social spending and growth. Hansson and Henrekson (1994) found negative and significant effect of social security transfers over GDP in 14 OECD countries in the sub-period from 1965 to 1982, and real private output in 14 industries was the dependent variable. They used cross-country and cross-industry OLS, controlling for investment and employment. Arjona et al (2003) found that increased social protection expenditure is bad for economic growth, using PMG and GMM-IV approaches with an annual sample of 21 OECD countries running over the period 1970 to 1998. Landau (1985) suggested that transfer payment does not exhibit statistically significant correlation with growth, using pooled time-series cross-section method with 16 OECD countries' data from 1952 to 1976. Carritte and Willianison (1995) examined the effect of pension spending on economic growth based on pooled time-series cross-section social indicator models for 18 developed countries for the period between 1960 and 1988, and they found that the level of pension spending does not have a substantial impact on economic growth for the period between 1960 and 1973, while a negative impact of pension spending was observed in the period between 1974 and 1988.

In the previous empirical approaches listed above, we can notice that there are some rooms that are needed to be further examined. First of all, most previous studies tested the relationship only in developed countries or OECD member countries, and there is little attention to the effects in developing countries. In fact, the social spending effect on economic development is somewhat more needed to be tested in developing countries, because the social development and economic growth is a critically urgent goal in those countries. Although there is a study by Baldacci et al (2004) that tries to

examine the relationship in developing country, it did not test the direct relationship between social spending and economic growth. They examined the impact of social spending on accumulation of education and health capital, and then linked this accumulated human capital to increased per capita GDP. Although this finding has some meaningful implications, we can very easily predict that more spending on education and health will bring about more educational and health capital accumulated, and that more educational and health capital accumulated will help economic development of the country, which are tested in their study; that is, these two relationships are very likely to be proved as positively related. However, what we are actually curious about is the effect of social spending on overall economic performance of the country; public spending affects not only the targeting objectives such as human capital accumulation but also unexpected areas, resulting in some problems sometimes. Therefore, it is meaningful to test direct relationship between social spending and economic growth in developing countries. In addition to this, Baldacci et al (2004) did not include the spending on social protection, but spending on social protection is very important issue in social policy and economic growth.

Second, previous studies shows little or no efforts to compare the effects of social spending in developing countries with those in developed or OECD member countries. However, developing countries can be in very different social, economic, and institutional settings, which means social spending that have positive or negative or no impact in OECD countries can have different effects in developing countries. Therefore, it is worthy to draw a comparison between the result of developing countries and that of developed and semi-developed countries with the same data source, the IMF's Government Finance Statistics.

Third, there is a lack of empirical literatures using recent data; many studies used data published before 1990. Therefore, it is necessary to look into recent phenomena. This paper will use International Monetary Foundation's Government Finance Statistics which collected data from 1990 to 2007. Considering that many of previous studies used OECD data, testing the relationship with other source can be also necessary for robustness.

On the other hand, there could be a fundamental issue in spending approach that social spending to GDP itself is problematic in measuring the welfare efforts by the government (Esping-Andersen,1990). Therefore, it can be needed to observe specific styles of social policy conducted in different countries such as active labor market policy. However, there is lack of collected data, especially in developing countries, that this specific policy differences are reflected. Further, even spending approach studies have hardly dealt with developing countries. Therefore, this approach, which regards social spending to GDP as proxy, is still meaningful in testing the effect in developing countries and comparing the results, although we acknowledge that this approach can have some limitation.

IV. MEOTHODOLOGY

1. Analytic Framework

This study tries to test the relationship between social spending and economic growth with the endogenous growth model. By doing this, we will examine the hypothesis that social spending can be instrumental in development. Following regression will be estimated with time-series cross-section data.

$$Y_{it} = a + \sum_{k=1}^p X_{itk} \beta_k + u_{it}$$

In the model, i is the country, t is the year and there are p explanatory, in which the

To test the relationship between social spending and economic growth, we used time-series cross-sectional regression with error-components models. The time-series cross-sectional regression deals with panel data sets that consist of time-series on each of cross-section observation. Panel data creates variability, and provides more informative results by eliminating the need for lengthy time series because we can use the information available on the dynamic reactions of each subject (Kennedy 2003). Further, time-series cross-section data can provide “more informative data, more variability, less collinearity among variable, more degree of freedom and more efficiency” by combining time-series observations on cross-sectional units (Gujarati, 2003: 637). Compared with either purely cross-sectional or purely time-series data, time-series cross-sectional data has the ability to study dynamics of changes and to model the differences, or heterogeneity, among subjects (Frees, 2004).

