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STRIDES – A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
ISSN 2581-4931 (PRINT)

Shri Ram College of Commerce is well known for its academic excellence and dedicated approach towards dissemination of knowledge in the academic world. The college appreciates the role of research in education and is committed to developing an inclination towards research in both faculty and students. In this pursuit, the college has taken the initiative to launch a new Journal named 'Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce'.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

It is a double blind reviewed bi-annual Journal launched exclusively to encourage students to pursue research on the contemporary topics and issues in the area of commerce, economics, management, governance, polices etc. The journal provides an opportunity to the students and faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce to publish their academic research work.

PUBLICATION POLICY

Shri Ram College of Commerce is committed to upholding the high academic standards. Therefore, the Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE) follows a 3-Stage Selection Process while approving a paper for publication in this Journal. The policy is as follows:

Stage-1. Screening of Plagiarism

To maintain high academic standards, academic ethics and academic integrity each research paper received by COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) is sent for screening of plagiarism on "Turnitin". The committee adheres to the maximum tolerance limit of 25%.

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The journal adheres to a rigorous double-blind review policy. Each research paper received by COPE is sent for review to the *Referee* (Subject Expert). The reports submitted by the *Referees* are sent to the respective students for improvement (if any, suggested by the *Referees*). After reporting all the suggestions recommended by the *Referees*, the revised and improved version of the papers are re-submitted by the students to the COPE.

If a research paper is rejected by the *Referee*, no further proceedings are taken into account. Once rejected by the expert means cannot be published at all.

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The following guidelines are to be carefully adhered by the students before final submission of the manuscript. The submitted manuscripts not conforming to the following guidelines are not taken into consideration for any further processing.

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Format of the article on the front page should be:

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c) Abstract
d) Keywords

Abstract

The abstract should capture the essence of the article and entice the reader. It should typically be of 100 -150 words, and in Italics.

Font type and word limit

The research paper is to be typed on A-4 size paper with single line spacing. The complete length of the paper should not exceed 5000 words including endnotes and references. The font size should be 12 and font style should be Times New Roman.

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The Journal adheres to the APA (American Psychological Association) Referencing Style, Sixth Edition. Students must refer to the APA Referencing Guidelines to ensure conformance to this reference style. For further information you may visit the following link - http://www.apastyle.org

Endnotes

Endnotes should be serially arranged at the end of the article well before the references and after conclusion.

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The first letter of the caption for table, figure, graph, diagram, picture etc. should be in capital letter and the other words should be in small letter - e.g. Table-1: Demographic Data of Delhi, Figure-1: Pictorial Presentation of Population etc.

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Declaration

As part of the submission process, the student and mentor needs to declare that they are submitting original work for the first publication in the Journal and that their work is not being considered for publication elsewhere and has not already been published elsewhere. Again, the paper should not have been presented in any seminar or conference. The scanned copy of duly signed declaration by the students and their respective mentors has to be emailed along with the research paper.

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The student(s) remain the whole and sole author of their respective research papers published in 'Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' and hold its copyright. Also, the 'author' is wholly and solely responsible for plagiarism caught after publication (if any). The Editor, Referees, Mentors, COPE, SRCC, Printer, Publisher and Printing Press shall not be responsible for any plagiarism.

AWARD

The authors of best three papers from every Issue are awarded – First Prize, Second Prize and Third Prize on the SRCC Annual Day.

Principal's Message

The mission statement of the college signifying the existence and its road map to the achievement of its vision, reads as:

"To achieve and sustain excellence in teaching and research, enrich local, national and international communities through our research, improve skills of alumni, and to publish academic and educational resources"

To achieve and promote excellence in publications and applied research, the college has taken the initiative to launch a new journal exclusively to publish students' research papers and articles. It will be an add-on to the enriched catalogue of college publications and academic literature.

The Journal has provided an opportunity to the students of our college to focus on research. Since the students were not opened to the research methodologies at the undergraduate level, they were mentored by experienced faculty of our college. Simultaneously, their articles were also reviewed by the referees and tested for plagiarism before publication. After reporting all the suggestions recommended by the referees, the articles were revised and then finally published. The college had successfully released the foundation issue of the Journal **"Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17"** on the occasion of 91st Annual Day of the College held on 13th April, 2017. The Journal was released by **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.**

I would like to congratulate the students whose papers are published in this issue of the journal and simultaneously encourage all the students to contribute their research papers and articles for the successive issues of the Journal.

Best wishes for their future endeavors.

