“Test of capital market integration using Fama-French three-factor model: empirical evidence from India”

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TEST OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION USING FAMA-FRENCH THREE-FACTOR MODEL: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM INDIA

Abstract

Integration or segmentation of markets determines whether substantial advantages in risk reduction can be attained through portfolio diversification in foreign securities. In an integrated market, investors face risk from country-specific factors and factors, which are common to all countries, but price only the later, as country-specific risk is diversifiable. The aim of this study is two-fold, firstly, investigating the superiority of the Fama-French three-factor model over Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and later using the superior model to test for integration of Indian and US equity markets (a proxy for global markets). Based on a sample of Bombay Stock Exchange 500 non-financial companies for the period 2003–2019, the data suggest the superiority of Fama-French three-factor model over CAPM. Using the Non-Linear Seemingly Unrelated Regression technique, the first half of the sample period (2003–2010) shows evidence of market segmentation; however, the second sub-period (2011–2019) shows weak signs of market integration, which is supported by the Johansen test of cointegration, suggesting that Indian market is gradually getting integrated with global markets.

Keywords stock market, international portfolio, diversification, asset pricing

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INTRODUCTION

All sound investment and portfolio management decisions are guided by expected cash flows to secure maximum expected possible returns for a given amount of risk. The stock market returns in such a scenario are priced for the various systematic risk factors. CAPM showed that an efficient combination of various risky assets would demonstrate a linear relationship between risks and return (Sharpe, 1964). Followed by this, CAPM was independently developed by Lintner (1965) and Mossin (1966). While it can be argued that testing of CAPM is not empirically possible because of the absence of a good proxy for market portfolio (Roll, 1977), there is enough existing research to support that there are more factors than market volatility to explain the returns (Miller, 1999). Fama and French (1992) discovered the violation of a linear cross-sectional relationship between mean excess returns and exposures to the market factor (main prediction of the CAPM) for the US stock market. Then, a new asset pricing model, with two additional explanatory variables, size and book equity to market equity ratio, was developed (Fama & French, 1993). Chui and Wei (1998) did empirical testing on China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea, and Singapore equity markets and concluded a strong relationship between the expected stock returns and these three factors. Although there have been a plethora of empirical studies focused on CAPM and Fama-French three-factor

model, only a few research studies have been conducted for Indian markets, notably Connor and Sehgal (2001), Sehgal and Tripathi (2006), and Taneja (2010). All of these findings suggest that Fama-French three-factor model explains excess returns better than CAPM. They concluded that to explain excess returns, the market factor is most important, and there are no conclusive remarks on which amongst the size and value factor explains excess return better. However, all three factors combined have a better adjusted Coefficient of determination (R^2) than the market factor alone.

However, there has been a considerable change since these studies were done. There are recent findings that suggest that the explanation of excess returns by Fama-French multifactor model has dwindled over time on Istanbul Stock Exchange (Eraslan, 2013). This raises an obvious question, is Fama-French still pervasive in the Indian context? This study tries to fill this gap by, first, empirically testing and comparing CAPM with Fama-French model. The study concludes that for all the six portfolios constructed, Fama-French explains excess returns better than CAPM, and it is still pervasive in the Indian context. This research also tried to find an answer to the question, which factor, size, or value is the second most important factor in explaining excess returns.

The Indian economy since the 1991 reforms has seen a high level of growth and economic prosperity. These reforms then coupled by many other financial sector reforms during 1998–2004 and the enactment of Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) in 2011 were moves in the right direction, the importance of which will be felt for many years to come (Rajan, 2014). Subsequently, India has jumped 79 positions in the past five years in Ease of Doing Business ranking, coupled with political stability, the concept of universal and big banks, reduced taxes, and implementation of one nation one tax policy. All this contributed to the image of India as an attractive global destination for investment.

In this context, it was important to check whether the Indian stock market is segmented to global capital market or is it already integrated with global peers. The majority of such research testing market integration has been focused on developed markets like Canada and Australia. The study of market integration has widely applied CAPM, notable among these are Solnik (1974) for European stocks, Stehle (1976), Jorion and Schwartz (1986), and Mittoo (1992) in the Canadian market.

The use of Fama-French three-factor model to study market integration is limited. In developing markets, Brooks, Iorio, Faff, and Wang (2009) examined market integration in the Chinese market for the period 1995–2006, extending the work of Jorion and Schwartz (1986) to Fama-French three-factor model, and suggested that the Chinese stock market is segmented from the stock market of the United States and the government's restriction on capital movement is preventing integration of Chinese market with global peers. In the Indian context, it has not come to the knowledge of authors, any study that uses Fama-French three-factor model for testing the market integration. Through this work, attempts are made to fill this gap in the literature by empirically testing market integration using Fama-French three-factor model.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. Asset pricing models – CAPM and Fama-French three-factor model