However, we have to consider several things that can make OLS biased in time-

series cross-section model (Oatley, 1999). For example, the time series component of such data sets poses autocorrelation problem, and error terms may exhibit heteroskedasticity both longitudinally and cross sectionally. Autocorrelation and heteroskedasticity produce bias in standard error estimates, so lead to incorrect statistical inferences. To deal with these problems, fixed effect model and random effect model can be used (Gujarati, 2003); result of Hausman test will be considered in selection of these models which can solve autocorrelation and heteroskedasticity problems.

Fixed effect model assumes that independent variable and error term is correlated, while random effect model assumes that error term is independently and identically distributed. Random effect model does not need to use dummy variable in the model, so provides greater degree of freedom. However, there could be bias in estimation if correlation between fixed effect and independent variable exists. Therefore, appropriate model has to be decided based on Hausman test. If the null hypothesis that there is no correlation between independent variable and error term is rejected through Hausman test, fixed effect model is more appropriate. Random effect model can be used when the null hypothesis is not rejected, which means that there is no such correlation.

The core difference between fixed and random effect models lies in the role of dummies. If dummies are considered as a part of the intercept, this is a fixed effect model. In a random effect model, the dummies act as an error term.

The fixed effect model examines group differences in intercepts, assuming the same slopes and constant variance across groups. Fixed effect models use least squares dummy variable (LSDV), within effect, and between effect estimation methods. Thus, ordinary least squares (OLS) regressions with dummies, in fact, are fixed effect models.

The random effect model, by contrast, estimates variance components for groups and

error, assuming the same intercept and slopes. The difference among groups (or time periods) lies in the variance of the error term. This model is estimated by generalized least squares (GLS) when the Ω matrix, a variance structure among groups, is known. The feasible generalized least squares (FGLS) method is used to estimate the variance structure when Ω is not known. There are various estimation methods for FGLS including maximum likelihood methods and simulations (Baltagi and Chang, 1994).

Fixed effects are tested by the incremental F test, while random effects are examined by the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test (Breusch and Pagan, 1980). If the null hypothesis is not rejected, the pooled OLS regression is favored. The Hausman specification test (Hausman, 1978) compares fixed effect and random effect models. Table 1 compares the fixed effect and random effect models.

Table 1 Differences between Fixed Effect and Random Effect Models

	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Functional Form	$y_{it} = (a + \mu_i) + X_{it}\beta_k + v_{it}$	$y_{it} = a + X_{it}\beta_k + (\mu_i + v_{it})$
Intercepts	Varying across groups and/or times	Constant
Error Variances	Constant	Varying across groups and/or times
Slopes	Constant	Constant
Estimation	LSDV, within effect, between effect	GLS, FGLS
Hypothesis Test	Incremental F test	Breusch-Pagan LM test

Notes: v_{it} is independent and identically distributed with zero means.

There are some missing observations in the data, thus we used method of Wansbeek

and Kapteyn (1989), which has been being widely used in estimation of the error-components model with unbalanced data.

There are controversies on a reverse direction of causal relation between social spending and country's competitiveness. For example, we can imagine that countries with a high level of economic growth can create extra income which, in turn, leads to a higher demand for social spending, resulting in more generous social services. However, De Grauwe and Polan (2005) investigated this reverse causality from competitiveness to social spending, and found that this relationship is weak. In fact, more researches have to be done to test the causality if someone wants to be able to say that country's competitiveness or level of economic growth can significantly affect social spending. Therefore, we do not consider the reverse causality in the model, although we know and acknowledge the potential risk of different causal relation.

