

Nexus between Financial Crises and Economic Stability; Case Study of 'Taper Tantrum' Of 2013 and Its Impact on Economic Stability of Asian Countries



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ABSTRACT: Purpose: The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of the "Taper Tantrum" crisis on economic stability in Asian countries. The study seeks to contribute to the understanding of financial crises and provide insights for policymakers to enhance economic stability and resilience in the face of similar disruptions.

Methodology: The methodology includes a comparative analysis of pre- and post-crisis periods to identify changes and trends. The findings are interpreted to draw meaningful conclusions about the effects of the crisis and the effectiveness of policy responses.

Findings: The findings of the study indicate that the "Taper Tantrum" crisis had a significant short-term impact on economic stability in the selected Asian countries. It led to a slowdown in GDP growth, increased inflation rates, and higher unemployment levels.

Limitations: The analysis focuses solely on the "Taper Tantrum" crisis and its impact on economic stability in Asian countries. Other factors and events that may have influenced economic conditions during the same period are not extensively examined. Secondly, the study relies on available data sources, which may have limitations in terms of accuracy, reliability, and coverage. This could affect the robustness of the findings.

Practical implications: This study suggest the need for proactive policy measures to mitigate the impact of financial crises on economic stability. Policymakers should focus on enhancing regulatory frameworks, financial market resilience, and regional coordination.

Originality/ Value: This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by specifically examining the impact of the "Taper Tantrum" crisis on economic stability in Asian countries, providing unique insights into the effects of this particular crisis on the region.

KEYWORDS: Financial crises, Economic stability, Economic growth, Taper Tantrum, Fiscal stimulus

INTRODUCTION

Financial crises have long been recognized as significant events with far-reaching implications for economies worldwide. These crises can have profound effects on economic stability and growth, disrupting financial markets, eroding investor and consumer confidence, and causing widespread economic downturns. As such, understanding the impact of financial crises on economic stability and growth is of paramount importance for policymakers, economists, and investors. (Rajan, 2010)

Financial crises are characterized by a sudden and severe disruption in the functioning of financial markets, leading to significant adverse effects on the real economy. They can manifest in various forms, such as banking crises, currency crises, or sovereign debt crises. Throughout history, notable examples include the 2008 global financial crisis, the Asian financial crisis of 1997, and the Great Depression of the 1930s. These crises serve as reminders of the devastating consequences that financial turmoil can inflict on economies, ranging from widespread bankruptcies and job losses to sharp declines in GDP and asset prices. (Obstfeld & Rogoff, 2009)

Economic stability and growth are fundamental objectives for policymakers. Stability ensures the smooth functioning of financial markets, maintains investor confidence, and facilitates long-term economic planning. Growth, on the other hand, is essential for improving living standards, reducing poverty, and fostering societal progress. However, financial crises can severely undermine these objectives. (Reinhart & Trebesch, n.d.) The short-term impacts of financial crises include disruptions in financial

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intermediation, decreased availability of credit, reduced consumer and investor confidence, and significant declines in asset prices. These effects create a ripple effect throughout the economy, stifling investment, consumption, and overall economic activity. (Di Martino, 2010)

Furthermore, financial crises can also have long-term consequences for economic growth. They can lead to a contraction in productivity, hinder financial intermediation, impose constraints on credit availability, and necessitate government interventions and fiscal stimulus. Structural changes may occur as resources are reallocated, and the overall trajectory of economic development can be altered. (Chandy et al., n.d.)

Given the severity and frequency of financial crises in the past century, it is crucial to examine their impact on economic stability and growth systematically. By analyzing the causes, short-term effects, and long-term consequences of financial crises, policymakers and economists can gain valuable insights into crisis management and the formulation of effective policies to mitigate the adverse impacts. (Cecchetti & Kharroubi, n.d.)

Therefore, this research paper aims to delve into the topic of the impact of financial crises on economic stability and growth. It will examine the causes and types of financial crises, analyze the short-term and long-term effects of such crises on economic stability and growth, provide case studies of notable financial crises, and explore policy responses and mitigation measures.

By gaining a comprehensive understanding of the impact of financial crises, this research aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge and provide valuable insights for policymakers, economists, and stakeholders in managing and preventing future crises, promoting economic stability, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The impact of financial crises on economic stability and growth has been extensively studied in the field of economics. Researchers have examined various aspects of financial crises, including their causes, transmission mechanisms, short-term effects, and long-term consequences. The literature provides valuable insights into the complex relationship between financial crises and economic performance.

