Nonlinearities in Inflation and Growth Nexus: The Case of Tanzania

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Abstract: Achieving high economic growth rate while maintaining low inflation rate, has become the main objective of monetary authorities all over the world. Indeed, empirical literature reflects that high inflation rates are detrimental to long run growth and entail welfare costs. To achieve this objective, central banks have availed different options from time to time which include inflation targeting. Monetary authorities in Tanzania have been targeting an inflation level of around 5 percent per annum for economic policy purposes. However, when high inflation is to be controlled, tight monetary policy is put in place which might in turn affect the economic activity. Also, the Tobin effect suggests that inflation causes individuals to substitute out of money and into interest earning assets, which leads to greater capital intensity which in turn promotes economic growth. Against these major points, this paper examines a non linear relationship between inflation and economic growth using both a quadratic and threshold endogenous models and attempts to identify the existence of threshold effects between these variables. The paper uses a data set spanning from 1967 to 2015. The most interesting finding of the estimations is that the estimated coefficient of the linear term of inflation is negative while the estimated coefficient of the square term of inflation is positive, suggesting a U-shaped effect as opposed to inverse or inverted U-shaped relationship found in other countries by previous studies. These results suggest that the Tobin effect may be valid for high inflation, in which people strongly realize the importance of substituting money for interest-bearing assets. This leads to an increase in capital investment, and in turn, an increase in economic growth even with high inflation rate. However, this U-shaped relationship between inflation and economic growth suggests that, the economy is better off at extremely low inflation episodes. The optimal inflation rate that ranges between 3.25 percent and 3.75 percent is obtained by minimizing the residual sum of squares and/or maximizing adjusted R-squared. These findings have some policy implications for the policymakers and development partners. The paper is consistent with policy suggestions by international agencies. Efforts to minimize inflation to a very low level are likely to have a positive effect on economic growth.

Keywords: inflation; economic growth; threshold effects

JEL: E31; C13; O40

1. Introduction

Achieving sustainable economic growth and maintaining inflation rates within reasonable targets is central subject of macroeconomics policy. In fact, economists, policy makers and Central Banks across the world are concerned with high levels of prices and strive for achievement and maintenance of price stability. In Tanzania for example, the government through the monetary authorities institutes tight monetary and fiscal policies which often target the demand causes of inflation and therefore reduce inflation rate which in turn may create an environment conducive to rapid economic growth (Fischer, 1993 [1]). Unsurprisingly, high inflation is believed to be detrimental to medium and long-run economic growth (Rutayasire, 2013 [2]) and therefore policy makers should aim for low rates of inflation (Seleteng, 2012 [3]).

The relationship between inflation and real economic growth however, is controversial in both theory and empirical findings. A study by Sidrauski (1967) [4] suggests that there might no relationship between inflation and economic growth. Many countries have grown slowly despite low inflation (Fischer, 1983 [5]). In Neo classical views, inflation increases economic growth by shifting the income distribution in favour of higher saving capitalists. This increases saving and thus economic growth. Also, according to Keynesians, inflation may increase growth by raising the rate of profit which in turn increases private investment. Indeed, Phillips (1958 [6]) hypothesizes that high inflation positively affects economic growth by lowering unemployment rates. In contrast, Barro (1995) [7] points out that high inflation reduces the level of investment and a reduction in investment adversely affects economic growth. According to Gultekin (1983 [8]), economic growth rate depends positively on rate of return and that inflation reduces rate of return leading to low economic growth. Hence economic growth is negatively related to inflation. Many cross-country studies suggest the existence of an inverse relationship between inflation and economic growth and the magnitude of this relationship is envisaged to vary from region to region depending on the level of development and other factors (Seleteng, 2012 [3]). Many developed countries have mandate to keep inflation level within a particular target range because they have well-established and independent Central Banks (Seleteng, 2012[3]). The main argument behind the negative relationship between the two variables is that businesses and households tend to perform poorly when inflation is high and unpredictable (Odhiambo, 2012[9]).

The different views about the relationship between inflation and economic growth imply that low inflation or macroeconomic stability is not a sufficient condition for sustained economic growth. Notwithstanding, the question about these variables is not only the simple relationship but also the level of inflation that can affect economic growth. According to Temple (2000) [10], the existence and the nature of the relationship between inflation and economic growth is a subject of an extensive body of theoretical and empirical studies. Some studies use linear techniques and investigate the nature of the inflation-growth nexus (De Gregorio, 1993 [11] and Fischer, 1993 [1]). Although many of these studies confirm the existence of negative relationship between inflation and economic growth, the causal relationship between them is a subject of controversy. For example, a study by Paul *et al.* (1997) [12] suggests three different possibilities. One,

they find no causal relationship between inflation and economic growth in 40 percent of the countries. Two, they find bidirectional causality in about 20 percent of countries and three, a unidirectional causality running either from inflation to economic growth or economic growth to inflation in the rest of the countries. Other studies use nonlinear techniques and argue that there exists a threshold or optimal level of inflation below which inflation may have no or even a positive effect on growth and above which inflation may be detrimental to economic growth. This threshold, however, differs from country to country and over time (Rutayisire, 2013 [2]; Salami and Kelikume, 2010 [13]; Singh, 2010 [14]; Sarel, 1996 [15]; Bruno and Easterly, 1998 [16]; Ghosh and Phillips, 1998 [17]; Khan and Senhadji, 2001 [18]; Moshiri and Sepehri, 2004 [19]; Mubarik, 2005 [20]; Lee and Wong, 2005 [21]; Drukker *et al.*, 2005 [22]; Pollin and Zhu, 2006 [23]; Li, 2006 [24]; Hineline, 2007 [25]; Schiavo and Vaona, 2007 [26]; Quartey, 2010 [27]; Risso and Carrera, 2009 [28]; Ahmed and Mortaza ,2005 [29]). Nonlinearities of the relationship between inflation and economic growth also pose a question at what level of inflation that the relationship between the two variables will become negative.

Like many other countries, a central objective of macroeconomic policies in Tanzania is to achieve a high economic growth while maintaining a low inflation rate. Granted, Tanzania's macroeconomic performance has improved substantially over the past 15 years with sustained high rates of economic growth and relatively low inflation (URT, 2015 [30]). During implementation of successful economic programmes, an inflation rate of 5 percent is used a policy target. In fact, many sub-Saharan countries target inflation rate of around 5 percent (Table 1). Some economists however, believe that a low and stable inflation rate of 3 percent has a small cost in the economy (Mankiw, 2008 [31]). Also, an empirical study by Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18] suggests that inflation threshold range is 1-3 percent for industrial countries and 11-12 percent for developing

Table 1. Inflation Targets in Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries, 2016

Country	Central Bank	Target
Botswana	Bank of Botswana	3.00 - 6.00 Percent
Ghana	Bank of Ghana	8.00 +/-2.0 Percent
Kenya	Central Bank of Kenya	5.00 +/-2.50 Percent
Malawi	Reserve Bank of Malawi	14.2 Percent
Mozambique	Bank of Mozambique	5.60 Percent
Nigeria	Central Bank of Nigeria	6.00 - 9.00 Percent
South Africa	South African Reserve Bank	3.00 - 6.0 Percent
Tanzania	Bank of Tanzania	5.00 Percent
Uganda	Bank of Uganda	5.00 +/-2.0 Percent
Zambia	Bank of Zambia	7.00 Percent

Source: Central Bank News: Global Monetary Policy, 2016 [33]

countries. In contrast, Kremer *et al.* (2009) [33] suggest inflation thresholds of 2.5 percent and 17 percent for industrial and developing countries respectively. In a similar study, Pollin and Zhu (2005) [23] estimate a threshold inflation range of 15-23 percent for low income countries.

Given the controversial relationship between inflation and economic growth and the belief that a particular threshold of inflation rates would have a positive impact on economic growth, the issue of inflation targeting as a monetary policy regime assumes even higher relevance in African countries as they attempt to reduce inflation to single digits in most countries, reduce fiscal and current account deficits, and contribute to improvement in the investment climate. However, the question raised is whether the inflation targets chosen for policy purposes optimal and consistent with economic growth. This problem can be well addressed by specific country study. Most of the studies conducted while aiming at estimating inflation threshold employ cross-sectional and panel data covering large sample of countries (Rutayisire, 2013 [2]). These studies are justified by their ability to generalize empirical findings and their policy implications appeal (Rutayisire, 2013 [2]). In fact, countries are heterogeneous (Lin and Ye, 2009 [34] and Espinosa et al. 2010 [35]) and therefore, it is important to carry out country specific studies in order to relate findings to policy designs while allowing the incorporation of country specific characteristics (Rutayisire, 2013 [2]). Moreover, the current study is significant because even specific developing country studies suggest a wide range of inflation threshold levels ranging from 6 percent for Bangladesh (Ahmed and Mortaza ,2005 [29]) and India (Singh, 2010 [14]) to 22.2 percent for Ghana (Quartey , 2010 [27]). Specific country study thus, would in particular provide useful information about the appropriate location and width of inflation targeting band. This is also very important because in most developing countries, the Central Banks do not have a clear inflation targeting monetary policy framework.

