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IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH DUE TO DECLINE IN CRUDE OIL PRICE IN OMAN – A YOUTH PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to know the opinion of students regarding economic growth in Oman due to decline in crude oil price. Data was collected from 424 students using a structured questionnaire. Chi-square test was used to analyze the relationship between gender, specialization and level of education with opinion of students. The findings of the study shows that Female students have positive opinion that government will normalize budget deficit than male students, majority students have a positive opinion that government will increase taxes and Male students have slightly positive opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector than female students. Over all it can be concluded that Female students and diploma students have an optimistic opinion about the economic growth in Oman.

KEYWORDS: *Economic Growth, Oil Prices, Decline, Perception*

1. INTRODUCTION

With production of less than 1 million b/d of oil, the Sultanate of Oman has less oil and gas reserves compared to its GCC neighbors, except Bahrain. Since the sharp drop in oil prices in the second half of 2014, the government has taken bold steps to increase revenues from non-oil sources. These include turning to debt markets for the first time (it sold \$2.5 billion in bonds on June 8) and taking on some reforms such as subsidy cuts, reduced benefits for public sector workers and increased fees. Furthermore, they introduced a royalty on telecom operators, a “fair tax” on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports, and an increase in royalties paid for mineral exploitation. Oman has recently approved a 35 % tax on petrochemical firms and increased taxation on liquefied natural gas companies. The change will see taxes on LNG firms increase from 15 to 55%. Reforms in 2015 include the doubling of the price of gas for industrial users. The World Bank estimates that \$10 billion in revenues were lost in 2015, and the new budget projects a deficit of 16.8% of GDP in 2016. Government subsidy spending is expected to fall by 64 % in 2016, as local fuel prices are brought in line with global prices. The deregulation of petrol prices began in mid-January 2016, with diesel and petrol prices increasing by up to 33%. An increase in the corporate income tax rate from 12 to 15%, as well as the removal of the tax exemption for the first OMR 30,000 of taxable earnings, has been approved by the Shura Council and a GCC-wide VAT has been agreed upon. Other measures to boost non-hydrocarbon revenue include: revising electricity and water tariffs for commercial and industrial users; and increasing fees for government services including licenses and labor cards, vehicle registration, real-estate transactions and land allocation. The following table shows the GDP growth of Oman.

Table 1: GDP Growth of Oman from 2012 to 2016

Years	GDP Annual Growth Rate	GDP in USD Billion	Average Annual OPEC Crude oil prices
2012	11.5	76.7	109.45
2013	2.8	78.9	105.87
2014	4.6	81.03	96.29
2015	-14.1	69.83	49.49
2016	-5.1	66.29	40.68

Source:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/262858/change-in-opec-crude-oil-prices-since-1960/>

<https://tradingeconomics.com/oman/gdp-growth-annual>

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several empirical studies have focused on developing oil-exporting countries. According to Mehrara (2008), an oil boom would release foreign exchange constraints and would stimulate economic performance for oil-exporting countries from both supply and demand sides. Furthermore, the government would follow expansionary fiscal policy and would use such money to finance its development and infrastructure which will induce investment, consumption and economic growth (Emami, 2012). However, such positive effect could be weakened by real exchange rate appreciation which leads to the contraction of tradable sectors and so the country will be under the risk of the Dutch disease. In addition, when oil prices decrease governments are not able to adjust their current spending immediately.