"An investor does not pay more for an asset than what is its worth". This led to the development of Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) by Sharpe (1964) who showed that efficient combination of risky assets would demonstrate a linear relationship between risk and return, Lintner (1965) who focused on creating an optimum mix of risk-free and risky assets, and Black (1972) who provided a zero-beta version of CAPM. This was the first big breakthrough in the development of an asset pricing model. Pratt (1967) analyzed the US common stocks between 1926 and 1960 and showed that actual returns are different from CAPM predictions. Jensen et al. (1972) analyzed the companies listed on NYSE exchange between

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1926 and 1966 using time series and concluded that in the post-war period, the typical form of asset pricing model[1] fails to explain the accurate security returns, and expected returns on high beta assets are lower than what is suggested by CAPM, and the vice versa is true for low beta stocks. Banz (1981) postulated that smaller firms on average had more risk-adjusted returns than larger firms on NYSE for the period 1936–1975 and that CAPM beta alone could not explain the higher returns.

Another contradiction to the proposed CAPM came from Bhandari (1988) who documented that expected stock returns are positively correlated with the level of debt to equity of common stocks. Fama and French (1992) researched for the addition of independent variables in the CAPM to improve upon its explanatory power, expanding CAPM, thus, developing an asset pricing model. They concluded that a significant portion of the cross-sectional dispersion in the mean returns could be explained by exposures to two factors other than the excess market returns, a "size" factor, and a "value" factor based on the BE/ME ratio.

There are many plausible explanations relating to why stocks with high BE/ME ratio (value stocks) outperform the growth stocks. Fama and French (1992, 1996) argued that this is because value strategies are fundamentally riskier and, hence, include a premium for such risk. However, Lakonishok, Shleifer, and Vishny (1994) argued that these higher returns are because investors can identify mispriced stocks and not because they are fundamentally riskier. Arshanapalli, Coggin, and Doukas (1998) used large international equity-based and showed that during 1975–1995, value stocks on average outperformed growth stocks in most countries, and these effects were not just limited to the USA. Gaunt (2004) studied the Australian market and concluded that three-factor model provides several explanatory power over CAPM and that "value" factor is more important than "size" factor. Nartea, Ward, and Djajadikerta (2009) also found similar results over New Zealand stocks.

1.2. Applicability of Fama-French model in India

In the Indian context, Connor and Sehgal (2001) constructed six equally weighted portfolios on common stocks between 1989 and 1998 and inferred that cross-sectional mean returns are explained by three factors and not just market beta alone. The results were consistent with Fama-French three-factor model. Mohanty (2002) used Fama-Macbeth regression[2] to verify whether the cross-sectional variations in stock returns could be explained by size, value, price earning ratio, and leverage. He found a negative correlation between "size" factor and returns and between "value" factor and returns. Sehgal and Tripathi (2006) also found Fama-French to be a superior model to CAPM in explaining stock returns. Taneja (2010) found high correlations between the size and value factors in the Indian market and concluded that any of the two factors could be used to improve the model.

Thus, based on these past studies, this study hypothesizes that:

H1: Fama-French three-factor model is superior to the Capital Asset Pricing Model in explaining cross-sectional variations in the mean returns from the stocks.

1.3. Test of market integration using asset pricing models

For the test of capital market integration, the first empirical testing was of Solnik (1974) who, in a series of papers, argued that an investor should diversify internationally to reduce risk. His findings include that international diversification leads to greater risk reduction than domestic diversification in the US. He used Fama-Macbeth regression using Merton's International Asset Pricing Model (IAPM) and could not reject integration in seven European countries. Stehle (1977) did research on the US stocks and could not reject both integration and segmentation.

1 $E(R_i) = E(R_m)\beta_i$ where $E(R_i) = \left[\left[E(P_t) - P_{t-1} + E(D_t)/P_{t-1}\right]\right] - R_f$ is expected excess return on i-th asset.

2 Fama-Macbeth regression is a two-step OLS regression method. It involves estimating risk premiums and betas for factors that can contribute to asset prices using time series data.

Wheatley (1988) developed a consumption-based asset pricing model and predicted an asset pricing line using monthly data in the US between January 1960–1985 and could not accept that market integration holds. Jorion and Schwartz (1986) examined the Canadian market integration with North American Market between 1963 and 1982 using both domestic and international versions of CAPM to reject the hypothesis of integration, i.e., no evidence of a mean-variance efficient global market portfolio. Errunza, Losq, and Padmanabhan (1992) used Non-Linear Seemingly Unrelated Regression (NSUR) to deduce that for emerging markets, the markets are neither fully integrated nor fully segmented.

Mittoo (1992) used CAPM and APT on the Canadian stocks to conclude segmentation for the period 1977–1981 and integration for the period 1982–1986. Brooks et al. (2009) suggested that the Chinese stock market is segmented from the US market, and the government's restriction on capital flows is preventing the integration of the Chinese market with global peers.

In the Indian context, market integration was studied using price correlation by Mukherjee and Mishra (2007), whose study rejected market integration for the period 1990–2005 using pooled regression technique. Gupta and Guidi (2012) studied the integration of the Indian market and the Asian stock markets and suggested the presence of a short-run relationship between these markets, but the absence of a long-run relationship.