Prof. Simrit Kaur
Principal

Editor's Message

Shri Ram College of Commerce is well known for its academic excellence and dedicated approach towards dissemination of knowledge in the academic world. The college appreciates the role of research in education and is committed to developing an inclination towards research in both faculty and students. In this pursuit, the college has taken the initiative to launch a new Journal named 'Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' to encourage students to pursue research under the guidance of the faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce.

It is a bi-annual Journal launched exclusively to publish academic research papers and articles by the students on contemporary topics and issues in the area of commerce, economics, management, governance, policies etc.

In order to maintain the high standards of publication, COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) has been constituted. The COPE shall be the apex authority to take all the decisions related to the publication of research papers and articles in Strides. The decision of COPE shall be final and binding.

To maintain the high academic standards, academic ethics and academic integrity, a rigorous process of double blind review of research papers is followed along with screening of plagiarism of each manuscript received by the COPE for publication. The research work published in Strides is original and not published or presented at any other public forum.

The foundation issue of the Journal **"Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17"** was successfully released on 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on 13th April, 2017 by **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.**

The successive Issues of 'Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' shall be bi-annually released.

I congratulate all the students whose research papers are published in this Issue of Strides and express my sincere thanks to their mentors and referees.

Dr. Santosh Kumari
Editor

STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

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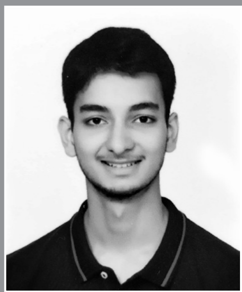
RESEARCH PAPERS

Delving into the Norwegian Economy



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Abstract

Norway has consistently held a good position, both in terms of economic strength and social welfare, for many years. It also boasts as one of the largest exporters of oil and holds the world's largest sovereign wealth fund. This paper aims to understand the sustainability of Norway's economy in view of its major income source being oil, and also understand the framework of the largest sovereign wealth fund and how Norway is preparing itself for a post-oil future. Additionally, this paper utilises future data estimations to critically examine the road ahead for Norway.

INTRODUCTION

"When the fund was set up, nobody thought it would pass 10,000 billion Kroner. We were lucky to discover oil. The return on the investments in global financial markets has been so high that it can be compared to having discovered oil again." [1]

-Yngve Slyngstad
(Fund's Chief Executive)

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[1] Solsvik, T., Adomaitis, N. and Klesty, V. (2019) Norway wealth fund grows to record 10 trillion crowns. Reuters. 25th October [online]. Available at https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-swf-record/norway-wealth-fund-grows-to-record-10-trillion-crowns-idUSKBN1X41AO [Accessed 04 February 2020]

Preceding the industrial revolution, Norway's economy was, to a great extent, dependent on primary activities such as fishing, timber, and agriculture. The citizens normally survived adverse conditions such as considerable scarcity of food, even though famine was uncommon. All around the coast, the primary method of subsistence for households, especially in numerous regions in the north and west, was fishing and it was an important supplement to farming. This sea-activity typically supplemented land-activities such as livestock breeding on small farms, crop-growing, and cattle farming.

Natural resources were found in the area of the North Sea surrounding Norway, over which the nation asserted its sovereign rights in May, 1963. The Norwegian Ministry of Industry acted swiftly to set up a national energy policy, all this against the backdrop of the country's referendum to not merge with the European Union. Norway decided to set its own energy prices in accordance with the shifts in the global market, requiring it to avoid joining the OPEC and allowing it to spend its income wisely. To facilitate the production and drilling of oil and petroleum, the government established its own company 'Statoil' (presently Equinor).

ECONOMIC POLICIES

The general public and the representative politicians, both, came to terms with the fact that taking benefit of Norway's comparative advantage was the way forward for the nation's economic advancement, by specializing in specific areas for export and importing the rest. This thinking has significantly affected Norway's agricultural policy, which has been reshaped not to promote self-sufficiency but to address the changes in the population patterns. Various issues have been raised for the Norwegian economic policy in regards to the image of Norway being developed as an oil-exporting nation. If Norway were to somehow support its flourishing economy when the oil reserves run out, the returns from oil-revenue would not be able to solely fuel public or private consumption. The concentration of human capital investment in the petroleum and ancillary sector has been a cause of a great deal of concern. Dependency of Norway's economic structure on natural resources that do not demand skilled labour has been called out by critics arguing that it makes economic growth profoundly vulnerable to fluctuations in the demand and pricing of these natural resources. Present oil-revenue is estimated to be at its peak period and will decline in the coming decades. Various endeavours have been undertaken to fence against the reliance on oil revenue. One such major endeavour is the Government Pension Fund Global.

GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND GLOBAL

The Government Pension Fund Global is made up of a structure that denies the government from accessing the revenues generated from the petroleum sector for any public spending and the only income that can be utilized is generated by the fund's capital.

The fund's valuation of $1+ trillion is estimated to value every Norwegian citizen's worth to about $200,000. As of 2019, the sovereign wealth fund boasts to be the largest globally. The sea-based oil drilling income is invested and the gains from the investments are paid out as dividends to the population or for impetuses, such as electric vehicle purchases.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The study is primarily undertaken to accomplish the following objectives:

- To identify and gauge the parameters of sustainability of Norway's economy
- To understand the framework of the largest Sovereign Wealth Fund and its value addition for the country

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For any research paper, the research methodology forms the base to translate the data into a relevant conclusion. The nature of research in this paper is analytical. For the study, we have primarily used the relevant data that was provided by international organizations such as OECD, World Bank, and IMF. Some data has also been used from the websites of Norges Bank, Statistics Norway, and Norwegian Petroleum. The data has helped us understand the economic framework of Norway and the working of its main Sovereign Wealth Fund. It has also served as an instrument to assess the future course of action for the sustainability of the Norwegian economy. The techniques used in this study are confined to primary statistical concepts, such as average growth rates, basic charts, and historical data forecasting to predict the growth of the progress indicators and create a brief picture about the economic future of the country. An in-depth analysis of the Norwegian Financial Budget has also been made to gain an insight into the functioning and steps taken by the Norwegian Government to regulate their economy. The economy of Norway has been gauged by progress indicators relevant to the Norwegian economy such as Interest Rates, Household

Debt, GDP Growth Rate, Oil and Gas Reserves, and Market Competitiveness[2]. The indicators are supplemented by graphs with trend analysis covering the timeline from factual past to predicted future to aid our understanding.

OVERVIEW OF DATA

NORWEGIAN ECONOMY AND THE ROAD AHEAD

In the financial budget for the year 2020, reduction in oil revenue expenditure has been proposed by the government administration by up to 0.2 percent of the GDP of the mainland (non-oil economy). The next few decades are expected to witness oil investments continuing to hover at significant levels, even amidst speculations of its gradual weakening beginning in the year 2020.

Of late, new advancements have been made in the fiscal policy and the period of enormous increments, brought about by the inception of the fiscal rule in 2001, in the oil revenue expenditure is declining. The last couple of years have seen some stability in the oil revenue expenditure as a portion of the non-oil economy GDP, and in about a decade, the oil revenue will gradually decline resulting in the downward movement of the Government Pension Fund Global's (GPFG) revenue generation. On proceeding forward, the GPFG's growth is forecasted to slow down. Consequently, the room for future increase of oil revenue expenditure is seriously constrained. Currently, taxation at a marginal rate of 78% has been imposed on oil exports - composing of a special petroleum tax of 56% and standard corporate tax of 22%.

The present scenario has pegged the uncertainty regarding the market value of the fund as more important compared to the uncertainty regarding the petroleum costs, which have become less significant for the advancements in the fund as oil reserves are converted into financial wealth. The fiscal rule dictates the amount to be transferred over a period to the financial budget from the fund. Funding from such transfers have taken a respectable place as valuation of the fund is currently around thrice the size of the non-oil economy. Recommendations to reduce the oil revenue expenditure would seem imperative if a substantial decrease in the fund capital is studied in isolation. The oil revenue expenditure guidelines are adaptable and versatile precisely in order to ensure that the economy experiences sustainable developments. Significant changes, both

[2] Norway's Economic Outlook in Seven Charts (2019) The International Monetary Fund. 12 June [online]. Available at: https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2019/06/11/na061019-norways-strong-momentum-the-ideal-time-to-address-long-term-challenges [Accessed 02 February 2020]

positive as well as negative, to the structural deficit or the fund capital should be dealt with gradual adjustments in the oil revenue expenditure.

A 3 percent average return has been predicted for the fund in the long term. According to the government's proposition for the year 2020, 2.6 percent of the fund capital is being burnt through, which sums up to $4.28+ billion (40 billion NOK) in expenditures from the projected long-term average return of 3 percent. Even when confronted with the 2014 oil price decline, the oil revenue expenditure had been kept under the fiscal policy rule by the existing government.