Pieschanc on (2009) used a vector autoregressive (VAR) model to assess the impact of oil prices on government revenue, government purchases, tradable and non-tradable output, transfers, private consumption and the real exchange rate for Norway and Mexico over the period 1980-2006. He found that fiscal policy is the most responsive policy to oil prices and he argued that this is the main transmission channel through which the degree of exposure of the economy to oil price volatility is determined. Cologne and Manera (2013) consider the role of the government and its reallocation process in the economy through fiscal policy. They address the effects of oil shocks and the expansionary fiscal policy on the business cycle of GCC countries (Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar) by using the real business cycle model. Results revealed that the negative impact of oil shocks on private output, capital and employment can be more than offset by the positive effects of oil shocks on government revenue and expenditure. This fact causes a shift of productive factors from the private sector to the public sector, thus government employment and output both expand causing a boost in the total output. DiDomenico and Bonnici (1996) recommend measuring both student expectations and perceptions in order to expose expected versus perceived quality gaps. In the view of this study, service quality is a product of lecturer calibre and skillfully using teaching methods that deliver satisfying learning experiences. This does not mean student perceptions should be the sole consideration for defining appropriate teaching methodology and lecturers 'characteristics. Instead, service gap analysis should aid the identification of areas in teaching and learning that need modification. Liu (2010) investigated students' use of different social media tools and their attitudes and perceptions towards these tools. The author sought to identify the knowledge and trends of using 16 social media tools that included Face book, Wiki, YouTube, Bulleting Board, LinkedIn, Blogs, Twitter, Podcasts, Virtual Worlds, RSS, Stumble Upon, Netlog, Delicious, Digg, Plurk, and Jaiku. The study results revealed the top four reasons why students use social media tools. As reported, 85% use such tools for social engagement, 56% use them for direct communications, 48% use them for speed of feedback/results, and 47% use them for relationship building; however, fewer than 10% of the students mentioned using social media tools for academic practice

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

The objectives of the study are;

1. To know the opinion of youth on impact of economic growth.
2. To generate idea regarding whether government would normalize budget deficit.
3. To identify whether investment in oil sector increase.
4. To determine the impact on exports and imports.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study employed a quantitative research design based on a survey method through questionnaires. The survey method employed in this research because it is an efficient way of collecting information from a large number of respondents. Besides that, this method is easy to administer and cheaper to conduct. Population selected for this study is Nizwa College of Technology. Out of 5380 population, sample size of 424 students were selected at randomly from the three academic departments. The age group of the respondents ranged between 18 to 25 years old.

The main research instrument of this study is a questionnaire. The researcher has used the 5-points Likert scale which was Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree and Strongly Disagree was used for the following:

- a. Perception about improvement in Oman economy with decline in crude oil price.
- b. Decline in crude oil prices helps government to normalize budget deficit.
- c. Decline in prices of crude oil will bring more investment in oil sector.
- d. Decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.
- e. Decline in prices of crude oil will increase imports.

Descriptive analysis was used to interpret the data collected. Chi-square test was used to analyze the relationship between gender, specialization and level of education with opinion of students.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

**Table 2: Perception about improvement in Oman economy
With decline in crude oil price**

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Male	58 (26)	110 (49)	16 (7)	34 (15)	6 (3)	224
Female	50 (25)	114 (57)	12 (6)	22 (11)	2 (1)	200
Departments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Business	34 (26)	68 (52)	8 (6)	18 (14)	2 (2)	130
Information Technology	22 (29)	44 (58)	4 (5)	5 (7)	1 (1)	76
Engineering	52 (24)	112 (51)	17 (8)	34 (16)	3 (1)	218
Level of Education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Diploma	58 (27)	113 (53)	15 (7)	26 (12)	1 (0)	213
Advanced Diploma	26 (22)	64 (55)	7 (6)	15 (13)	5 (4)	117
Bachelor	24 (26)	46 (49)	4 (4)	16 (17)	4 (5)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

It can be understood from Table 1 that 26 percentage of the male strongly agree and 49 percentage agree that decline in crude oil price will improve Oman economy. Thus 75 percentage of male have shown a favorable opinion. Whereas 25 percentage of the female strongly agrees and 57 percentages agree that Oman economy will improve with decline in crude oil price. It shows that 82 percentage of female have shown a favorable opinion. Based on the gender opinion it is clear that female students have shown more favorable opinion than male students that decline in crude oil price will improve Oman economy.

On the basis of departments, 78percentage (26 strongly agree and 52 agree)of business department students, 87percentage (29 strongly agree and 58 agree)of information technology student and 75percentage (24 strongly agree and 51 agree)of engineering students have a positive opinion about improvement in Oman economy even with the decline in the crudeoil prices.It is clear that information technology student have more positive opinion that decline in crude oil price will improve Oman economy than business and engineering students.

