# Title of the Research Paper: An Investigation into Impact of Repo Rate on Inflation Indices (WPI & CPI) in India during Pandemic and Post Pandemic phase

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#### Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic brought a completely abnormal situation which influenced all the major economic activities. The central banks around the globe tried their best with their respective policies to stabilize the economic activities in their respective countries. The Reserve Bank of India also brought major changes in its monetary policy to stabilize the economic variables. Thus the research paper is based on investigating the impact of changes in repo rate by the RBI on WPI and CPI so as to compare its impact on these two indices. The findings of the research paper suggest that the impact on repo rate on CPI and WPI is less than moderate; which is even far less in context of WPI. Thus the RBI's policy of inflation targeting through changes in repo rates is far from effective during the period of study.

Key words: Covid-19, Repo rate, WPI, CPI

#### I. Introduction

The Repo rate is the rate under liquidity adjustment facility at which RBI provides liquidity to banks backed by government securities<sup>1</sup>. The change in repo rate is done in order to control inflation while maintaining stable economic growth. Monetary policy generally conducted by central banks is a meaningful policy tool for the attainment of achieving both inflation and growth objectives<sup>3</sup>. Rahul Anand et. al (2014) in their research study have contributed on impact of monetary policy on food inflation in India. They have focused in favour of contractionary monetary policy for a longer period of time in order to control inflation. A study by Susmita Das and Debjani Mitra has found a positive relation between Repo rate and Inflation. However they have considered inflation as independent variable and repo rate as dependent variable. Kaushik Basu (2011) in his study has found that while there is some association between reporate and inflation, there is also a lot of noise. Bhavesh Salunkhe & Anaradha Patnaik (2017) has tried to estimate the association between monetary policy, growth and inflation. The findings of the study show that there is bi directional causality between policy rate and inflation as well as output. The impact of policy rate is of larger magnitude on growth as compared to inflation and hence the policy makers are very cautious in increasing policy rates. Troy Matheson (2017) has studied the linkage between interest rates and inflation in context of Brazil. The author has tried to test the conventional view of the relation between interest rates and inflation. Most of the advanced economies faced low inflation and lower interest rates after global financial crisis challenged the conventional view. The findings of the study in case of Brazil supported the challenge view of monetary policy transmission. The situation of lower inflation and lower interest rate can only be attained in the long run only by targeting lower rate of inflation. However this can only be achieved at higher interest rate leading to lower output and employment. Hossein Asgharpur et. al (2007) have studied the relationship between interest rates and inflation in context of developing countries. The authors have examined the causal relationship between the interest rate and inflation rate in 40 selected Islamic countries using new causality approach and applying panel data methodology. The findings of the study show that there is unidirectional causality from interest rate to inflation

in these countries. This confirms the fact that interest rate is important factor in macroeconomic policy decisions. Malcolm Sawyer (2009) has studied the linkage between interest rates and inflation. The findings of the study show that rate of interest targets the demand and further demand on inflation. If this linkage does not operate fully, then it becomes fatal for macroeconomic policies. Thus, based on past study, the researchers have tried to expand the study by specifically studying the effectiveness of the impact of repo rate on WPI and CPI during the period of pandemic and post pandemic.

## II. Objectives of the study

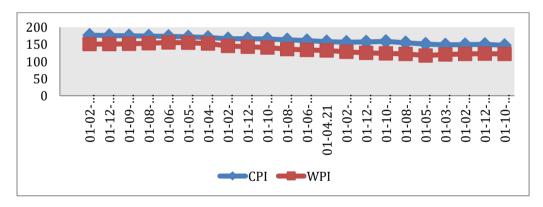
- a) To study the impact of Repo rate on WPI and CPI during pandemic and post pandemic phase.
- b) To study the trend analysis of changes in WPI and CPI.

#### III. Research Methodology

The Research study is based on secondary data collected from the period of Oct 2019 to Feb 2023 on periodical basis. The study is largely descriptive and analytical. The linear regression analysis has been used to find the impact of changes in reportate on WPI and CPI.

## IV. Data Analysis and Interpretation

## A. Trend Analysis of the movements of WPI, CPI



# Chart no.1 Trend analysis of movements of WPI and CPI

**Observation:** The trend analysis shows that in the initial period of study there is sign of divergence between WPI and CPI due to methodology in calculation and different weights assigned to commodities under WPI and CPI but at the later part, there is convergence which shows that WPI and CPI numbers are moving in tandem. The larger divergence is seen during the peak of pandemic period in India i.e. 2020-21.

## **B.** CPI and Repo Rate

Descriptive St	atistics				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N		
СРІ	162.2864	9.82874	22		
Repo Rate	2.59	2.218	22		
Correlations		•	•	•	
		CPI	[	Repo Ra	te

Pearson Correlation	CPI	1.000	.421
Carson Correlation	Repo Rate	.421	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	СРІ	•	.026
Sig. (1 tailed)	Repo Rate	.026	
N	CPI	22	22
	Repo Rate	22	22

Table no.1: Descriptive Statistics and correlation coefficients of Repo rate and CPI

**Observation:** The value of correlation coefficient between CPI and Repo rate shows a less than moderate association. Thus the initial findings suggest no such larger impact of repo rate on CPI.