The main objective of this paper is to investigate the nature of the relationship between inflation and economic growth in the context of Tanzania so as to better understand whether the country is striving towards goal of high growth and maintenance of price stability. In order to achieve this main objective, the paper is decomposed into two specific objectives. Firstly, to investigate the general relationship between inflation and economic growth and secondly, to investigate the nonlinearity of the inflation-growth nexus using time series data spanning from 1967 to 2015. In particular, the paper estimates the threshold or optimal level of inflation which is conducive for economic growth in Tanzania using a quadratic regression model which is estimated as a second-degree polynomial. This approach has been widely used (Yabu and Kessy, 2015 [36]; Rutayisire, 2013 [2]; Pollin and Zhu, 2005 [23]; Clements et al., 2005 [37]; Devarajan et al., 1996 [38]; Hermes and Lensink, 2001 [39] and Patillo et al., 2002 [40]) and threshold endogenous model used by Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18], Chan and Tsay (1998) [41], Hansen (1999[42], 2000[43]) and Mubarik (2005) [20].

2.   Inflation Dynamics and Economic Growth in Tanzania

Inflation is one of the key determinants of economic performance, indicating growth, demand conditions, and the levels and trends in monetary and fiscal policy stance (Rutasitara, 2004 [44]). Thus, at all times, even when the rate of inflation seems to be low, authorities have to keep an eye on the different factors that may easily trigger a rise in inflation and erode the value of money holdings, trade flows, investor confidence, among others (Rutasitara, 2004 [44]).

During the 1967-2015 period, the Tanzanian economy experienced mixed performance. Real GDP growth and inflation have been characterized by fluctuations, partly a result of economic policies pursued by Tanzania under a public sector-led economy embedded in the 1967 Arusha Declaration, and partly a result of exogenous factors, including deterioration in the terms of trade in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the collapse of the East African Community in 1977, and the war with Uganda's Iddi Amin during 1978-79, the fall in the prices of exports such as sisal, tea and cotton, the rising price of imports such as oil crisis of 1973-1974, bad weather conditions and oscillating currency exchange rates. Growth of money supply also seems to contribute to fluctuations of the inflation during the period under study.

Figures 1 and 2 present the trends of inflation, real GDP growth and real per capita growth in Tanzania. The annual mean of inflation during the 1967-2015 was 16.5 percent while annual mean of real GDP growth and real per capita GDP growth were 4.3 percent and 1.4 percent respectively. In fact, Tanzania is among the least developed countries in the world with a 2014 per capita GDP of $588.3 measured at constant 2005 US$ (WDI, 2016 [45]).

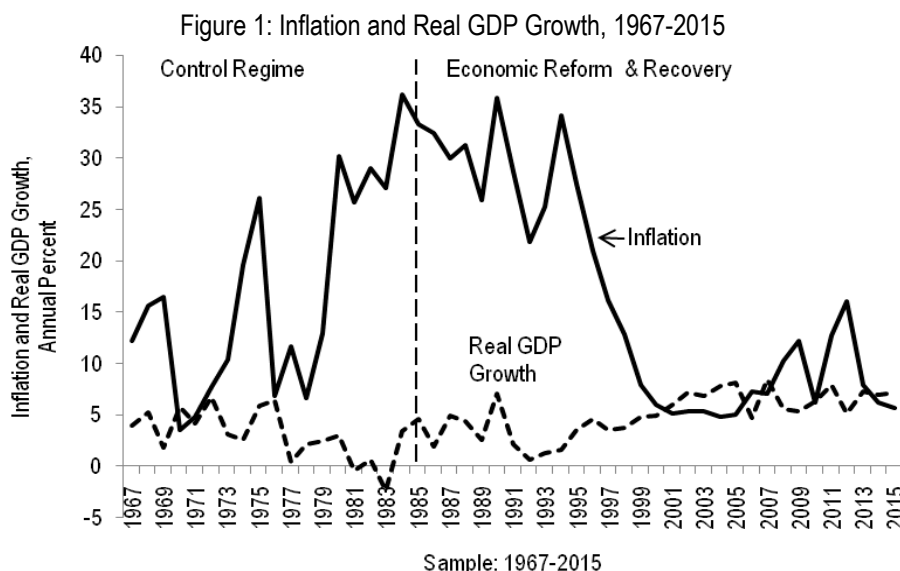
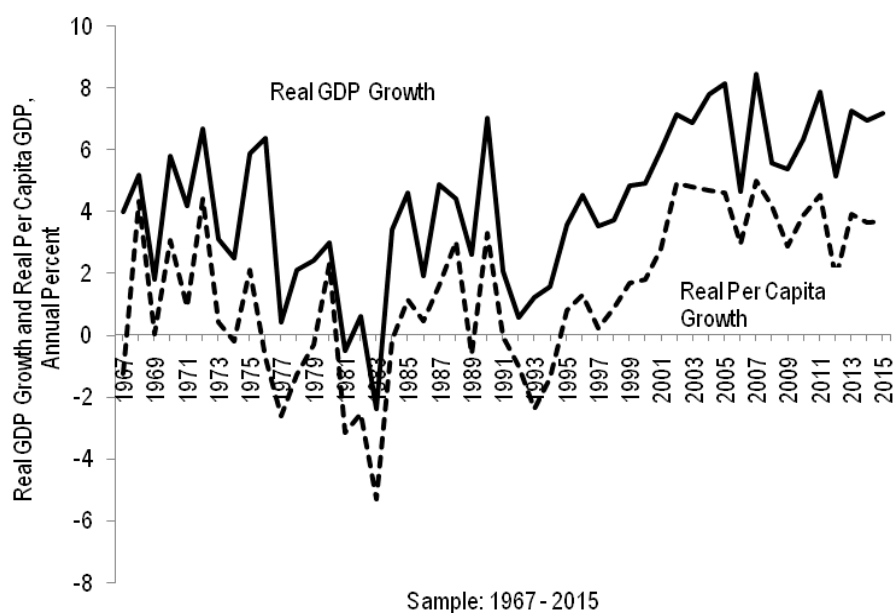
Figure 1: Inflation and Real GDP Growth, 1967-2015

Source: Author's Computation using data from WDI, 2016 [45]

Figure 2: Real GDP Growth and Per capita GDP Growth, 1967-2015

Source: Author's Computation using data from WDI, 2016 [45]

The overall economic performance of Tanzania during the 1970s and first half of the 1980s was very disappointing. Deterioration in the economy revealed the inefficiencies of the state-dominated economy following the Arusha declaration of January 1967 that aimed at central planning and Government control. However, the fall of the economy in the early 1980s mainly was contributed to unsettled security and political conflict with Uganda and marked its lowest growth of -2.4 percent and per capita GDP of -5.3 percent in 1983 but the downfall of the economy in the early 1990 mainly was attributed to financial reforms and macroeconomic uncertainty such as high inflation rate. The real GDP growth rate during the 1970-1985 period, was 2.9 percent, while during the 1986-1995 and the 1996-2014 periods, real GDP rates were 3.1 percent and 6.1 percent respectively (World Bank, WDI, 2015 [46]).

Tanzania adopted an economic reform programme in 1986 after experiencing a steady decline in economic growth in the late 1970s that led to a financial crisis in the early 1980s (Muganda, 2004 [47]). During that period, not only the Government owned and managed an important economic portfolio, but it also determined the prices of goods and services and established a large number of state enterprises with a view to creating public sector-led development framework. However, according to IMF, the approach produced adverse effects: it exacerbated distortions in the economy and led to a proliferation of parallel markets and unrecorded cross-border trade. Economic reforms allowed Tanzania not only to recover economic activity but also to operate a gradual

transition from a state-controlled to a market-oriented economy relying on private sector. The reforms were implemented through successive economic and adjustment programmes as follows: Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) (1986-1989) and Economic and Social Action Programme (ESAP) or ERP II (1989-1992). However, before 1986, Tanzania implemented the National Economic Survival Programme (NESP) (1980-1985) and the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)(1983-1985). ERP I mainly focused on restoring external balance by pursuing prudent fiscal, monetary and trade policies and increasing in export earnings by an average of 16 per per annum over the programme period. It also focused on a progressive reduction in the rate of inflation to less than 10 percent by 1988/89 from over 33.3 percent in 1985, and achieving an average rate of economic growth of 4 percent 5 percent per annum, which would correspond to a positive growth in per capita income of 1.0 percent 2.0 percent. ERP II focused on the liberalization of the marketing of agricultural inputs and outputs, restructuring and privatization of the banking sector and allowing entrance of foreign banks and foreign exchange bureaus into the banking sector. It also concerned the restructuring and privatization of parastatals, civil service reform and further restructuring of markets for agricultural exports.

During the early period of reforms and recovery macroeconomic stability was not achieved mainly due to the government's inability to control credit expansion to public enterprises, massive tax exemptions, poor revenue collections, and tax evasion. The large increase in tax exemptions was symptomatic of corruption and governance issues (Muganda, 2004 [47]).

During the late 1960s and 1990s inflation has always been a two-digit figure. Between 1972 and 1980 it fluctuated between 6 per cent and 30 per cent. At the end of the 1970s and the beginning of 1980, a radical increase was recorded. Inflation rose to 36.1 per cent in 1984 and 35.8 percent in 1990 from 3.4 percent in 1970. It stabilized at the level between 25 percent and 36 percent during the 1980-1996 period. This could be partly attributed to an expansion in the money supply, exacerbated by growing budget deficits. For example the growth rate of the money supply (M2) increased from 18.1 percent in 1981 to 41.8 percent in 1990 and 33.0 percent in 1995 (BOT, 2013 [48]).