On the basis of level of education, 80percentage (27 strongly agree and 53 agree) of diploma students, 77percentage (22 strongly agree and 55 agree) of advanced diploma students and 75 percentage (26 strongly agree and 49 agree) of Bachelor students believe that even with the decline in crudeoil prices the economy of Oman will improve. It shows that diploma students have more optimistic opinion that decline in crude oil price will improve Oman economy than advance diploma and Bachelor students.

Based on the above findings the following hypothesis are tested:

H₀ (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

H₁ (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

H₀ (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

H₁ (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

H₀ (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

H₁ (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and the opinion with respect to improvement in Oman economy with decline in crudeoil prices.

To analyze the relationship between gender, specialization and level of education with opinion about improvement in Oman economy with decline in crude oil prices chi-square test is used. It is found that there is no significant relationship between gender and opinion on economy's improvement due to decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.35), departments and opinion on economy improvement due to decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.58) and there is no relationship between opinion on economy improvement due to decline in crude oil prices and level of education (p value 0.46).

Table 3: Increase in petrol prices should have been taken few years back (5 to 10 years)

Gender	Yes	No	Total
Male	148 (66)	76 (34)	224
Female	132 (66)	68 (34)	200
Departments	Yes	No	Total
Business	89 (68)	41 (32)	130
Information Technology	50 (66)	26 (34)	76

Engineering	141 (65)	77 (35)	218
Level of Education	Yes	No	Total
Diploma	148 (69)	65 (31)	213
Advanced Diploma	64 (55)	53 (45)	117
Bachelor	68 (72)	26 (28)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

It is observed from table 2 that 66 percentage of the male and female students equally have the opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

On the basis of departments, 68 percentage of Business Students, 66 percentage of Information Technology students and 65 percentage of Engineering students have the opinion that petrol price increase should have been taken few years back. It can be concluded that Business students showed slightly favorable opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back than Information Technology and Engineering specialization students.

On the basis of level of education, 69 percentage of the Diploma students, 55 percentage of the Advanced Diploma students and 72 percentage of Bachelor students have the opinion that petrol price increase should have been taken few years back. It is clear from the above table that Bachelor students have more optimistic opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back than Diploma and Advanced Diploma students.

Based on the above findings the following hypothesis are tested:

H_0 (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and the opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

H_1 (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

H_0 (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

H_1 (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

H_0 (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

H_1 (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back.

Chi-square test results shows that there is no significant relationship between gender and the opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back (p value 0.98) and departments and the opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back (p value 0.77). But there is significant relationship between the opinion that petrol prices increase should have been taken few years back and level of education (p value 0.008). Bachelor student are more opinionated than other students.

Table 4: Decline in crude oil prices helps government to normalize budget deficit

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Male	36 (16)	95 (42)	76 (34)	4 (2)	13 (6)	224
Female	28 (14)	96 (48)	56 (28)	14 (7)	6 (3)	200
Departments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Business	17 (13)	59 (45)	40 (31)	10 (8)	4 (3)	130
Information Technology	10 (13)	38 (50)	24 (32)	3 (4)	1 (1)	76
Engineering	36 (17)	98 (45)	68 (31)	3 (1)	13 (6)	218
Level of Education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Diploma	36 (17)	91 (43)	72 (34)	7 (3)	7 (3)	213
Advanced Diploma	19 (16)	56 (48)	29 (25)	4 (3)	9 (8)	117
Bachelor	8 (9)	48 (51)	31 (33)	4 (4)	3 (3)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

Table 3 reveals that 16 percentages of males strongly agree and 42 percentage of the males agree that government will normalize budget deficit, whereas 14 percentage of the female strongly agree and 48 percentage of female agree that government will normalize budget deficit. Based on gender it can be concluded that female have positive opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

On the basis of departments, 13 percentages of Business students strongly agree and 45 percentage of Business students agree that government will normalize budget deficit. In case of Information Technology students 13 percentages strongly agree and 50 percentage agree that government will normalize budget deficit. Whereas for Engineering students 17 percentage strongly agree and 45 percentage agree that government will normalize budget deficit. It shows that majority of the students in the three departments have a favorable opinion that the government will normalize budget deficit.

