

Analysis of the Negative Impact of Economic Development Process

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Abstract

Rapid economic development is generally regarded as positive. One of the most obvious performance indicators is GDP. But GDP mainly measures market production and cannot be regarded as a measure of economic well-being. When we see GDP growth, we should not blindly rejoice, but see the hidden dangers and problems behind it. These issues mainly revolve around people's lives and affect people's level of happiness and quality of life. This essay mainly discusses the negative effects of economic development from three perspectives: regional economy, health and environment. Then this essay focus on the negative impact of the blooming E-commerce economy caused by the rapid development of the Internet in recent years.

Keywords

Economic Growth; Body Health; Environment; E-commerce Economic.

1. Introduction

Historically, economy is fundamental to a society and a country, which develops all the time. According to a study by Maddison (2001) [1], during the last one hundred years, global economic output, as measured by GDP, has increased by more than 20 times, and economic growth has been 10 times greater than population growth. Such growth, has a profound impact on people's lives, both good and bad. However, this essay will argue the negative impact of economic development on three aspects of life. The essay will firstly evaluate the negative influence of economic growth on the regional economic development, body health, and environment in order, followed by a conclusion of the analyse to status of these situations.

With the rapid development of E-commerce industry, online shopping has become a major way to meet people's shopping willingness, which has become an indispensable part of people's life. According to a study from U.S. Census Bureau (2018) [2] that, in 2017, the online retail in the US were \$448.3 billion, which is 8.8% of the total retail sales. Compared with 2012, the proportion of total retail sales increased by 3.5%. Such growth, has a profound impact on people's lives, both good and bad. However, this essay will argue the negative impact of online shopping development on two aspects of life: the environment and the real economy. The essay will evaluate the negative influence of online shopping on environment and real economy in order, followed by a conclusion of the analyse to status of these situations.

2. Main Content

2.1. Regional Economic Development

Due to some natural factors, the economy of some remote areas is far behind that of the central cities. According to Jia (2016) [3], the south-west of China, which is prone to natural disasters due to its complex geography, has lower level of economic development. In Sichuan Province,

the urbanization rate in 2015 was only 84.94 percent of the national average, which is 47.65 percent, and the per capita GDP was only 71.72 percent of the national average, which is 35,833 yuan (NBS 2016) [4]. With the rapid development of economy, the imbalance of regional economic development leads to the imbalance of public service development. As a result of the slow economic development in remote areas, the quality of educational systems and equipment varies greatly. As Démurger (2002) [5] points out, there are great differences in educational resources between east and west China, especially in the central and western regions of China, where the quality of education is low and the quantity of educational resources is insufficient. Thus, the rapid development of economy has indeed brought about the inequality of regional economic development. In order to overcome the gap between poverty and remoteness, it is necessary to strengthen the infrastructure construction and increase the supply of educational resources in backward areas.

2.2. Body Health

With the rapid development of economy, the level of people's health has been gradually declining. Due to the uneven regional economic development, more and more people choose to work in cities. As Bailey (2014) [6] pointed out that 7 out of every 10 people will live in cities, and India, China and Nigeria are expected to account for 37% of them. Among them, India will increase its urban population by 404 million, China will have 292 million, and Nigeria will have 212 million. As Vale (2017) observed, due to urbanization, people have reduced physical activity, thereby increasing the risk of contracting diseases. At the same time, not only lack of exercise, too fast city life makes people who used to live in the countryside not adapt to it, so that they have no sense of home. The physical and psychological effects make rural people living in cities in a long-term state of sub-health.

To meet the needs of economic growth, people are working longer and longer hours. According to a study by Shantha (2001) [7], in every modern society, 20 percent of people work overtime to the regular 0800–1700 h working day, which is still increasing. As a result of fewer hours of rest and longer working hours, people are less resistant and more prone to chronic diseases. For example, according to Costa G (1996) [8], increased incidence of gastrointestinal and cardiovascular diseases among shift workers, as evidenced by elevated levels of lipid intolerance triacylglycerol, and possibly late-onset diabetes. Moreover, working long hours can also make workers tired at work, resulting in unnecessary loss of work errors. As Moore-Ede M (1993) [9] points out, accidents related to sleep problems cost \$16 billion a year in the United States and \$80 billion globally. Therefore, economic growth has indeed overdrawn people's health, and the sub-health state will lead to more economic cost, forming a vicious circle. It is necessary for the government to strike a balance between economic development and concern for the health of the people, so that the health status of the people can be separated from the sub-health status

2.3. Environment

Environmental pollution is a serious problem in the process of rapid economic development. After economic development reaches a certain level, that is, with the increase of income, the environmental pressure will increase to a certain level, which will cause serious environmental problems. Extensive energy extraction to meet the needs of economic development also leads to environmental damage. In the densely populated Polish basin, about 50 million rocks from coal mining are produced each year, and there are more than 20 million hectares of coal waste dumping sites. As J. Szczepanska (1999) [10] states that, this poses a problem of groundwater deterioration. What is more, as a report by Mitchell (1989) [11] shows that, since the Industrial Revolution, the increase in carbon dioxide and other trace gases, mainly due to human activities, has increased the radiative heating of the troposphere and surface by about 2 W m^{-2} . This leads to what is often referred to as the greenhouse effect. Therefore, in the process of rapid

economic development, there is indeed a lack of more attention and protection to the environment. Given the many problems of environmental pollution and the room for improvement of economic development, it is necessary to grasp the control of environmental pollution in the process of economic development.