Therefore, the following hypotheses have been developed:

H2a: Indian capital markets are integrated with global markets.
H2b: Indian capital markets are segmented from global markets.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Data

Adjusted monthly closing prices, market capitalization, price to book ratio, index closing prices of the S&P BSE 500 Index and the stocks comprising this Index were obtained for 16 years starting from September 2003 to September 2019, from CMIE PROWESS IQ. The book equity to market equity ratio was obtained for the end of fiscal year along with market capitalization at the end of September for the sample companies. S&P BSE 500 Index is a free-float broad-based index, which covers 93% of total market capitalization of companies listed on Bombay Stock Exchange. These 500 listed companies in the Indian stock market comprise all major twenty industries of the economy. Only non-financial firms were incorporated in this analysis, reducing the number of firms from 500 to 398. The exclusion of financial firms can be attributed to differences in financial statements for financial firms. Further, the number of sample firms varied from 222 in 2003 to 362 in 2019 (Table A1) due to non-availability of data for all relevant companies throughout the entire sample period. For analysis, the monthly prices data were converted into percentage monthly return series, which had been calculated, taking into account only the component involving capital gain because of low dividend yields for Indian companies. The risk-free rate of return was derived from T-91 Bill implicit yields, determined by auctions, which were obtained from the Reserve Bank of India Database.

For the test of integration, additional data of the United States, which included market returns, risk-free rate, and their "size" and "value" factors for the period October 2003 – September 2019 were sourced from the Kenneth R French data library.

For Johansen cointegration test, daily stock price indices for S&P BSE 500 and S&P 500 (US) were obtained for 8 years starting from October 2011 to September 2019[3]. The US INR exchange rates were used to convert the price indices for the Indian market obtained in local currency into US dollars.

2.2. Construction of the "size" and "value" sorted portfolios

In this study, two additional factors, one based on size and the other based on value, were used along with excess returns to the market portfolio. For the "size" factor, at the end of September of year *t*,

3 For the missing observations, where data points were missing for a day with available preceding and succeeding values, the arithmetic mean of the 2 was used as a replacement. Then, the gaps in our time series data were filled using the Stata's time-series operators.

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the relevant stocks were sorted based on size (market capitalization) to determine the BSE median point for market capitalization, based on which the sample stocks were divided into 2 categories: Small (bottom 50 percent) denoted by 'S' and Big (top 50 percent) denoted by 'B' for a period starting from October of year *t* to September of year *t*+1. At the same time, for the "value" factor, stocks were categorized into 3 groups: Low (bottom 30 percent) denoted by 'L', Medium (30 percent to 70 percent) denoted by 'M' and High (top 30 percent) denoted by 'H', based on book equity to market equity (BE/ME) ratio at the end of March of year *t*, using the third and seventh decile breakpoints of the BE/ME ratio[4]. Using a combination of "size" and "value" factors, sample companies were divided into six different portfolios: *S/L*, *S/M*, *S/H*, *B/L*, *B/M*, and *B/H S/L* were formed with the intersection of small-cap stocks (low market cap.), but with high BE/ME ratio. All other portfolios were formed similarly. Equally weighted monthly returns were calculated for each portfolio from October of year *t* to September of year *t*+1. These annual portfolios were formed at the end of September to account for the time lag between the time of financial closing and annual reports and board decision publications. Firms, which had been listed for less than two years, were excluded from the analysis. Finally, all these six portfolios were used to calculate the explanatory variables in the study, namely *SMB* (small minus big) and *HML* (high minus low).

2.3. Factor calculations

The market factor denoted as the risk premium was computed as an excess of monthly market returns (represented by S&P BSE 500 Index monthly returns) over risk-free monthly rate of return. *SMB* (small minus big), used as a proxy for size effect was obtained for each month of sample period using the difference between the equally-weighted average return of three portfolios comprising the small stocks over the equally-weighted average return of the three portfolios comprising the big stocks. This factor was devoid of BE/ME effects. Similarly, the *HML* (high minus low), used as a value proxy was calculated as the excess of equally-weighted average returns of two high BE/ME stock portfolios over the equally weighted mean returns of stocks with low book to market equity ratio for each month. This component of the model was calculated to be free of size effect.

2.4. Fama-French model estimation for the Indian stock market

Monthly excess mean returns for all the six portfolios were estimated. Finally, the excess returns on the portfolios were regressed using Fama-French three-factor time series regression estimation as follows:

$$R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha + \beta_i \left(R_{mt} - R_{ft} \right) + \\ + \sigma_i SMB_t + \tau_i HML_t + e_{it}, \quad (1)$$

$$\left[i = 1, 2 \ldots 6 \text{ and } t = 1, 2 \ldots 192 \right],$$

where $R_{it} - R_{ft}$ is the excess return on portfolio i for month t, $R_{mt} - R_{ft}$ is the excess market return for month t, SMB_t is the size premium in month t, HML_t is the value premium for month t, α is the excess mean return unexplained by three factors, and β_i, σ_i and τ_i are sensitivities of the portfolio returns to "market" factor, "size" factor, and "value" factor, respectively, on portfolio i.

