

# POVERTY-GROWTH AND SOCIAL POLICIES: THE ANALYSIS OF IMMISERIZING GROWTH HYPOTHESIS ON TURKEY

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## ABSTRACT

The problem of poverty defined as the situation of not having the adequate income to meet the daily basic needs such as food, drink, shelter and clothing, is a major socio-economic problem to be solved by economic growth and social policy. The study, approaches the problem of poverty in the macro-economic perspective and first examines it in the conceptual framework, then analyses the immiserizing growth hypothesis through Turkey with monthly data covering the 2010: 01 – 2016: 03 period. In the analysis, the terms of trade and industrial production index data were used as fundamental variables and Engle-Granger Cointegration Test and Granger causality analysis were performed. For the stationarity of the data, ADF and PP tests were applied and it was found to be stationary at the level of I(1). According to the results obtained, both linear and non-linear a long-term relationship between the terms of trade and industrial production index was not found, so it was concluded that the immiserizing growth hypothesis is not valid for Turkey. The results of the analysis of causality a bidirectional causality relationship was identified between variables at 0,05 significance level

**Key Words:** Poverty, Social Work, Immiserizing Growth

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## 1. Introduction

Economic growth is increasing the production capacity of economy, and accordingly it means producing more goods and services. Production capacity of the economy increases and the opportunity to produce more goods and services comes out in time as a result of the increases in the production factors of the country as well as technological advancements (Ertek, 2008: 27). This increase in the production has positive impacts on many macro-economic factors. Investments increase with the production increase, and this leads a decline in unemployment. The decline in unemployment and the increase in the production positively affect the national income by increasing the income level. However, there is a theory called as “immiserizing growth” in the economics literature, and it claims that benefits of the export would be less due to the decline in prices because of the increase in the production.

Economic growth may cause the deterioration of international terms of trade under certain circumstances. National economy will be damaged, if the loss as a result of this deterioration is greater than the yield of the economic growth. However, for this to happen, economy of the country should be big enough to influence the world economy. Unfavorable international terms of trade of the country due to the increase in production leads to impoverishment. Especially developing countries, which adopt the principle of welfare state, such as Turkey try to adjust this situation by social policies. Policies to reduce inequalities in income distribution, social welfares to low-income families, and socio-economic recoveries in such areas as education and health reduce poverty. Also, the negative impact of the current increase in production on the international terms of trade can be reduced in the long run as a result of the development of the national economy through development policies.

The concept of immiserizing growth can be compared to the inability of the increase of agricultural products providing the expected increase in the farmers' income, which is also known as Cobweb Theory and King Law in economics. Decline in prices as a result of production of agricultural products more than expected and the resulting abundance may cause producers in the agriculture sector to experience a revenue loss. Accordingly, overproduction may impoverish the producers as it causes a decline in income.

Within this context, this study will primarily focus on the poverty, growth, social policy/social work concepts, and it will examine the relationship among them within a theoretical framework. Then, immiserizing theory will be analyzed by using the monthly data covering 01/2010 –03/2016 period in Turkey through co-integration test and causality analyses.

## **2. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

Poverty has been one of the most important problems for many years. Unfortunately, it is still one of the most crucial socio-economic problems in today's world. Although poverty is thought to be a problem of underdeveloped countries, it is also among the priority burning issues of developed countries. Only the extent of poverty differs in developed or developing countries. It is a known fact that poverty issue is not a one-dimensional, but a multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary phenomenon. In other words, poverty is a complex phenomenon that cannot be examined by a single academic discipline. Therefore, it can have very different definitions.

Generally, poverty is defined as inability of people to meet their basic needs. When we speak of poverty, hunger and malnutrition often come to our minds. However, people have much more humanitarian needs other than eating their fill. Upon examining the last century, it is seen that people who cannot meet their basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing were considered as poor. On the other hand, it is an undeniable fact that not only physical needs but also education, health, and social & cultural activities are crucially important in today's world. Accordingly, people whose these needs cannot be met adequately are called 'poor'. Thus, when we speak of poverty problem we mean whether or not individuals' humanitarian needs are met. As it can be seen from the definitions above, there are different types and levels of poverty in today's world, but all definitions of poverty are associated to the definitions of absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty basically means the status of the inability of people to access to the basic needs that are necessary to meet in order to survive. On the basis of these needs, there are also food needs of individuals (Kale, 2007: 4). Relative poverty, on the other hand, is a status resulting from one's comparing his standard of living with an income group, which is higher than one's own. People living in relative poverty can meet their basic absolute needs, but they are under the general welfare level of the society and deterred from social participation in the community. Relative poverty considers poverty as an inequality phenomenon by looking at human as a social being. Therefore, there will always be poor people in the

society as for the relative poverty that is directly associated with the distribution of income, even though nobody is poor according to the absolute poverty concept (Şenses, 2006: 91-92).

