

Measuring Monetary Policy Effects in Pakistan: An FAVAR Approach

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Keywords	Abstract
Monetary Policy, Var, Interest Rate, Money Supply.	<i>In this study monetary policy's influence on the major macroeconomic indicators for Pakistan is examined by using time series annual data for the period between 1990 and 2020. The results of the VAR model reveal that the influence of monetary policy on the macroeconomic variable in Pakistan is consistent with the explanations given in the theory. Interest rate is influencing the overall economic activity in the country, and it is a good instrument to control inflation in the economy of Pakistan, but it influences the economy after a period of five lags. A surprise in the monetary variable is transmitted more quickly in prices in comparison to the output. The empirical and quantitative analysis of the data of Pakistan showed that inflation is negatively influencing the rate of output growth. In the empirical analysis output, money supply, household consumption, inflation and interest rate have been taken, and interest rate as a channel of monetary surprise transmission is analytically observed. The study of cointegration showed there are three cointegrating equations, and normalized coefficients indicated that inflation and interest rates are negatively influencing the output growth in Pakistan, while household consumption, money supply and overall economic activity have a positive impact. The results of Granger Causality are as per the expectations and are robust.</i>

INTRODUCTION

The ultimate goal of any macroeconomic policy is to achieve sustained economic growth and stability in the price level. To target inflation and output growth in any economy, monetary policy is considered an effective instrument. Under the said policy, the monetary management authority of the country keeps strong control on the quantity of money that is supplied and also on the cost of borrowing money in order to accomplish its target of growth and stabilization (Shaheen, 2013). Nowadays the dominating topic of discussion in macroeconomic debates is the channel through which monetary policy effectively transmits in any economy. Conventionally the path that monetary policy follows is like this: at first the central bank of the country extends reserves in the economy through its routine banking system and allows the commercial bank to supply more money in the economy, which results in the lowering of interest rates. The decreased cost of borrowing and increased quantity of money availability boost spending and lift up the economy. This conventional view about money has its primary focus on money supply and the interest rate as the chief transmission instruments of the monetary policy (Alves, 2017).

Following Kaplan et al. (2018), two basic effects of the monetary transmission mechanism are defined. The first direct channel observes the effects of a change in interest rate on the household's decision related to savings and consumption and also on an individual's net nominal

income. A decrease in the bank rate will cause a decrease in interest-generated incomes of households, so it will discourage them from saving more, as the return accrued has decreased for the time being. The second indirect channel works through the channel of prices and nominal wages of workers. With a decrease in bank rate, the direct increase in spending or consumption decisions of households will cause an increase in demand for output and will provide a boost in output and increase the employment opportunities and wages indirectly.

In the 1990s there was a change in policy regime, and especially the monetary sector of Pakistan has gone through a revolutionary change; a large-scale liberalization took place in it as a major policy measure. The economy moved towards more indirect channels, and more liberal measures, like the market-focused monetary management system, were introduced. The concept that remained unexplored after the restructuring and liberalization of the financial system was going through an analytical analysis to check the effectiveness of a new monetary stance and also to find out the pathway of the shock in the monetary policy tool in the economy of Pakistan. Keeping the scenario in view, this research has the following aims:

- a. Firstly, to find out the transmission path of a monetary surprise in the economy of Pakistan
- b. Secondly, to highlight the important role that monetary policy plays for achieving macroeconomic stabilizations and sustained growth

The remainder of the paper consists of section two, focusing on the transmission route of a shock in monetary policy; section three, providing some relevant literature; and section four, which has model, data source and methodology-related details. In section five results are given, and in the last section a conclusion generated from an analytical analysis is provided.

Transmission Pathway of a Monetary Policy Change in Pakistan: The pathway that a monetary change follows to affect the level of aggregate spending and price level in any country is known as the monetary transmission channel or mechanism. It usually takes a few time periods or lags to transmit any monetary phenomenon in any economy, so it is a bit hard to forecast the impact that a monetary policy could have on prices and other major indicators of the economy. Monetary policy has few basic channels through which it targets inflation and economic growth, like the interest rate channel, the portfolio management channel, the exchange rate channel and the expectations channel.

