Journal of Rural and Industrial Development
7 (1) 2019, 01-11
http://publishingindia.com/jrid/

Region Wise Working of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India

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Abstract

RRBs in India were created in 1975 with the prime motive of serving the village economy. In general other commercial banks are not interested to expand banking services in the remote areas, therefore a distinct type of institutional arrangement was thought of to figure within the region or state, thereby to mobilize village community deposits and to provide credit within the region and to bring development in rural based economy of the country. To bring growth and development in the country RRBs have been working in the various regions namely Northern Region, Southern Region, Central Region, Western Region, Eastern Region and the North-Eastern Region with different nomenclature. In order to identify the region wise positions of RRBs in recent past there is a need to have a region wise level study on the overall operating RRBS of the country. Seeing the required perspective a study has been carried out to diagnose the region wise positions of RRBs in recent past. The various areas taken in the study are the region wise branch net-work of RRBs, number of loss making and profit making RRBs, loans and advances outstanding, non-performing assets, net-profit and the recovery rate under various regions. To examine the fact statistical tool like ANOVA is used and the needed statistical charts are shown in all the vital areas.

Keywords: Region Wise Network, Profit Making & Loss Making RRBs, Per Office Loans & Advances, Per Office NPA, Per office Net Profit, Recovery Scenario

Introduction

Banks are the institution to mobilize financial resources from the surplus pockets and to provide in credit to the deficit spenders. In the process it provides or charges interest from both the parties and also makes a profit out of its business transaction. Credit literature of the past indicates that in the name of credit country's poor people were highly exploited by the Zamindars and Village Mahajans by charging exorbitant rate of interest. On the other hand then existed commercial banks were not ready to offer loans to village poor people due to lack of good collateral securities. Such situation of the country was bitterly obstructing the growth and progress of the village economy. There was a huge demand for a distinctive type of financial institution which can nurture the economy of the villages. Therefore in 1975 Govt. created a new terminology of financial institution called Regional Rural Banking which will be the mixture characteristics of Co-operative banks that work with local feelings and emotions, and the profit orientation attitude of the commercial banks. Regional Rural Banks have started basically to develop the rural economy in the country. Gradually there has been the expansion of RRBs in the different states and regions having different nomenclature. With a humble beginning of 6 RRBs with 17 branches covering 12 districts in December 1975, the numbers have grown into 196 RRBs with 14,446 branches working in 518 districts across various regions of the country in March 2004. Under the amalgamation policies introduced by the govt. of India a number of weak RRBs have been amalgamated. In spite of amalgamation of the weak RRBs and it's decreased in numbers the total numbers of branches of the RRBs across the various regions of the country have not decreased, on the contrary it increased. With the process of amalgamation, the numbers of RRBs were reduced to 133 from 196 as on March, 2006 and further to 82 RRBs with 15,658 branches operating in 621 districts on March 2011.

Keeping in view the above facts in mind, the paper attempted to analyze the region wise working of RRBs in terms of branch network, number profit and loss making RRBs, per office loans and advances outstanding, per office NPA, net profit and the recovery scenario across

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the regions. To scan the problem of study the time period taken is from 2005 to 2013.

Review of Related Literature

The literature available on the working of the RRBs in the country is quite limited in comparison to the literature on other commercial banks. In spite of the same in order to examine the current research work some of the past studies on RRBs have been explored by the researcher and the remarks from them are listed below-

