

BIG INDIA VERSUS BIG U.S.

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RESEARCH QUESTION

- ▶ Size distribution of firms has many small firms, especially in poor countries.
- ▶ These small and unproductive firms lower aggregate TFP.
- ▶ However, there is still an overlap in the **right tail** of the firm size distributions in rich and poor countries.
- ▶ Are the large firms in poor countries “World Class”? i.e. are they comparable to similar-sized firms in rich countries?
- ▶ We conduct a firm survey focusing on firms in the right tail of the Indian firm size distribution, which account for 60-80% of total output.
- ▶ We plan to compare firms on relevant characteristics with US firms of similar size using US Census datasets.

FIRM CHARACTERISTICS

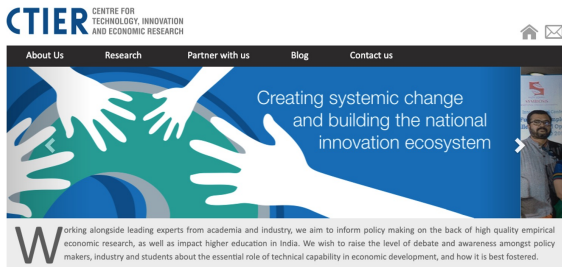
- ▶ We study innovation, customer importance and management practices:
 - Innovation: At least half of product innovation comes from firms that never patent in the US (Argente, Baslandze, Hanley and Moreira, 2020). This may be higher for firms in developing countries (Verhoogen, 2023).
 - Customer importance: Customers account for a large part of sales variation in the US (Klenow, Levin and Murciano-Goroff, 2022). Limited evidence from developing countries where access to customer markets may be limited.
 - Management practices: Management associated with patenting and R&D (Bloom, Brynjolfsson, Foster, Jarmin, Patnaik, Saporta-Eksten and Van Reenen, 2019). Managerial skills may be important for adapting technologies to local conditions (Acemoglu, Aghion and Zilibotti, 2006).

PREVIEW OF RESULTS FOR INDIA

We document five facts that can be summarized as follows:

1. Big firms sell more products.
2. Big firms sell to more customers.
3. Most products are not improved from year to year, and most innovation takes the form of the firm improving its own products rather than introducing brand new products to the market or imitating existing products in the market.
4. Better management is associated with more products, customers, and innovation.
5. Management practices are correlated with introducing new products to the market and improving products, but not with product imitation.

India Management and Growth Survey setup in Pune



India Management and Growth Survey 2022

1.	What is the name of your registered business?	
2.	What is the year of incorporation (<i>of your business</i>)?	
3.	How many full-time employees are there at your business (<i>this includes all workers, contract employees, payroll employees, and managers</i>)?	
4.	What is the share of contractual employees in total employees? (in%)	



DATA

We have developed, piloted and are conducting a phone-based firm survey in India:

1. Currently the sample has **2371** firms. (Validated sample: **2217** firms).
2. The sampling frame for the survey is 15,891 manufacturing firms for which sales and other financial data is available from Prowess and First Source (for accounting variables).
3. Reference year for the survey is 2021 for 1145 observations and 2022 for 1072 most recent observations.
4. The current response rate is 30.5%. Respondents are typically top managers (78.7%), CEOs or CFOs (7.3%), in Finance positions (11.6%) or in HR (2.5%).
5. We collect the following firm characteristics in the survey: employment, family ownership and management, exporting activity, whether the firm is headquartered in India, if the firm is a standalone or subsidiary business.
6. We link the survey data to firm financials (sales, capital, salaries, profits, expenses ...) and to patents at the firm level in the Orbis Intellectual Property dataset.

SURVEY QUESTIONS: PRODUCTS

- ▶ What was the number of unique products sold by your business?
- ▶ Of these unique products, how many did a typical customer purchase?
- ▶ What percent of sales from your products was from the top 1-3 products and top 4-10 products?
- ▶ What percent of sales from your products was from identical versions of previous products, improved versions of previous products, products new to you but existing in the market, and products new to the market?
- ▶ What share of products were introduced because customers requested, you thought customers would purchase, competitors have similar products?
- ▶ Product discontinuation
 - ▶ Share of sales to products discontinued.

SURVEY QUESTIONS: CUSTOMERS

- ▶ What was the number of unique customers as per your order book?
- ▶ What was the growth rate of the number of unique customers over the previous year?
- ▶ What was the share of sales in FY2022-23 from new customers?
- ▶ What is the average distance of your customers from your manufacturing plant?