There may be various reasons for poverty. Broadly, poverty results from poor management of the economy, a change from the demographic structure, disintegration of conventional structures, economic crises, poor operation of social security system, the impact of the international financial capital on the country, increasing movement of migration, inflation & unemployment, monopolization, high interest rates, and natural disasters.

## **2.1. The Relationship of Poverty- Social Work**

People previously lived as hunter and collector tribes, in which they hunted animals and collected plants, and then they started to domesticate animals and to do agriculture by imitating the nature. In this way, people continued their lives by creating a society type called agricultural society. In agricultural and livestock societies, mankind began to create new relations of production as a result of the cultivation of the soil. Since the beginning of the mankind's engagement in the production relations, the poor and poverty have always continued their existence visibly. Even though it is a phenomenon which exists since the day on which people began to live together, poverty –especially in developed countries - has begun to be discussed with the increasing unemployment due to various reasons such as deceleration in the economic growth rate, and market oriented communities (Oktik, 2008: 21).

People tried to help poor people through traditional and religious approaches before capitalism, and they relatively succeeded. However, poverty began to increase in cities with the mechanization and migration to cities. Traditional cooperation methods became insufficient as poverty became a massive problem. In this setting, social workers mobilized to resolve not only poverty but also other many problems in the society, because nature of this job is to solve problems. It is known that the occupation of social service comes up with the process of social welfare to the poor. This occupation is at the center of the occupations trying to reduce poverty and poor people. Social work aims to prevent malfunctions by developing human potential enough to enrich one's life. Social workers investigating the relationship of people with their environment interfere in the negative points by using scientific methods in order to solve problems people encounter, and they aim to contribute to developing individuals. Social workers take care of all risk groups, notably the poor, in the society. They strive for supporting and strengthening individuals having economic and psycho-social needs in order for these individuals to become functional members of the society. With a simplest explanation, social work is an activity of a possible mature human consciousness, but its efficiency has decreased from time to time. Still, social work discipline has managed to maintain its existential necessity in any place where there are people and in any field that requires human and community knowledge (Şeker, 2004: 32).

Social service is at the center of the professions always aiming at reducing the poor and poverty. Social service tries to reduce poverty for two main reasons. First reason is that poverty is an obstacle for a fair community discourse. In other words, we cannot talk about equality in a community with poor people. Secondly, poverty seems to be the main underlying reason for many problems (Ceylan, 2016).