Obtaining statistically significant results for values of the slope coefficients of three above factors would demonstrate that the respective factors explain cross-sectional variations in the portfolio returns. By adding and eliminating one of the explanatory variables at a time, the test variants of this model were obtained, and the obtained values of the adjusted R^2 were compared with each other. Ordinary least squares method of estimation was used for the analysis of this study.

2.5. Test of market integration using the Fama-French model

Following the test procedure used by Brooks et al. (2009) in the Chinese market to test integration vs segmentation and Beaulieu, Gagnon, and Khalaf (2009) to test integration in North American markets, the previously formed six portfolios were used as test assets.

4 Based on procedure listed on Kenneth R French data library.

An augmented model for asset pricing was constructed for Indian market securities. If the market is fully segmented, the only priced risk factor in the international version of Fama-French model is with respect to Indian index returns. If the market is fully integrated, the priced risk factor is with respect to this mean-variance efficient global index returns, which in case of this study was represented by US market index returns. Considering the markets to be fully integrated, the procedures are as follows.

In Fama-French model:

$$R_{it} = E\left(R_{it}\right) + \sigma_{i1}R_{ut} + \\ +\sigma_{i2}SMB_{ut} + \sigma_{i3}HML_{ut} + \mu_{it}, \quad (2)$$

where R_{it} is the random return on stock i at time t, $E\left(R_{it}\right)$ is the rational expectation[5] of the random return of stock i, R_{ut} is the excess US market return at time t, SMB_{ut} and HML_{ut} are US market Fama-French model factors as described before.

Based on assumptions, as outlined by Connor (1984), $E\left(R_{it}\right)$ was written as follows:

$$E\left(R_{it}\right) = \delta_{ot} + \delta_1\sigma_{i1} + \delta_2\sigma_{i2} + \delta_3\sigma_{i3}, \quad (3)$$

where $\delta_i\left(i = 1,2,3\right)$ are the price premiums associated with three factors at time t, δ_{ot} is risk-free rate at time t.

Hence, combining equations (2) and (3):

$$R_{it} = \delta_{ot} + \sigma_{i1}\left(R_{ut} + \delta_1\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i2}\left(SMB_{ut} + \delta_2\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i3}\left(HML_{ut} + \delta_3\right) + \mu_{it}. \quad (4)$$

To test the hypothesis of market integration, the above completely international version of Fama-French model was reformulated as follows:

$$R_{it} = \delta_{ot} + \sigma_{i1}\left(R_{ut} + \delta_1\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i2}\left(SMB_{ut} + \delta_2\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i3}\left(HML_{ut} + \delta_3\right) + \sigma_{i4}\left(R_{nt} + \delta_4\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i5}\left(SMB_{nt} + \delta_5\right) + \sigma_{i6}\left(HML_{nt} + \delta_6\right) + \mu_{it}, \quad (5)$$

where R_{nt}, SMB_{nt}, and HML_{nt} are domestic (Indian) Fama-French factors, $\delta_i\left(i = 4,5,6\right)$ are priced risk factors associated with each of the domestic factors.

As pointed out by Stehle (1976), the excess returns on the Indian market have a positive correlation with global market excess returns. Taking into account the possibility of collinearity between global and domestic factors, isolation of domestic index, which was independent of the global index, was done by orthogonal projections of domestic market factors as follows:

$$R_{nt} = v_0 + v_1R_{ut} + R'_{nt},$$

$$SMB_{nt} = w_0 + w_1SMB_{ut} + SMB'_{nt},$$

$$HML_{nt} = \rho_0 + \rho_1HML_{ut} + HML'_{nt}.$$

Thus, following Jorion and Schwartz (1986), equation (5) took the following form:

$$R_{it} = \delta_{ot} + \sigma_{i1}\left(R_{ut} + \delta_1\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i2}\left(SMB_{ut} + \delta_2\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i3}\left(HML_{ut} + \delta_3\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i4}\left(R'_{nt} + \delta_4\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i5}\left(SMB'_{nt} + \delta_5\right) + \\ +\sigma_{i6}\left(HML'_{nt} + \delta_6\right) + \mu_{it}, \quad (6)$$

where R'_{nt}, SMB'_{nt} and HML'_{nt} were domestic (Indian) factors, which are in isolation to the US market.

The parameters σ_{ij} and δ_i, where i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in the system of equation (6) were jointly estimated using the technique of Non-linear Seemingly Unrelated Regression (NSUR), which is a non-linear variant of the technique, which was described by Zellner (1962), based on the procedure followed by Brooks et al. (2009). Since the study needed joint estimation of the coefficients for six equations, NSUR was an efficient method and preferable over maximum likelihood in this case, as it did not require normality assumption of error terms to give unbiased results.