In (2002) Chalapathy Rao Committee recommended that the entire system of RRBs may be consolidated while retaining the advantages of regional character of these institutions. As part of the process, some sponsor banks may be eased out. The sponsoring institutions may include other approved financial institutions as well, in addition to commercial banks. Similarly the Purwar Committee in (2004) recommended the amalgamation of RRBs on regional basis into six commercial banks one each for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, Central and North-Eastern Region (NER). Again Bose in (2005) viewed that the credit-deposit ratio fall across the country, in the Eastern, North-Eastern and Central regions and touched rock-bottom levels. Within a decade of initiation of neo-liberal economic reforms, the credit-deposit ratio of the RRBs dipped to one-half to one-third of the levels existing before the reforms. It is noteworthy that the decline in credit-deposit ratio was not due to any declared/ explicit policy move to control credit growth. Throughout most of the 1990s the RRBs were breaking the Reserve Bank's own minimum stipulated standard of 60 percent for credit to deposit ratio expected of scheduled commercial banks. Similarly Sura (2008) in his study pointed out that the burden of indebtedness in rural India is extremely huge. In spite of major structural changes in credit organizations and the forms of rural credit in the post-independence period, the cheating of the rural masses in the name of credit facility is one of the most pervasive and persistent features of rural India. Ibrahim (2010) studied on the performance evaluation of Regional Rural Banks in India to investigate whether the merger/amalgamation of RRBs in 2005-06 has assisted to improve their performance. It observed and finds that performance of rural banks in India has significantly improved after amalgamation process which has been undertaken by the Government of India. Reddy and Prasad (2011) in their study observed that RRBs enter into every corner of the country and have extended a helping hand in the growth of the economy. Their study pointed out that despite the RRBs journeyed over three decades, they have achieved performance to the expected level quantitatively but not turning towards sound financial management and productivity. According to Reddy and Padmavathi (2013) their paper on the growth and progress of Regional Rural Banks during 2001 to 2012 in India pointed out that the objective of providing credit facilities for crop production and allied purposes to the rural poor who had very limited access to the formal credit system as it existed in early seventies. In response to the financial sector reforms, the Indian banking system has moved away from the conditions and compulsions that were prevailing at the time of advent of the Regional Rural Banks in 1975. Similarly the commercial viability of Regional Rural Banks emerged as the most crucial factor in deciding about their desired role in the emerging economic scenario and concludes that the progress of deposit mobilization and credit creation of Regional Rural Banks is noteworthy.

Objectives

The basic objectives of the current study are as mention below-

- To identify the region-wise branch network and the number of profit and loss making RRBs across the region during the study period.
- To identify per office loans & advances, net profit and non-performing assets of RRBs across the regions during the study period.
- To assess the recovery performance of RRBs across the various regions of the country.

Rationale of the Study

On the basis of the literature brushed up it is found that no study has been done on the region wise working scenario of RRBs in the country on the factors as underlined in the objectives. Moreover, understanding the region wise comparative picture of RRBs after the process of merger and amalgamation in recent past is highly important for future policy formulation. Having the same milieu a study on RRBs in region wise context is felt necessary.

Methodology

The present paper is a descriptive and analytical in nature and makes use of the secondary sources of data. The relevant secondary data have been collected mainly from the Basic Statistical Return of Scheduled Commercial Banks, RBI Publication. The current study has taken available data from period 2005 to 2013 which is primarily of seven years. Simultaneously due to unavailability of actual data the present study has also taken some of the provisional data published in the Basic Statistical Return of Scheduled Commercial Banks, RBI Publication. To make the study more comprehensive the researcher has calculated per office data for loans & advances, net-profit, non-performing assets and also accumulated region wise recovery rate data on percentage basis. At the same time relevant diagrams and the statistical tools like ANOVA has been used so that a better exploration could be comprehended.