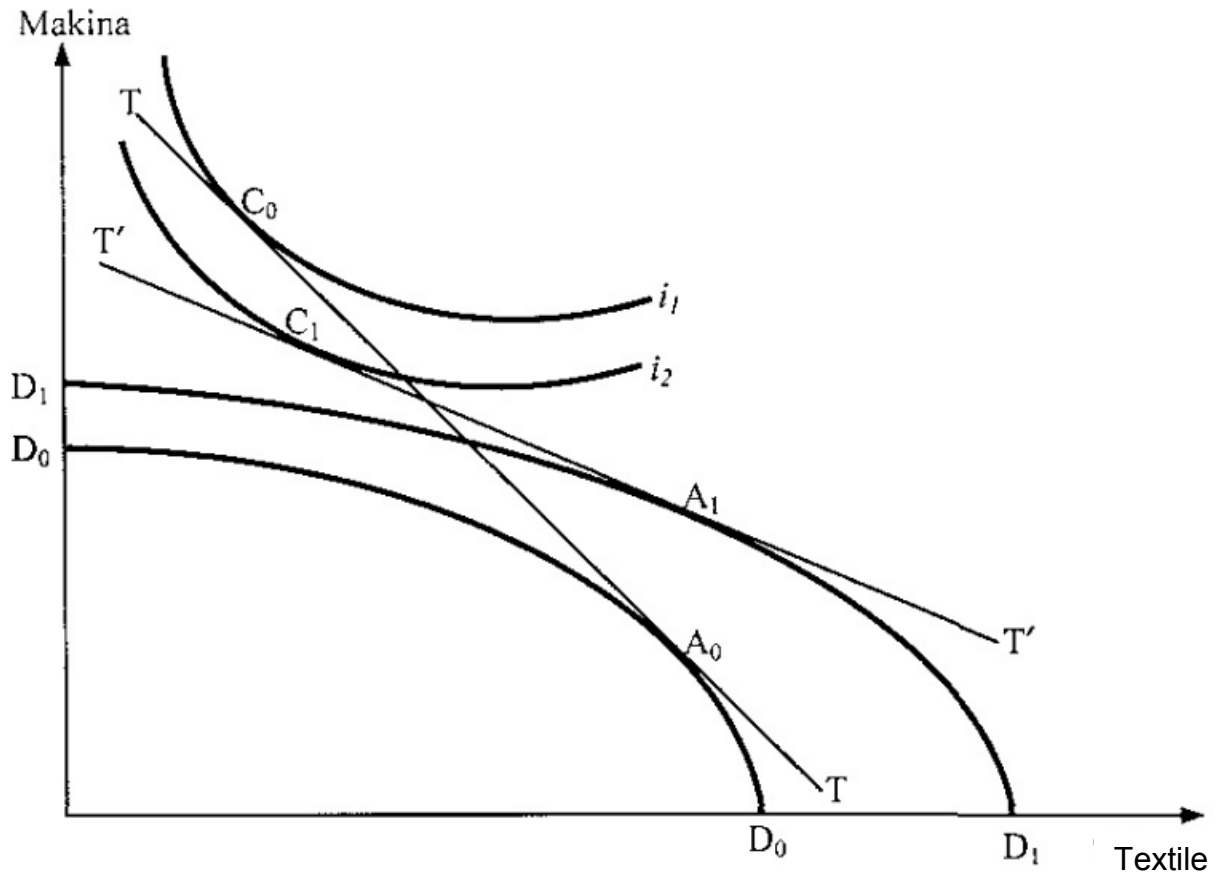
## 2.2. Immiserizing Growth

Many economists argue that there is a strong relationship between liberalization of foreign trade and economic growth. On the other hand, some argue that the economic growth in relatively poor countries will actually result against them. Additionally, they also claim that international terms of trade of developing countries who prefer export-oriented growth may get a worse situation than they used to be. This situation is known as *immiserizing growth* among economists (Krugman and Obstfeld, 1997: 12). Indian economist Jagdish Bhagwati explains the conditions in which growth would lead to impoverishment and calls this kind of growth as immiserizing growth in his article (Seyidoğlu, 2001: 108). An economic growth which will take place with the increase in production will positively affect the welfare, but negative effect of this increase on international terms of trade will also reduce the welfare. In the immiserizing growth theory, a country is believed to have an economically poorer condition with the net effect of the growth on the country welfare as a result of these two opposite effects.

Immiserizing growth theory can be expressed more clearly with the Table below. According to the graphic, the country initially redresses the balance of free trade with  $A_0$  production and  $C_0$  consumption points. Initial international terms of trade are represented with  $TT$ , and the country's welfare is at the level represented with  $i_1$ . In the latter case, if we assume that an extreme trade-booster growth emerges, production possibilities curve expands outwardly on the horizontal axis by leading to a high increase in textile production. Accordingly, the desire of the country to export more textiles and import machines in return turns terms of trade severely against the country.  $T'T'$  is the new terms of trade according to the graphics. Deterioration in terms of trade is so severe that welfare loss is much greater than the increased prosperity provided by the production expansion. Namely, the country became impoverished despite of the growth. The fact that indifference curve  $i_2$ , which is tangent to new terms of trade line  $T'T'$ , is lower than  $i_1$  in the graphics represents this situation more clearly (Seyidoğlu, 2001: 108-109).