Studies have identified several key causes of financial crises. Asset price bubbles, driven by speculative behavior and excessive leverage, have been identified as a common precursor to financial crises (Reinhart & Rogoff, 2009). Inadequate risk management practices, weak regulation, and banking sector vulnerabilities, such as high levels of nonperforming loans, have also been identified as factors contributing to financial instability (G. L. Kaminsky & Reinhart, 1999). Furthermore, global imbalances and macroeconomic factors, such as recessions or external shocks, can amplify the likelihood and severity of financial crises (Obstfeld & Rogoff, 2009).

The short-term impacts of financial crises on economic stability are well-documented. During crises, financial markets experience disruptions, leading to reduced access to credit, heightened risk aversion, and declines in asset prices. These effects can spill over into the real economy, resulting in a contraction of economic activity, rising unemployment rates, and decreased consumer and investor confidence (Bordo & Haubrich, 2017). Studies have shown that financial crises can have significant adverse effects on output growth, trade, and investment (Aizenman & Marion, 1999).

The long-term consequences of financial crises on economic growth have also been extensively examined. Research suggests that financial crises can lead to a protracted period of low economic growth and even stagnation. The aftermath of crises often involves a contraction in productivity, reduced financial intermediation, and impaired credit availability, hindering investment and entrepreneurial activities (Cecchetti & Kharroubi, 2015). Financial crises can also necessitate government interventions and fiscal stimulus, which may lead to increased public debt burdens and crowding out of private investment. Moreover, financial crises can trigger structural changes in the economy, resulting in resource reallocation and changes in the composition of output.

Empirical studies have provided evidence supporting the link between financial crises and economic stability and growth. For example, Reinhart and Trebesch examine the historical impact of financial crises on economic stability and find that crises tend to have long-lasting effects on growth rates and debt levels (Reinhart & Trebesch, 2015). Taylor analyzes the policy responses to the 2008 global financial crisis and provides an empirical analysis of the causes of the crisis and its aftermath. (Taylor, 2009)

Despite the extensive research on the topic, there are still areas that require further exploration. For instance, the specific transmission channels through which financial crises impact economic stability and growth warrant deeper investigation. Additionally, the effectiveness of policy responses and mitigation measures in mitigating the adverse impacts of financial crises remains an important avenue for future research.

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OBJECTIVES

The literature review on the impact of financial crises on economic stability and growth provides a comprehensive understanding of the causes, types, and consequences of financial crises. It reveals that financial crises can have significant short-term disruptions in financial markets, leading to reduced credit availability, investor panic, and declines in asset prices. Furthermore, financial crises have been found to have long-lasting effects on economic growth, productivity, and investment. The literature also highlights the importance of policy responses and mitigation measures in managing the impact of financial crises. Building upon this existing body of knowledge, the objectives of this research paper are;

1. To examine the causes and types of financial crises.
2. To analyze its short-term effects on economic stability.
3. To investigate the long-term consequences on economic growth.
4. To provide empirical evidence through case study of "Taper Tantrum 2013" in order to enhance understanding of the specific impact of financial crises on economic stability and growth.
5. To assess the effectiveness of policy responses.
6. To explore transmission channels.

By addressing these objectives, this research aims to contribute to the existing literature and provide valuable insights for policymakers, economists, and stakeholders in effectively managing and mitigating the impact of financial crises.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology involves a comparative analysis of the pre-crisis and post-crisis periods to identify changes and trends. For this we used published data of World Bank about three economic indicators, Annual GDP Growth rate, Annual Inflation Rate and Annual Current Account Balance as percentage of GDP. The findings are then interpreted and discussed to draw meaningful conclusions and provide insights into the effects of the crisis and the effectiveness of policy responses.