2. Variables and Dataset

The independent variable, social spending, will be measured by the average rate of central government's expenditure on social protection, health, and education to GDP. The reason that we used the average of these three items as one variable instead of testing the effect of social protection, health, and education spending independently is that spending on these items can be overlapped considerably and can also be correlated, which can lead bias in the model itself or in the interpretation of the results. The dependent variable, economic growth, will be measured by the annual GDP growth rate of the countries. Social spending data, the average rate of the central government's

expenditure on social protection, health, and education to GDP, is from the International Monetary Foundation's Government Finance Statistics.

Each country's annual GDP growth rate is chosen as a dependent variable and the GDP growth rate data that this study will use is from the World Development Indicator by the World Bank.

Control variables include population growth rate, inflation rate, and tax rate. These control variables were identified in the previous growth studies such as Easterly and Rebel (1993), Davoodi and Zou (1998), and Andres and Hernando (1997). The population growth rate, inflation rate, and Tax rate that this study uses are from the World Development Indicator.

The data of this study includes 85 countries with annual observations from 1990 to 2007 which is sufficient for the time-series cross-sectional regression. In order to analyze the differences stemming from social, economic, and institutional situations of the countries, the 85 countries are categorized into three groups; developing countries, semi-developed countries and developed countries. The GFS social spending data were collected on two accounting bases, cash basis and accrual basis, and some countries data were reported on both basis. If we aggregate data without considering these two different accounting bases, it can create some bias in cross-sectional dimension, therefore, we separated country groups by each basis. However, due to the reduced sample size, caused by this separation, there is a possibility of wrong explanation of estimated results of regression in the groups with small sample size. To avoid this problem, we did a regression not only with the data of each basis but also with the aggregated data by combining cash basis data and accrual basis data, while acknowledging possible bias.

Table 2 List of the Countries in the Sample

Category	WB Definition	Accounting	Country Name
Developing Countries	Low-income	Cash Basis	Bangladesh, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan
		Accrual Basis	Madagascar
	Lower-middle-income	Cash Basis	Albania, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cameroon, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lesotho, Maldives, Moldova, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu (18)
		Accrual Basis	Bolivia, El Salvador, Thailand
Developed Countries	High-income OECD	Cash Basis	Canada, Czech Republic, (Denmark), (Germany), (Hungary), (Ireland), Japan, Korea, (Netherlands), (Spain), (Sweden), Switzerland, United Kingdom, (United States)
		Accrual Basis	Australia, Austria, Belgium, (Denmark), Finland, France, (Germany), (Hungary), Iceland, (Ireland), Italy, Luxembourg, (Netherlands), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, (Spain), (Sweden), (United States)
Semi-developed Countries	Upper-middle-income	Cash Basis	Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, (Chile), Croatia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Russia, Seychelles, Venezuela
		Accrual Basis	(Chile), Argentina, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, South Africa
	High-income Non-OECD	Cash Basis	Bahrain, (Estonia), (Malta), Kuwait, Singapore, Slovenia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates
		Accrual Basis	Cyprus, (Estonia), Israel, (Malta)

Notes: Countries with the data collected on both cash and accrual basis are on parenthesis

The criterion of this country classification is based on World Bank's Income group definition and OECD membership. World Bank divides economies according to 2007 GNI per capita calculated World Bank Atlas method. The groups are low income with \$935 or less; lower middle income, \$936-\$3705; upper middle income, \$3706-\$11455; and high income, \$11,456 or more. The sample includes the countries in East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and OECD members; therefore, it seems that there is little possibility of selection bias. Characteristics of the data used are

summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary Statistics

	Variable	Mean	Std. dev.	Max	Min
Developing Countries (Cash Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.17	6.21	23.53	-30.90
	Social Spending (%)	3.50	2.31	14.22	0.002
	Population Growth Rate (%)	1.15	1.26	3.83	-5.81
	Inflation Rate (%)	152.07	1197.9	26762.02	-2.87
	Tax Rate (%)	23.03	10.30	57.20	2.99
Developing Countries (Accrual Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	4.04	2.10	9.19	1.14
	Social Spending (%)	4.26	4.00	10.31	-12.67
	Population Growth Rate (%)	6.78	6.42	30.55	-0.92
	Inflation Rate (%)	0.81	1.06	2.89	-1.49
	Tax Rate (%)	22.47	6.15	32.95	7.99
Developed Countries (Cash Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.49	3.70	33.99	-2.39
	Social Spending (%)	6.26	4.76	23.36	0.91
	Population Growth Rate (%)	1.08	3.48	8.38	-44.40
	Inflation Rate (%)	2.30	4.17	24.47	-17.14
	Tax Rate (%)	29.32	9.07	58.71	8.37
Developed Countries (Accrual Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	7.77	1.97	11.73	3.77
	Social Spending (%)	2.74	1.73	8.44	-0.18
	Population Growth Rate (%)	2.57	2.15	15.65	-1.77
	Inflation Rate (%)	0.60	0.47	2.20	-0.11
	Tax Rate (%)	36.90	6.88	50.41	17.49
Semi-Developed Countries (Cash Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	4.69	3.24	14.43	-6.85
	Social Spending (%)	3.39	2.16	7.60	0.87
	Population Growth Rate (%)	0.75	1.07	3.45	-1.50
	Inflation Rate (%)	6.68	7.68	37.08	-7.05
	Tax Rate (%)	29.57	7.34	42.61	15.90
Semi-Developed Countries (Accrual Basis)	GDP Growth Rate (%)	6.04	2.04	9.05	3.04
	Social Spending (%)	4.00	2.59	10.47	-0.94
	Population Growth Rate (%)	3.38	1.82	8.45	-0.30
	Inflation Rate (%)	0.89	0.89	2.64	-0.40
	Tax Rate (%)	35.24	4.38	41.92	25.67

V. FINIDNGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Developing Countries

Results of the relationship between social spending and growth in developing countries, which are the cash and accrual basis combined, are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Result of Developing Country (Cash and Accrual Basis Combined)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	4.5802*** (0.9304)	6.6940* (3.5763)	2.5379 (1.8262)
Social Spending	-0.3388** (0.1668)	1.6356*** (0.4038)	0.7153** (0.2838)
Population Growth Rate	-0.3811 (0.2771)	0.8528 (0.5274)	0.4409 (0.4273)
Inflation Rate	-0.0003* (0.00018)	-0.0001 (0.0001)	-0.0002 (0.0001)
Tax Rate	0.0641 (0.0450)	-0.2325** (0.1154)	-0.0775 (0.0784)
R-Square	0.0429	0.4339	0.0337
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=2.62 (<.0356)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=2.98 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=17.42 (<.0016)
Number of Countries	29	29	29

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

Hausman test rejects the null hypothesis that there is no correlation between independent variable and error term, with *m* value of 11.91. This means that the estimated coefficients in the random effect model could be biased due to the correlations.

In the fixed effect model, the result of F test for no fixed effect shows that the null hypothesis, which is that there are no fixed effects, is rejected with 2.98 F value, meaning that the pooled OLS model could be also biased because of the existing fixed effects. As a result, the fixed effect model, which is in the second column of the table below, was proved to be appropriate in this regression.

The primary finding in the results is that the estimated coefficient on social spending is positive and statistically significant at 0.01 significant levels. This finding provides evidence that social spending in developing countries can positively contribute to economic growth; it is not consistent with the neo-liberal economic theory. Concerning other variables, tax rate is negatively related to economic growth at 0.05 level.

Table 5 reports the result of the regression in developing countries with cash basis data. Hausman test for random effects shows, with the 16.24 m value, that independent variable and error term are not uncorrelated, meaning that random effect model could be biased. F Test for no fixed effects reject the null hypothesis that there are no fixed effects, therefore, we have to choose fix effect model in estimation, which is in the second column of the table.

The estimated coefficient on social spending is positive and significant at 0.01 levels. This positive relationship is consistent with the result of cash and accrual basis data combined. Tax rate also shows negative relationship in cash basis data of developing countries at 0.1 level.