Pakistan as an underdeveloped country is facing several imbalances structurally and macroeconomically, like mounting budget and trade deficits, ever-increasing debts taken from domestic and foreign sources, empty buckets of international reserves, high cost of borrowing, retarded speed of growth and development, large-scale unemployment and inflation. So according to Shaheen (2020), due to these serious issues that the economy of Pakistan is going through, it has on average grown by merely 4% in the last four decades. Moreover, the huge fraction of current expenditures on the fiscal stance are met by a non-progressive and fragile tax structure. As our tax base is very narrow, the monetary authorities rely on borrowing from domestic and foreign sources, which again demands an expansionary monetary policy in Pakistan.

In Pakistan monetary policy is set to achieve the primal dual targets, like enhancing economic growth and attaining stabilization in prices. In the 1990s, in order to target inflation and promote the speed of economic growth, financial reforms were initiated. In the 1980s and before, the

monetary policy had very little role in the economy, and it used to basically focus on the provision of credit at a discounted rate to the priority sector (Chaudhry et al., 2016). The set of financial reforms introduced during the 1990s was like giving supplementary autonomy to the central bank of the country, commercial bank privatization, the development of local bond markets and also the introduction of Pakistani bonds at the international forums, and efforts to maintain the high quantity of foreign exchange reserves. Since 2001 the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has been adopting such measures that promote market-based monetary management.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a lot of research dealing with the transmission mechanism of monetary policy, but still it is a very intricate and thought-provoking concept. There are multiple mechanisms through which the central bank drives the economy. One of the most prominent studies in this regard was carried out by Mishkin (1995), highlighting the most prominent monetary diffusion mechanisms, like the exchange rate channel, the interest rate and equity price channel, housing and also the land price channel, the balance sheet channel and the channel related to bank lending and financial crises. Furthermore, Mishkin (1996) states that when a country's central bank adopts an expansionary stance of monetary policy, then it decreases the bank rate so the cost of borrowing funds decreases, which puts an encouraging influence on the level of the private investment, as there exists a negative relation between these two. As a result, the level of GDP of the economy also increases. Mishkin explained the whole channel by using the IS-LM framework.

According to Keynesians monetary policy influences the financial conditions by the route of interest rate through its impact on investment level (Holguín & Uribe, 2020). Conversely, Bernanke and Gertler (1995) contend that the decision to invest is more responsive to the changes in the expected cash flow in comparison to the interest rate. Subsequently, two more alternate mechanisms of monetary policy transmission are identified. The first channel is based on asset prices, more precisely stock prices, the rate of foreign exchange of currencies and wealth prices, while the second channel route is through the credit market, which has asymmetric information. More commonly, this channel is known as the credit mode of monetary transmission. Similarly, Munir (2020) concluded that interest rate is the most efficient channel to influence output and the level of employment in Pakistan; it is a better tool to combat inflation in the country, but interest rate influences inflation with a lag of five months. Their results were aligned with the theory, and the FAVAR model gave no indication about the existence of dilemmas related to prices and also money supply in Pakistan. Contrary to Munir (2020), Mukhtar and Younas (2019) stated that the conventional channel of interest rate is an ineffective channel of monetary change movement in Pakistan. Bernanke and Blinder (1992) asserted that innovations in the Fed rate affect the set of financial assets and that the interest rate is a good forecaster of the real variables in the US economy.

The effect of unanticipated surprise in money on aggregate income and the general price level is studied by Khan and Ahmed (2011) by adopting VAR and SVAR models and showing that relatively the effect of a monetary shock on inflation is quicker than on the level of output measured by the industrial production index. Similarly, Munir (2018), through a quantitative analysis, identified strong evidence of the price puzzle's existence in Pakistan. A positive surprise in interest rate causes an increase in the general level of prices in the economy.

Afrin (2017), while using the SVAR framework and considering the loan sanctioning or credit as a route of transmission of monetary shock, found a very strong influence on the economy of Bangladesh, while the exchange rate channel was found ineffective, as the foreign exchange market of Bangladesh is under strict controls. The credit channel's role in influencing the domestic prices, the rate of inflation and output is very non-trivial. While Hussain (2009) states that, in order to gauge the influence of monetary policy on the level of income and inflation, the exchange rate is an effective tool to control the level of prices and aggregate income in Pakistan. Subsequently, (Chaudhry et al. (2016) conducted a study for Pakistan and, by going through cointegration and causality analysis, revealed that lending to the private sector, REER and budget deficit are the most significant indicators that are affecting the level of real GDP in the country. Montes and Machado (2013) stated that credit as a tool to control inflation and aggregate spending is very important, especially in developing economies like Brazil, whose ultimate objective is to inhibit the growth in prices in the country.