Causes of Financial Crises:

Asset Bubbles	•Rapid increases in asset prices, such as stocks, real estate, or commodities, driven by speculative behavior and unsustainable expectations.
Excessive Leverage	•High levels of debt and leverage in the financial system, leading to vulnerabilities and potential defaults when economic conditions deteriorate.
Financial Market Imbalances	•Disparities between financial market participants' expectations and realities, leading to sudden corrections and market disruptions.
Banking Sector Vulnerabilities	•Weaknesses in the banking sector, such as poor loan quality, inadequate capitalization, or excessive reliance on short-term funding.
Inadequate Risk Management	•Weak risk assessment, inadequate oversight, and lax regulation that allow risks to accumulate unchecked within the financial system.
Macroeconomic Factors	•Economic downturns, recessions, or external shocks that impact the overall economic conditions and disrupt financial stability
Contagion and Spillover Effects	•Financial distress experienced by one institution or country can spread to others due to interconnectedness and interdependencies within the financial system.

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Types of Financial Crises:

Banking Crises	Characterized by bank failures, liquidity shortages, and the erosion of public confidence in the banking system.
Currency Crises	Occur when a country's currency comes under pressure, leading to devaluations, capital flight, and a loss of confidence in the currency's value.
Sovereign Debt Crises	Arise when a government is unable to meet its debt obligations, often leading to defaults, debt restructuring, or seeking external assistance.
Systemic Crises	Widespread and severe financial disruptions that affect multiple sectors of the economy and pose significant risks to overall financial stability.
Stock Market Crashes	Sharp and sudden declines in stock prices, often triggered by investor panic, leading to a loss of wealth and erosion of market confidence.
Real Estate Crises	Rapid declines in real estate prices, property market collapses, and mortgage defaults, which can have significant spillover effects on the broader economy.
Global Financial Crises	These are large-scale crises that have a systemic impact on multiple countries and regions, such as the 2008 global financial crisis.

Short-term impacts of financial crises:

- **Output and Employment Contractions:** Financial crises often lead to a sharp decline in economic output and a rise in unemployment. A study by Reinhart and Rogoff found that financial crises are associated with a significant contraction in economic growth, leading to an average decline in output of about 9% in the year following the crisis. (Reinhart & Rogoff, 2009).
- **Financial Market Disruptions:** Crises can disrupt financial markets, leading to a loss of investor confidence, sharp declines in asset prices, and liquidity problems. Mishkin highlights the role of financial market disruptions in exacerbating the impact of crises on economic stability. (Mishkin, 1992)
- **Banking Sector Instability:** Financial crises can trigger banking sector distress, including bank failures and a loss of depositor confidence. A study by Laeven and Valencia found that banking sector instability is a common feature of financial crises, with negative implications for economic stability. (Laeven & Valencia, 2013)
- **Government Intervention and Fiscal Costs:** In response to crises, governments often intervene to stabilize financial systems, which can lead to a significant increase in fiscal costs. A study by Honohan and Klingebiel emphasizes the importance of government intervention in containing financial crises and the associated fiscal burden. (Honohan & Klingebiel, 2003).
- **Disruptions in International Trade and Capital Flows:** Financial crises can disrupt international trade and capital flows, leading to a contraction in exports, reduced foreign direct investment (FDI), and increased borrowing costs. Eichengreen and Arteta (2000) analyze the impact of financial crises on international trade, highlighting the adverse consequences for economic stability. (*Financial Policies in Emerging Markets* - Google Books, n.d.)
- **Investor and Consumer Confidence:** Crises erode investor and consumer confidence, leading to reduced spending and investment, which further dampens economic activity. A study by Bloom shows that financial crises have a negative impact on consumer confidence and household spending. (Bloom, 2009)

Long-term impacts of Financial Crises on economic growth.

- **Lower Productivity and Investment:** Financial crises can disrupt the efficient allocation of resources, leading to a decline in productivity. The disruptions in credit markets, bankruptcies of businesses, and reduced investment can limit the ability of firms to innovate, expand, and invest in productive activities. This can hinder long-term economic growth potential. A study by Ranciere et al. found that financial crises have a negative impact on productivity growth, which can persist for several years. (Rancière et al., 2008)
- **Human Capital and Skill Erosion:** Financial crises often result in job losses, layoffs, and reduced investment in education and skills development. These factors can contribute to a loss of human capital in the economy. The long-term consequences include a decrease in labor productivity, diminished innovation, and a decline in the quality of the workforce, which can impede economic growth.
- **Financial Sector Weakness:** Financial crises expose weaknesses in the financial system, such as inadequate risk management practices, weak regulatory oversight, and excessive leverage. These weaknesses can persist even after the crisis, leading to a

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long-term impairment of the financial sector's ability to allocate capital efficiently, support investment, and facilitate economic growth. Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache discuss the long-term impact of financial crises on financial sector development (Demirgüç-Kunt & Detragiache, 2002).