Figure 1: Immiserizing Growth

Machine



Source: Seyidoğlu, 2001: 109

### 3.Literature Review

Edgeworth is the first economist to say growth would lead to impoverishment by examining through international terms of trade. In 1958, Bhagwati developed the theoretical foundations of immiserizing growth, and he empirically revealed negative impacts of foreign trade on international terms of trade, which was originally suggested by Edgeworth(Erk, Ateş and Direkçi, 1999: 2). Following this, Johnson (1967) revealed that increase in the international terms of trade have a negative effect on economic growth in his study. In the following years, Bhagwati showed that immiserizing growth is actually a result of deterioration. Accordingly, deterioration in an open economy seems possible even in the recovery environment of terms of trade.

In the literature, studies concerning the concept of immiserizing growth mainly focus on foreign trade, agriculture, tourism, and correspondingly the growth of countries with low income. Alston and Martin (1995) states in their study that technological advancements in the agricultural sector would reduce national welfare by causing a negative rate of return, and accordingly lead to immiserizing growth. Chow (1987) examined the relationship between export and domestic manufacturing industrial production through Sims causality test conducted for Argentina, Brazil, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and Singapore. Although any causal relationship between the variables could not be found for Argentina, he has found out that exportation leads to a speed-up in the manufacturing industry for Mexico and that there is a bidirectional causality relationship between variables for other

countries. Todorova (2010) showed that terms of trade would get worsened and economic development would have an impoverishing affect mainly due to economic growth period in food and raw material industry in his study conducted considering various countries and commodities. Nidugala (2000) stated that manufacturing exportation has a crucial impact on economic growth for India, while basic commodity group has no impact on the growth. Ahmad (2001) examined the causality relationship between exportation and economic growth through error correction model, Gagner causality, co-integration, VAR, action-reaction, and variance decomposition methods. Study results of him shows that export-oriented growth model is supported in both developing and developed countries. Michaely (1977), Feder (1982), and Kavoussi (1984) claimed in their study that an increase in exportation impact the growth positively by improving manufacturing technology, labor quality and competitive management structure. Bahmani-Oskooee and Domac (1995) examined the relationship between import and export of Turkey with annual data through Engle-Granger co-integration analysis. Long-term relationship between exports and imports lost its importance when raw material imports variance is extracted from the analysis. In parallel with the results, reducing the dependence on imported raw materials was suggested in order for export promotion policies to be successful. Tuncer (2002) examined the causality relationships among the variables of GDP exports, imports and investments for Turkey through VAR analyses developed by Toda and Yamamoto (1995). He detected that there is a bidirectional causality relationship between GDP and investments and between GDP and exports while there is one-way causality relationship from GDP towards imports. Ateş and Bostan (2007) conducted a study on international terms of trade on the basis of export-oriented growth policies in Turkey, and they found out that international terms of trade negatively affect economic growth and accepted the existence of immiserizing growth

#### **4. Econometric Analysis**

This section of the study includes explanations about the data set, econometric model, methodology, and analysis results.

##### **4.1. Data Set and Econometric Model**

In this study, immiserizing growth theory is tested by using the terms of trade and industrial production index data for Turkey. Monthly data covering 01/2010 – 03/2016 period are used in the analysis. Industrial production index was used instead of GSD or kbdg variables due to the monthly data, because industrial production index may directly affect GDP and kbdg as well as being the primary dynamic of growth. Additionally, we see that Chow (1987) also used industrial production index values in his analysis upon going over the studies in the literature. Data of the terms of trade and industrial production index were obtained from Turkish Statistical Institute. All data have been included in the analyses analyzed after cleaning of seasonal effects.

Main structure of the model used in the analysis is as follows:

$$S_t = a(L)S_{t-1} + b(L)(P_x/P_m) + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$S_t$ : The growth rate of the industrial production index

$P_x$ =Export Price

$P_m$ =Import Price

$a(L)$  and  $b(L)$ = Delay operators

As for the methodology of the study, first of all, stability test will be performed for the variables to be used in the analysis. If the series are found as non-stationary through these tests, they will be immobilized by taking away their differences, and then the relationship between the two variables will be tested through Engle-Granger co-integration analysis. Existence and direction of the causality between the variables will be detected by Granger Causality Analysis at the end of the analysis part. All analyses of the study will be performed via EViews 9 Package Program.