Even with a hypothetical 25 percent diminish in the valuation of the Fund's equities the oil income use stays unaltered at the level proposed in the fiscal budget. The withdrawal from the fund (spending rate) would shift to 3.1 percent of the capital of the fund as opposed to the current estimate of 2.6 percent. The estimated withdrawal rate for 2020, hence, relies upon economic policies which are prudent, given that the utilization of petroleum revenues hover around the 3 percent mark, even with some critical decline in the fund value. The administration is better suited in case of some possible future decrease in estimations of value of the GPFG or some economic mishap in the country by ensuring the spending rate remains below 3 percent. At the point when the growth of the Fund is stabilizing, restrictions during good periods is essential for the support of the fiscal policy adaptability to counter economic adversities.

Oil revenue expenditure for 2020 is implied to be of NOK 243.6 billion according to the budget proposal, as estimated by the structural non-oil fiscal deficit. 7.6 percent of non-oil economy is the value for oil revenue expenditure, which is NOK 45,000 per capita in excess. The withdrawals from the GPFG finance roughly one-eighth of the total budgeted expenditure. 0.8 percent reflects the fiscal spending growth, which is below the estimated growth in the non-oil economy.

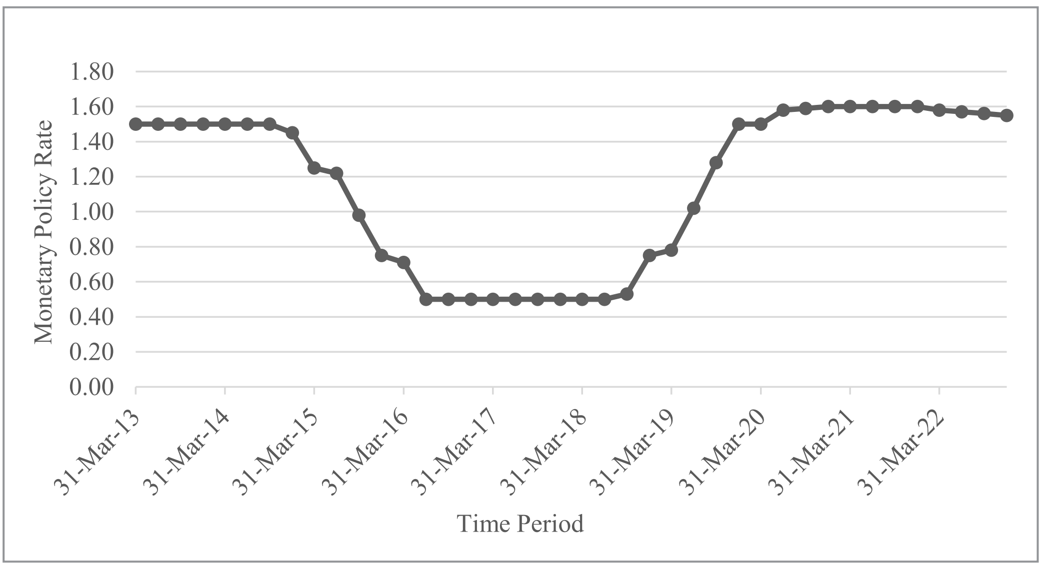
Norway's economy and competitiveness are not solely dependent upon by the amount of oil revenue expenditure, but also the manner in which these are spent. Measures improving productivity, and in turn the economy's growth limit, should have increases in oil revenue expenditure centered around them, as was accentuated by a white paper report. "The Parliament emphasized, in 2001, that oil revenues must not turn into a reason for maintaining a distance from fundamental structural reforms" as was unanimously noted by a government committee for economic affairs in their report on long-term perspectives on the Norwegian Economy in 2017. The Committee also supported the key needs sketched out in 2001, with great emphasis on growth-oriented tax reductions, government spending focus on education, research, and infrastructure. These areas continue to be prioritized by the administration in its budget for the year 2020.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

a. Interest Rate Outlook

Norges Bank, Norway's central bank was prompted to hike interest rates periodically to off-set the soaring inflation rates caused by the country's low unemployment and mounting wage rates. Hiking the rates aggressively could expose the households to interest rates with sharp increments, while raising the rates too progressively could prompt high inflation. As seen in Graph-1, initially, Norges Bank increases the interest rate steadily to offset the inflation in the economy. Later, levelling at a rate of 1.5 percent and decreasing thereon. The upward trend begins again to offset the growing inflation in recent years and is predicted to remain at higher levels. Although, the economic outlook seems positive during the initial years beginning 2013, the global trade tensions could prove to be a challenge in maintaining the right balance by the bank in the coming years.