The government of Tanzania's strategy for reducing inflation has, since 1986, focused on tight monetary policy and increased output production. This focus has been determined by the fact that Tanzania's inflation has been both a monetary and a structural phenomenon (Rutayisire, 1986 [49]). The task of slowing down inflation proved difficult. This difficulty was due to structural problems that hindered efficient production (for example, dependence on the weather) and inflationary financing of persistent fiscal deficits, caused by a combination of high government expenditure and poor domestic revenue collection (Solomon and de Wet, 2004 [50]). Inflation remained high on average during the 1986-1993 periods, although at a slightly lower level than the pre-reform level of 33.3 per cent in 1985. Over the past few years, inflation has stabilized at single digits, declining from an annual rate of 34 percent in 1994 to 5.6 percent in 2015 due to prudent monetary policy, a favourable food situation and declining fuel prices (BoT, 2015 [45]). Also, export performance remained strong, driven by gold and tourism receipts (BoT, 2015 [45]). In fact, the significant decline in inflation rates in 1994 and the lowest inflation

rates, ranging from 4.7 percent 7.8 percent, achieved during the 1999-2007 reflects the impact of tight monetary and fiscal policies pursued by the central bank. Inflation averaged 7.7 percent during the 1999-2015 period, also buttressed by tight monetary policy and cash budgeting but increased to 16.1 in 2012, due to high world market prices for oil and food in 2012.

Over the period of last 15 years both real GDP growth and real per capita GDP growth have been impressive. In particular, during the 2001-2015 real GDP growth and real per capita GDP growth averaged 6.7 percent and 3.9 percent respectively, underpinned by steady implementation of policy/structural reforms.

Along with economic reforms and recovery, priority spending aimed at promoting high economic growth and improving social services were channeled to investment in socio-economic sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, health and education. As a result reforms were supported by large inflows of foreign aid and technical assistance. Table 2 reports economic growth and real per capita GDP and their determinants over the 1967-2015 period.

Table 2: Economic Indicators in Tanzania, 1967-2015

Indicator	1967-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-15
Real GDP Growth Rate	3.9	2.3	3.3	6.5	6.8
Real Per Capita GDP	-0.7	-0.3	-0.3	3.9	3.4
Inflation Rate	11.9	30.1	23.1	6.8	9.1
Trade, Percent of GDP	43.4	24.6	35.2	17.0	51.2
Investment, Percent of GDP	25.6	24.4	27.7	19.0	12.9
Population Growth	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.2
M3 Growth, Annual Percent	20.6	24.1	27.1	22.0	16.2

Source: Author's calculations using data from World Bank Development Indicators (2016)

During the 1980-89 period, overall investment declined significantly mainly due to immense difficulties with high inflation during the same period. This means that, it has been costly to hold wealth in terms of money because of negative real interest rates. This might be caused by national policies that discourage liberalization of economy where the government controlled the economy. During the entire period of 1990-99, the gross investment was on average 27.7 percent of GDP. Also, the removal of trade restrictions improved the openness of the economy and boosted the external sector. Table 1 suggests that, as a result of the implementation of sound economic policies, all the economic indicators performed better on average in the 1990-99 period than in the 1980-89 period.

Understandably, macroeconomic instability may adversely affect economic growth. For example, uncertainty related to higher volatility in inflation could discourage firms from investing in projects that have high returns, but also a higher inherent degree

of risk. The usual arguments for lower and more stable inflation rates include reduced uncertainty in the economy and enhanced efficiency of the price mechanism. A reduction in the level of inflation could have an overall effect on the level of capital accumulation in cases of tax distortions or when investment decisions are made with a long-run perspective. However, evidence on the relationship between inflation and growth is somewhat mixed (Bassanini and Scarpetta, 2001 [51]). Although it is widely accepted that that investment and growth suffer in cases of high inflation, the relation is less clear in cases of moderate or low inflation (Edey, 1994 [52]; Bruno and Easterly, 1998 [16]). Indeed, Table 1 does not provide evidence that higher inflation correlates systematically with lower economic growth or per capita GDP growth or the reverse. For example, as the Table depicts both inflation and real GDP growth increased on average from 6.8 percent and 6.5 percent in the 2000-09 period to 9.1 percent and 6.8 percent in the 2010-15 period respectively.

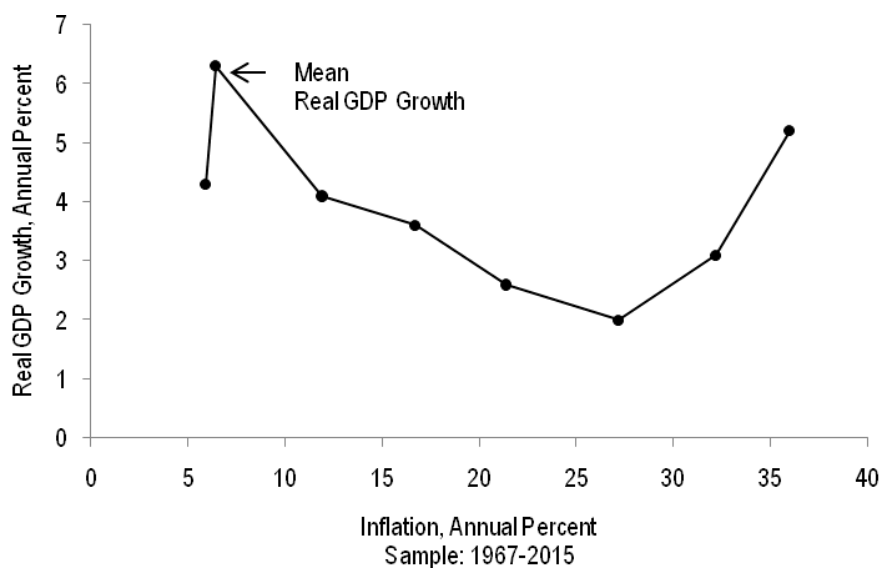
Table 3 also confirms the ambiguous relationship between inflation and economic growth. Following the approach by Yabu and Kessy (2015) [36], Rutayisire (2013) [2], Mubarik (2005) [20] and Ghosh and Philips (1998) [49], sub-ranges of inflation rates are computed and categorized in ascending order. Mean and median inflation and growth rates corresponding to each inflation range are also estimated. It is worth recalling that on average for the whole sample period, inflation rate ranges between 6.8 percent and 30.1 percent while economic growth varies between 2.3 percent and 6.8 percent (Table 2). Table 3 shows that, from the second to the sixth inflation ranges, a higher mean or median inflation rate is associated with a lower economic growth suggesting a negative relationship. However, the higher mean or median inflation rates corresponding to the second, seventh and eighth inflation ranges coexist with impressive mean or median economic growth rates. These observations provide some pre-evidence that there may be a non-linear relationship between the two variables.

For more precise picture, it is worthy to understand the historical nature of the relationship between inflation and growth through more visual examinations. Figures 3 and 4 present much the same information but for several different sub-samples and in graphical form. Figure 3 provides a more direct view of the association between inflation and growth association by plotting the mean GDP growth rate against the mean inflation rate for each of 8 subsamples defined according to degree of inflation. The key observation is that, first, at the very lowest inflation rates, inflation and growth are positively associated. Second, at inflation rates, say between 6 percent and 27 percent, the relationship is negative. Third, beyond inflation rate of say 27 percent, the relationship is again positive implying, plausibly, that an increase in inflation from 6 percent to 27 percent impairs growth more than an increase from 27 percent to 36 percent. In fact the economic growth improves when inflation rates rise above 27 percent.

Table 3. Inflation Ranges and Economic Growth in Tanzania, 1967-2015

	Inflation Band	Number of Observations	Inflation		GDP Growth	
			Mean	Median	Mean	Median
	All observations	49	16.5	12.8	4.3	4.6
1:	$0 \leq \pi_t < 5$	3	5.9	4.8	4.3	5.8
2:	$5 \leq \pi_t < 10$	15	6.4	6.0	6.3	6.6
3:	$10 \leq \pi_t < 15$	8	11.9	12.2	4.1	3.4
4:	$15 \leq \pi_t < 20$	5	16.7	16.1	3.6	3.5
5:	$20 \leq \pi_t < 25$	2	21.4	21.4	2.6	2.6
6:	$25 \leq \pi_t < 30$	9	27.2	27.1	2.0	2.1
7:	$30 \leq \pi_t < 35$	5	32.2	32.4	3.1	3.0
8:	$35 \leq \pi_t < \infty$	2	36.0	36.0	5.2	5.2

Source: Author's Calculations using data from World Bank Development Indicators (2016)

Figure 3. Mean Inflation and Real GDP Growth, 1967-2015

Notes: Median inflation and growth rates in equal-sized subsamples, defined according to range of inflation

More systematic evidence for the past 49 years is given in Figure 4 and Table 5, which show the correlation between inflation and economic growth. Figure 4 presents the scatter plot for whole sample. Generally, the bivariate evidence suggests a negative relationship between inflation and growth. This relationship appears to break down, however, somewhere in the inflation range between 20 and 30 percent; and beyond that level there is a positive relationship. This U-shaped relationship between inflation and economic growth observed using Tanzania data, however, is surprising but interesting. In fact, many studies on the non-linear effect of inflation on economic growth in other countries have proved existence of an inverted U-shaped relationship between the two variables.

Table 4 reports the correlation matrix for inflation and economic growth, in three sub-samples. A correlation-matrix with the inflation levels less than 10 percent shows a negative but weak correlation, suggesting that there is a possibility of positive correlation between the two variables in very low inflation levels that tend to partially offset the negative correlation as Figure 3 illustrates. The correlation-matrix with inflation levels between 10 and 24 percent shows a negative correlation between inflation and GDP growth while the correlation-matrix with inflation levels above 24 percent shows a positive correlation. Therefore, from the three correlation matrices, it can be assumed that the relationship between inflation and growth is non linear.