#### 4.2. Unit Root Test Results

Unit root problem should be tested in order to avoid spurious regression problem in econometric analyses. If series include any unit root, they are not stationary, and if non-stationary time series do not have a co-integration relationship, it will be wrong to talk about the existence of a significant economic relationship between these variables (Harris and Sollis, 2003: 41). It is an important condition for a variable to have a stationary variance, mean and covariance in predictions for the future, and the mentioned condition is fulfilled by immobilization of the variable (Bozkurt, 2013: 33). If series include unit root, spurious regression problem may emerge. Accordingly, economic interpretations of the estimate results of the model become meaningless even if high  $R^2$  and  $t$  statistic values are meaningful (Sevüktekin and Çınar, 2014: 324). Furthermore, the impact of the resulting shock is permanent for non-stationary variables, whereas it is temporary for stationary variables (Aydın and Şimşek, 2016:196). That is why stationarity of variables should be checked by performing unit root tests before the econometric analysis. Transforming non-stationary variables into stationary ones is significant for protection from spurious regression and obtaining meaningful economic outcome (Aydın, 2016: 100). Stationarity of international terms of trade and industrial production index data covering 01/2010 – 03/2016 was tested by using ADF (Augmented Dickey-Fuller) and PP (Philips-Perron) techniques, which are used most commonly.



**Table 1: ADF and PP Unit Root Test Results**

	Variable	ADF	PP		Variable	ADF	PP
	s				s		
Level	Constant	0,58 (11)	0,68 (17)	FirstDifference		-8.07 (11)	-8.08 (19)
		DH			DH	[0.0000]	[0.0000]
		[0.9885]	[0.9910]		*	*	
		-1,81(11)	-4,56(3)			-4,54 (11)	-36,91 (72)
		SE			SE	[0.0005]	[0.0001]
		[0.3725]	[0.0004] *		*	*	
	Constant + Trend	-1,46(11)	-1,02(24)		-8.00 (11)	-14,77 (33)	
		DH		DH	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	
		[0.8314]	[0.9335]	*	*		
		-3,63(11)	-9,45(12)		-4,71 (11)	-51,87 (72)	
		SE		SE	[0.0017]	[0.0001]	
		[0.0349]*	[0.0000] *		*	*	

**Note:** \*, \*\* and \*\*\* values represent stationary of series at %1, %5 and %10 significance levels respectively. Values in parentheses show optimum lag length in terms of Schwarz statistic information criterion for ADF, and in terms of kernel method “Barlettkernel” and bandwidth method “Newey West bandwidth” for PP. The case that lag length equals zero shows Dickey-Fuller test. Values in brackets represent probability values.

Upon analyzing the unit root test results according to the data given within Table 1, according to the results of “Lagged Dickey-Fuller” test, all variables in the model with constants and all variables – except for IPE variable-in the model with constants and trends are not stationary. When taking their first difference [I(1)], it is seen that all variables in both models become stationary. Test results of Phillips and Perron shows that variables –except for IPE variable-are not stationary in the both models with constants and models with constants and trends, but both models do not have unit root when leaving out their first difference [I(1)].



### 4.3. Co-integration Test

In econometric models, whether two or more non-stationary series act together in a long term is analyzed by using the co-integration test. The relationship between variables in long run is tested by using Engle-Granger or Johansen-Juselius (JJ) techniques, after transforming non-stationary series into stationary ones (Barışık and Demircioğlu, 2006: 76). Engle-Granger (1987) test was used in this study as it is evidential and the most frequently used co-integration test due to its simplicity of application. As known, a regression between two non-stationary first order variables is estimated in the first step of Engle-Granger test:

$$Y_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_t + u_t$$

The second step is to set up an autoregressive model, like shown below, with the residuals obtained from the regression and to examine whether the residuals are stationary or not.

$$\Delta u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + e_t$$

If we got  $\rho = 0$  here this means the residuals include unit root, and, therefore, there is not a co-integration relation between variables. Critical values that Engle-Granger (1987) got through simulations - instead of the ADF critical values - are used in order to test the stability of residuals, because  $u_t$  serial is not an observed data but a group of estimated values obtained from regression equation.

The relationship between international terms of trade and industrial production index between 01/2010 and 03/2016 were analyzed within the scope of immiserizing growth. In this context, Engle-Granger test was found applicable as the stationary level of the variables is I (1). While performing the test, first of all, the model was established by taking IPE (industrial production index) variable as the dependent variable and leaving out the constant term, and then a serial of residuals was obtained from this model. The residuals obtained were compared with the Engle-Granger Co-integration test critical values having regard to the stationarity of the serial. As it can be seen in Table 2, absolute value of the test statistic is lower than %1, %5, and %10 critical values, neither linear nor non-linear long term relationship between the terms of trade and industrial production index was found. Accordingly, it is possible to say that immiserizing growth hypothesis is not applicable for Turkey.