Figure 1: Interest Rate Outlook

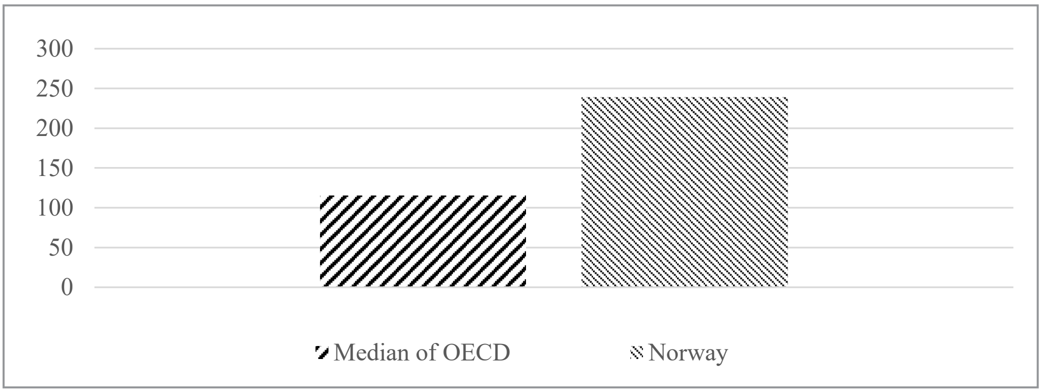


Source: International Monetary Fund

b. Household Indebtedness

A major portion of the disposable income of the population is expended by the mortgage payments of the household making real estate a costly situation for the citizens. Due to the high rise in prices the housing sector may face a crisis in the near future as Norway is challenged by shortage of real estate land space. Developments in commercial real estate should also be monitored, as valuations appear strained, most notably in the country's capital Oslo. As seen in Graph-2, Norway has a considerably higher household debt compared to other OECD nations. House prices had been growing rapidly until last year, raising concerns about disruptive price falls. Since then, house price gains have slowed, and valuations now appear less stretched. Norwegian households still have one of the highest debt levels globally, and indebtedness keeps rising and, hence, mortgage regulations should not be eased.

Figure 2: Household Indebtedness(percent of net disposable income)



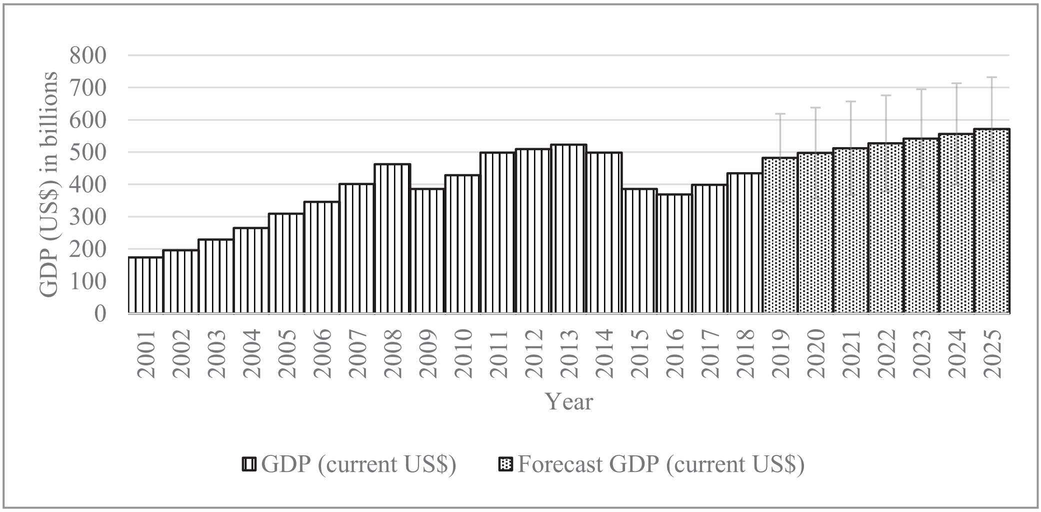
Source: International Monetary Fund

c. Growth Momentum

The country's economy has remained healthy for a couple of years and continues to be among the richest and most well-performing economies in the world. The growth has been focused around oil and gas revenues which have spurred the economy multi-fold. The investments from such revenue are a crucial pivot for the Norwegian government as this will lay the foundation for future revenue flows. The downside of relying on a major income source is the exhaustibility of the resource, as is the case with Norway's oil and gas reserves. As seen in Graph-3, the GDP numbers took a serious hit after 2014 due to a significant fall in crude prices and thus also resulting in a weaker

Krone. The forecast for the years beginning 2019 has been calculated using Historical Data for forecasting keeping in account deviation of 2.5 percent throughout. The forecast shows a stable growth for the Norwegian economy for the next six years. Though the growth has been quiet for the past few years, Norway's economic outlook remains positive so far.