Figure 4. Scatter Plot: Inflation and Real GDP Growth, 1967-2015

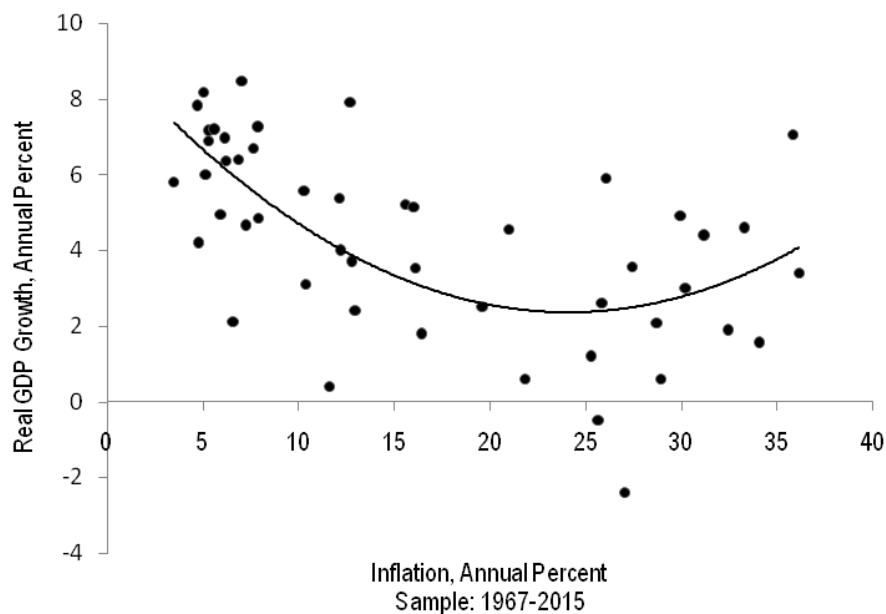



Table 4. Correlation Matrix for Inflation and Economic Growth, in three Sub-Samples, 1967-2015

	Inflation Less than 10 Percent		
	Inflation	Growth	Mean
Inflation	1		6.042
Economic Growth	-0.095	1	6.228
	Inflation Between 10 Percent and 24 Percent		
	Inflation	Growth	Mean
Inflation	1		14.940
Economic Growth	-0.222	1	3.587
	Inflation Above 24 Percent		
	Inflation	Growth	Mean
Inflation	1		29.878
Economic Growth	0.425	1	2.744

Source: Author's computation Using Data from WDI, 2016 [45]

In fact, the positive relationship between inflation and economic growth is not surprising. The Tobin's (1965) [53] framework also reveals a positive relationship between inflation and growth. The Tobin effect suggests that inflation causes individuals to substitute out of money and into interest earning assets, which leads to greater capital intensity which in turn promotes economic growth.

3.   Literature Review
3.1. Theoretical Literature Review

Economic theories such as Classical, Keynesian, Neo Keynesian, Monetarist, Neo-classical and Endogenous growth theories have great contribution to the relationship between inflation and economic growth. However, these theories reach a variety of conclusions about the responsiveness of growth to inflation. This subsection discusses the contribution of each theory to the relationship between the two variables.

3.1.1.   The Classical Growth Theory

Classical theory is the first modern school of economic thought. Indeed, Classical economists as chiefly represented by Adam Smith, David Ricardo, and Thomas Malthus laid the foundation for a number of growth theories. The foundation for Classical growth theory is laid by Adam Smith who posits a supply side driven model of growth, which emphasizes the need for incentives to save and invest if the economy is to grow, linking it to factors of production as follows:

$$Y = f(K, L, N) \tag{1}$$

Where $Y =$ the level of output (supply)
          $K =$ the stock of physical capital
          $L =$ the labor force
          $N =$ land

Model (1) implies that supply is a function of capital, labour, and land. Consequently, output growth is driven by investment growth, population growth and land growth as well as the increase in the overall productivity. The theory assumes a self-reinforcing growth or increasing return to scale and that savings creates investment, hence growth. The link between inflation and growth of output is not specifically articulated in classical growth theories. However, the relationship between the two variables is implicitly suggested to be negative, as indicated by the reduction in firms' profit levels through higher wage costs. Profit declines, not necessarily because of decreasing marginal product of labour, but because competition for labour drives wages up. The fall in the profit level discourages the firms who are the source of wealth creation. Thus, the price increase will have a negative impact on productivity of the firms leading to decline in the level of the economic growth (Pentecost 2000 [54]).

3.1.2.   **Neo-Classical Growth Theory**
The neoclassical growth model was developed primarily by Solow (1956) [55]. In the neoclassical growth model also known as exogenous growth model, the long-run growth rate is determined by the rate of population growth and technical progress which are assumed to be exogenous. The Solow model of production is expressed as

$$Y = Af\left(K, L\right) \tag{2}$$

Where $Y = Real\ GDP$
                      $K = Capital\ stock$
                      $L = Labour\ employment$
                      $A = Exogenously\ determined\ factor\ of\ technology$

and capital-to-GDP ratio can take on any nonnegative value, that is

$$k = \frac{K}{Y} \geq 0 \tag{3}$$

Equation (2) can be written in growth terms as follows

$$\frac{\Delta Y}{Y} = \left(\theta \times \frac{\Delta K}{K}\right) + \left((1-\theta) \times \frac{\Delta L}{L}\right) + \frac{\Delta A}{A} \tag{4}$$

$$Growth\ of\ Output = \begin{pmatrix} Share \\ of & \times\ in \\ Capital & Capital \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} Share \\ of & \times\ in \\ Labour & Labour \end{pmatrix} + Technical\ \Pr ogress$$

where θ denotes share of capital in national product, $1-\theta$ denotes share of labour in national product.

Technically the neoclassical production function is homogeneous of degree one and implies that factors must be available or else output will be zero, that is, economy does not exist. In the short-run, the model allows unlimited substitutability between

capital and labour to produce any given amount of output, that is, any amount of capital can be used with the appropriate amount of labour basing on the law of diminishing return. While in the long-run, when economies of scale are being realized, both factors will be increasing proportionally, and eventually results in increasing returns to investment. The theory also assumes that the possibility of achieving high growth rates will be low when there is an increase in the average per capita income (Crafts and Toniolo, 1996 [56]). The justification is, the countries with low per capita income have a weak capital formation, and therefore, investment will achieve growing returns contrary to the countries with high per capita incomes (Tawiri, 2010 [57]). This leads to the conclusion that developing countries are able to converge in income with developed countries if they succeed in increasing domestic and foreign investment (Tawiri, 2010 [57]). However, this hypothesis has been successful in practice in developed countries, but has not achieved the same result in developing countries (Obstfeld, 2008 [55]) leading to the emergence of modern neoclassical economic theory which relies on the hypothesis of conditional convergence. The modern neo-classical theory isolates some variables that affect growth rate and per capita income, which lead to the proof of the opposite relationship between growth and per capita income. The theory adds other variables such as, education and trade.

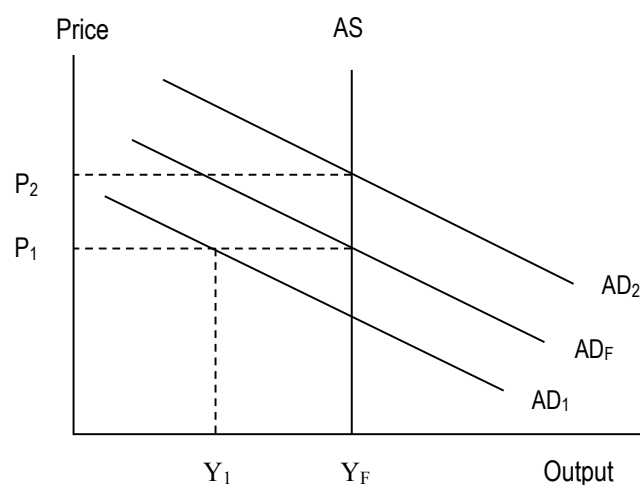
Neo classical economists give their own explanation about the relationship between inflation and economic growth. Mundell (1963) [58] and Tobin (1965) [53] explain the effect of inflation on economic growth based on neo-classical growth theory. They believe that increased nominal interest caused by inflation will make people option to investment instead of consumption. This will result in increasing capital accumulation which will stimulate economic growth. Mundell (1963) [58] using the IS-LM curves finds a positive relationship between inflation and growth. He argues that an increase in inflation or inflation expectations leads to a decline in real money balances, which decreases the wealth of people. To accumulate the desired wealth, people save more by switching from holding money to assets, which increases the assets price, thus driving down the real interest rate. Greater savings leads to higher capital accumulation, which leads to rapid economic growth. Tobin (1965) [53] also supports Mundell's idea that inflation is positively related to economic growth. Indeed, the Mudell-Tobin effect suggests that high rate of inflation permanently increases the levels of output. During high rates of inflation, people will tradeoff between holding money with acquiring more physical capital; as a result capital intensity will increase and in turn stimulate output growth. However, the Mundell and Tobin view of the positive relationship between inflation and economic growth has received challenges from various scholars.

Stockman (1981) [59] develops a model that shows the negative effect of high inflation on steady state level of output and wealth. Stockman (1981) [59] uses the cash in advance constraint model. The model suggests that inflation lowers the steady state capital stock. Stockman (1981) [59] argues that because increase in inflation reduces the purchasing power of money balances, people tend to reduce holding money as well as purchase of capital goods, which in return lowers the steady state level of output. Like Stockman (1981) [59], Lucas (1982) [60] and Svensson (1985) [61] use the cash in advance constraint model to explain the relationship between inflation and output. In the

cash in advance model, money is demanded because it is the only means of purchasing goods. Specifically, Lucas (1982) [60] argues that since consumers earn interest on deposits not cash balances they will prefer to have most of their money in deposits during inflation. However they will hold just enough cash to pay for their consumption. This will eventually lower asset purchases, which lower capital accumulation and hence reduce output growth. Similarly, Svensson (1985) [61] points out that if cash is needed to finance consumption then high inflation will lead to less of the goods to be consumed because high inflation reduces the value of money. Therefore high inflation affects real variables such as consumption and output.