5 Under rational expectation, the variable values are influenced by the information set in the previous period.

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2.6. Johansen cointegration test

Johansen cointegration test was also conducted to further support this argument. To proceed with the cointegration test, it was necessary to ensure that both the time series variables were integrated at order one. To do so, the study used the Augmented Dickey-Fuller Unit Root Test on both the time series, the lag length for which was selected based on Schwarz Information Criterion. After establishing the series to be I(1), the common lag length for estimation of the Johansen cointegration test was selected based on Akaike Information Criteria, Hannan and Quinn Information Criteria, Swartz-Bayes Criteria, the Final Prediction Error Criteria, all of which suggested it to be 4 days by estimation of an unrestricted VAR model first. After ascertainment of lag length, the test was conducted, based on a linear deterministic trend (restricting the cointegrating equations to be stationary around constant means) on the stock price indices transformed in their natural logarithmic forms.

3. RESULTS

For the test of the applicability of Fama-French three-factor model in India, the ordinary least squares method was used with the six portfolios as response variables and *MKT*, *SMB*, and *HML* as three explanatory variables. Since the data were time series in nature, the stationarity of data was tested. Other tests like test for multicollinearity, autocorrelation, tests for heteroscedasticity were done to ensure the robustness of results.

3.1. Descriptive statistics

Table A2 represents the descriptive statistics for variables used in the analysis. As evident from the mean results, there existed an inverse relationship between the size of stocks and average returns as the mean returns for the portfolios were increasing as the size was decreasing, keeping the value constant. The small stocks supported the results that there exists a strong positive relationship between the average returns and the value of stocks. However, the big stocks failed to establish any such definite relationship as for big stocks, the mean return of high-value stock was not maximum. The standard deviations for the excess returns of value stocks were higher in the case of both the small and big stocks, thus, re-establishing the intuitive fact that the value stocks are more volatile than their counterparts.

3.2. Correlation analysis

Table A3 shows the correlation between the explanatory variables. As evident from the results, all the explanatory variables were weakly correlated. Hence, having these independent variables in the model did not lead to the origination of the problem of multicollinearity.

3.3. Test of Fama-French model in India

Firstly, coefficients of CAPM were estimated by taking only the market factor as an independent variable, the results for which are reported in Table 1. These results showed that market factor is by far the most important factor in explaining stock returns. Table 2 includes the results of estimating Fama-French three-factor model and its variants. On adding "value" factor or "size" factor to this market factor, the adjusted R^2 increased and, hence, the two-factor model explained asset returns better than a single factor. It was an interesting observation that in general, small stocks had a better adjusted R^2 than big stocks on adding "size" factor as compared to "value" factor in explanatory variables. This suggested that the size effect is stronger in small stocks. This effect, though present in big stocks, was often overruled by adding "value" factor as stocks, which were bigger in size, showed better adjusted R^2 values by adding *HML* (value) rather than *SMB* factor (size). The results for the CAPM had a better adjusted R^2 value than the variant of Fama-French model having the combination of the *SMB* and *HML* factor as the explanatory variable. This proved that the market factor is the most important in explaining excess returns. By adding all three factors together, it appeared that values for adjusted R^2 were more than CAPM in all cases, and all factors were statistically significant, except *SMB* factor in case of B/M & B/H[6]. These results proved that Fama-

6 P-values of 0.077 and 0.120, respectively.

Table 1. Test results for the capital asset pricing model in the Indian stock market

Source: Calculated by the authors based on the data available on Prowess IQ database.

Ordinary least squares estimation					
Dependent variable	**α**	**β**	**Adj. R^2**	**F statistic**	***P*-value (*F*-statistic)**
$S/L-R_f$	0.0095	0.9800** (0.0536)	0.6350	333.91	0.000
$S/M-R_f$	0.0120	1.0337** (0.0481)	0.7063	460.37	0.000
$S/H-R_f$	0.0184	1.2493** (0.0546)	0.7317	521.87	0.000
$B/L-R_f$	0.0044	0.9015** (0.0220)	0.8973	1669.41	0.000
$B/M-R_f$	0.0024	1.0200** (0.0212)	0.9237	2314.54	0.000
$B/H-R_f$	0.0008	1.2607** (0.0428)	0.8190	865.21	0.000

Note: This table presents the results obtained on estimation of CAPM. The values for the coefficients are mentioned along with their standard errors in the parentheses. Significance at 0.1% level is denoted by **. These results have been estimated based on the equation: $R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha + \beta_i \left(R_{mt} - R_{ft} \right) + e_{it}$.

Table 2. Test results for Fama-French three-factor model in the Indian stock market

Source: Calculated by the authors based on the data available on Prowess IQ database.