On the basis of level of education, 17 percentage of the Diploma students strongly agree whereas 43 percentage of Diploma students agree that government will normalize budget deficit. In Advanced Diploma it shows that 16 percentage of students strongly agree and 48 percentage of students agree that government will normalize budget deficit. Bachelors shows that 9 percentage of the students strongly agree and 51 percentage of the students agree that government will

normalize budget deficit. It can be concluded that, majority of the students in three education level have optimistic opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

Based on the above findings the following hypothesis are tested:

H₀ (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

H₁ (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

H₀ (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

H₁ (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

H₀ (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

H₁ (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit.

It is found that there is a significant relationship between gender and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit (p value 0.01). Whereas there is a no significant relationship between departments and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit (p value 0.11) and level of education and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit (p value 0.23).

Table 5: Government decision on fiscal policy (Tax Policy)

Gender	Increase in Taxes	Taxes Remain Same	Decrease in Taxes	Total
Male	137 (61)	59 (26)	28 (13)	224
Female	114 (57)	48 (24)	38 (19)	200
Departments	Increase in Taxes	Taxes Remain Same	Decrease in Taxes	Total
Business	73 (56)	28 (22)	29 (22)	130
Information Technology	46 (61)	20 (26)	10 (13)	76
Engineering	132 (61)	59 (27)	27 (12)	218
Level of Education	Increase in Taxes	Taxes Remain Same	Decrease in Taxes	Total
Diploma	130 (61)	53 (25)	30 (14)	213
Advanced Diploma	64 (55)	28 (24)	25 (21)	117
Bachelor	59 (63)	28 (30)	7 (7)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

It can be revealed from table 4 that, majority (61 %) of the males have the perception that government will increase taxes, whereas 57 percentage of the female students have the perception that government will increase taxes. It can be concluded that majority have a positive opinion that government will increase taxes.

On the basis of departments, 56 percentage of Business students, 61 percentage of Information Technology students and 61 percentage of Engineering students have the opinion that government will increase taxes. On the basis of departments it can be concluded that majority of the students have favorable opinion that government will increase taxes.

On the basis of level of education, 61 percentage of the Diploma students, 55 percentage of the Advanced Diploma students and 63 percentage of the Bachelor students have the opinion that government will increase taxes. Based on level of education also majority of the students have favorable opinion that government will increase taxes.

The following hypothesis is tested:

H_0 (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

H_1 (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

H_0 (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

H_1 (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

H_0 (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

H_1 (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy.

Statistical result shows that there is no significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy (p value 0.18), departments and opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy (p value 0.14) and no relationship between opinion regarding government decision on fiscal policy and level of education (p value 0.33).

Table 6: Decline in prices of crude oil will bring more investment in oil sector

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Male	62 (28)	65 (29)	53 (24)	41 (18)	3 (1)	224
Female	46 (23)	60 (30)	40 (20)	48 (24)	6 (3)	200
Departments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Business	30 (23)	39 (30)	30 (23)	29 (22)	2 (2)	130
Information Technology	22 (29)	22 (29)	14 (18)	16 (21)	2 (3)	76
Engineering	55 (25)	65 (30)	49 (22)	45 (21)	4 (2)	218
Level of Education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Diploma	58 (27)	66 (31)	44 (21)	41 (19)	4 (2)	213
Advanced Diploma	33 (28)	25	27 (23)	30 (26)	2 (2)	117

		(21)				
Bachelor	16 (17)	35 (37)	24 (26)	18 (19)	1 (1)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

Table 5 depicts that only 57 percentage (28% strongly agree and 29% agree) of the male students have opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector, whereas 53 (i.e. 23 strongly agree and 30 agree) percentage of female have the same opinion. Based on gender opinion it shows that male have slightly positive opinion than females that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

On the basis of departments, it is clear that 53 percentage of Business students (23% strongly agree and 30% agree), 58 percentage of Information Technology students (29% strongly agree and 29% agree) but in case of Engineering students 55 percentage (25% strongly agree and 30% agree) have the opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector. It can be inferred that Information Technology students have slightly favorable opinion than business and engineering students.