Mod	lel Summa	ary <sup>b</sup>												
Mod	el R	R Se	quare	Adjusted Square	l R	Std. Error of the Estimate	Cha	ange Sta	ntistics					
				7			R S	Square C	hange	F	F Cha	nge		
1	.421ª	.177	1	.136		9.13609	.17	.177 4.			4.305			
Mod	lel Summa	ary <sup>b</sup>												
Mod	el	Change	Statistic	S				Durbin	-Watson	1				
		df1		df2	Si	g. F Change								
1		1 <sup>a</sup> 20 .051 .072												
a. Pr	edictors: (	 Constant	), Repo I	Rate	_									
b. De	ependent V	Variable:	CPI											
	)VA <sup>a</sup>													
Mod		Sum of	Squares		df	Mean S	quare	<u> </u>	F	Sig.				
					1				4.207	.051	h			
	Regres sion	359.322	2		1	359.322	2		4.305	.051				
1	Residu al	1669.36	54		20	83.468								
		2028.68	26		21									
	Total	2028.00	36		21									
Coef	Total  ficients <sup>a</sup>	2028.00	36		21									
	fficients <sup>a</sup>	2028.00		lardized C		ients Standard		t		Sig.		Collineari	ty Sta	tistics
Coef Mod	fficients <sup>a</sup>	2028.00	Unstand	Std	Coeffic	Coefficie		t				Collineari		tistics
	el (Con	stant)	Unstand	Std	Coeffic I. Error	Coefficie		51	1.863	Sig000				

Table no.2: Model summary, Regression coefficients and Collinear Statistics

a. Dependent Variable: CPI

## Observation and interpretation

A linear regression analysis was conducted to see the impact of reporate on consumer price index. The Model Summary presents the R-Square and Adjusted R-Square values for each step along with the amount of R Square Change. The model summary shows that R Square = 0.177 (18% of the variance in CPI is accounted for by change in reporate.

We refer to table coefficient to examine the contribution of predictors to the model. From the model it is observed that the impact of the predictor i.e. Repo rate on CPI is insignificant as the value of P (.051) is more than 0.05. Thus the null hypothesis regarding this predictor is accepted and hence can be concluded that Change in repo rate does not have a significant impact on CPI. The tolerance value is more than 0.1 and VIF is less than 10, hence collinearity is a not a problem with regression.

## C. WPI and Repo Rate

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Descriptive	Statistics						
	Mean	Mean		Std. Deviation			
WPI	136.572	136.5727		13.49695			
Repo Rate	2.59		2.218		22		
Correlation	S		•		•		•
				WPI		Repo	Rate
Dagman Com	D G 1.1		PI	1.000		.381	
Pearson Correlation		Re	epo Rate	.381		1.000	
Sig. (1-tailed)		W	PI			.040	
		Re	epo Rate	.040		•	
N		W	PI	22		22	
N		D.	eno Rate	22		22	

Table no.3: Descriptive Statistics and Correlation coefficients of WPI and Reporate

**Observation**: The value of correlation coefficient between WPI and Repo rate also shows less than the moderate association. This also confirms not much impact of Repo rate on WPI.

Mode	Sumn	nary <sup>b</sup>								
Mod	R	R	Adjuste	Std.	Change Sta	tistics				Durbin-Watson
el		Squar e	d R Square	Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Chang e	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.381ª	.145	.102	12.7887 0	.145	3.390	1	20	.080	.070
a. Pred	lictors:	(Consta	nt), Repo	Rate				•	•	
b. Dep	endent	Variabl	e: WPI							
ANOV	VA <sup>a</sup>									
Model			Sum o	f Squares	df	Mean S	quare	F	Sig.	
	Regr	ession	554.50	)6	1	554.506	5	3.390	.080 <sup>b</sup>	
1	Residual 3271.017		20	163.55	1					
	Total 3825.524		21							
a. Dep	endent	Variabl	e: WPI			•				
b. Pred	dictors:	(Consta	nt), Repo	Rate						

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.	Collinearity	
				Coefficients			Statistics	
		В	Std. Error	Beta			Toleranc	VIF
							e	
1	(Constant)	130.570	4.250		30.724	.000		
1	Repo Rate	2.317	1.258	.381	1.841	.080	1.000	1.000
a. Dene	endent Variable	: WPI	•	1	•	•		

Table no. 4: Model summary, Regression coefficients and Collinear Statistics (WPI and Repo)

#### **Observation and Interpretation**

A linear regression analysis was conducted to see the impact of repo rate on Whole sale price index. The Model Summary presents the R-Square and Adjusted R-Square values for each step along with the amount of R Square Change. The model summary shows that R Square = 0.145 (14.5% of the variance in WPI is accounted for by change in repo rate.

We refer to table coefficient to examine the contribution of predictors to the model. From the model it is observed that the impact of the predictor i.e. Repo rate on WPI is insignificant as the value of P (.080) is more than 0.05. Thus the null hypothesis regarding this predictor is accepted and hence can be concluded that Change in repo rate does not have a significant impact on WPI. The tolerance value is more than 0.1 and VIF is less than 10, hence collinearity is a not a problem with regression.

#### V. Conclusions

The researchers based on the findings have concluded that the change in repo rate does have less than moderate impact on WPI and CPI. Thus it can be concluded that as a key policy rate, repo rate did not have significant impact on inflation targeting i.e. CPI and WPI during the period of study. Thus there is a need to assess the reasons behind ineffectiveness of interest rate on inflation targeting. It might happen that there is not effective monetary policy transmission by the banks in between leading to less impact on demand and price indices.

# VI. Limitations and Future Scope of Study

The limitation of the study is that the researchers have not considered the lag effect in studying the impact of changes in repo rate on WPI and CPI. The period of study largely experienced volatility in economic variables which may not give the authentic results. The researchers would have considered much better statistical tests to test the validity. The researchers in the future can rework on the subject by considering larger time period and lag effect so as to test the validity of impact of changes in repo rate on WPI and CPI.

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