

**URBAN SERVICES GROWTH:
INFLUENCING FACTORS AND ITS EFFECT ON
REGIONAL GROWTH IN CHINA**

GAO YUAN

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GROWTH IN CHINA**

**By
GAO YUAN**

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Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business,
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in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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ABSTRACT

Urban economic success depends on the growth of its services and there are various factors influencing urban services growth. However, earlier studies mostly focus on the demand and supply factors. Factors, such as the institutional environment and services spatial agglomeration, although are important in the context of urban services growth in China, are practically less emphasized. Thus, this study analyzed the contributions of demand, supply, institutional environment, and services spatial agglomeration as factors significance for urban services growth, using the hierarchical multiple regression. The Panel Unit Root Test, Panel Co-integration Model and Panel Vector Error Correction Model were used to examine the short-run and long-run effects of urban services growth on regional economic growth in China. The findings of the present study show that the demand, supply and services spatial agglomeration contributed significantly to urban services growth. However, the institutional environment had relatively smaller contributions, compared to other factors. The Error Correction Model indicated a short-run relationship, while the Panel Co-integration Model revealed the existence of a long-run relationship between urban services growth and regional economic growth in China. In conclusion, the government should implement strategies towards a more balanced urban services growth with specific priority on strategies to expand the demand and supply for urban services, improving residents' income, to promote urbanization, and deepen division of labor as well as to increase the quality and quantity of factor inputs in urban services. Indeed, future strategies should focus more on measures to promote urban services agglomeration, while improving the urban services marketization and their openness level.

Keywords: demand, supply, institutional environment, services agglomeration, regional growth

ABSTRAK

Kejayaan ekonomi sesebuah bandar bergantung kepada kemajuan perkhidmatan yang dibekalkan. Walaupun terdapat pelbagai faktor yang mempengaruhi pertumbuhan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar, kebanyakan kajian awal lebih bertumpu kepada faktor permintaan dan penawaran. Sebaliknya, faktor persekitaran institusi dan perkelompokan ruwang yang juga penting dalam konteks pertumbuhan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar masih kurang diberikan perhatian, khususnya di negara China. Justeru, kajian ini cuba menganalisis sumbangan faktor-faktor permintaan, penawaran, persekitaran institusi dan perkelompokan ruwang sebagai faktor yang mempengaruhi pertumbuhan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar dengan menggunakan kaedah *Regresi Berbilang Berhierarchy*. Sebaliknya, kaedah *Ujian Akar Unit Panel*, *Model Panel Bersepadu* dan *Model Panel Pembetulan Ralat Vektor* digunakan untuk menilai kesan jangka pendek dan jangka panjang di antara pertumbuhan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar dengan pertumbuhan ekonomi wilayah di China. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa faktor-faktor permintaan, penawaran dan perkelompokan ruwang mempunyai sumbangan signifikan terhadap peningkatan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar, sedangkan sumbangan faktor persekitaran institusi tidak signifikan. Dapatan *Model Panel Pembetulan Ralat Vektor* pula menunjukkan hubungan jangka pendek, sementara ujian *Model Panel Bersepadu* membuktikan wujudnya hubungan jangka-panjang di antara pertumbuhan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar dengan pertumbuhan ekonomi wilayah di China. Sebagai kesimpulan, kerajaan wajar melaksanakan strategi pertumbuhan perkhidmatan seimbang, dengan tumpuan khusus kepada strategi untuk menambah-baik faktor-faktor permintaan dan penawaran perkhidmatan di bandar, meningkatkan pendapatan penduduk, memperkasa agihan tenaga buruh serta meningkatkan kualiti input faktor-faktor perkhidmatan berkaitan. Justeru, strategi masa depan perlu difokuskan kepada usaha-usaha untuk menggalakkan perkelompokan perkhidmatan di kawasan bandar, di samping menambah-baik tahap keterbukaan serta pemasarannya.

Kata kunci: permintaan, penawaran, persekitaran institusi, perkelompokan ruwang, pertumbuhan wilayah

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	Augmented Dickey Fuller
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CEI	Commercial Credit Environment Index
ECM	Error Correction Model
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
OLS	Ordinary Least Squares
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor
WTO	World Trade Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Services are economic activities not directly associated with the production of tangible products, but activities providing intangible products with the characteristics of simultaneity in both production and consumption (OECD, 2000). Since 1970s, the proportion of services in developed countries has been continuously increasing, and the world's economy has turned towards "servitization", marking the coming stage of services economy (Hu, 2011; Liu et al., 2011).

China has made remarkable economic achievements since reform and opening up in 1978, and her economic structure has been gradually upgraded towards non-agricultural industries. As the republic entered the post-industrialization period since late 1990s, one important phenomenon was the increasing role of services in economic growth (Chen, 2011). For instance, the output value of services increased from RMB581.4 billion in 1990 to RMB13, 888.6 billion in 2011. Services average annual growth rate was 11.0 percent, exceeding the GDP growth of 9.9 percent during the same period of 1990-2011. Meanwhile, the corresponding proportion of services to national GDP increased from 31.3 percent in 1990 to 43.3 percent in 2011 (China₁, 2012).

One obvious characteristic of services growth is its high agglomeration, and urban

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