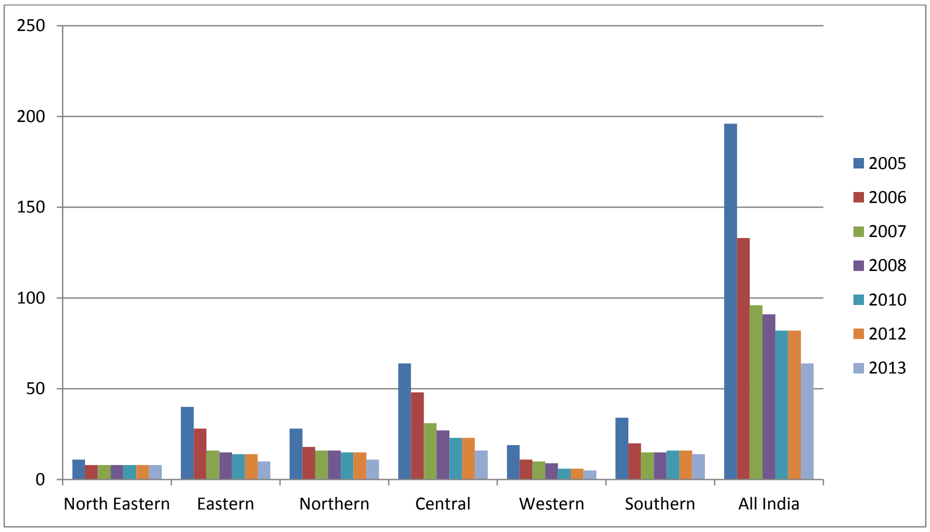
Region Wise Network of RRBs

Table 1 demonstrates the Region wise network of RRBs in the country. In 2005 the Central region was having the highest 64 number of RRBs and the lowest numbers were 11 RRBs in the North Eastern Region. In all India there were 196 RRBs. In 2013 out of 64 RRBs in the country Central region was having the decreasing figure of the highest number of 16 RRBs and the Western Region with lowest number was having only 5 of RRBs. Over the years there has been a sharp decline in the number of RRBs across the various regions of the country. This reduction in the number of RRBs was mainly due to merger and amalgamation policy under taken by the Govt. of India in order to revive the healthy atmosphere amongst the existing RRBs of the country. Almost in all the regions there has been merging and the amalgamating of the weak RRBs with the stronger one so that healthy sustainability of RRBs becomes viable in the country.

Table 1: Region Wise Network of RRBs in India (As on March)

Year	*North Eastern*	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Central*	*Western*	*Southern*	*All India*
2005	11	40	28	64	19	34	196
2006	8	28	18	48	11	20	133
2007	8	16	16	31	10	15	96
2008	8	15	16	27	9	15	91
2010	8	14	15	23	6	16	82
2012	8	14	15	23	6	16	82
2013	8	10	11	16	5	14	64

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)



Source: From Table-1

Fig. 1: Region Wise Network of RRBs in India (As on March)

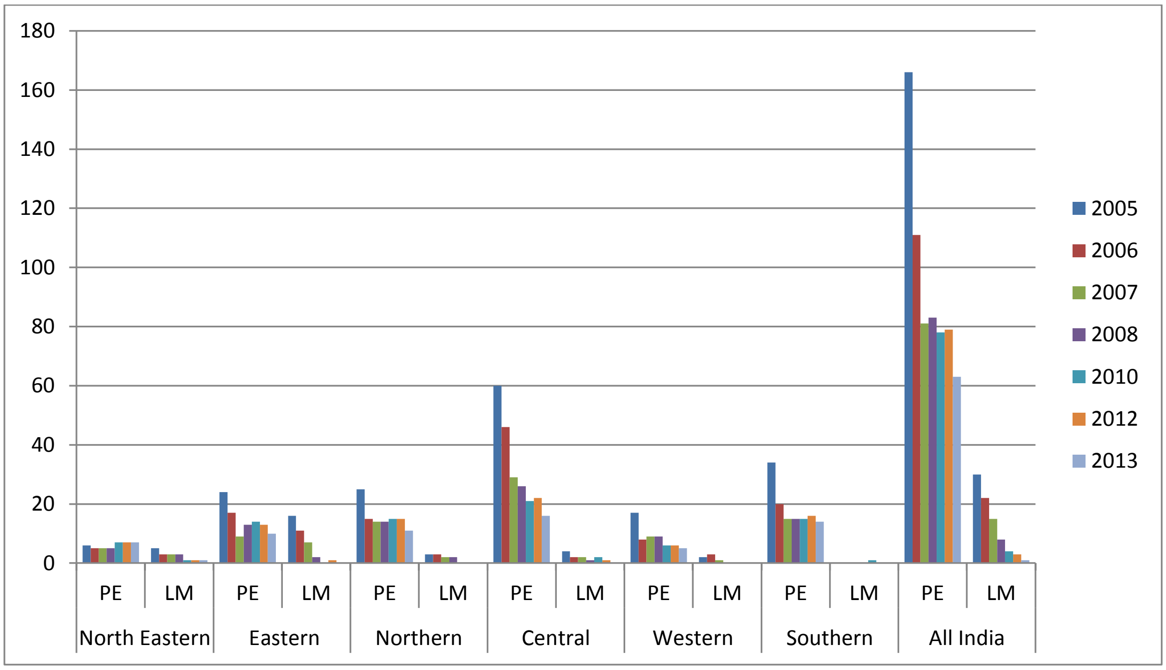
Distribution of Profit Earning and Loss Making RRBs

Table 2 displays the number of profit earning and the loss making RRBs across the various regions of the country during the period 2005 to 2013. From the table it can be observed that throughout the years there has been constant decline of loss making (LM) RRBs across all the regions. In 2005 out of 196 RRBs in the country 166 RRBs were profit earning (PE) and the remaining 30 RRBs were the losses making RRBs. In 2013 out of 64 RRBs in the country 63 were profits making and the remaining one was the loss making RRB existed the North-Eastern Region. In 2013 existing RRBs of all the regions were profit making RRBs excepting the North-Eastern Region.