SURVEY QUESTIONS: MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

10. What best describes what happened at this business when a problem in the production process arose?

Examples: Finding a quality defect in a product or a piece of machinery breaking down.

*Please select one option**

10a. We fixed it but did not take further action	
10b. We fixed it and took action to make sure that it did not happen again	
10c. We fixed it and took action to make sure that it did not happen again, and had a continuous improvement process to anticipate problems like these in advance	
10d. No action was taken	

- ▶ Module based on US MOPS (Bloom et al., 2019) to capture the presence of management practices using close-ended questions.
 - 8 questions on three dimensions of management (Monitoring, Targets & Incentives).
 - Complete responses: at least 5 of the 8 questions following the skip pattern.
 - Overall management score computed as the unweighted average of all questions, normalized to have mean zero and standard deviation one.
 - Low scores indicating lower use of structured management practices.

WELL-DISPLAYED PRODUCTION TARGETS



SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Mean	SD	p(10)	p(25)	p(50)	p(75)	p(90)	Obs
Sales USD (mil.) 2021-2022	48.7	164.0	1.2	4.8	14.4	39.0	96.1	1572
Employment	828.3	2970.1	40	100	250	650	1500	2170
Family Owned	0.71	0.5	0	0	1	1	1	2216
Exporter	0.57	0.5	0	0	1	1	1	2131
Customers 2021-2022	3608.5	115505.2	5	13	40	150	500	1663
Products	266.4	410.3	6	6	56	551	551	2203
Standalone	0.83	0.4	0	1	1	1	1	2214
Headquartered outside India	0.058	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	2216
Management Score	0.63	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	2215

Note: Sales measured using response to the question “What was the total sales in FY 2021-22?” in Rs Crores and converted to USD million. Sales and customers are from 2021-2022 which was asked about in both reference year versions of the survey (2021-2022 and 2022-2023). Employment includes full-time equivalents of contract workers. The values of all other variables are reported based on the pooled sample over the 2 reference years. Exporter is an indicator variable that takes value 1 if the firm reports positive sales outside India in the survey. The management score is the unweighted average of question-wise responses.

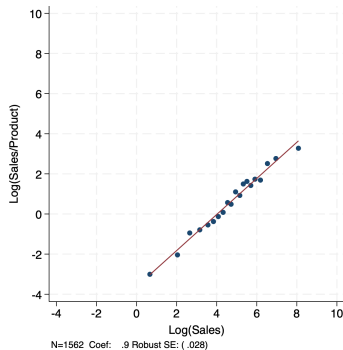
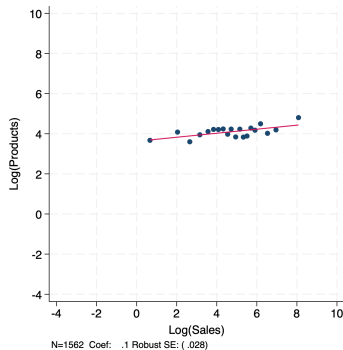
PRODUCTS AND SALES

We can quantify the importance of products to a firm's sales. We decompose total sales as follows:

$$\text{Sales} \equiv \frac{\text{Sales}}{\text{Product}} \times \text{Products}$$

We take logs of both sides and regress each right-hand-side component on log sales to get the elasticities.

PRODUCTS AND SALES



Note: Sales is measured as the response to the survey question: “What was the total sales in FY 2021-22?” in Rs Crores. Products measured using midpoints of the response to the binned survey question: “What was the number of unique products sold by your business in FY 2021-22?”

PRODUCTS AND SALES

The estimation gives us:

$$0.9 \ln \left(\frac{\text{Sales}}{\text{Product}} \right) + 0.1 \ln(\text{Products}) \equiv \ln(\text{Sales})$$

i.e. The number of products accounts for 10% of sales variation.

- ▶ Preliminary comparison with the US values shows the elasticity is lower in India: the number of products account for a larger share of sales variation in the US.
- ▶ Instrumenting for survey sales with sales from financial accounts: 0.1 \rightarrow 0.14

PRODUCT INNOVATION

33.	What percent of sales from your products in FY2021-22 was from each of the following? (in%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Identical versions of products that you sold in FY2020-21 (%)b. Improved versions of products you sold in FY2020-21 (%)c. Products new to you in FY2021-22 but existing in the market (%)d. Products new to the market in FY2021-22 (%)
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PRODUCT INNOVATION



Note: Binscatters of each of the 4 categories in response to the survey question “What percent of sales from your products in FY 2021-22 was from each of the following? (in %)”. Sample is restricted to the 1275 survey respondents who answered the question. The 4 options always add up to 100%. Sales on the x-axis is taken to be the contemporaneous value of sales.