Table 2: Engle-Granger Cointegration Test

ADF Test statistic	Engle-Granger Cointegration Test Critical Values		
	1%	5%	10%
-1,15	4,07	3,37	3,03

#### 4.4. Causality Test

Causality test developed by Granger (1969) is among the techniques most commonly used for determining the direction of the relationship among variables.

Two equations given below are used for this test:

$$Y_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i Y_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^q \delta_i X_{t-i} + \epsilon_t \quad (1.1)$$

$$X_t = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \pi_i X_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^q \lambda_i Y_{t-i} + \mu_t \quad (1.2)$$

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  = Constant terms,

$\phi, \delta, \pi$  and  $\lambda$  = Estimated coefficient of lagged variables,

$p$  and  $q$  = Optimum lag length of X and Y series are represented in the equations.

Whether coefficients of independent variables' lagged values is zero ( $\delta_1 = \delta_2 = \dots = \delta_i = 0$  ;  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_i = 0$ ) or not is tested in the model above. In the case of a rejection of the hypothesis in the equation (1.1), it is determined that X is the Granger cause of Y. Accordingly, in the case of the rejection of the hypothesis, Y is Granger cause of X.

This study examines immiserizing growth theory through international terms of trade and industrial production index, and the results of causality analysis of these two variables is represented within the table below.

Table 3. Granger Causality Test Results

Causality Direction	Chi-sq	df	prob
DDH → DSE	18.16373	6	0.0058
DSE → DDH	12.63949	6	0.0491

As it can be understood from the results of Granger causality test, there is a bidirectional causality relationship between industrial production index and international terms of trade at 0,05 significance level.

## Conclusion and Evaluation

Solution of many macro-economic problems in the globalizing world is seen as increase in production. The increase in final goods and services produced in a country in a certain period –in other words, growth which is also known as the increase in the national income, must be production oriented in order to provide solutions to macroeconomic problems. Production- oriented growth also accelerates the solution process of the poverty problem, which is examined in detail in the study. Poverty is not only a problem of underdeveloped countries, but it is also an important issue of developing and developed countries. It differs in every country as it is resulted from environmental, political economic and social reasons.

This study, firstly, touches upon poverty, growth, social policies concepts in a theoretical framework, and it tries to find some solutions. In the analysis part, immiserizing growth hypothesis, which claims trade-enhancing growth increases poverty, was tested through Turkey by using monthly data covering 01/2010 -03/2016 period. *International terms of trade* indicating import/export price ratio and *industrial production index* from primary dynamics of the growth were used as the primary variables of the hypothesis. Engle-Granger Co-integration test was performed because it was seen that monthly data were stationary at the level of I(1). As a result of the Co-integration test, it was concluded that there is not a linear or non-linear long term relationship between the variables, and accordingly immiserizing growth hypothesis is not valid for Turkey. As a result of the causality test, a bidirectional relationship between international terms of trade and industrial production index was found. Upon comparing the analysis results with the other studies in the literature, it is seen that the results of the analysis match up with the studies of Chow (1987), Bahmani-Oskooee&Domac (1995), Nidugala (2000), and Tuncer (2002). However, the results do not support the studies of Todorova (2010), Ahmad (2001), Alston & Martin (1995), and Ateş&Bostan (2007).

Turkey's economy has foreign trade deficit for years with its foreign-dependent nature. When we analyze the general structure of exports, we see that the raw materials of them are imported. Namely, it is necessary to import to a certain extent in order to export. Turkey, governed with import substitution policies for many years, gets into competition and develops economy policies with importer growth target especially after 1980 with 24 February decisions. Developments in the foreign trade sector after 2000 led to a significant increase in the national income, and this increased the welfare of the country to some extent. Therefore, policies to strengthen foreign competition should be developed by removing the obstacles from foreign trade that triggers economic growth. In order for Turkish companies to be ahead of the global competition, innovative activities should be supported and such

units as R&D should be developed. In this way, foreign trade deficit can be narrowed down, and turkey can have a voice in the foreign market. Also, poverty problem can be solved in the long term by ensuring economic growth with an increase in production.

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