Ordinary least squares estimation								
Explanatory variables	**Dependent variable**	**α**	**β**	**σ**	**τ**	**Adj. R^2**	***F*-statistic**	**Prob (*F*-stat)**
$(R_{mt}-R_{ft})$, SMB_t	$S/L-R_f$	–.0016	0.8968** (0.0418)	0.9591** (0.0834)	–	0.7842	348.00	0.000
	$S/M-R_f$	0.0013	0.9539** (0.0357)	0.9184** (0.0713)	–	0.8427	512.73	0.000
	$S/H-R_f$	0.0037	1.1398** (0.0312)	1.2619** (0.0623)	–	0.9149	1027.73	0.000
	$B/L-R_f$	0.0025	0.8879** (0.0217)	0.1572** (0.0432)	–	0.9035	894.90	0.000
	$B/M-R_f$	0.0015	1.0128** (0.0213)	0.0832 (0.0425)	–	0.9249	1176.39	0.000
	$B/H-R_f$	–.0009	1.2473** (0.0432)	0.1540 (0.0862)	–	0.8211	439.19	0.000
$(R_{mt}-R_{ft})$, HML_t	$S/L-R_f$	0.0097	1.0213** (0.0592)	–	–0.1596 (0.0989)	0.6385	169.67	0.000
	$S/M-R_f$	0.0116	0.9469** (0.0515)	–	0.3353** (0.0860)	0.7267	254.95	0.000
	$S/H-R_f$	0.0176	1.0610** (0.0518)	–	0.7284** (0.0866)	0.8037	392.01	0.000
	$B/L-R_f$	0.0046	0.9689** (0.0217)	–	–.2608** (0.0363)	0.9189	1082.66	0.000
	$B/M-R_f$	0.0023	0.9902** (0.0230)	–	0.1154* (0.0384)	0.9268	1210.58	0.000
	$B/H-R_f$	–.0001	1.0470** (0.0312)	–	0.8264** (0.0521)	0.9219	1127.51	0.000

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Table 2 (cont.). Test results for Fama-French three-factor model in the Indian stock market

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable	α	β	σ	τ	Adj. R^2	*F*-statistic	Prob (*F*-stat)
SMB_t, HML_t	$S/L-R_f$	0.0012	–	1.1955**	0. 4377*	0.3061	43.14	0.000
				(0.1489)	(0.1248)			
	$S/M-R_f$	0.0039	–	1.0994**	0.8903**	0.4382	75.48	0.000
				(0.1340)	(0.1123)			
	$S/H-R_f$	0.0065	–	1.4346**	1.3266**	0.6103	150.54	0.000
				(0.1326)	(0.1111)			
	$B/L-R_f$	0.0054	–	0.3982*	0.3918**	0.1100	12.80	0.000
				(0.1307)	(0.1095)			
	$B/M-R_f$	0.0044	–	0.3004	0.7948**	0.2310	29.68	0.000
				(0.1355)	(0.1135)			
	$B/H-R_f$	0.0019	–	0.3276	1.5436**	0.4708	85.95	0.000
				(0.1474)	(0.1236)			
$(R_{mt}-R_{ft})$, SMB_t, HML_t	$S/L-R_f$	–.0016	0.9533**	0.9768**	–0.2244*	0.7929	244.73	0.000
			(0.0451)	(0.0820)	(0.0751)			
	$S/M-R_f$	0.0012	0.8845**	0.8966**	0.2757**	0.8567	381.74	0.000
			(0.0376)	(0.0682)	(0.0624)			
	$S/H-R_f$	0.0036	0.9767**	1.2106**	0.6481**	0.9726	2258.52	0.000
			(0.0195)	(0.0354)	(0.0324)			
	$B/L-R_f$	0.0026	0.9565**	0.1788**	–.2726**	0.9272	811.43	0.000
			(0.0207)	(0.0376)	(0.0345)			
	$B/M-R_f$	0.0015	0.9850**	0.0745	0.1105*	0.9277	817.35	0.000
			(0.0230)	(0.0418)	(0.0383)			
	$B/H-R_f$	–.0011	1.0408**	0.0889	0.8205**	0.9224	758.24	0.000
			(0.0313)	(0.0569)	(0.0520)			

Note: This table reports the coefficients of Fama-French three-factor model. The standard errors for these estimates are mentioned in the parentheses. Significance at 1% and 0.1% levels are denoted by * and **, respectively. The test variants for the model were estimated by eliminating the explanatory variables in the equation: $R_{it}-R_{ft}=\alpha+\beta_i\left(R_{mt}-R_{ft}\right)+\sigma_i SMB_t+\tau_i HML_t+e_{it}$.

French three-factor model is more pervasive in the Indian context than CAPM and, hence, this model was used in the further study of market integration for the Indian stock market.

3.4. Test of capital market integration in India

3.4.1. Test of market integration using Fama-French three-factor model

The estimated premia *z* values and their standard errors obtained from NSUR method on equation (6) are mentioned in Table 3. In the test of market integration, the study used excess returns for the same six size and value sorted portfolios as dependent variables. Independent variables were US "market", "size" and "value" factors along with corresponding orthogonalized domestic factors. For complete integration, at least one of the US risk premium $\left(\delta_1,\delta_2,\delta_3\right)$ should be statistically different from zero, and none of the domestic risk premiums must be different from zero $\left(\delta_4,\delta_5,\delta_6\right)$. In the complete period of 16 years, none of the US factor, as well as the domestic factor, was statistically significant. For integration, one of the US factors should have been significantly priced, whereas none of the domestic factors should have been statistically priced. To gain more insights into these results, the complete sample period was broken into two subparts of 8 years each, i.e., from October 2003 to September 2011 and from October 2011 to September 2019.