Figure 3: GDP Growth Momentum

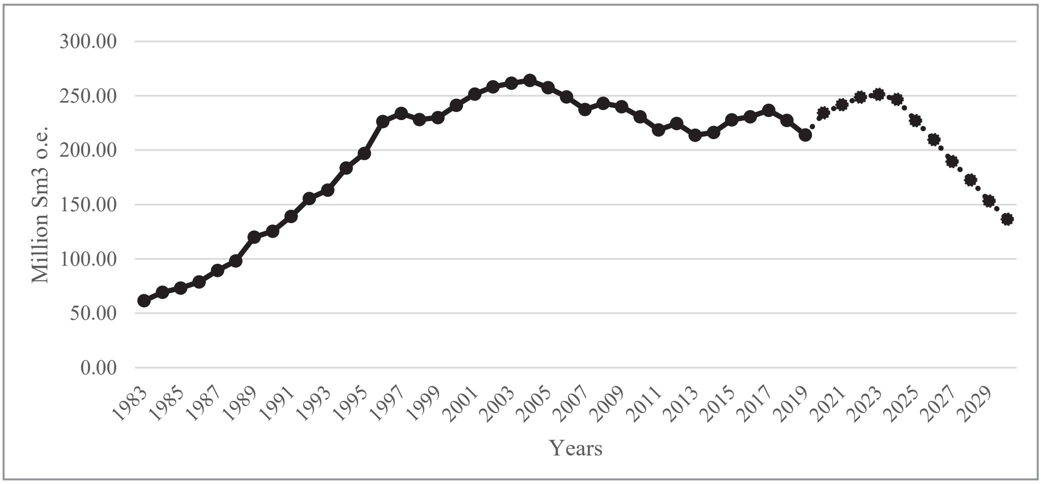


Source: The World Bank (2018)

d. Oil and Gas Reserves

In the future, oil and gas revenues are expected to slump. Simultaneously, pensions and medical costs will continue to soar because of the aging population. The oil rate has been kept above break-even point by the government. Future spending is accommodated by the annual returns on the GPFG. Norway has heavily relied upon oil and gas reserves but depleting reserves have started to pose a serious problem. As seen in Graph-4, Norway petroleum has projected that these reserves will remain stagnant for a while and then take a serious hit after 2024 unless new resources are discovered. This will imply that over time Norway's budget will face increasingly hard choices, which will require exploring new sources of revenue or savings to accommodate new spending. Renewable sources such as nuclear and solar are being explored and a self-sufficient environment is being created for the industrialists and citizens.