On the basis of level of education, is shown that 58 percentage of diploma students (27% strongly agree and 31% agree), 49 percentage of advance diploma students (28% strongly agree and 21% agree), whereas in bachelor students it is 54 percentage (17% strongly agree and 37% agree) have the opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector. Overall it shows that diploma students have optimistic opinion than advanced diploma and bachelor students.

The following hypothesis are proposed and tested:

H₀ (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

H₁ (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

H₀ (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

H₁ (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

H₀ (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

H₁ (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector.

Chi-square result shows that there is no significant relationship between gender and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector (p value 0.16), departments and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil

sector (p value 0.99) and no relationship between level of education and opinion regarding that decline in crude oil prices brings more investment in oil sector (p value 0.22).

Table 7: Decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Male	40 (18)	76 (34)	97 (43)	9 (5)	2 (1)	224
Female	32 (16)	82 (41)	64 (32)	16 (8)	6 (3)	200
Departments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Business	23 (18)	51 (39)	45 (35)	8 (6)	3 (2)	130
Information Technology	10 (13)	31 (41)	31 (41)	3 (4)	1 (1)	76
Engineering	39 (18)	77 (35)	84 (39)	14 (6)	4 (2)	218
Level of Education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Diploma	45 (21)	75 (35)	83 (39)	8 (4)	2 (1)	213
Advanced Diploma	19 (16)	46 (39)	40 (34)	9 (8)	3 (3)	117
Bachelor	8 (9)	38 (40)	40 (43)	7 (7)	1 (1)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

It can be examined from table 6 that, 18 percentage of male have strongly agree and 34 percentage have agreed that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. In case of female, 16 percentage strongly agree and 41 agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. It shows that female have optimistic opinion than male.

In case of departments, 18 percentage of Business students strongly agree and 39 percentage agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. 13 percentage of Information Technology students strongly agree and 41 percentage of agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. 18 percentage of Engineering students strongly agree and 35 percentage agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. It shows that Business students have slightly positive opinion than Information Technology and Engineering students.

In case of level of education, 21 percentage of diploma students strongly agree and 35 percentage agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. 16 percentage of advanced diploma students strongly agree and 39 percentage of agree that decline in prices of crudeoil will increase exports. 9 percent of bachelor students strongly agree and 40 percentage agree that decline in

prices of crude oil will increase exports. It shows that diploma students have favorable opinion than advanced diploma and bachelor students.

The following hypothesis are tested:

H_0 (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion about decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

H_1 (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion about decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

H_0 (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion about decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

H_1 (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion about decline in crude oil prices brings more investments in oil sector.

H_0 (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion about decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

H_1 (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion about decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

Test result shows that there is no significant relationship between gender (p value 0.05), departments (p value 0.95) and level of education (p value 0.11) and opinion that decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

Table 8: Decline in prices of crude oil will increase imports

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Male	35 (16)	88 (39)	90 (40)	9 (4)	2 (1)	224
Female	30 (15)	74 (37)	68 (34)	22 (11)	6 (3)	200
Departments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Business	18 (14)	55 (42)	44 (34)	10 (8)	3 (2)	130
Information Technology	12 (16)	25 (33)	33 (43)	5 (7)	1 (1)	76
Engineering	35 (16)	81 (37)	81 (37)	17 (8)	4 (2)	218
Level of Education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Diploma	36 (17)	85 (40)	73 (34)	17 (8)	2 (1)	213
Advanced Diploma	10 (9)	45	53 (45)	6 (5)	3 (3)	117

		(38)				
Bachelor	18 (19)	32 (34)	32 (34)	10 (11)	2 (2)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

Table 7 shows that 16 percentage male strongly agree and 39 percentage of agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. 15 percentage female strongly agree and 37 percentage agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. On the basis of gender it is clear that both the genders have almost favorable opinion.

In case of departments, 14 percentage of Business students strongly agree and 42 percentage agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. 16 percentage of Information Technology students strongly agree and 33 percentage agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. 16 percentage of Engineering students strongly agree and 37 percentage agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. On the basis of specialization it is clear that Business students have positive opinion than Information Technology Students and Engineering students.