Table 3. Tests of market integration in India (2003–2019)

Source: Calculated by the authors based on the data available on Prowess IQ and Kenneth R French Data Library.

Period	δ_1	δ_2	δ_3	δ_4	δ_5	δ_6
October 2003 – September 2019	0.1700	0.0700	–0.0600	–0.0900	0.7300	0.1000
	(0.1084)	(0.1404)	(0.1670)	(0.1041)	(0.0207)	(0.0311)
October 2003 – September 2011	–0.1700	0.0300	–0.4800	0.3900	3.3300*	0.9300
	(0.0524)	(0.0207)	(0.0597)	(0.0629)	(0.0037)	(0.0075)
October 2011 – September 2019	–0.3500	–0.3700	–0.6500	0.7200	1.7100	0.6500
	(0.0427)	(0.0200)	(0.0392)	(0.0186)	(0.0063)	(0.0086)

Note: This table contains estimated *z* values for the risk premia along with the associated standard errors, which are mentioned in the parentheses, δ_1, δ_2, δ_3: the US risk premia, δ_4, δ_5, δ_6: domestic risk premia. Significance at 5% level is represented by *.

For the sub-period, October 2003 – September 2011, none of the US factors was statistically significant, whereas the domestic orthogonalized factor SMB'_{nt} was significant at 5% level. Hence, the integration hypothesis in which at least one US factor is statistically significant, whereas none of the domestic factors is statistically significant, was rejected in favor of market segmentation.

In the sub-period October 2011 – September 2019, again, none of the US factors was statistically significant, and none of the domestic factors was statistically significant at 5% level of significance. However, SMB'_{nt} was statistically significant at 10% level, but not at 5% level, suggesting that there is a movement from market segmentation towards market integration in the second sub-period.

3.4.2. Johansen cointegration test

Since the results for the second sub-period were suggestive of weak integration of the Indian and global markets (indicated by US markets), Johansen cointegration test was employed to further verify these results. The results of the stationarity test in Table A4 suggest that the indicative stock price indices in their natural logarithmic level are non-stationary series. On the other hand, the two series were stationary in their first difference form, which suggested that the series for the representative indices in the study were integrated at first order.

As shown in the output in Table 4, when the number of cointegrating equations was hypothesized to be 0, the study strongly rejected the null hypothesis of no cointegration because the trace statistic at $r = 0$, 37.4922 exceeded its critical value of 15.41. On the other hand, the trace statistic at $r = 1$ of 2.5485 was less than the critical value of 3.76; hence, it failed to reject the null hypothesis of at most one integrating equation. Thus, the number of cointegrating equations in the bivariate model of the natural logarithm transformed the Indian and US stock price indices estimated to be 1. Hence, in the second sub-period, statistical evidence was found for the cointegration among the two markets.

Thus, the results obtained from Johansen cointegration test further supported the results of the augmented Fama-French three-factor model, which suggested a weak integration of the global and Indian stock markets in the second sub-period.

Table 4. Johansen cointegration test results

Source: Calculated by authors based on the stock price indices for the two countries.

Maximum rank	Eigenvalue	Trace statistic	5% crit. value	LL
None	-	37.4922	15.41	15261.487
1	0.01191	2.5485*	3.76	15278.959
2	0.00087	–	–	15280.233

Note: This table reports the results obtained from Johansen cointegration test, performed in the second sub-period. The trace statistic has been computed using the eigenvalue in the line below it. * indicates that Johansen multiple-trace test procedure has been used to select the corresponding value of LL: Likelihood.

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4. DISCUSSION

Integration is when investors earn the same risk-adjusted expected return on similar financial instruments in different national markets. Risk, which is non-diversifiable in international capital market, demands higher returns, whereas internationally diversifiable risk, not capable of being diversified domestically, does not involve positive premiums (Stehle, 1976). The present study, when compared to the existing literature, yields similar results as obtained by Mittoo (1992) for the Canadian stock market for the period 1977–1986. This can be a result of reducing or eliminating many regulatory restrictions in early 1974 such as removal of capital flow restrictions by the United States. However, the findings of this study contradict the analysis of Brooks, Iorio, Faff, and Wang (2009), which suggested a complete segmentation of the Chinese and US markets, with no statistical evidence of movement towards the integration between two markets. This hampering in the integration of the markets can be attributed to the control over the capital flows exercised by the Chinese government. The Indian government, on the other hand, is progressively relaxing its capital flow restrictions, though still making attempts to discourage the capital flow instability.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study are consistent with previous empirical studies, which have advocated a superiority of three-factor model over CAPM. After establishing this superiority, this study showed that using Fama-French three-factor model, it cannot be still inferred that markets are integrated for the entire sample period. This suggests that there still exist barriers to entry and exit, capital outflow restrictions, and some undeveloped markets evidence. The past two decades have seen a remarkable improvement in the financial sector of the country; however, the scope of these reforms and approaches may have to be revisited in the current time period (Bhattacharya & Patel, 2003). In the later sub-period, it could be inferred that there is movement from market segmentation to market integration; however, this movement is slow, and it would take yet another decade or two to support integration on a statistical basis. Indian capital market has increased in both depth and breadth in the last decade. Political stability, various government measures to increase transparency, efficiency by reducing bottlenecks have started to show the results. The implementation of Goods and Services Tax one nation and one tax policy is a serious step to move towards market economy. Merging several banks to make stronger and larger banks are all efforts to make the Indian market ready for integration with global markets.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: Neeraj Sehrawat, Kirtivardhan Singh, Khushi Goyal.
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Formal analysis: Amit Kumar, Kirtivardhan Singh.
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Methodology: Neeraj Sehrawat, Amit Kumar, Narander Kumar Nigam, Kirtivardhan Singh, Khushi Goyal.
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APPENDIX A