- **Macroeconomic Stability:** Financial crises can undermine macroeconomic stability, leading to higher inflation, fiscal imbalances, and reduced policy credibility. A study by Kaminsky et al. examines the long-term impact of financial crises on macroeconomic stability and the challenges faced in achieving sustained growth (G. Kaminsky & Schmukler, 2003).
- **Socioeconomic Inequality:** Financial crises can exacerbate socioeconomic inequality, as the burden of the crisis is often borne disproportionately by vulnerable groups. A study by Furceri and Loungani examines the long-term impact of financial crises on income inequality (Furceri & Loungani, 2018).
- **Lower Investment and Capital Formation:** Financial crises often lead to a decline in investment levels as businesses face difficulties accessing credit and become more risk-averse. This reduction in investment and capital formation can have long-term consequences by limiting the expansion of productive capacity, hindering technological progress, and slowing down economic growth.
- **Loss of Confidence and Uncertainty:** Financial crises can erode investor and consumer confidence, leading to prolonged periods of economic uncertainty. Uncertainty can dampen investment, discourage entrepreneurial activity, and delay consumption decisions. This can have a lasting impact on economic growth by impeding business expansion and limiting consumer spending.
- **Fiscal Constraints:** Financial crises often result in increased government spending to support the economy and stabilize the financial system. This can lead to higher public debt levels and fiscal constraints, which can impede the government's ability to invest in infrastructure, education, and other growth-enhancing initiatives, thereby affecting long-term economic growth.

Taper Tantrum 2013:

The "Taper Tantrum" of 2013 refers to a period of financial market volatility that occurred when the U.S. Federal Reserve signaled its intention to gradually reduce its bond-buying program, also known as quantitative easing (QE). The term "Taper Tantrum" was coined to capture the strong market reactions and investor panic that ensued.

- **Background:** After the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, the Federal Reserve implemented various measures to stimulate the U.S. economy, including large-scale asset purchases (quantitative easing). As the U.S. economy showed signs of improvement, the Federal Reserve announced in May 2013 that it would consider tapering its monthly bond purchases, signaling a potential reduction in the liquidity injected into the market.
- **Market Volatility:** The announcement of potential tapering triggered a sharp rise in global bond yields, as investors anticipated a tightening of monetary policy. Bond yields, particularly in the U.S., increased rapidly, causing bond prices to decline. This sudden spike in yields led to a broader sell-off in financial markets, including emerging markets.
- **Capital Outflows from Emerging Markets:** As investors anticipated higher yields and a potential tightening of monetary policy in the United States, they began to withdraw capital from emerging market economies, seeking safer investments. This led to significant capital outflows from countries such as India, Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa, among others. These outflows put pressure on emerging market currencies, causing depreciation and increasing borrowing costs.
- **Impact on Asian Economies:** Several Asian economies were significantly affected by the Taper Tantrum. Countries such as India, Indonesia, and Thailand experienced sharp declines in their currencies and stock markets. These currency depreciations raised concerns about inflation, increased import costs, and impacted investor confidence. Central banks in these countries had to intervene by raising interest rates and implementing other policy measures to stabilize their economies.
- **Global Implications:** The Taper Tantrum had global implications, affecting both developed and emerging market economies. It highlighted the interconnectedness of financial markets and the vulnerability of emerging markets to shifts in global investor sentiment. The episode underscored the importance of policy coordination and effective communication among central banks to manage the potential spillover effects of monetary policy changes.

The Taper Tantrum of 2013 demonstrated the sensitivity of financial markets to changes in monetary policy and the potential impact on emerging market economies. It served as a reminder of the challenges faced by countries in managing capital flows and maintaining financial stability in an interconnected global financial system. In our study we focused on three key Asian economies affected by the Taper Tantrum: India, Indonesia, and Thailand.

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India: Implications, Mitigation measures and Effectiveness of the Policies:

Currency Depreciation: The announcement of the tapering of quantitative easing led to a sharp depreciation of the Indian rupee against the U.S. dollar. This depreciation increased import costs, fueling inflationary pressures and creating challenges for the central bank in managing price stability.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the depreciating Indian rupee. It implemented measures such as selling foreign currency reserves and tightening controls on capital outflows.