3.1.3 The Keynesian Theory

Keynesian theory does not assume that any supply will meet its demand if only prices are flexible enough. Instead, it argues that where constraints to expansion exist they are most likely to arise because the economic system is unable to generate sufficient demand to fully employ labour. Keynesians tend to attribute inflation more to demand pressures within an economy. Keynesians' explanation of the long run economic growth path is implicitly captured in the business cycle concept (a short run phenomenon) developed within the aggregate demand (AD) and aggregate supply (AS) framework. According to the AD-AS framework, changes in the demand side of the economy affect both prices and output, arising from changes in expectations, labour force, fiscal and monetary policy, among others. In fact, Keynesians argue that there is a positive relationship between inflation and output, such that even if there is an increase in prices of goods in the economy, output would not decline because producers have to satisfy the demand requirements of consumers. Figure 5 presents the AD-AS under the framework of Keynesianism. The framework shows the relationship between output, employment and inflation.

Fig 5. AD-AS Curve under the Framework of Keynesian

Source: Xiao (2009) [62] with some modifications

When current resources are not fully utilized, promoting effective demand through interventions by governments will improve output and employment without generating inflation until output reaches its full production level, Y_F. Y_F is determined by the long-run aggregate supply curve, AS. Promoting effective demand will shift the aggregate demand from AD_1 to AD_F, under which output is at its full production level. Price will not increase until demand rises beyond AD_F. If equilibrium output demanded is more than full-employment output at initial price, P_1, there will be excess demand in the economy and the price level will be bid up, causing demand pull inflation.

The Keynesian theory also suggests that increase in money supply affects inflation through interest rate movements. In this view, money is considered a close substitute for a limited number of financial assets such as bonds, and thus an increase in money supply creates excess supply in the money market, leading to an increase in prices of financial assets and subsequent fall in the interest rate. This in turn, increases investment demand, depending on the interest rate sensitivity of the investment. An increase in investment leads to increased aggregate demand, thereby triggering inflationary pressures in the economy. This theoretical explanation may, however, only apply in the short run. A fall in the interest rate may stimulate increased investment, thereby aggregate demand and increased inflation in the short run. But, in the long run, increased inflation may cause output to contract thereby leading to the reduced demand for money in the economy. According to the money demand relationship the reduced demand for money would lead to a rise in the nominal interest rate in the long run.

3.1.4 The Monetarist Theory

Monetarism is very closely allied with the classical school of thought. It is essentially an extension of classical theory which is developed to explain stagnation and inflation problems. Monetarists argue that if the money supply rises faster than the rate of growth of real GDP then there will be inflation. If money supply increases in line with inflation then there will be no inflation. They argue that money is a close substitute for real assets such as houses and land, and financial assets such as bank deposits, treasury bills, and bonds and that any extra cash balances realized from the increase in money supply will be spent on those assets rather than held as idle money balances. This in turn leads to excess demand for assets, which causes prices to rise. Monetarism argues that money supply is the only factor that determines price levels in an economy and the only intervention that a government can do is to manage the growth rate of money supply to harmonize it with the growth rate of real GDP in the long run. The two key areas of Monetarists are Quantity Theory of Money and Expectations-augmented Phillips Curve.

The Quantity Theory of Money which is a bit of Classical theory, based around the Fisher Equation of Exchange is expressed as

$$MV = PT \tag{5}$$

where $M =$ total stock of money in an economy
$V =$ the velocity of circulation of that money

P = the average price level
T = the number of transactions taking place

Essentially the quantity theory of money is a hypothesis about the main cause of changes in the purchasing power of money. The theory suggests that changes in the value of money are determined mainly by changes in the quantity in circulation. When money becomes abundant, its purchasing power declines, and consequently the average of commodity prices increases. In contrast, if money becomes scarce, its purchasing power increases and commodity prices decline. In this view, the amount of money in circulation is the main determinant of the price level. It is, however, not easier to measure the number of transactions, T. It is, therefore, replaced by Y. Thus PY is the nominal income or output where Y is the total income. Now the quantity theory equation becomes: $MV = PY$. This is known as the income version of quantity theory of money. Monetarists believe that in the short term velocity, V, is fixed. This is because the rate at which money circulates is determined by institutional factors. They also believe that output, Y, is fixed. Therefore an increase in the money supply will lead to an increase in inflation. The Quantity Theory of Money can be transformed to depict an unambiguously negative relationship between inflation and economic growth as follows:

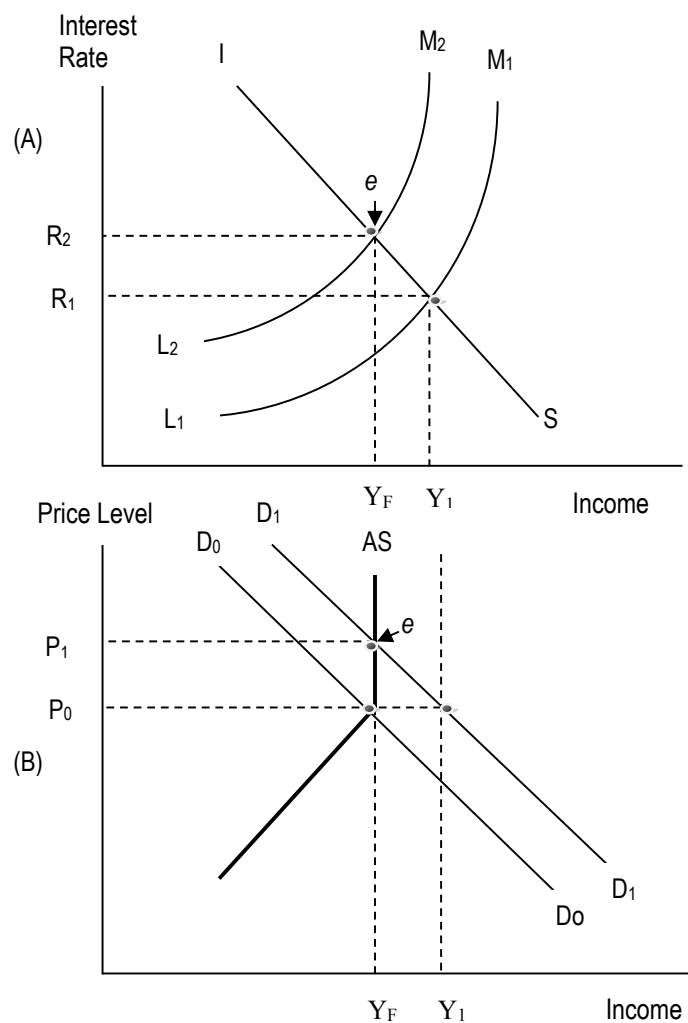
$$\pi = \frac{\Delta M}{M} - \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} \tag{6}$$

where π =   Inflation
         $\frac{\Delta M}{M}$ =   The growth rate of money supply
         $\frac{\Delta Y}{Y}$ =   The growth rate of output

The quantity theory version of the demand-pull inflation is also illustrated using LM curve as Figure 6 reports. Assuming the initial equilibrium value of real output is at full employment level of income, Y_F, that is shown by the intersection of *IS* and *LM* curve at *e* in Panel (A). Monetary policy increase in money supply will shift the *LM* curve rightward to *LM₁* along the given *IS* curve. At the initial equilibrium level of income, this increase in money supply would push the interest rate down to R_1 to maintain equilibrium in the money market (Branson, 1979 [63]). This in turn will lead to an increase in equilibrium output demanded to Y_1, at the given price level, produce horizontal shifts in the economy's demand curve. The position of the *IS* curve is unchanged because the aggregate supply, *AS*, is assumed fixed.

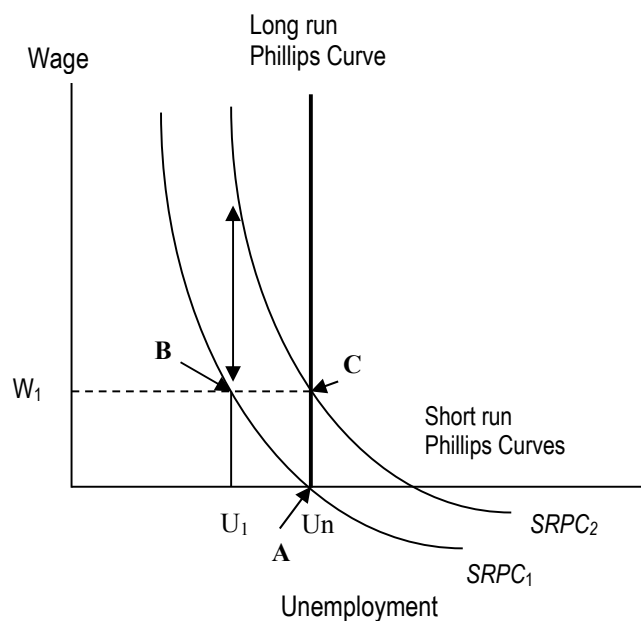
As a result, the aggregate demand (*AD*) rises, shifting the *AD* curve from *AD₀* to *AD₁* . If equilibrium output demanded, *Y₁*, is more than full-employment output, *Y_F*, there will be excess demand in the economy equivalent to *Y₁-Y_F* in Panel (B) and the price level will be bid up, causing inflation. In fact, the rise in the price level reduces the real value of the money supply so that the *LM* curve shifts from *LM₁* to *LM₂*. Excess demand will not be eliminated until *AD₁*, cuts the *AS* at e. This means a higher price level, *P₁*, in

Panel (B) and return to the original equilibrium position, *e*, in Panel (A) where the IS curve cuts the LM curve. The result then is self-limiting, and the price level rises in exact proportion to the real value of the money supply to its original value.