Table 5 Result of Developing Country (Cash Basis)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	4.6995*** (0.9487)	0.3124 (3.3435)	3.0964 (1.9424)
Social Spending	-0.3191* (0.1711)	1.6131*** (0.3903)	0.8117*** (0.2900)
Population Growth Rate	-0.3380 (0.2861)	0.8437 (0.5163)	0.5236 (0.4328)
Inflation Rate	-0.0003** (0.00018)	-0.0001 (0.000179)	-0.0002 (0.000172)
Tax Rate	0.0542 (0.0462)	-0.1933* (0.1020)	-0.1174 (0.0807)
R-Square	0.0414	0.3843	0.0443
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=2.34 (<.0558)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=4.48 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=16.24 (<.0027)
Number of Countries	25	25	25

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

Regression results of developing countries data with accrual basis are displayed in Table 6. Null hypothesis of no random effect is rejected by Hausman test, but *F* value of the test for no fixed effect is not high enough to reject the null hypothesis.

However, we have to consider that the number of countries in this accrual basis data of developing countries is just four which is very small, although panel data requires less units in statistical estimation than those of only cross sectional data. In all regressions of the other subsets in this study never show that the fixed effect model is inappropriate, meaning that we can hardly believe this results of *F* test in very small number of sample. Therefore, the results of this regression on accrual basis can be

incorrect due to the small sample, and are not meaningful.

Table 6 Result of Developing Country (Accrual Basis)

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate		
	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	-15.9047* (8.4045)	-19.2809 (39.6713)	-15.9047* (8.4046)
Social Spending	-3.1035** (1.2916)	3.6014 (3.3854)	-3.1035** (1.2916)
Population Growth Rate	5.8721** (2.3863)	-18.9862 (32.2857)	5.8720** (2.3864)
Inflation Rate	-0.8542*** (0.2699)	-0.9649** (0.2988)	-0.8542*** (0.2699)
Tax Rate	1.3957** (0.48234)	1.6279 (0.8643)	1.3957** (0.4823)
R-Square	0.5648	0.7217	0.5648
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=3.89 (<.0298)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=1.69 (<.2378)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=5.14 (<.2735)
Number of Countries	4	4	4

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

In these regressions in developing countries, we can conclude that social spending, overall, has positive relationship with growth in developing countries. That is, this finding can provide evidence that social spending is instrumental in economic growth in developing countries, which was partly examined in the study by Baldacci et al (2004); however, this result shows direct positive relationship unlike the indirect impact tested by Baldacci et al (2004).

2. Developed Countries

Regression results in developed countries, cash and accrual basis data combined, are presented in Table 7. The Hausman test for random effect Results test shows that there is correlation between independent variable and error term, with m value of 5.90, which means that the random effect model could be biased. The result of F test for no fixed effect in the second column shows that the null hypothesis is rejected with 5.34 F value, meaning that the existing fixed effects could make the pooled OLS biased. Therefore, the fixed effect model in the second column of the table below is appropriate in estimation.

Table 7 Result of Developed Country (Cash and Accrual Basis Combined)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	3.0219*** (0.8433)	3.5934 (2.4631)	3.7710** (1.6467)
Social Spending	-0.1521** (0.0735)	-0.4506** (0.2084)	-0.1793* (0.1077)
Population Growth Rate	0.3575 (0.3882)	0.1343 (0.6259)	0.1960 (0.5139)
Inflation Rate	0.0625 (0.0498)	-0.0766 (0.0554)	-0.0545 (0.0509)
Tax Rate	0.0215 (0.0282)	-0.0427 (0.0923)	0.0233 (0.0509)
R-Square	0.0494	0.4774	0.0192
Model Test	F Value=2.44 (<.0481)	F Test for No Fixed Effects F Value=5.34 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects m Value=5.90 (<.2066)
Number of Countries	26	26	26

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

A statistically significant negative relationship between social spending and economic growth is observed in the cash basis developed countries data at 0.05 level. This result of negative relationship is a contrast to the results of developing countries.