Figure 4: Oil and Gas Reserves Projections

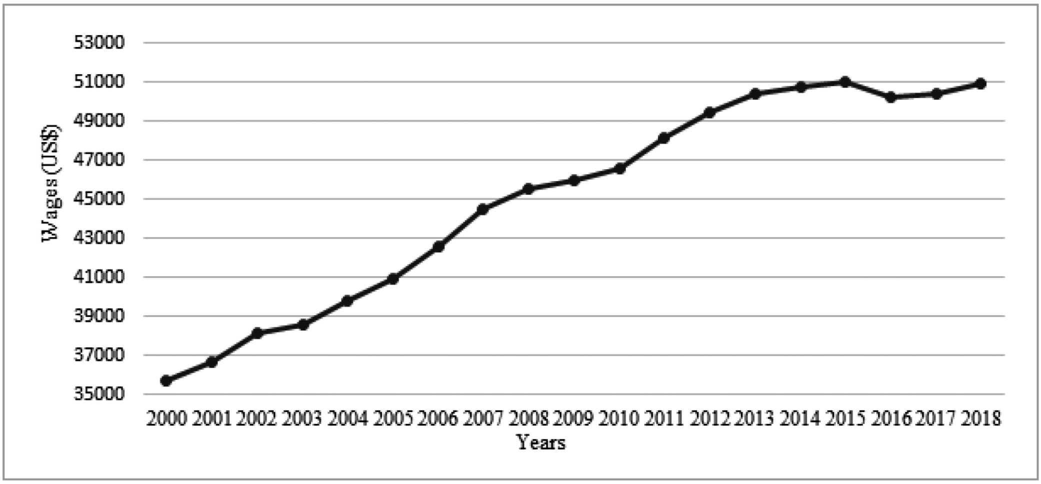


Source: Norwegian Petroleum

e. Market Competitiveness

To facilitate a smooth transition of the economy away from oil and gas, an increased sense of competitiveness needs to be inculcated in other sectors. The weak Krone won't be able to sustain the competitiveness for a continued period of time on its own. Feelings of shared trust, sense of mutual responsibility, and moderations in wages would be essential. As seen in Graph-5, the wage growth slumped after 2015, which happened due to a weakening Krone as a result of plummeting crude oil prices, but it was neutralized by a downward trend in inflation. This meant that there is no real impact on the real wages. The average monthly earnings have increased by 3.7 percent in 2019 from 2018. A flood of foreign workers has also been noticed in sectors like fishery, tourism and oil related services.

Figure 5: Wages in USD PPP at Constant Prices



Source: OECD Statistics (2018)

GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND GLOBAL

The Norwegians are well aware of the oil wealth's terrible ability to transform riches into rags. In 1990 they set up a sovereign wealth fund (GPFG) to prepare the nation for a post-oil future and to forestall deindustrialisation. 'Oil Fund', as it is commonly known, is managed by Norges Bank Investment Management, a unit of the central bank. 70 percent of funds are invested in global equities, a portfolio of fixed-income assets is given some 28 percent and the rest is made up of unlisted real estate holdings. The fund is invested in 9,158 companies across 73 countries – holding an average of 1.4 percent of all the world's listed companies. The 3 investment areas of the fund are equities, bonds and real estate. The fund is invested in international markets to reduce dependency on the Norwegian economy and so that it remains undisturbed by domestic fluctuations. The fund's current market value is 10,531 billion NOK[3] or $1128.49 billion as of February 2020.

As discussed earlier, the structure of the fund is such that it prevents the government from utilising the fund capital and only the returns from the fund are accessible for usage. With the implementation of the fiscal rule, 4 percent was set as the expected real rate of return of the GPFG, which was further reduced to 3 percent in the spring of 2017. Preservation of the real value of the

[3] Norges Bank Investment Management (2020) Market Value of the Fund [online]. Available at: https://www.nbim.no/en/the-fund/market-value/ [Accessed 25 February 2020]

fund is ensured by the framework of the fiscal policy which would result in the benefit of future generations. Space is left to counteract economic downturns with the fiscal policy. Simultaneously, the financial budget is insulated against short-term fluctuations in petroleum revenues by the fiscal policy and the fund. An event of large shifts in the fund value or factors affecting the structural non-oil fiscal deficit would call for a smoothening change in the utilization of petroleum revenue over several years, the basis of which would be an assessment of the real rate of return of the fund a few years ahead.

The fund returned 19.9 percent in 2019, which equates to approximately $180 billion (1.7 trillion kroner), creating history for being the highest net return of the fund. This was fuelled by positive equity gains, and depreciation of the kroner against other major currencies. The government also injected $1.9 billion (18 billion kroner), following a $3.6 billion (34 billion kroner) inflow in 2018. The fund not only acts as a tool to stabilize the economy from over-heating and dangerously high levels of inflation, but also holds the ability to stimulate the economy when there are warning signs of high unemployment, low growth and a fiscal stimulus is required. Withdrawals from the fund are guided by the following rules since 2001:

- Economic fluctuations would garner significant emphasis for being evened out so that contributions towards low employment and sound capacity utilization can be made.
- Over time, the transfers to the central government budget from the fund would follow the expected real return on the fund.

Table-1: Returns from the Government Pension Fund Global (Figures in percent)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Returns measured in the fund's					
Equity Investments	-9.49	19.44	8.72	3.83	7.90
Unlisted real estate invesments	7.53	7.52	0.78	9.99	10.42
Fixed-income investments	0.56	3.31	4.32	0.33	6.88
Return on Fund	-6.12	13.66	6.92	2.74	7.58
Relatative return on fund (percentage points)	-0.30	0.70	0.15	0.45	-0.77

Management costs	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06
return on fund after management costs	-6.71	13.60	6.87	2.68	7.52
Returns in kroner					
Equity investments	-6.56	19.74	3.67	16.77	24.60
Unlisted real estate investments	11.02	7.80	-3.91	23.77	27.51
Fixed-income investments	3.82	3.57	-0.53	12.83	23.43
Return on fund	-3.07	13.95	1.95	15.54	24.23

Source: Norges Bank Investment Management

In table-1, the returns were measured by calculating a weighted combination of 35 international currencies at the end of 2018 which formed the currency basket.