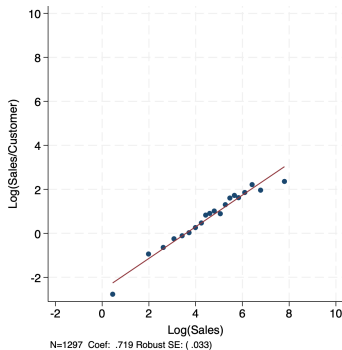
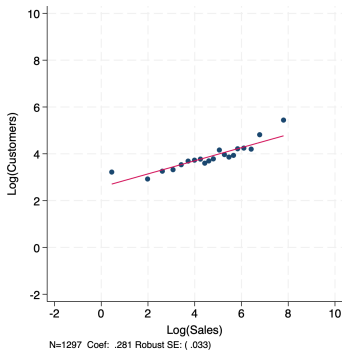
CUSTOMERS AND SALES

To quantify the importance of customers to a firm's sales, we decompose total sales as follows:

$$\text{Sales} \equiv \frac{\text{Sales}}{\text{Customer}} \times \text{Customers}$$

We take logs of both sides and separately regress each right-hand-side component on log sales to get elasticities.

CUSTOMERS AND SALES



Note: Sales is measured as the response to the survey question: “What was the total sales in FY 2021-22?” in Rs Crores. Log(Customers) is calculated using the response to the survey question: “What was the approximate number of unique customers in FY2021-22 as per your order book?”

CUSTOMERS AND SALES

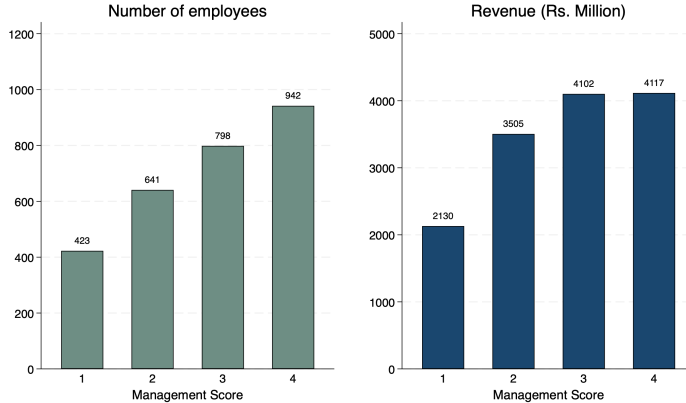
The estimation gives us:

$$0.71 \ln \left(\frac{\text{Sales}}{\text{Customer}} \right) + 0.28 \ln(\text{Customers}) \equiv \ln(\text{Sales})$$

i.e. The number of customers accounts for 27% of sales variation.

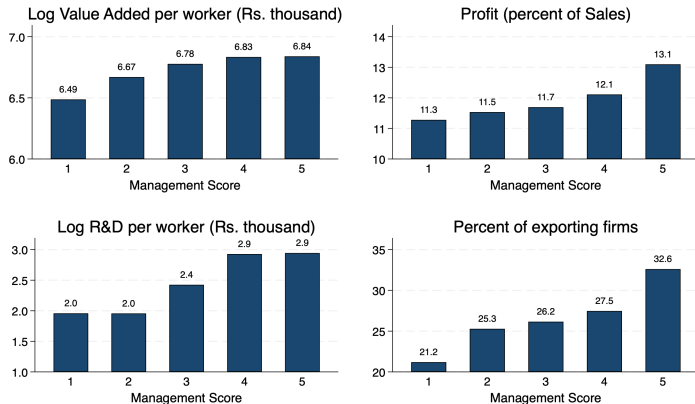
- ▶ Low relative to US: the number of customers accounts for about 80% of sales variation. (Klenow et al., 2022).
- ▶ Instrumenting for survey sales with sales from financial accounts $0.28 \rightarrow 0.36$

