

## **Abstract**

The creation of Special Economic Zones in India as means of development and increased foreign investment has attracted significant attention in India in recent times. This study examines the performance of SEZs in India from the fiscal, social and environmental perspectives for several categories of SEZs. For the purpose of analysis the SEZs are classified into three broad categories according to the type of labour predominantely used. The study findings indicate that employment in SEZs in India tends to be highly skill-intensive, neglecting the rural community who also forego their land for the SEZ development. There is a need to encourage SEZs in the semi-skilled sector to provide employment opportunities for the growing rural population. Additionally, resource-intensive SEZs could cause considerable damage to the environment if not developed with sustainable development objectives. The results suggest that for SEZs to serve as viable long-term growth propellants in India it is important to pay due attention to the environmental and social dimensions of SEZ performance.