Whenever a positive surprise in credit takes place, then the central bank of the country has to increase its bank rate in order to achieve its objective of stability in price level. The equity prices and also the cash flows both escalate whenever the central bank of the country raises its loan sanctioning mark-up. Summing up, Agha et al. (2005) concluded that bank lending is a major monetary transmission mechanism in Pakistan and it has a significant influence on the major macroeconomic variables in Pakistan. Mukhtar and Younas (2019) while using monthly data for 2000M7- 2016 M12 and focusing on the lending and asset price channel of monetary transmission, showed that targeting money in aggregates is still more effective in influencing output and general prices in Pakistan. Bank lending rate influences investment and share prices, which in turn, via its net wealth effect, influences price level and the level of aggregate product. Along with domestic macroeconomic indicators, external shocks are also putting a resilient effect on the growth in prices and level of aggregate income in Pakistan (Munir & Riaz, 2020).

Taylor (1993) has conducted a study regarding how a central bank sets its monetary policy. He considered the rate of interest in the market as a continued practice and related it with macroeconomic variables linearly. Likewise, Haq (2013) also tried to estimate the monetary policy rule as suggested by Taylor for Pakistan and coveted that the State Bank of Pakistan can align its interest rate according to the rule prescribed by Taylor to grab the constructive effects of financial management policy.

Hassan et al. (2021), while studying the role of monetary policy in financial development from 1975 to 2018 for Pakistan, concluded that the inflation and the rate of interest put a negative influence on the GDP of the country, while the rate of exchange, money supply and investment are positively influencing GDP. Moreover, it is suggested that the strategies to combat inflation would be more helpful in attaining the desired level of GDP and employment in the country.

Rashid and Waheed (2021) have estimated analytically the reaction functions of financial management-related policy by considering its accelerative and discouraging roles by using the quarterly data for Pakistan for the period 1971 to 2018. The study elucidated that the central bank of Pakistan considers the leads and lags of the relevant variables in setting its interest rate, and relatively more importance is given to future rates, expected inflation and exchange rate, and secondly to the lagged period level of national income.

Literature Gap

While going through the literature, few gaps are observed which could be covered in future research on the subject. Firstly, no study, especially for Pakistan, is carried out about how the monetary policy affects the aggregate demand through different monetary transmission mechanisms as a whole. Secondly, it is also observed that in the case of Pakistan, no study has been done so far focusing on the indirect income channel of monetary transmission as a substantial driver of changes in aggregate consumption and output.

METHODOLOGY

The pathway through which a change in monetary policy instrument influences the aggregate demand side and prices in any economy is known as the transmission channel of monetary policy. It generally comprises few time lags, so it is very hard to forecast the exact influence of monetary policy on the rate of inflation and total demand in any economy. Summing up, the purpose of conducting this study is to determine the pathway of interest rates as a channel of monetary change transmission in the case of Pakistan.

This channel transmission by affecting the interest rate that commercial banks levy on credit to the business class and the interest it offers to individuals on their savings. Firstly, it changes the money market rate of interest, like the repo rate and KIBOR, and then it also influences the interest rate that is levied on long-term loans and credits. KIBOR is a yardstick in lending to households and the production units. So a change in KIBOR thus causes a change in rates that are offered to consumers and the production units, like industries and businesses, and it acts as a stimulus to influence their decisions related to spending, saving and investing. When the cost of borrowing is low, people are inclined to save less and spend more. The demand for investment funds increases as it becomes cheaper for the production units and the public also.

Empirical Model

A standard VAR model including six variables (i.e., Y, MPV, Inf, MS, ch and I) in Cholesky ordering is considered. Thus, this model includes interest rate as a policy variable and other influential variables. To observe the channel of interest rate as a monetary transmission mechanism, the model is thus constructed as follows.

Functional Form of the Model

$$Y = f(MPV, Inf, MS, I, CH)$$

Econometric Form of the Model

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 MPV_t + \beta_2 INF_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \beta_4 I_t + \beta_5 CH_t$$

Where Y is output, MPV is used as a proxy for economic activity i.e., manufacturing value added (% of GDP), inf is the inflation rate, i is the interest rate, CH is household consumption expenditure, and MS is broad money.