Table 2: Distribution of Profit Earning and Loss Making RRBs in Various Regions

Year	*North Eastern*		*Eastern*		*Northern*		*Central*		*Western*		*Southern*		*All India*	
	PE	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*	*PE*	*LM*
2005	6	5	24	16	25	3	60	4	17	2	34	0	166	30
2006	5	3	17	11	15	3	46	2	8	3	20	0	111	22
2007	5	3	9	7	14	2	29	2	9	1	15	0	81	15
2008	5	3	13	2	14	2	26	1	9	0	15	0	83	8
2010	7	1	14	0	15	0	21	2	6	0	15	1	78	4
2012	7	1	13	1	15	0	22	1	6	0	16	0	79	3
2013	7	1	10	0	11	0	16	0	5	0	14	0	63	1

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)



Source: From Table-2

Fig. 2: Distribution of Profit Earning and Loss Making RRBs in Various Regions

Distribution of Per Office Loans & Advances Outstanding

Table 3 shows the Region wise per office loan and advances outstanding of RRBs across the various regions of the country from period 2005 to 2013. In 2005 the highest amount of per office loans and advances outstanding was in the Southern Region with the sum total of Rs.322.76 crores per office and the lowest was in the Western Region with the sum of Rs.90.55 crores. In all India the sum total was Rs. 167.70 crores per office. Over the years in all the regions there has been continuous increase of per office loans and advances outstanding of the RRBs. In 2013 the highest amount of loans and advances outstanding per office was the Southern Region with the amount of Rs. 3472.27 crores per office and the lowest was in the North-Eastern Region with the extent of Rs. 847.63 crores per office. In all India level its size was Rs. 2184.95 crores per office.

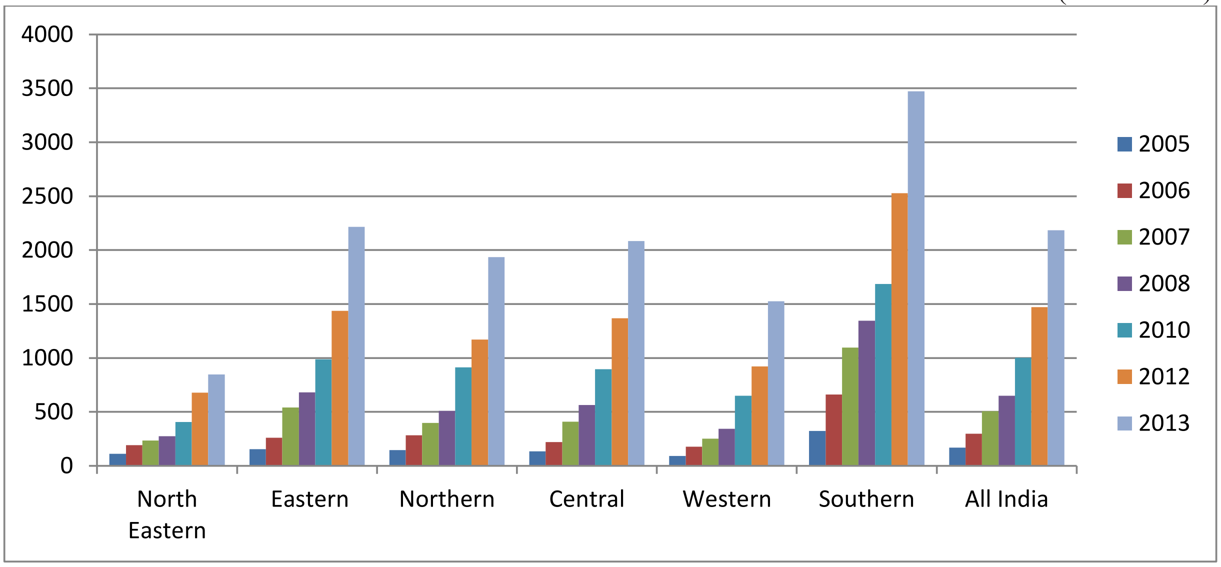
Table 3: Region Wise Per office Loan & Advances Outstanding RRBs

(Rs. in crore)