Fig 6. Money Supply, Inflation and Income

Source: Smriti Chand [64] with some modifications

The Monetarists analysis also is based on adaptive expectation or error learning expectations. Inflation expectations in this case are made using past information. Friedman argues that there is a family of Phillips Curves, each associated with a different expected rate of inflation. If people expected inflation to occur then they would anticipate and expect a correspondingly higher wage rise. Figure 7 presents the expectations

augmented Phillips curve. Assuming that the economy starts in the equilibrium at point A, in which unemployment is at its natural rate, and wage rate is zero, and then government decides that it wants to lower the level of unemployment because it is too high. If the government reduces unemployment below the natural rate, *Un*, to U1 by expanding aggregate demand through expansionary monetary policy, then wage will rise to W_1. This is because excess demand in goods and labour markets would result in upward pressure on prices and money wages, with commodity prices adjusting more rapidly than wages (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]).

Fig 7. Expectations Augmented Phillips Curve

Source: Friedman (1976) [66] and Snowdon and Vane (2005) [65]

Assuming that the policy measure is not anticipated, this increase in wage will be perceived by workers as an increase in their real wages and supply more labour; that is, they would suffer from temporary money illusion. In this case, the economy will be at point B on the short-run Phillips curve ($SRPC_1$), where unemployment is reduced and money wages have risen while real wages have fallen. After adjusting their expectations, workers start to seek for additional money wages to compensate the decline in their real wages. They would press for increased money wages, shifting the short-run Phillips curve upwards from $SRPC_1$ to $SRPC_2$. Money wages would rise at a rate of W_1 plus the expected rate of inflation (Friedman, 1976 [66] and Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]). Since firms cannot pay the high wage rate that workers seek, unemployment returns back to its natural rate and the economy settles at point C (Makuria, 2013) [67]. Hence,

in the long-run unemployment is at its natural rate but wage is inflated to W_1 (Friedman 1976 [66]). At the natural rate the labour market is in a state of equilibrium and the actual and expected rates of inflation are equal; that is, inflation is fully anticipated (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]).

If inflation is expected to be higher, the short-run Phillips Curve is also expected to shift to the right (Makuria, 2013 [67]). If higher inflation is anticipated then there will be no short-run effect for expansionary monetary policy (Makuria, 2013 [67]). However, if the policy measure is not anticipated then there will be a short-run effect (Friedman 1976 [66]). Thus, according to Monetarists, there is a positive short-run relationship between inflation and economic growth, provided that the growth is accompanied by the decline of unemployment and rise in the cost of production leading to price inflation. This short-run relationship exists if and only if the policy measure to raise the aggregate demand is not anticipated (Makuria, 2013 [67]). In such cases, when workers adjust their expectations output adjusts to its natural rate at the vertical long-run Phillips Curve leaving the price higher. As a result, an increase in money supply will increase the price level without having any effect on output and hence there will be no long-run trade-off between inflation and economic growth (Friedman 1976 [66]).

3.1.5. The New Keynesians View

New Keynesian economics developed in response to the perceived theoretical crisis within Keynesian economics (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]). The paramount task facing Keynesian theorists is to remedy the theoretical flaws and inconsistencies in the old Keynesian model. Therefore, new Keynesian theorists aim to construct a coherent theory of aggregate supply where wage and price rigidities can be rationalized (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]). The New Keynesians combine the Keynesian recognition that the economy does not adjust instantly and smoothly to shocks, including monetary shocks, with an insistence on building their explanation on microeconomic foundations (Dornbusch and Fischer, 19990 [68]). Wages and prices are assumed to be rigid and thus the level of inflation remains unchanged (Vaona, 2011 [26]). These rigidities play an important role in exaggerating economic shocks that arise from either the demand or the supply side (Blanchard and Gali 2005 [69]). For example, if money supply is tightened then aggregate demand declines leading to lower economic growth and higher unemployment.

New Keynesians believe that fall in the aggregate demand leads to lower productivity by firms. This also implies that firms will produce only up to the level where they get demand for their production. Since prices are rigid or take a long time to adjust, there will be no market for additional produced commodities even at lower prices (Ball et. al.,1988 [70]). Furthermore, the New Keynesians argue that even if prices and wages are flexible, high and unstable prices affect productivity negatively. For example, during a period of recession, risk avoiding firms prefer to reduce their output rather than dealing with the fluctuation of prices and the associated uncertainties (Makuria, 2013 [67]).

New Keynesian models state that targeting the optimal inflation rate leads to optimal rate of growth and unemployment. In inflation targeting monetary policies,

credibility of the policy is very important and hence the Central Bank's independence plays a crucial role in this case (Ambler, 2008 [71]). Furthermore, New Keynesians argue that to achieve rapid economic growth and to have fair distribution of income there must be low and stable inflation. This implies that high inflation has a negative effect on both economic stability and growth. According to New Keynesians, an attempt to reduce inflation through tightened money supply leads to recession. This is because firms have the ability to set prices, and they may often be reluctant to cut prices leading to price rigidity. Thus, in order to set monetary policy there has to be prior information about future values of inflation and output (Makuria, 2013 [67]). For New Keynesians, inflation whether anticipated or unanticipated, has an overall negative impact on economic growth (Ambler, 2008 [71]). Inflation creates costs in the economy.

3.1.6 Endogenous Growth Theory

Endogenous growth theory is implicated in the traditional and strengthening microeconomic foundations of neoclassical economics. It describes economic growth which is generated by factors within the production process, for example; economies of scale, increasing returns or induced technological change; as opposed to exogenous factors such as the increases in population (Gokal and Hanif, 2004 [72]). In endogenous growth models the long-run growth of income per capita depends on investment decisions rather than unexplained technological progress (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65])[1]. The rate of return on a firm's accumulation of capital determines growth rate and that the production function includes technology (A) as endogenous input (equation 7).

$$Y = F(K, L, A) \tag{7}$$

Economists under endogenous growth theory argue that, at the micro level, the output of an individual firm (i) depends on its own inputs of capital (K_i), labour (L_i) and the economy-wide state of knowledge (A) (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]) as presented in model (8).

$$Y_i = F(K_i, L_i, A) \tag{8}$$

The model implies that technology (A) depends on capital stock. At the same time technology affects capital. Growth is an endogenous process. The higher the capital stock the more the economy is able to use new technologies, which in turn increases productivity of all firms. The growth of technology is assumed to depend on the growth of capital because capital deepening fosters technological spillovers that raise the marginal

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[1] The term investment in the context of endogenous growth models refers to a broader concept than the physical capital accumulation reported in the national accounts; research and development (R&D) expenditures and human capital formation may also be included (Crafts, 1996 and Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]).

productivity of capital across the economy as a whole. The expansion of aggregate knowledge or technology, results from learning externalities among firms (Romer, 1986) [73]. Snowdon and Vane (2005) [65] ascertain that the higher the level of the capital stock in an economy, the more productive each firm will be via a process of learning by doing. The basic intuition is that although a firm's production function exhibits constant returns to scale and diminishing returns to capital accumulation, the aggregate production function exhibits increasing, rather than constant, returns to scale (Snowdon and Vane, 2005 [65]). The endogenous growth models reveal that the rate of return on human capital and physical capital must be equal in the balanced growth equilibrium. However, a tax on either form of capital induces a lower return. Inflation is expected to reduce growth rate because it leads to fall in rate of return, which in turn reduces capital accumulation.

In fact, Gokal and Hanif (2004) [72] shows that when endogenous growth models are set within a monetary exchange framework, of Lucas (1980) [58], Lucas and Stokey (1987) [74], or McCallum and Goodfriend (1987) [75], the inflation rate (tax) lowers both the return on all capital and the growth rate. They also ascertain that a tax on capital income directly reduces the growth rate, while a tax on human capital would cause labour to leisure substitution that lowers the rate of return on human capital and can also lower the growth rate.

Overall, the relationship between inflation and economic growth as revealed by theoretical literature is mixed. Some contributions produce a negative and significant relationship between inflation and growth (Haslag, 1998 [76]; Gillman and Kejak, 2004 [77]; Gomme, 1993 [78] and Gillman et al., 1999 [79]). Other contributions produce a positive and significant impact of inflation on growth (Tobin, 1965 [53]) while other theories produce insignificant long run effect of inflation on growth (Dotsey and Sarte, 2000 [80] and Chari et al., 1996 [81]).