Data

Annual time series data for Pakistan has been gathered from the State Bank of Pakistan and World Development Indicators (WDI) for the period between 1991 and 2020. The selection of the starting point for the dataset is the time period when the process of monetary policy

liberalization is initiated in Pakistan. For aggregate output growth (GDP annual percentage growth), for economic activity (manufacturing, value added (% of GDP), and for interest rate, the bank lending rate data is taken. While for the inflation growth rate of CPI, for the money supply, broad money (M2) data are considered.

Estimation Strategy

Vector autoregressive (VAR), introduced by Sims (1980), is usually adopted as a technique to determine the effectiveness of monetary policy on prices, aggregate demand and output. Therefore, the methodology employed in this research for estimation purposes is a small structural vector autoregression (VAR) model. The impulse response functions, or IRF, are also estimated. The IRF are basically the shocks in the VAR model that cater to the influence of a shockwave in the error term that is transmitted to the endogenous variables of the model. Therefore, to capture the influences of a change in interest rate (as a monetary policy change transmission channel) on aggregate spending and inflation, IRFs are generated. Generalized IRFs are insensitive to the changes in ordering of the included variables in the model. For relative scrutiny of each regressand's influence in explaining variation in the independent variables, variance decomposition investigation is also performed. In order to investigate the direction of causality in between the variables, a VAR relying on the Granger causality test is also applied.

ESTIMATIONS AND RESULTS

Stationarity: ADF Unit Root Test

The results obtained by a stationarity analysis indicated that the order of integration of all variables included in the model is I(1). For the estimation of the VAR table A given below, it indicates the lag lengths suggested by different criteria are 2. Thus, lag 2 is suggested to retrieve the structural parameters efficiently.

Table A: Suitable Lag Structure

L	LL	LR	FPE	AIC	SC	HQ
1	-295.1544	NA	4899.756	25.47341	27.21539	25.97504
2	-235.4440	64.30343*	1182.031*	23.64954	27.13350*	24.65279
3	-187.9964	29.19857	2127.035	22.76895*	27.99489	24.27383*

Moreover, to check the robustness of the model, several diagnostic tests were performed, and it was found that there was no problem of serial correlation and heteroscedasticity, and residuals are also normally distributed.

Table B(i): Cointegration Rank Test (Trace)

Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Trace)				
Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.893412	177.5107	95.75366	0.0000
≤ 1 *	0.850247	117.0634	69.81889	0.0000
≤ 2 *	0.707709	65.79677	47.85613	0.0005
≤ 3 *	0.504903	32.58662	29.79707	0.0233

≤ 4	0.259122	13.60557	15.49471	0.0944
≤ 5 *	0.184530	5.507742	3.841466	0.0189

Table B(ii): Cointegration Rank Test (Maximum Eigenvalue)

Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Maximum Eigenvalue)				
Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Max-Eigen Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.893412	60.44722	40.07757	0.0001
≤ 1 *	0.850247	51.26668	33.87687	0.0002
≤ 2 *	0.707709	33.21015	27.58434	0.0085
≤ 3	0.504903	18.98105	21.13162	0.0974
≤ 4	0.259122	8.097829	14.26460	0.3689
≤ 5 *	0.184530	5.507742	3.841466	0.0189

The estimated outcomes via the Johansen Trace Test are accessible in the above table B(i) indicating the presence of four cointegrating vectors at a 5 percent significance level, whereas table B(ii) indicates three cointegrating equations according to the Eigenvalue test. Thus, the output is suggesting a long-run relationship amongst the indicators under consideration. It further proposes at least one-way causality among the variables.

Table C: Normalized Cointegrating Coefficients

Y	I	INF	MPV	MS	CH
1.000000	0.475249	0.022114	-0.432375	-0.046265	-0.611157
	(0.06040)	(0.00394)	(0.10558)	(0.01901)	(0.06341)

The results of cointegrating equation show that the long run equilibrium is:

$$Y = 0.4752I + 0.02211 INF + (-0.43237) MPV + (-0.04626) MS + (-0.61115) CH$$

Moreover, table 4 suggests that MPV, MS and CH influence gross domestic product positively, as they are found in each cointegrating vector. While Inf and I are negatively influencing GDP in Pakistan. Analysis of the data for Pakistan is highlighting a negative relationship between INF and economic growth. In Pakistan the increasing rate of inflation and interest rate is a very common situation. More precisely, the high lending rate is mostly accompanied by a high inflation rate. This increasing interest rate is creating harm for our economy and its consumers and influencing the growth rate of the country badly.