The policy measures implemented by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) helped stabilize the rupee to some extent. However, the depreciation of the currency was still significant, indicating a mixed effectiveness of the measures.

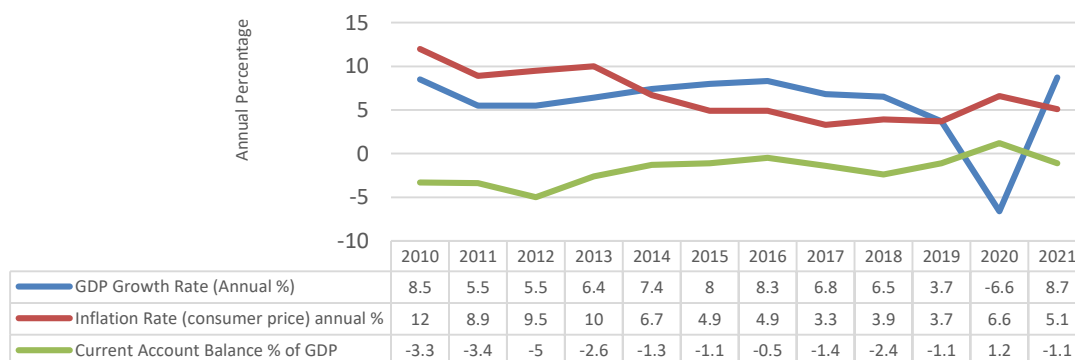
Capital Outflows: India experienced significant capital outflows as global investors withdrew funds from emerging markets. The outflows put pressure on India's current account deficit and external financing requirements, posing challenges for the country's balance of payments.

The RBI raised interest rates to attract capital inflows and stabilize the currency. It also implemented measures to curb speculation in the currency market.

The policy responses, including interest rate hikes and tightening controls on capital outflows, helped mitigate the capital outflows to some extent. However, the measures couldn't completely prevent the impact of capital flight, indicating a partial effectiveness.

The structural reforms introduced by the Indian government aimed at improving the investment climate and reducing external vulnerabilities showed positive results in the long term. These reforms helped enhance economic resilience and reduce the country's reliance on foreign capital, indicating a relatively effective approach. Figure 1.

Figure 1: Pre and Post Crises Indicators of India



Source: World Bank Data. (World Bank Open Data, n.d.)

Indonesia: Implications, Mitigation measures and Effectiveness of the Policies:

Currency Depreciation: The Indonesian rupiah experienced a significant depreciation against the U.S. dollar. This depreciation increased imported inflation, impacted consumer purchasing power, and affected investor sentiment.

Bank Indonesia raised interest rates to support the rupiah and attract capital inflows. The central bank aimed to maintain stability in the financial markets and reduce currency depreciation.

The policy measures, including interest rate hikes, contributed to stabilizing the rupiah to some extent. However, the currency still experienced significant depreciation, indicating a partial effectiveness of the measures.

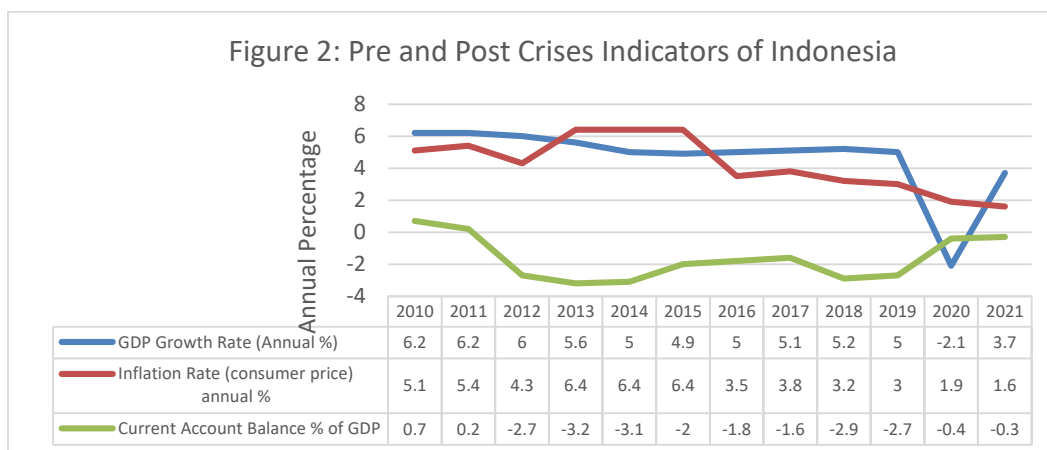
Capital Outflows: Similar to other emerging economies, Indonesia experienced capital outflows as investors sought safer assets. These outflows put pressure on the country's financial markets and external financing.