Table A1. Number of firms in each portfolio for each sample year

Source: Developed by the authors based on their analysis.

Year	S/L	S/M	S/H	B/L	B/M	B/H	Total
2003–2004	15	39	57	52	50	9	222
2004–2005	11	43	61	58	50	8	231
2005–2006	22	49	50	50	51	21	243
2006–2007	16	56	56	61	47	21	257
2007–2008	18	61	61	66	51	23	280
2008–2009	20	54	73	69	63	16	295
2009–2010	22	51	75	66	69	14	297
2010–2011	22	60	70	70	62	21	297
2011–2012	17	65	75	78	60	20	315
2012–2013	23	58	75	71	67	19	313
2013–2014	22	60	79	75	68	18	322
2014–2015	25	66	72	73	65	26	327
2015–2016	27	74	63	72	57	35	328
2016–2017	32	76	64	72	61	40	345
2017–2018	35	80	66	74	64	43	362
2018–2019	42	71	68	67	73	41	362
Mean	23.06	60.19	66.56	67.13	59.88	23.44	299.75

Note: This table depicts the number of companies used in construction of six portfolios: *S/L*, *S/M*, *S/H*, *B/L*, *B/M*, and *B/H* in each year of the sample period. This number varies across each year due to non-availability of the data.

Table A2. Descriptive statistics

Source: Calculated by the authors based on the data available on Prowess IQ database.

Portfolio	Mean	Median	Maximum	Minimum	Std. deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
$S/L–R_f$	0.01736	0.01205	0.50788	–0.25928	0.08445	0.89125	9.231132
$S/M–R_f$	0.02028	0.01777	0.42955	–0.30406	0.08452	0.27779	6.414571
$S/H–R_f$	0.02841	0.03385	0.46045	–0.28303	0.10038	0.27571	4.676709
$B/L–R_f$	0.01161	0.01483	0.35493	–0.27431	0.06545	0.09123	8.283627
$B/M–R_f$	0.01062	0.01064	0.36474	–0.30683	0.07299	0.02435	7.042566
$B/H–R_f$	0.01087	0.0070	0.47555	–0.31736	0.09579	0.46055	6.222202
MKT	0.00797	0.01016	0.33044	–0.27737	0.06879	–0.12257	6.666364
SMB	0.01236	0.01001	0.12533	–0.10399	0.03452	0.14673	3.806634
HML	0.00313	0.00348	0.17953	–0.09696	0.04118	0.78150	4.532985

Note: This table presents the summary statistics for the variables used in the estimation of Fama-French model in this study. $S/L–R_f$, $S/M–R_f$, $S/H–R_f$, $B/L–R_f$, $B/M–R_f$, and $B/H–R_f$: the excess returns for the portfolios *S/L*, *S/M*, *S/H*, *B/L*, *B/M*, and *B/H*, respectively, over the risk free return, *MKT*: market risk premium, *SMB*: size premium, *HML*: value premium.

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Table A3. Measure of correlation between the factor portfolios

Source: Calculated by the authors based on the data available on Prowess IQ database.

Variable	MKT	SMB	HML
MKT	1.0000	–	–
SMB	0.1729	1.0000	–
HML	0.4319	0.1391	1.0000

Note: This table depicts the correlation between the explanatory variables used in the estimation of Fama-French three-factor model.

Table A4. Augmented Dickey-Fuller unit root test

Source: Calculated by authors based on the stock price indices for two countries.

Country	ADF statistic	
	In level form (with intercept)	First difference (with intercept)
USA	–1.9899	–46.1251
	(0.2915)	(0.0001)*
India	–1.6045	–26.1615
	(0.4800)	(0.0000)*

Note: This table reports the results for ADF unit root test performed on the stock price indices series for the US and Indian stock markets in their natural logarithmic forms. Mac Kinnon's (1996) one-sided *p*-values are mentioned in the parantheses below the statistics. * indicates significance at 0.01% level.