Year	*North Eastern*	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Central*	*Western*	*Southern*	*All India*
2005	111.23	154.82	146.63	135.22	90.55	322.76	167.70
2006	191.79	260.12	282.18	221.16	178.28	661.93	298.59
2007	234.25	541.50	396.94	408.15	252.78	1094.87	505.13
2008	273.81	679.78	508.33	562.30	343.70	1345.90	648.18
2010	407.40	986.98	912.01	894.84	650.72	1686.19	1002.70
2012	678.63	1436.43	1169.78	1368.57	920.94	2528.88	1470.13
2013	847.63	2216.10	1936.33	2084.98	1524.79	3472.27	2184.95

Source: Calculated by the Researcher on the Basis of Data obtained from Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)

(Rs. in crore)



Source: From Table-3

Fig. 3: Region Wise Per office Loan & Advances Outstanding RRBs

Table 3(a): The ANOVA Results of Various Regions for Per Office Loans and Advances Outstanding.

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	*Count*	*Sum*	*Average*	*Variance*		
North Eastern	7	2744.74	392.105714	74627.05186		
Eastern	7	6275.73	896.532857	528186.0788		
Northern	7	5352.2	764.6	395719.3165		
Central	7	5675.22	810.745714	494944.6141		

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance		
Western	7	3961.76	565.965714	262723.6162		
Southern	7	11112.8	1587.54286	1200932.655		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	6E+06	5	1181847.68	2.397959534	0.056285	2.477169
Within Groups	2E+07	36	492855.555			
Total	2E+07	41				

Source- Calculated by the Researcher on the basis of data from table-3

It is observed from the table 3 that the per office loans and advances outstanding to various regions by the RRBs have been increasing year after year. The 'ANOVA' is used to test whether the performance of all the regions in terms of increase in per office loans and advances outstanding are equal or not. The mean level per office loans and advances to Southern Region (1587.54286) is higher than that of Eastern Region (896.532857), or Central Region (810.745714) and so on. According to the test result, F=2.397959534, with a critical value of .05, the critical F= 2.689628. Therefore, since the F statistic is almost equal to the critical value it can be said that the increase performance of per office loans and advances outstanding in all the regions are almost the same.

Per Office Non-Performing Assets of RRBs

Table 4 reveals the per office non-performing assets of the RRBs in the various regions of the country from period 2005 to 2013. In 2005 the highest amount of per office non-performing assets was in the Eastern Region followed by North-Eastern Region and the least amount of per-office non-performing assets was in the Northern Region. The highest amount was Rs. 18.43 crores in the Eastern Region and the lowest was Rs. 7.4 crores in the Northern Region. During the same year per office non-performing assets in all India level was Rs. 14.31 crores. Similarly by 2013 the highest amount of per office non-performing assets was Rs. 200 crores in the Central region and the lowest amount was Rs.31.34 crores per office in the North-Eastern Region. In all India case the figure of per office non-performing assets of combined RRBs was Rs. 123.55 crores.

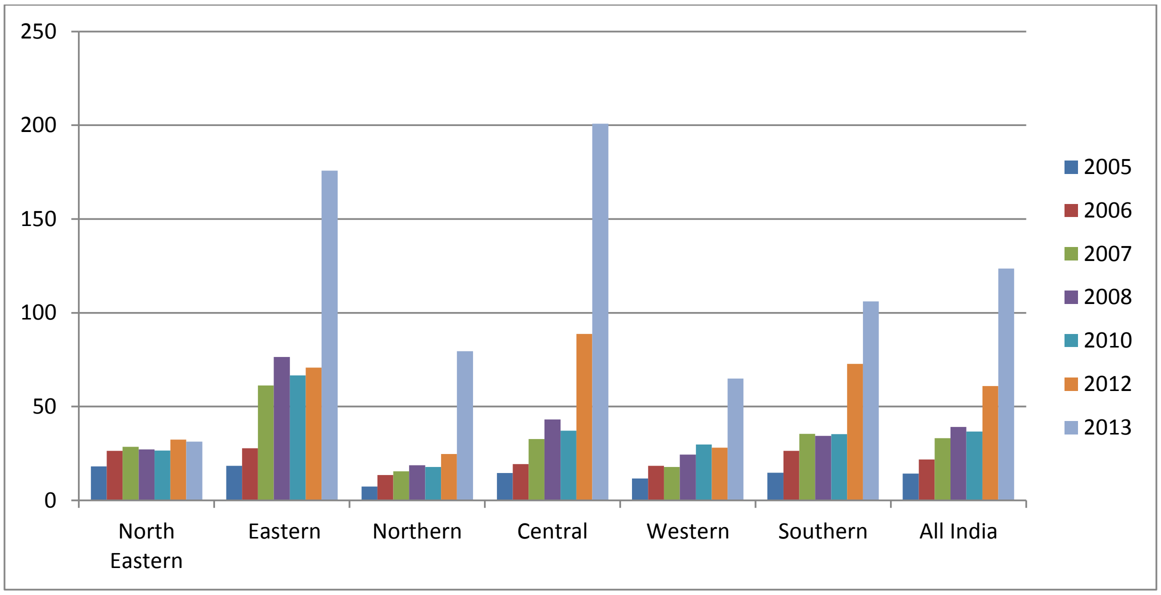
Table 4: Region Wise Per Office Non-Performing Assets of RRBs