Results of the regression in the cash basis data are reported in Table 8. Hausman test rejects null hypothesis of uncorrelated error term, with m Value of 4.33, and F test for no fixed effect presents that there are fixed effects. Therefore, the regression result of fixed effect model, which is in the second column of the table below, is favored. In the results above, social spending shows no significant but negative coefficient.

Table 8 Result of Developed Country (Cash Basis)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	-1.3984 (1.95885)	4.1344 (4.0706)	4.0298 (3.2658)
Social Spending	-0.2454** (0.1057)	-0.5621 (0.5466)	-0.1664 (0.1982)
Population Growth Rate	2.1370** (0.9490)	0.6706 (1.4711)	0.6133 (1.3007)
Inflation Rate	0.0244 (0.0748)	-0.1140 (0.0917)	-0.0749 (0.0846)
Tax Rate	0.1791** (0.0697)	-0.0754 (0.1748)	0.0167 (0.1086)
R-Square	0.1086	0.4800	0.0198
Model Test	F Value=2.53 (<.0466)	F Test for No Fixed Effects F Value=3.84 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects m Value=4.33 (<.3627)
Number of Countries	14	14	14

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

Regression result of developed countries that accrual basis data are displayed in Table 9. Hausman test for random effects rejects the null hypothesis that independent variable and error term are uncorrelated, with m value of 7.51. This shows that the estimation of the random effect model could be biased due to the correlations. The result of F test for no fixed effect presents that the null hypothesis, which is that there are no fixed effects, is rejected with 7.00 F value. This means that the pooled OLS model could be also biased because of the fixed effects. As a result, the fixed effect model, shown in the second column of the table below, was proved to be appropriate in the estimation of this regression.

Table 9 Result of Developed Country (Accrual Basis)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	2.7993*** (0.9774)	4.9735** (2.0681)	5.4252*** (1.6408)
Social Spending	-0.1185 (0.1031)	-1.1133*** (0.2237)	-0.4255*** (0.1578)
Population Growth Rate	0.4462 (0.3237)	-1.1988** (0.5560)	-0.1317 (0.4068)
Inflation Rate	0.1047 (0.0728)	-0.0526 (0.0697)	-0.0376 (0.0553)
Tax Rate	0.0114 (0.0303)	0.1778* (0.0908)	0.0318 (0.0482)
R-Square	0.0695	0.5588	0.0575
Model Test	F Value=2.60 (<.0390)	F Test for No Fixed Effects F Value=7.00 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects m Value=7.51 (<.1113)
Number of Countries	20	20	20

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

In the regression results above, social spending is negatively associated with growth rate at 0.01 significant level, and this negative relationship is consistent with which is consistent with the result of cash accrual basis combined data. Population growth rate also shows negative relationship with growth rate at 0.05 level, while tax rate is positively related to growth at 0.1 level.

3. Semi-Developed Countries

Results of relationship between spending and growth in semi-developed countries, which are the cash and accrual basis data combined, are presented in Table 10. Hausman test shows that independent variable and error term is not uncorrelated, with m value of 6.77. Therefore, the random effect model could be biased due to the correlations. The result of F test for no fixed effect shows 2.14 of F value, and this value is enough to reject the null hypothesis that there are no fixed effects. Consequently, fixed effect model is found to be appropriate.

Social spending shows statistically significant and negative relationship in the regression results at 0.05 level. Regarding other variables, inflation rate is negatively associated with growth at 0.01, while tax rate is positively related at 0.05 level.

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Table 10 Result of Semi-Developed Country (Cash and Accrual Basis Combined)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	7.0407*** (1.0309)	-4.8426* (2.8959)	5.5443*** (1.6489)
Social Spending	-0.1565 (0.1903)	-1.0367** (0.4971)	-0.2413 (0.2621)
Population Growth Rate	0.1137 (0.2035)	0.4937 (0.4148)	0.2141 (0.2758)
Inflation Rate	-0.0051*** (0.0008)	-0.0065*** (0.0011)	-0.0055*** (0.0009)
Tax Rate	-0.0598 (0.0405)	0.2599** (0.1004)	-0.0020 (0.0586)
R-Square	0.1514	0.3412	0.1227
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=10.93 (<.0001)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=2.14 (<.0011)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=6.77 (<.1485)
Number of Countries	30	30	30

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

Results of the regression in the cash basis data are reported in Table 11. Hausman test rejects null hypothesis of no random effect with *m* Value of 4.84, and *F* test for no fixed effect presents that there are fixed effects. Therefore, we can choose the regression results of fix effect model, which is in the second column of the table below, as an appropriate estimation.