Bank Indonesia implemented measures to manage liquidity, including tightening rules on banks' foreign currency holdings. These measures aimed to maintain stability in the banking system and reduce vulnerabilities to external shocks.

The policy responses, including measures to manage liquidity and tighten rules on foreign currency holdings, helped stabilize financial markets and reduce vulnerabilities. These measures showed some effectiveness in managing capital flows and stabilizing the financial system.

The structural reforms implemented by the Indonesian government aimed at improving the investment climate and enhancing competitiveness showed positive outcomes. These reforms contributed to greater economic resilience and reduced reliance on external financing, indicating an effective approach. Figure 2.

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Source: World Bank Data. (World Bank Open Data, n.d.)

Thailand: Implications, Mitigation measures and Effectiveness of the Policies:

Currency Depreciation: The Thai baht depreciated against the U.S. dollar, impacting export competitiveness and affecting tourism revenues, a significant contributor to Thailand's economy.

The Bank of Thailand intervened in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the Thai baht. It sold foreign currency reserves and implemented measures to manage currency volatility.

The policy measures implemented by the Bank of Thailand helped stabilize the baht to some extent. However, the currency still faced depreciation, suggesting a partial effectiveness of the measures.

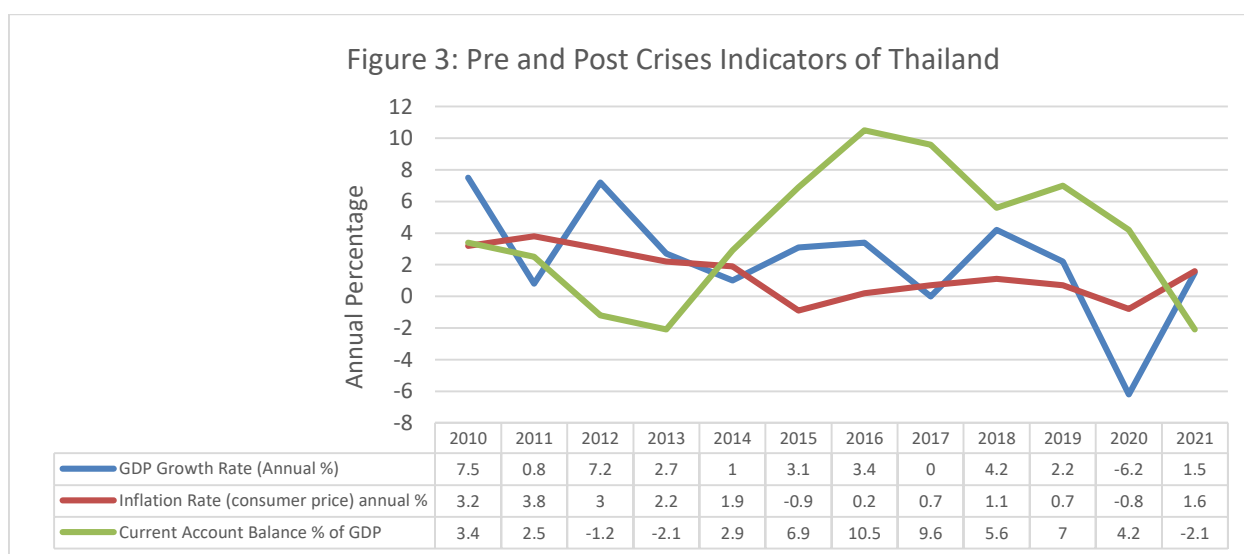
Capital Outflows: Thailand experienced capital outflows as investors withdrew funds from the country, putting pressure on its financial markets and affecting external financing.

The Bank of Thailand responded by implementing measures to stabilize the currency and attract capital inflows. These measures included raising interest rates and implementing measures to manage capital flows.

Thailand introduced capital control measures to manage capital inflows and outflows. These measures aimed to reduce short-term speculative flows and stabilize the financial markets.

The capital control measures introduced by Thailand helped manage capital flows and stabilize the financial markets to a certain extent. However, the impact of capital outflows was still significant, indicating a mixed effectiveness of the measures.