(Rs. in crore)

Year	North Eastern	Eastern	Northern	Central	Western	Southern	All India
2005	18.18	18.43	7.4	14.64	11.69	14.74	14.31
2006	26.34	27.73	13.51	19.33	18.49	26.45	21.73
2007	28.61	61.19	15.48	32.67	17.77	35.47	33.10
2008	27.24	76.48	18.75	43.21	24.36	34.36	39.19
2010	26.54	66.59	17.87	37.22	29.71	35.28	36.72
2012	32.41	70.75	24.72	88.73	28.12	72.76	60.90
2013	31.34	175.75	79.58	200.88	65.01	106.03	123.55

Source: Calculated by the Researcher on the Basis of Data obtained from Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)

(Rs. in crores)



Source: From Table-4

Fig. 4: Region Wise Per Office Non-Performing Assets of RRBs

Table 4(a): The ANOVA Results of Various Regions for Per office Non-Performing Assets of RRBs

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	*Count*	*Sum*	*Average*	*Variance*		
North Eastern	7	190.66	27.2371429	21.46655714		
Eastern	7	496.92	70.9885714	2625.706081		
Northern	7	177.31	25.33	600.1004		
Central	7	436.68	62.3828571	4315.363524		
Western	7	195.15	27.8785714	307.8223476		
Southern	7	325.09	46.4414286	1006.502248		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	13715.81882	5	2743.16376	1.854123533	0.126998	2.477169
Within Groups	53261.76694	36	1479.49353			
Total	66977.58576	41				

Source Calculated by the Researcher on the basis of data from table-4

The 'ANOVA' is used to test whether the average increase of non-performing assets in all the regions are equal or not. It can be observed that the mean level per office non-performing assets in Eastern Region (70.9885714) is higher than that of Central Region (62.3828571), or Southern Region (46.4414286) and so on. According to the ANOVA result, F=1.854123533, with a critical value of .05, the critical F=2.477169. Since the F statistic is smaller than the critical value, it can be said that the average increase of per office non-performing assets in all the regions are equivalent.

Per Office Net Profit of RRBs

Table 5 exhibits the region wise per office net profit of RRBs in the country from period 2005 to 2013. In 2005 the highest amount of per office net profit was in the RRBs of the Southern Region with the total of Rs.9.69 crores and the lowest was in the RRBs of Eastern Region and showed the losses of Rs.0.99 crores. The net profit per office for all India figure was Rs.3.82 crores. Similarly in 2013 the highest amount of per office net profit was in Southern Region with the amount of Rs. 63.67 crores and the lowest was in the North-Eastern Region with the sum of Rs. 21.96 crores. The all India size for per office net profit in 2013 was Rs. 37.26 crores.