Social spending in cash basis data of semi-developed countries presents insignificant relationship with growth rate, and this result of no relationship is different from cash and accrual basis combined data of developing countries which shows negative relationship. Inflation rate is negatively associated with growth at 0.01 level.

Table 11 Result of Semi-Developed Country (Cash Basis)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	6.9837*** (1.1572)	2.3992 (4.6774)	5.6548 (1.7303)
Social Spending	-0.2032 (0.2457)	-0.7559 (0.5376)	-0.2875 (0.3167)
Population Growth Rate	0.2041 (0.2272)	0.7900* (0.4527)	0.2439 (0.2924)
Inflation Rate	-0.0050*** (0.0009)	-0.0058*** (0.0012)	-0.0055*** (0.0010)
Tax Rate	-0.0578 (0.0463)	0.1437 (0.1160)	0.0011 (0.0622)
R-Square	0.1711	0.4398	0.1386
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=10.42 (<.0001)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=2.07 (<.0009)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=4.84 (<.3036)
Number of Countries	23	23	23

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

Regression results of semi-developed countries data with accrual basis are displayed in Table 12. Null hypothesis of no random effect is rejected by Hausman test, and *F* test for no fixed effect presents that there are fixed effects. Therefore, the result of fix effect model in the second column of the table below is chosen as an appropriate estimation.

In the result of semi-developed countries with accrual basis data, there is a statistically significant relationship between social spending and growth rate at 0.01 level. Regarding other variables, inflation rate is negatively related at 0.01 level, while tax rate shows positive coefficient at 0.05 level.

Table 12 Result of Semi-Developed Country (Accrual Basis)

Dependent Variable: GDP Growth Rate			
Independent Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Effect Model
Constant	9.6587*** (2.5765)	-4.2226 (5.9815)	8.1463 (5.9506)
Social Spending	-0.2230 (0.2248)	-3.9798*** (1.0714)	-1.8475** (0.7485)
Population Growth Rate	-1.3205*** (0.4903)	0.0268 (1.1077)	-0.8392 (0.9602)
Inflation Rate	-0.2526*** (0.0836)	-0.5352*** (0.0958)	-0.4611*** (0.0932)
Tax Rate	-0.0588 (0.0839)	0.6011** (0.2300)	0.2796 (0.1920)
R-Square	0.2606	0.6787	0.3760
Model Test	<i>F</i> Value=4.32 (<0.0045)	<i>F</i> Test for No Fixed Effects <i>F</i> Value=5.78 (<.0001)	Hausman Test for Random Effects <i>m</i> Value=2.79 (<0.5928)
Number of Countries	10	10	10

Notes: Statistically significant at * the 0.1 level, ** the 0.05 level, *** the 0.01 level. Figures on parenthesis are standard errors.

4. Discussion

Gershenkron (1962) argued that different institutions were likely to be developed by late industrializers in order to exploit their lateness or to catch up. In other words, the much more active role of state can be played in the pioneer countries. Mkandawire (2001) suggested that among the institutions adapted by such late industrializers were those dealing with social policy, although it has rarely been explicitly theorized. Pierson (1998) notes that “late starters” have tended to develop welfare state institutions earlier in their own individual development and under more comprehensive terms of coverage

after 1923 except for the United States. That is, social policy served not only to ensure national cohesion, which is often asserted of Bismarck's welfare legislation, but also to develop human capital that facilitated industrialization.

Further, Developmental Welfare theory is challenging the neo-liberal views on social policy. The argument supporting the social policy is not defensive at all; it rather insists that economic growth will be impeded if the social policy is retrenched (Midgley and Tang, 2001). For example, Hall and Midgley (2004) insisted that important goal of social policy is economic development and that social policy is what the government should actively involve for economic development. Midgley (1995) defines social development as "a process of planned social change designed to promote the well-being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development." Midgley and Tang (2001) pointed out that social expenditures in the form of social investments do not detract from but contribute positively to economic development.