3.2. Empirical Literature Review

Studies on the relationship between inflation and economic growth are concerned with not just a simple relationship between the two variables but also whether the relationship holds in the long run or just a short run phenomenon, causal direction of the relationship, and whether the relationship is linear or non linear. One of the most important contributions to the inflation-economic growth literature is provided by Khan and Senhadji (2001[18]). Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18] analyze the inflation and growth relationship separately for industrial and developing countries. They use panel data set spanning from 1960 to 1998 for 140 countries. They also re-examine the existence of threshold effects in the relationship between inflation and growth, using econometric techniques initially developed by Chan and Tsay (1998) [41], and Hansen (1999 [42], 2000 [43]). However, the main drawback of the paper is the use of an unbalanced panel due to short-span of data mostly in developing countries. To test for the existence of a threshold effect, the log of inflation is preferred. They suggest that regressions of real GDP growth on the level of inflation instead of the log, would give greater weight to the extreme observations, with the potential to skew the results. They propose that the log transformation eliminate, at least partially, the strong asymmetry in the inflation

distribution. The paper employs the threshold point Conditional Least Squares (CLS) to estimate the model for each assigned values for the threshold level in the model. The results indicate that threshold levels of inflation that minimize the Residual Sum of Square (RSS) are 1-3 percent for industrialized countries and 7-11 percent for developing countries. These results suggest that inflation levels below the threshold levels of inflation have no effect on growth, while inflation rates above the threshold have a significant negative effect on growth. Generally, Khan and Senhadji (2001[18])'s results provide a strong evidence for supporting the view of low inflation for sustainable growth. However, the estimated relationship between inflation and growth does not provide the precise channel through which inflation affects growth. Investment and employment are considered in the estimation as control variables.

Similarly, Li (2006) [24] analyzes the nonlinear relationship between inflation and economic growth and the channels through which inflation affects growth in the long run. The paper uses data for 27 developed countries and 90 developing countries spanning from 1961 to 2004. Both simple linear regression and fixed effect estimations are used. The empirical results suggest threshold levels of 14 percent and 38 percent for the developing countries in the sample. Between these levels of inflation the effect of inflation on growth is negative and significant. When the inflation level is below 14 percent, the effect is insignificant but when the level of inflation is above 38 percent the effect diminishes but remains significantly negative. Also, the study finds that total factor productivity is the main channel through which inflation affects growth. Likewise, Ghosh and Phillips (1998) analyze the nonlinearity of the inflation-growth relationship using a data set of 3,603 annual observations for 145 countries, during the 1960-1996 period. The results show that at very low rates of inflation, about 2 to 3 percent per annum, inflation and economic growth are positively correlated. Otherwise, inflation and economic growth are negatively correlated. This implies that the relationship is convex, so that the decline in growth associated with an increase in inflation from 10 percent to 20 percent is much larger than that associated with moving from 40 per cent to 50 percent. They also reveal that inflation is one of the most important statistical determinants of economic growth. Ghosh and Phillips (1998 [17])'s results confirms early study by Fischer (1993 [1]). Indeed, Fischer (1993 [1]) examines the non-linear relationship between inflation and output growth using both cross-sectional and panel data of 93 countries including developing and industrial countries. As it is revealed in Ghosh and Phillips (1998 [17]), Fischer (1993 [1] shows that at low rates of inflation, the relationship between inflation and economic growth is positive but the relationship becomes negative as the inflation rises suggesting a non-linear relationship between the variables. In addition, Fischer (1993) reveals that the strength of the relationship weakens for inflation rates above 40 percent. Mubarik (2005) [20] also employs the method developed by Khan and Senhadji (2001[18]) to investigate the threshold level of inflation for Pakistan, using annual time series data spanning from 1973 to 2000. The paper includes control variables such as population and investment. Variables used in the model are transformed into log so as to get rid of asymmetry in inflation distribution. The paper employs the Granger Causality test as an application of the threshold model and the relevant sensitivity analysis of the model. The estimation results of the threshold

model suggest that an inflation rate above 9 per cent is detrimental for the growth in Pakistan. It also suggests that inflation rate below the critical level of 9 per cent is favourable for growth in the country.

     Sarel (1996 [15]) also tests for the existence of a threshold effect between inflation and economic growth using a panel data of 87 countries, covering the 1970-1990 period. An OLS regression is estimated for the growth rate on the inflation dummies and other variables such as population growth rate, initial income per person, government expenditure-to-GDP ratio and the rate of change in terms of trade. The test presents evidence that the function that relates economic growth to inflation contains a structural breakpoint of an annual inflation rate of 8 percent. The results imply that below the inflation rate of 8 percent, inflation does not have a significant impact on economic growth, or it may even show a slightly positive effect but above that level, the effect of inflation on growth is negative, significant, robust and very powerful. The existence of a structural break suggests a specific numerical target for policy to keep inflation below the structural break. In a similar paper, Bruno and Easterly (1998 [16]) examine the determinants of economic growth using cross-sectional data of 26 countries for the 1961-1992 period. The main argument under their paper is that the negative correlation between inflation and growth exists only in high frequency data and with extreme inflation observations. The robustness of the results is examined by controlling for other factors such as political crises, terms of trade shocks and wars. Their empirical results suggest that the relationship between inflation and growth is negative when a threshold level of inflation is over 40 percent. Below this threshold however, they find inconclusive relationship between the two variables when countries with high inflation crisis are excluded from the sample. They argue that at lower rates of inflation, growth and inflation may simply be jointly troubled by various demand and supply shocks and hence shows no consistent pattern.

     Nonexistence of long run relationship between inflation and growth is supported by Moshiri and Sepehri (2004) [19] who like many other authors test the non-linearities in the inflation-growth nexus for industrial and developing countries. Indeed, the empirical results of this paper is that, one, the turning points varies widely from as high as 15 percent for lower middle income countries to 11 percent for low-income countries, and 5 percent for upper-middle-income countries. Second, there is no statistically significant long-run relationship between inflation and growth for OECD countries. However, the results point out the possible bias in the estimation of the inflation and growth nexus that may emanate from combining various countries at different levels of development (Rutayisire, 2013 [2]). Nonetheless, Jha and Dand (2011) [82] reveal the same results, that there is no significant effect of inflation variability on economic growth when inflation is high. Here the method used to detect threshold levels in inflation variability is measured by the coefficient of variation. Also, the estimation uses five-year averages to eliminate multicollinearity for panel data consisting of 31 developed countries for the1961-2009 period. Apart from growth rate and inflation, the estimation equation consists of other variables namely terms of trade, initial income level government consumption expenditure gross capital formation over GDP, the growth rate of money and quasi money. Moreover, Faria and Carneiro (2001[83]), applying a bivariate vector

autoregression, find no long-run relationship between inflation and economic growth in Brazil. But in the short run the results suggest the existence of a negative relationship.

The other panel study that estimates threshold level of inflation is undertaken by Kremer *et al*. (2009) [33]. Indeed, Kremer *et al*. (2009) [33] expand the scope of Khan and Senhadji (2001 [18]) by modelling a large panel-data set of 124 industrialized and non-industrialized countries over the 1950-2004 period. A dynamic panel threshold model is employed in the analysis for the growth equation. The empirical results suggest that the inflation threshold level is about 2.5 percent for industrial countries and 17 percent for non-industrialized economies. The paper also reveals that below the threshold of 2.5 percent, the effect of inflation on long-term growth is significantly positive in developed countries but the impact of inflation on growth remains insignificant in developing economies when inflation is below 17 percent. In fact, the paper fails to support the growth-enhancing effects of inflation on growth in developing economies.

Barro (1995 [7]) explores the inflation-growth nexus using a panel data for 100 countries over the 1960-1990 period. He estimates growth regression using Instrumental Variables (IV) technique. The empirical results suggest that there exists a statistically significant negative relationship between the inflation and economic growth, with a coefficient of -0.024. The results also suggest that if a number of the country characteristics are held constant, then the effects from an increase in average inflation by 10 percentage points per year are a reduction of the growth rate of real per capita GDP by 0.2-0.3 percentage points per year, and a decrease in the ratio of investment to GDP by 0.4-0.6 percentage points. Motely (1998) [84], in a cross-country study with a data set covering the same period, also reveals a similar relationship. He suggests that an increase in inflation of 5 percent leads to a 0.1 to 0.5 percent decrease of economic growth.

Recent studies also imply different conclusions on the optimal level of inflation that would maximize growth (Yabu and Kessy, 2015 [36]; Rutayisire, 2013 [2]; Seleteng *et al*., 2010 [85]; Paul, 2012 [86]; Hayat, 2013 [87] and Younus, 2012 [88]). Moreover, most of the studies on the nonlinear effect of inflation on economic growth use cross-sectional or panel data covering a large number of countries. Understandably, many of previous studies confirm the existence of nonlinear relationship between inflation and economic growth in the different country specific cases albeit with different levels of threshold. The lack of consensus regarding the optimal threshold level is evident. Insufficiency of techniques stems, in part, from exogenous determination of the threshold levels, failure to control for unobserved heterogeneity at both country and time levels, or failure to account for cross sectional dependence (Bittencourt, *et al*., 2014 [89]). These important discrepancies in the findings call forth a further investigation with recent data and methods, to explore the extent to which inflation affects economic growth. In this perspective, it is important to investigate the inflation-growth nexus in developing countries like Tanzania covering a large sample, spanning from 1967 to 2015. The empirical results of this paper are expected to contribute to the ongoing debate on the inflation-growth relationship.

4. The Data

This paper uses annual time series data of Tanzania, for the 1967-2015 period. Inflation rate and the growth rate of real GDP at 2005 prices are obtained from the World Development Indicators (2016). The control variables include the investment as the share of GDP, the rate of population growth, the degree of openness or trade (measured as exports plus imports as the share of GDP) and population growth rate. These variables are obtained from the World Development Indicators and Bank of Tanzania.