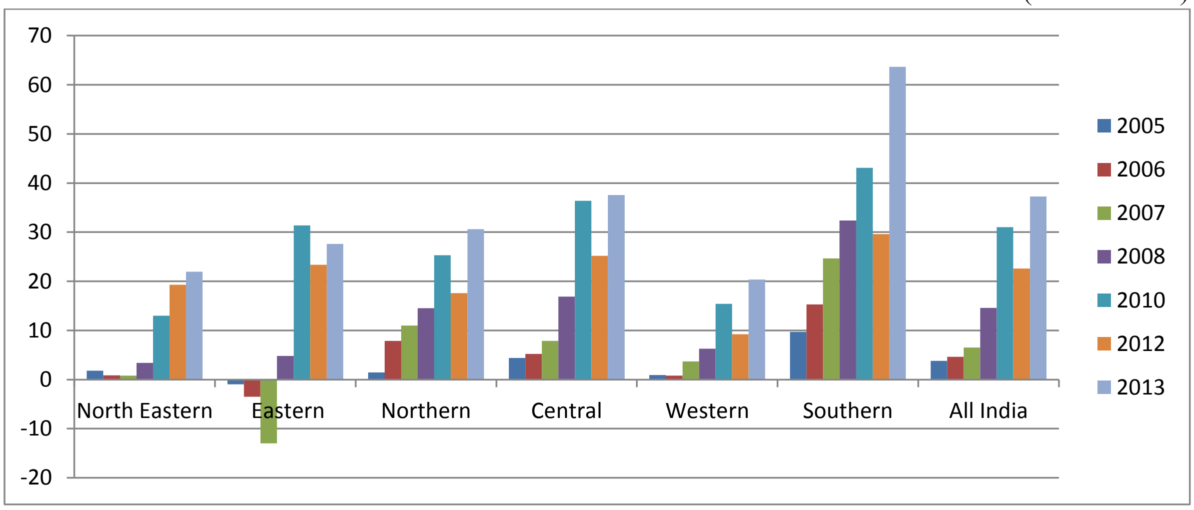
Table 5: Region Wise Per Office Net Profit of RRBs

(Rs. in crores)

Year	North Eastern	Eastern	Northern	Central	Western	Southern	All India
2005	1.81	-0.99	1.42	4.39	0.91	9.69	3.82
2006	0.86	-3.48	7.85	5.23	0.81	15.31	4.64
2007	0.78	-12.99	11.01	7.88	3.67	24.63	6.51
2008	3.36	4.79	14.54	16.86	6.25	32.35	14.59
2010	12.98	31.40	25.31	36.37	15.40	43.12	31.00
2012	19.27	23.36	17.61	25.21	9.23	29.60	22.61
2013	21.96	27.58	30.59	37.58	20.38	63.67	37.26

Source: Calculated by the Researcher on the Basis of Data obtained from Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)

(Rs. in crores)



Source: From Table-5

Fig. 5: Region Wise Per office Net Profit of RRBs

Table 5(a): The ANOVA Results of Various Regions for Per office Net Profits of RRBs

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance		
North Eastern	7	61.02	8.717143	84.34142		
Eastern	7	69.67	9.952857	300.6109		
Northern	7	108.33	15.47571	101.0405		
Central	7	133.52	19.07429	202.793		

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	*Count*	*Sum*	*Average*	*Variance*		
Western	7	56.65	8.092857	55.54209		
Southern	7	218.37	31.19571	326.4345		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	2735.145	5	547.029	3.065269	0.020919	2.477169
Within Groups	6424.574	36	178.4604			
Total	9159.719	41				

Source: Calculated by the Researcher on the basis of data from table-5

To test whether the average increases of net-profits in all the regions are equal or not, ANOVA has been applied. From the calculated table it is observed that the mean level per office net-profits in Southern Region (31.19571) is higher than that of Central Region (19.07429), or Northern Region (15.47571) and so on. The calculated ANOVA shows that, F=3.065269 at 5% level of significance with the critical F=2.477169. As the calculated value is higher than the critical value which signifies that the average increase of per office net-profits in all the regions are not equal.

Region Wise Recovery Scenario of RRBs

Table 6 shows the recovery scenario of the RRBs in the various regions of the country from period 2005 to 2012. From the table it is observed that in 2005 the highest percentage of recovery was in the Northern Region which is 88.37 per cent and the lowest was in the North-Eastern Region which is 65.82 per cent. In all India level it was 79.85 per cent. In 2012 the highest percentage of recovery is observed in the Southern Region which is 84.49 per cent and the lowest figure is noticed in the Central Region with 60.28 per cent. The all India figure of recovery percentage in 2012 was 82.57 per cent.