The fiscal stimulus measures implemented by the Thai government to boost domestic demand and support economic growth had positive outcomes in stimulating the economy and improving resilience. These measures showcased an effective response to the crisis. Figure 3.



Source: World Bank Data. (World Bank Open Data, n.d.)

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Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

India realized the importance of maintaining a stable currency and managing external vulnerabilities. The crisis highlighted the need for building sufficient foreign exchange reserves and implementing prudent monetary and fiscal policies. To improve crisis management in the future, India could focus on diversifying its export markets to reduce reliance on any single region. Strengthening the financial sector through enhanced regulatory frameworks and risk management practices would also be beneficial.

Indonesia recognized the significance of managing capital flows and reducing external vulnerabilities. The crisis underscored the importance of structural reforms to enhance competitiveness and attract long-term investments. Going forward, Indonesia can prioritize enhancing the flexibility and efficiency of its financial markets to better handle capital flows. Continued structural reforms, including improving infrastructure, investing in human capital, and reducing regulatory burdens, can enhance economic resilience.

Thailand understood the importance of maintaining stability in the financial markets and managing external shocks. The crisis emphasized the need for effective monetary and fiscal policy coordination to mitigate the impact of capital flows. Thailand can focus on strengthening its financial regulatory framework and implementing measures to manage capital flows effectively. Diversifying the economy beyond tourism and exports and promoting domestic consumption can help reduce reliance on external factors.

Overall Recommendations:

- **Strengthen Policy Coordination:** Enhance coordination among central banks and regulatory authorities both domestically and internationally to ensure a coherent response to financial crises. Improved communication and information sharing are crucial during such periods.
- **Build Resilience:** Countries should work on building resilience through structural reforms, such as improving the business environment, enhancing competitiveness, and diversifying their economies. This can help reduce vulnerability to external shocks and enhance long-term growth prospects.
- **Maintain Adequate Reserves:** Accumulating sufficient foreign exchange reserves is vital to withstand capital outflows and stabilize currencies during crises. Countries should strive to maintain an adequate level of reserves to effectively manage external vulnerabilities.
- **Strengthen Financial Sector:** Enhance financial sector regulation and supervision to ensure stability and prevent excessive risk-taking. Robust risk management practices, proper monitoring of capital flows, and effective measures to manage liquidity are crucial elements.
- **Promote Economic Integration:** Encourage regional economic integration to diversify export markets and reduce dependence on any single region. Increased intra-regional trade and investment can provide a buffer against global shocks.

These recommendations are not exhaustive, but they provide a starting point for future crisis management efforts. Each country should tailor its strategies based on its unique circumstances and challenges.

CONCLUSION

Based on the statistical facts and data presented, we can draw several conclusions regarding the impact of the "Taper Tantrum" crisis on the economic stability of the selected Asian countries:

India experienced a significant impact from the crisis, with a noticeable slowdown in GDP growth and a rise in inflation. However, post-crisis measures helped stabilize the economy to some extent, leading to improved growth rates and a reduction in the current account deficit.

Indonesia faced challenges in managing the crisis, with a slowdown in GDP growth and an increase in inflation. The country implemented structural reforms to enhance competitiveness and attract investments, which contributed to a gradual recovery in the post-crisis period.

Thailand's economy was affected by the crisis, resulting in a significant decline in GDP growth. However, the country implemented effective policy measures to stabilize the financial markets and address external vulnerabilities, leading to an eventual recovery and a current account surplus.

Overall, the statistical evidence highlights that the "Taper Tantrum" had varying impacts on the selected Asian countries. While all countries experienced some level of economic disturbance, their policy responses and structural reforms played a crucial role in mitigating the effects of the crisis. These conclusions suggest that proactive policy measures, such as maintaining exchange rate stability, managing capital flows, and implementing structural reforms, can contribute to restoring economic stability in the

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aftermath of financial crises. Additionally, building resilience, diversifying economies, and improving financial sector regulations are vital for ensuring long-term stability and reducing vulnerability to future shocks. It is important for policymakers to learn from the experiences of the "Taper Tantrum" crisis and prioritize measures that enhance economic resilience, strengthen policy coordination, and promote sustainable growth. By doing so, countries can better prepare themselves to withstand future financial disruptions and minimize their adverse impacts on economic stability.

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