Table D: Error Correction (EC) Model

E C	D(Y)	D(I)	D(MS)
CE1	-0.271014	-0.052520	-0.117340
	(0.36431)	(0.36216)	(1.78661)
	[-0.74392]	[-0.14502]	[-0.06568]

Error correction results are indicating that Y, I and MS are converging to long-run equilibrium, but this convergence is not significant, as all t-values are less than the value of 1.96.

Table E: VEC Granger Causality/Block Exogeneity Wald Tests

Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.
Causality from D(CH) to D(I)	3.540831	0.0599
Causality from D(Y) to D(INF)	7.539669	0.0060
Causality from D(MS) to INF	3.900992	0.0483
Causality from D(I) to D(MPV)	2.449410	0.0976
Causality from D(Y) to D(CH)	7.912758	0.0049
Causality from D(INF) to D(CH)	8.913384	0.0028
Causality from D(MPV) to D(CH)	4.643971	0.0312

The modified Wald's tests results are directing a one-way causality running from (CH to I), from (Y to INF), from (MS to INF), from (I to MPV), from (Y to CH), from (INF to CH) and from (MPV to CH). The results are according to the economic theory.

IRF's: The Effect of a Surprise on Interest Rate

The graph given in appendix A is showing the Generalized IRFs for six indicators (i.e., output, INF, MPV, Ms and CH) to a standard deviation of one unit positive shockwave to interest rate. Over the timeframe of 30 periods this shockwave is observed. It is observed that INF showed an immediate increasing trend till the 6th period, and later on it started increasing at a mild rate for the rest of the periods. This predicts that the traditional interest rate channel has a trivial impact on the inflation rate in Pakistan, although both are moving with the same trend. The output showed inconsistency in its response to a shock in interest rate in initial periods. And later on it started moving smoothly but at a lower level than before after almost 10 periods.

CONCLUSION

The principal goal of all macroeconomic policies is mainly to achieve a handsome rate of growth and stability in the price level of the economy. The best way to achieve these goals is regulating and controlling the tools of financial policy, as it effectively influences the rate of inflation and the rate of growth of output in any economy. In this study the influence of monetary policy on the major macroeconomic indicators for Pakistan is examined by using time series annual data for the period between 1990 and 2020. The results of the VAR model are found to be consistent with the economic theory and provide the evidence for liquidity and the price puzzle's existence in Pakistan. Interest rate is influencing the overall economic activity in the country, so interest rate can be used as a good instrument to control money demand in the short term especially. Empirical analysis and the quantitative analysis of the data of Pakistan showed a negative relationship between inflation and rate of growth in output, thus economic growth in Pakistan. Moreover, there are many factors that are contributing to inflation in the country. The study of cointegration showed there are three cointegrating equations, and normalized coefficients indicated that inflation and interest rates are negatively influencing the output growth in Pakistan, while household consumption, money supply and overall economic activity have a positive impact. The results of Granger causality are as per the expectations.

Recommendations

To keep inflation in single digits in Pakistan and maintain interest rates at the threshold

level, SBP should be given autonomy to control its money supply according to the availability of the country's financial assets. For the start-up of businesses and to minimise the unemployment in Pakistan, especially for the qualified and skilled youth, some steps should be taken to provide them interest-free loans.