CONCLUSION

Until now, proceeds from petroleum activities have served as a backbone to the Norwegian economy. The revenue from these activities has allowed the budget to be consistently in surplus and facilitated contributions to the Government Pension Fund Global. But, since revenue from the petroleum activities is set to decline in the future, there are serious apprehensions about whether the country would be able to maintain budget surplus and continue making contributions to the fund. Norway has also invested heavily in renewable resources. Their electricity sector is primarily powered by hydropower resources, making it close to 98% renewable. But its economy is primarily dependent upon oil given 52% of their exports relate to oil and gas. Amid the likelihood of a decline in oil revenues, there is a dire need for more investment in renewable sources of energy.

Since the value of the fund is more than 2 times the GDP, the fund insures the economy of any downturns that it may face in the future. But for that, the fund also needs to ensure that constant returns are yielded from its investments. In 2018, the Government Pension Fund Global investments yielded a figure of -6.1 percent, which performed less by 0.3 percentage point than the benchmark index for returns which it is measured against. In stark contrast, the fund posted a return of 19.9 percent in 2019, the peak net return in the history of the fund. Although 2018 was marked by weak performance, the benchmark index for long-term returns has been surpassed with higher figures. The year 2018 also marked the second-lowest return by the fund since 1998, and the return in 2019 was second highest since 2008, in percent. The dip in the fund's 2018 return is not a cause for concern as it was affected by global trade tensions and the investment strategy adopted by the management. But plummeting oil revenues would result in budget deficits that would have been funded in the form of transfers from the fund. The government's transfer to the fund in 2018 and 2019 are such transactions which could be affected in the future. This would hamper the sustainability of the fund. With continuing disparity in oil prices, the task of establishing economic stability through a cautious operation of economic policies will remain a challenge. Growth in sectors other than oil is paramount for the economy to be sustainable in the long run, and to shift from its dependence on one major income source.

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HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL

The idea to launch this Journal was discussed in December 2016 by the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R. P. Rustagi** with **Dr. Santosh Kumari,** the Editor of the Journal. Since the idea appealed to **Dr. Santosh Kumari**, she took the initiative to contribute to SRCC by creating this new academic research Journal and took the responsibility for its Creation, Registration, License and ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) etc. along with *Editorship*. Therefore, **Dr. Santosh Kumari, Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce, Shri Ram College of Commerce** was appointed as the Editor of the Journal vide. Office Order – SRCC/AD-158/2017 dated March 14, 2017. She meticulously worked hard in creating the concept and developing the structure of the Journal. She introduced the concept of COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) to maintain the high academic standards of publication.

On behalf of SRCC, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** made every effort in seeking License from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi to register the Journal at "The Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India". The paper work for seeking license started under the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R.P. Rustagi** on March 27, 2017. The foundation Issue of the Journal "**Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17**" was successfully released on the 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on April 13, 2017 by **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India**. The title of the Journal got verified and approved by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on April 21, 2017. On September 1, 2017, **Prof. Simrit Kaur** joined SRCC as Principal and signed each and every legal document required for further processing and supported **Dr. Santosh Kumari**.

On December 18, 2017, the College got the license "**License No. - DCP / LIC No. F. 2 (S / 37) Press / 2017"** to publish 'Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce'. Due to change of Printing Press, the License got updated on March 09, 2018. On April 26, 2018, the SRCC Staff Council unanimously appointed **Dr. Santosh Kumari as the 'Editor of Strides**' for the next two academic years.

On April 27, 2018 (The Foundation Day of the College), **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for the registration of the Journal. On May 04, 2018, the SRCC received the '**Certificate of Registration**' for ***"Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce"*** and got the **Registration No. DELENG/2018/75093** dated May 04, 2018. ***On behalf of Shri Ram College of Commerce, it was a moment of pride for Dr. Santosh Kumari to receive the 'Certificate of Registration' on May 04, 2018 at the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India (website - www.rni.nic.in).***

On May 07, 2018, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for seeking ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) at "ISSN National Centre – India, National Science Library, NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources). Weblink - http://nsl.niscair.res.in/ISSNPROCESS/issn.jsp". Finally, the College received the International Standard Serial Number "**ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**" **on June 01, 2018.**

We are proud that this journal is an add-on to the enriched catalogue of SRCC's publications and academic literature.

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RELEASE OF FOUNDATION ISSUE OF STRIDES

Foundation Issue of the Journal *"Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17"* was successfully released on the 91st Annual Day held on April 13, 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

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