MANAGEMENT AND FIRM SIZE



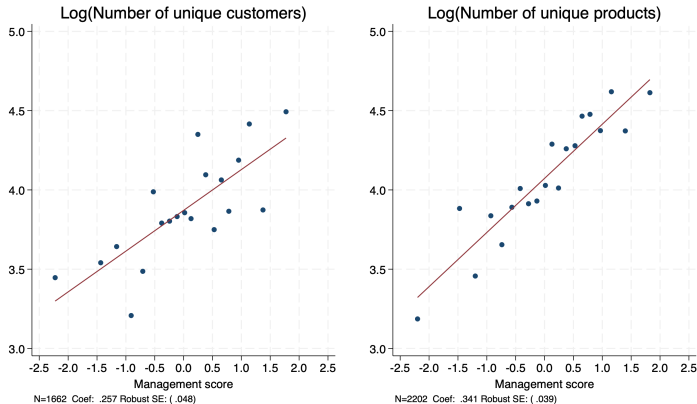
Note: Employment is measured as response to the question “How many full-time employees are there at your business (this includes all workers, contract employees, payroll employees, and managers)”? Revenue is measured as the response to the question “Sales is measured as the response to the survey question: “What was the total sales in FY 2021-22?”. The x-axis shows quartiles of the standardized management score. Employment and Revenue are winsorized at 1%.

MANAGEMENT AND FIRM PERFORMANCE



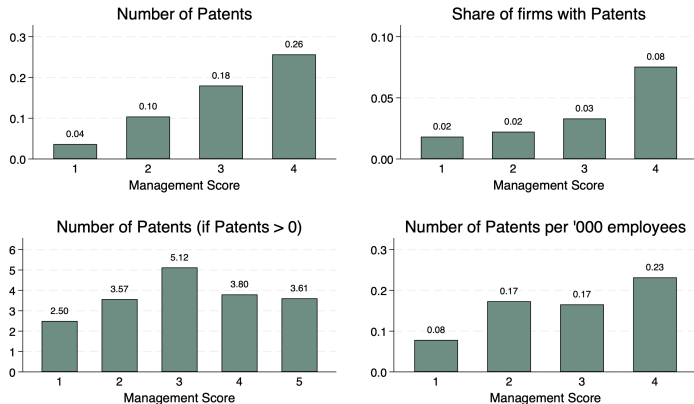
Note: Sample is all survey responses with match to CMIE Prowess. Value Added is (Total Income + Change in Stock) - Intermediate Inputs. Profit is measured as Profits Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (PBITDA). Exporters are defined as firms with positive earnings from exports in FY 2021-2022. Management score is normalized to have mean 0 and variance 1. Employment imputed from the wage bill using surveyed firms. Each outcome is winsorized at 1%.

MANAGEMENT AND CUSTOMERS AND PRODUCTS



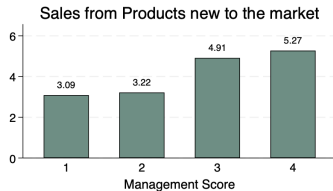
Notes. The y-axis in the left graph shows responses to the survey question: “What was the approximate number of unique customers in FY2021-22 (FY 2022-23) as per your order book?” and the right graph shows responses to the survey question: “What was the number of unique products sold by your business in FY 2021-22 (FY 2022-23)?”. The x-axis shows the normalized management score.

MANAGEMENT AND PATENT COUNT



Note: Patents include all live patents (pending or granted) published in the last 5 years, i.e. after 1 January 2020. The sample is all firms in the sampling frame for which BvD ID is found restricted to those that have patent info. The x-axis shows the normalized management score.

MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCT INNOVATION



Note: Binscatters of each of the 4 categories in response to the survey question “What percent of sales from your products in FY 2021-22 was from each of the following? (in %)”. Sample is restricted to the 1197 survey respondents who answered the question (Note: the 4 options always add up to 100%).

CONCLUSION

We collected new evidence from a firm survey focusing on management, innovation and customers in large firms in India.

- ▶ We validate the relationship between management and size and management and performance seen in the literature.
- ▶ We document five new facts:
 1. Big firms sell to more customers (coefficient = 0.28)
 2. Big firms sell more products. (coefficient = 0.1)
 3. Most products are not improved from year to year, and most innovation takes the form of the firm improving its own products rather than introducing brand new products to the market or imitating existing products in the market.
 4. Structured management is associated with more products, customers, and innovation.
 5. Management practices are correlated with introducing new products to the market and improving products, but not with product imitation.

Next steps: We are currently working to compare firms on relevant characteristics with US firms of similar size using US Census datasets.

THANK YOU

REFERENCES

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