In developing countries, there could be a situation that potential productive labor forces in developing countries are not able to efficiently work or do some business, because they have some health problems or are not well educated. In turn, productivity is likely to be low due to the poor use of assets and less efficiency, and economic growth, as a result, is becoming less competitive than they would have been otherwise (DFID, 2006). Social spending can improve health and education condition, and offer more productive workforce. Social spending in developing country also can protect assets that help people earn an income, encourage risk taking, and promote participation in the labor market (DFID, 2006).

The regression results of this study can suggest that assumption of a tradeoff

between efficiency and equity could be not well applied in the developing countries. Birdsall et al (1995) suggested that policies in East Asian countries which reduced poverty and income inequality, such as emphasizing high-quality basic education and augmenting labor demand, help stimulate economic growth in their developing period.

Furthermore, Rodrick (1999) argues that many countries' experiences of a growth collapse since the mid-1970s can be explained by domestic social conflicts. He showed that divided societies (as measured by indicators of inequality, ethnic fragmentation, and the like) and weak institutions of conflict management are the characteristics of the countries who experienced the sharpest drops in growth after 1975 (Rodrick, 1999). Persson and Tabellini (1994) also suggested that there is a significant and large negative relation between inequality and growth using historical panel data and postwar cross sections.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study examined the relationship between social spending and economic growth, drawing a comparison between the result of developing countries and that of developed (or OECD member) and semi-developed countries.

We found that estimated coefficient on social spending is positive and statistically significant in the sample of developing countries. This result is a contrast with neo-liberal economic theory. On the other hand, a significant negative relationship between social spending and economic growth is observed in the sample of developed countries.

Lastly, the results of the regression in the sample of semi-developed countries show that there is statistically significant and negative relationship, although there is also insignificant negative coefficient in one regression of cash basis data.

This finding can imply that that assumption of a tradeoff between efficiency and equity could be not well applied in the developing countries. Therefore, we have to consider not only what to do but also where to do, when we discuss the social spending effect and give policy advises to developing countries.

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국문 초록

사회지출과 경제 성장의 관계에 관한 실증연구

-개발도상국과 OECD국가 비교-

사회지출과 경제성장과의 관계에 관한 실증적인 연구는 그동안 OECD국가들을 대상으로 한 것이 대부분이었다. 즉, 사회지출이 경제성장에 미치는 영향에 대해서 개발도상국을 대상으로 한 연구나, 개발도상국과 OECD국가를 비교한 연구는 거의 없었다. 그러나 개발도상국은 사회적, 경제적, 그리고 제도적 환경에 있어 OECD국가와는 매우 다르며, 이것은 같은 내용의 정책이나 공공지출일지라도 전혀 다른 결과를 가져올 가능성이 많다는 것을 의미한다.

따라서 본 연구는 선진국, 중진국, 개발도상국으로 나누어 각각의 국가군에서 사회지출과 경제성장과의 관계를 통계적으로 검증하는 시도를 하였다. IMF의 Government Finance Statistics의 1990년부터 2007년까지 85개국의 패널 데이터를 활용하였고, error component 모형으로 time series cross section 회귀 분석을 하였다.

그 결과 개발도상국 표본에서는 사회지출과 경제성장이 양의 상관관계를 갖는 것으로 나온 반면, 선진국에서는 음의 상관관계는 갖는 것으로 나왔다. 본 연구의 이러한 결과는 효율성과 평등이 동시에 충족될 수 없다는 신자유주의적 이론이 개발도상국에서는 잘 적용되지 않을 수 있다는 것을 의미한다. 그러므로 개발도상국의 사회정책이나 개발 프로그램을 실행함에 있어 "무엇"을 할지와 더불어 "어디"에 "언제" 할 것인지 고려하는 것이 함께 필요하다는 함의를 이 연구를 통해 얻을 수 있다고 할 수 있다.