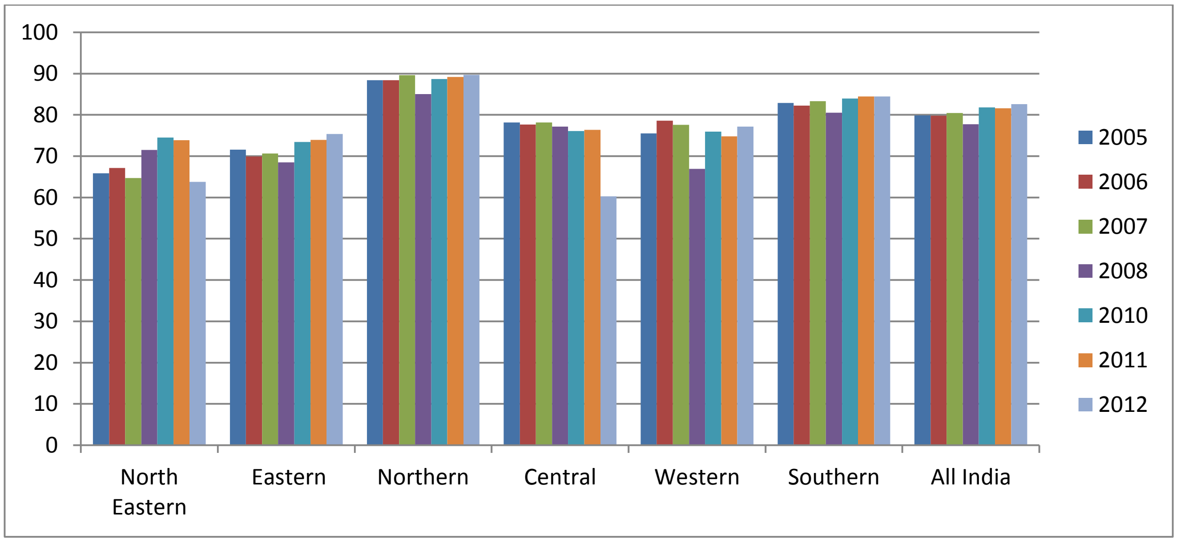
Table 6: Region Wise Recovery Scenario of RRBs

(As on June, in %)

Year	*North Eastern*	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Central*	*Western*	*Southern*	*All India*
2005	65.82	71.55	88.37	78.15	75.55	82.88	79.85
2006	67.13	69.92	88.42	77.65	78.58	82.25	79.80
2007	64.73	70.65	89.63	78.17	77.57	83.30	80.49
2008	71.54	68.52	85.01	77.20	66.95	80.52	77.76
2010	74.49	73.46	88.71	76.10	75.96	83.97	81.80
2011	73.89	73.95	89.16	76.36	74.77	84.49	81.60
2012	63.77	75.36	89.70	60.28	77.15	84.49	82.57

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (Various Issues)

(As on June, in %)



Source: From Table-6

Fig. 6: Region Wise Recovery Scenario of RRBs

Table 6(a): The ANOVA Results for Regions Wise Recovery Scenario

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	*Count*	*Sum*	*Average*	*Variance*		
North Eastern	7	481.37	68.76714	19.88656		
Eastern	7	503.41	71.91571	5.939295		
Northern	7	619	88.42857	2.560714		
Central	7	523.91	74.84429	41.90036		
Western	7	526.53	75.21857	14.96481		
Southern	7	581.9	83.12857	2.013781		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	1887.248	5	377.4496	25.9518	5.2E-11	2.477169
Within Groups	523.5931	36	14.54425			
Total	2410.841	41				

Source: Calculated by the Researcher on the basis of data from table-6

In order to test whether the increase in the recovery scenario of all the regions over the years is same or not the ANOVA test has been applied. The calculated table shows that that the mean level recovery in Northern Region (88.42857) is higher than that of Southern Region (83.12857), or Western Region (75.21857) and so on. The calculated ANOVA shows that, F= 25.9518 at 5% level of significance with the critical F=2.477169. It is observed that the calculated statistic is higher than the critical statistics and signifies that the recovery scenarios over the years in all the regions are not equal.

Conclusion

Region wise scrutiny of the RRBs in India shows a wide gap and it is suggested to make the reforms on the basis of regional perspectives. There is the necessity of region wise effective financial service planning by the Govt. and also to become sensitive on the basis of socio-economic resources availed by the region. At the same time it is very important to see the composition and the direction of advances and credit to the various regions provided by the RRBs. Region wise good banking facilities to the needy and the village level economy of India could only be extremely effective with the institution like RRBs, therefore their financial viability and sustainability needs to be reframed from time to time. Performances of RRBs cannot be judged only from the economic angle, rather their performance are to be judge from the impact they brought to the society in the transformation of their socio-economic life and their contribution to the financial services environment of the regional economy. If Govt. could bring a banking revolution through the institution like RRBs in all the regions of the country the shining of India will really starts from the villages and rural households of the country and this is how India could be developed.

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