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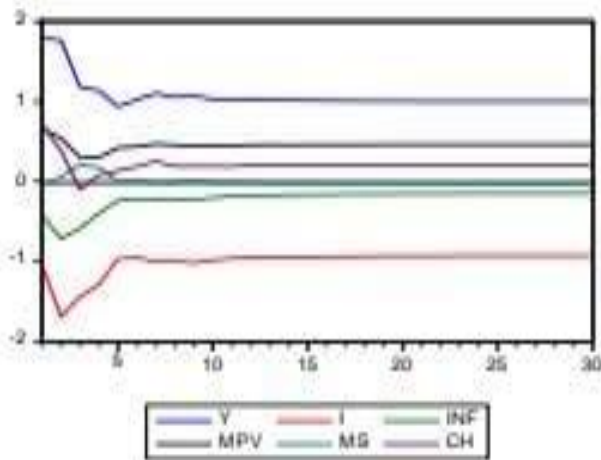
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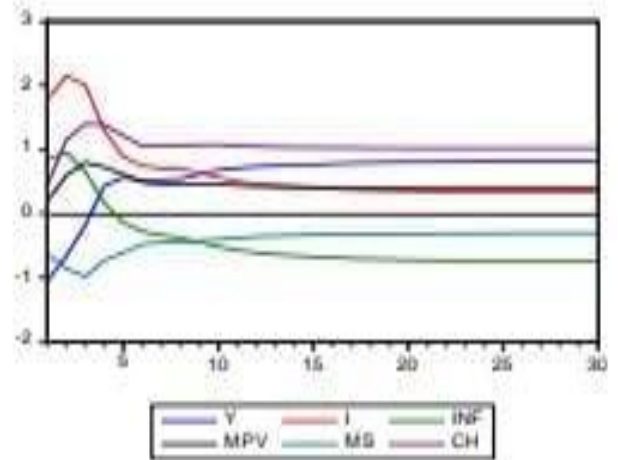
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APPENDIX A

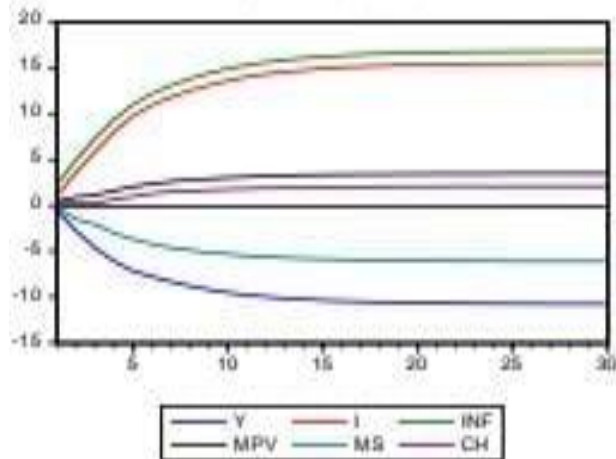
Response of Y to Generalized One
S.D. Innovations



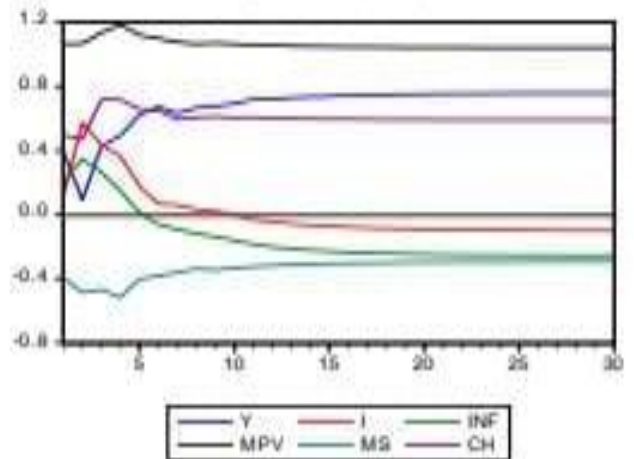
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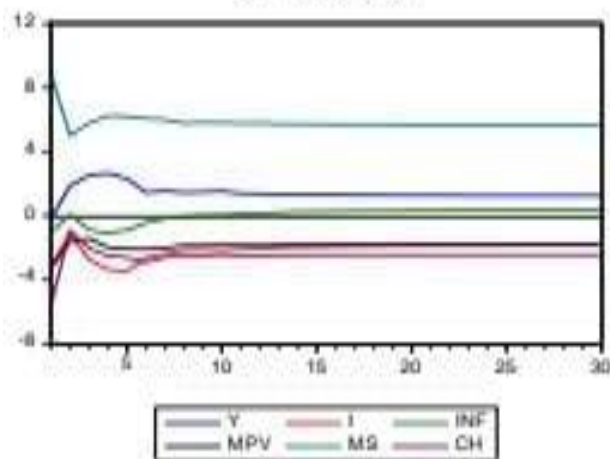
Response of INF to Generalized One
S.D. Innovations



Response of MPV to Generalized One
S.D. Innovations



Response of MS to Generalized One
S.D. Innovations



Response of CH to Generalized One
S.D. Innovations