In case of level of education, 17 percentage of diploma students strongly agree and 40 percentage of students agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. 9 percentage of advanced diploma strongly agree and 38 percentage of student agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. 19 percentage of bachelor students strongly agree and 34 percentage of student agree that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices. It shows that diploma students have optimistic opinion than advanced diploma and bachelor students.

The following hypothesis are tested:

H_0 (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

H_1 (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

H_0 (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

H_1 (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

H_0 (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

H_1 (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices.

On the basis of test there is a significant relationship between gender and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.03). There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.92) and there is no relationship between level of education and opinion about imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.16).

**Table 9: Salaries in public and private sectors will increase
With the decline in crude oil prices**

Gender	Increase	Same	Decrease	Total
Male	90 (40)	61 (27)	73 (33)	224
Female	102 (51)	40 (20)	58 (29)	200
Departments	Increase	Same	Decrease	Total
Business	66 (51)	29 (22)	35 (27)	130
Information Technology	33 (43)	16 (21)	27 (36)	76
Engineering	92 (42)	58 (27)	68 (31)	218
Level of Education	Increase	Same	Decrease	Total
Diploma	101 (47)	53 (25)	59 (28)	213
Advanced Diploma	52 (44)	30 (26)	35 (30)	117
Bachelor	40 (43)	19 (20)	35 (37)	94

(The values given in parentheses are percentages)

It is observed from table 8 that 40 percentage of the male students have the opinion that salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices. In case of female students, 51 percentage have the same opinion. On the basis of gender it is clear that female students have a favorable opinion than male students.

On the basis of departments, 51 percentage of Business students, 43 percentage of Information Technology students and 42 percentage of Engineering students have the opinion that salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices. It is clear that Business students have a positive opinion than Information Technology and Engineering students.

On the basis of level of education, 47 percentage of diploma students, 44 percentage of advanced diploma students and 43 percentage of bachelor students have the opinion that salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices. It is clear that diploma students have an optimistic opinion than advanced diploma and bachelor students.

The following hypothesis are tested:

H_0 (G): There is no significant relationship between gender and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

H_1 (G): There is a significant relationship between gender and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

H_0 (Dpt): There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

H_1 (Dpt): There is a significant relationship between departments and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

H_0 (LoE): There is no significant relationship between level of education and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

H₁ (LoE): There is a significant relationship between level of education and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices.

On the basis of statistical test there is a no significant relationship between gender and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.05). There is no significant relationship between departments and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.39) and no relationship between level of education and opinion about salaries in public and private sectors will increase with the decline in crude oil prices (p value 0.44).

6. FINDINGS

1. Diploma students have more optimistic opinion regarding improvement in Oman economy due to decline in crude oil price than advanced diploma and Bachelor students and also there is no significant relationship between gender (p value 0.35), departments (p value 0.58) and level of education (p value 0.46).
2. Majority of the students in three different education level have optimistic opinion that government will normalize budget deficit. Hypothesis test showed that there is a significant relationship between gender and opinion that government will normalize budget deficit (p value 0.01).
3. Diploma students have optimistic opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investments in oil sector than advance diploma and bachelor students. Chi-square test showed that there is no significant relationship between gender (p value 0.16), department (p value 0.99) and level of education (p value 0.22) with opinion that decline in crude oil prices brings more investments in oil sector.
4. Business students have positive opinion that imports will increase with decline in crude oil prices than information technology students and engineering students and there is no significant relationship between gender (p value 0.05) department (p value 0.95) and level of education (p value 0.11) with opinion that decline in prices of crude oil will increase exports.

7. CONCLUSION: It can be concluded from the study that students are having an optimistic opinion that Oman economy will improve even with decline in crude oil prices, they are also optimistic that taxes in near future will increase and also have positive opinion regarding increase in salaries in both the sectors. It is evident that Oman economy is affected because of decline in the crude oil prices. Oman government is taking necessary steps to improve the economy by exploring other sources of revenues through tourism, fisheries, infrastructure, and service sector. Oman government is also considering value added tax and cutting down the subsidies to consumers.

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