Another obvious indicator of the greenhouse effect is sea level. Although most glaciologists do not agree that the melting of arctic ice is causing sea level rise, the cost of coping with sea level rise will be much higher. As the United States Environmental Protection Agency shows [12], if the sea level were to rise substantially by one meter, the cost of protecting the city through the seawall would now be about \$100 billion. By 2090, GNP will reach \$23 trillion, and the one-time cost of seawalls will be 0.43 percent of GNP. Such costs are unaffordable for some other countries in the world. Some developing countries may experience rapid population and economic growth before environmental measures are truly effective. Therefore, it is a big problem for the government to coordinate population growth, population income and effective protection of the environment. However, it seems that from the big picture, the most effective way to improve the environment is to get rich, that is, to develop the economy. So when we talk about economic development, the consideration of the environment is an inevitable part.

2.4. E-commerce Economic

2.4.1. Environment

The express packages generated by the online shopping produce urban waste and do harm to the environment. As a result of the promotion of online shopping, the express delivery industry is booming. According to SPBC (2019) [13], in 2019, China's total express delivery volume is 63 billion, which has grown from 70 million in 1996. Generally, the express packages consist of plastic bags, paper boxes and woven bags, which are easy to become city garbage. As Worrell and Sluisveld (2013) [14] point out, packaging material is one of the biggest factors that accelerate the urban waste generation. Furthermore, some of the packaging materials are not environmentally friendly. For example, Rochman (2013) [15] state that, many types of plastics are toxic and chemically dangerous because of their ability to absorb other pollutants. Therefore, measures need to be implemented by the government to reduce the environmental damage caused by express packaging, like limiting the amount of express packages and looking for new materials.

Pollutant gases can be produced during the transportation of online products and do harm to the environment. With the consistent growth of E-commerce transactions, more trucks than ever before are entering cities today, bringing with pollutant gases. As Sievering O (2020) [16] points out that every time a parcel is sent from the German postal system, 500g of carbon dioxide is emitted. Moreover, purchasing behavior of consumers, especially the return of ordered goods, causing more unnecessary energy consumption and more air pollution. According to Sievering O (2020) [17], in 2013, the Austrian E-commerce industry emitted more than 2,000 tons of additional carbon dioxide during transport, compared to pure stationary trade. Furthermore, Carbon dioxide causes greenhouse effect and damages the environment. Thus, policies are needed established to limit the emission of polluting gases during the transportation of online products, preventing air pollution by the polluting gases it produces.

2.4.2. Real Economic

The presence of goods on the Internet and no shopping distance make consumers more likely to buy them online than in offline stores, having a great impact on real economy. Relevant product information can be found and compared on the Internet, leading to a decline in the frequency of going to offline stores to buy goods, and a decline in the real economy. According to a study from UPS(2017) [18], only 21% of consumers are willing to search and ask for product information in offline stores, while 89% prefer to buy online in promotional activities or separately. Another cause is that home delivery offsets consumers' reluctance to make the

trek to an offline store result in enhancing the comfort of customers while shopping. As the Walker Sands (2017) [19] argue, about a third of online Americans shop online at least once a week, and another third shop online once a month. Hence, the greater convenience of online shopping and the comprehensive information about the goods push consumers are more willing to shop online.

Online shopping may gradually substitute offline stores, causing a deep impact on the traditional offline physical stores. As Kung (2002) [20] believed that the product price is lower online than offline. The price of online products is lower than that of offline physical stores, which can result in consumers more favor online shopping Consumers experience more consumption pleasure on online platforms and spend again on online platforms, forming a virtuous circle of online shopping and may leading consumers to lose interest in truly meaningful offline stores. Beatty & Smith(1987) [21] describe the virtuous circle as 'If consumers don't get the information they want about the product, they will automatically search for it'. Therefore, the proportion of offline stores in all stores will probably gradually decline and be replaced by online stores. Traditional offline stores need to innovate and find some advantages that can't be achieved by online stores.

3. Summary

Economic development has always been one of the most important and fundamental developments in human history. However, it is necessary to pay attention to the negative effects of rapid economic development on society instead of just seeing the positive effects. This paper analyses the negative effects of economic development on regional economy, human health and environmental protection. Considerably more work will need to be done to counteract these negative effects, a short solution to each problem is proposed at the end of each paragraph.

These findings show that, in general, there are still many problems and hidden dangers in the rapid development of the E-commerce economy. People need to look at these issues from both positive and negative aspects. Coordinating economic development and other factors closely related to people's lives is a long-term project for the government. Only by coordinating the relationship between them can we get the effect of one plus one greater than two, otherwise it will consume a lot of effort and financial resources.

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