The question has been raised as to whether level inflation or its log transformation should be used in econometric estimations. In fact, there appears to be no one definitive measure of the inflation rate in the literature. For example, Yabu and Kessy (2015) [36], Rutayisire (2013) [2] and Barro (1995) [7] use the level inflation (π) ; Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18] and Sarel (1996) [15] use the log transformation, $\log(\pi)$; Gillman *et al.* (2002) [90] and Judson and Orphanides (1996) [91] use $\log(1+\pi)$; Gosh and Phillips (1998) [17] use four measures of inflation : π , $\log(1+\pi)$, real rate of depreciation of the currency as the measure of inflation, $\pi/(1+\pi)$ and a non-monotonic transformation, $(1/(1-\gamma))\pi^{(1-\gamma)}$. These alternative measures of inflation have different implications for inference and marginal effect of inflation on economic growth (Gillman *et al.*, 2002 [90]) . According to Sarel (1996) [15], the log transformation should be preferred because it reduces the strong asymmetry in the distribution of inflation that may distort regression results. In addition, the log transformation of inflation provides the best fit in the class of non-linear models (Gosh and Phillips, 1998 [17]). An issue with log transformation is that the log function does not exist for negative inflation rates $(\pi < 0)$. However, the loss of observations can be negated somewhat by the $\log(1+\pi)$ favoured by some authors (Gillman *et al.*, 2002 [90]).

Following Gillman *et al.* (2002 [90]) and Judson and Orphanides (1996) [91], inflation rates are transformed to $\log(1+\pi)$ in order to avoid that the extreme observations distort the regression results. By applying this transformation, we obtain an almost symmetric inflation distribution, comparable to a Normal distribution (Figures 5 and 6). Moreover, Ghosh and Phillips (1998 [17]) suggest that the log function provides a reasonable characterization of the inflation-growth nexus. Also, this specification effectively allows the *elasticity* to vary across inflation levels (Gillman *et al.*, 2002 [90]).

Figure 5. Distribution of Inflation Rates (π), 1967-2015

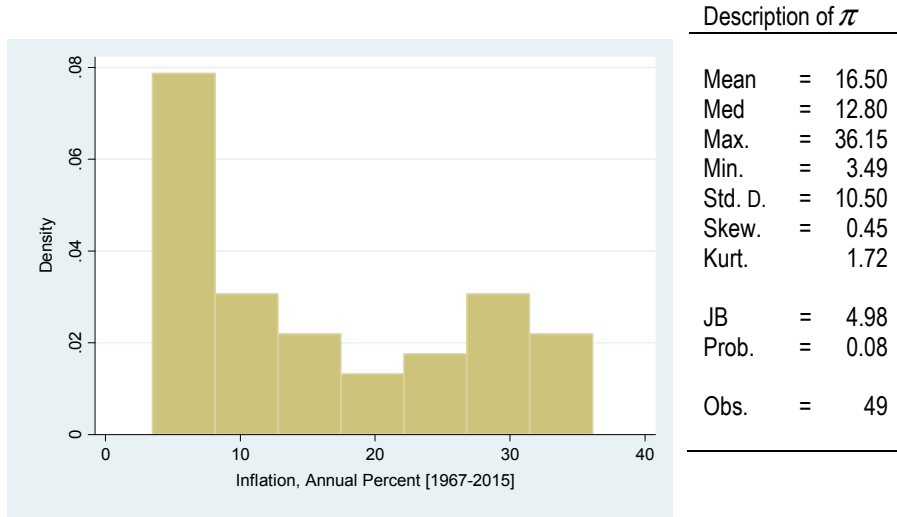
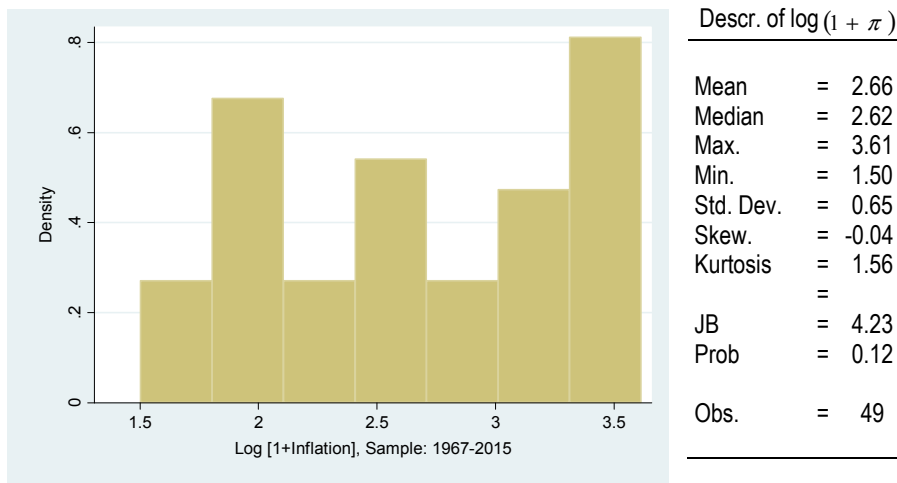



Figure 6: Distribution of Log $(1 + \pi$)**), 1967-2015**

Source: Author Computations Using WDI Data, 2016 [45]

5. Methodological Framework

5.1. General Growth Model

The relationship between inflation and economic growth can be derived using the standard growth model (Barro, 1991[92]; Levine and Renelt, 1992 [93]; and Sala-i-Martin, 1997[94])

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \varphi \ln X(t) + u(t) \qquad (9)$$

where $Y(t)$ is real output, $X(t)$ is a set of explanatory variables, φ is the matrix of slope coefficients attached with explanatory variables, α is a constant and $u(t)$ is a white noise error term. This basic growth model is extended to capture the link between inflation and economic growth leading to the following linear regression model:

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln [1 + \pi(t)] + \varphi \ln X(t) + u(t) \qquad (10)$$

where Δ is the first difference operator and $\Delta \ln Y(t)$ is the growth rate of real GDP approximated by the first log difference of $Y(t)$, $\pi(t)$ is the annual growth rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and $X(t)$ is the matrix of other explanatory variables. φ is matrix of slope coefficients and $u(t)$ is random error term.

There however exists a challenge of employing empirical analysis on models based on Endogenous, Neoclassical and Neo-Keynesian growth theories. The problem with these models is that they do not produce an exact list of explanatory variables (Yabu and Kessy, 2015 [36]). For example, neoclassical growth theory focuses on investment and population (Cass, 1965 [95]; Koopmans, 1965 [96]), while in the endogenous growth theory; crucial role is given to knowledge, new technologies and human capital (Romer, 1990 [97]; Grossman and Helpman, 1991 [98]). In fact, the modern neo-classical theory isolates some variables that affect growth rate. The theory adds other variables such as population growth, the ratio of investment to GDP, education and trade. Both Neo-Keynesian and Neo-Classical theory suggest investment is positively related to the growth of real GDP. Also, a series of theoretical models (Thirlwall, 1994 [99] and Becker, et al., 1999 [100]) and applied studies (Denton & Spencer, 1998 [101]; Denton & Spencer, 1997 [102]; Duval, *et al.*, 2010 [103] and Reinhart & Khan, 1989 [104]) examine the effect of labour force on economic growth. Population growth enlarges labour force and, therefore, increases economic growth. A large population also provides a large domestic market for the economy. Moreover, population growth encourages competition, which induces technological advancements and innovations (Tsen and Furuoka, 2005 [105]). However, other studies show that a large population may reduce productivity because of diminishing returns to more intensive use of land and other natural resources. According to Malthus (1798) [106], population increase is detrimental to a nation's economy due to a variety of problems caused by the growth. For example, overpopulation and population growth place a tremendous amount of pressure on resources, which result in a chain reaction of problems as the nation grows. In particular,

rapid population growth is associated with malnutrition and hunger (Malthus, 1798 [106]). It also tends to depress savings per capita and retards growth of physical capital per worker (Tsen and Furuoka, 2005 [105]). Therefore, it is important to examine the impact of population on economic growth in poor countries such as Tanzania.

. It is widely accepted that among the driving factors of long-run growth, trade plays an important role in shaping economic performance (Krugman, 1990 [107]). In poor countries such as Tanzania, people have low per capita incomes and markets in such countries are usually small. Also, production patterns in these countries are skewed towards labour intensive service, agriculture and manufacturing. Thus, a liberalized trade regime allows low-cost producers to expand their output well beyond that demanded in the domestic market (Krugman, 1990 [107]). Indeed, Neo-Classical approach to the positive impact of trade liberalization on economic growth explains the gains from trade liberalization by comparative advantages in the form of resource endowment[2] and differences in technology[3]. Aside from the benefits of exploiting comparative advantages, theories have suggested additional gains from trade arising through economies of scale, exposure to competition and the diffusion of knowledge[4]. Empirical evidence on the positive effects of trade liberalization on economic growth include Dollar (1992) [108], Frankel and Romer (1999) [109], Dollar and Kaaray (2001) [110], Bhagwati and Srinivasan (2001) [111], Wacziarg (1998) [112]. However, there are some critics who dispute these findings on methodological ground (Rodrik, 1996 [113]; Rodriguez and Rodrik, 1999 [114]). For example, countries such a Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, experience large increases in trade and significant reduction in tariff and non-tariff barriers and do extremely well in terms of income growth (Dollar and Kaaray, 2001 [110]).

Despite the fact that there an existence of a large set of factors that can potentially affect economic growth, only a few of them may be significant Levine and Renelt (1992) [93] and Sala-i-Martin (1997) [94]. To this end, Levine and Renelt (1992) [93] and Sala-i-Martin (1997) [94] propose to check the robust regressors econometrically. Indeed, Sala-i-Martin's test for robustness indicates that investment, population growth, inflation rate, and degree of openness are systematically correlated with growth. Therefore, the linear regression model (10) can be expressed to capture the control variables as follows:

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln[1 + \pi(t)] + \varphi_1 \ln[I(t)/Y(t)] + \varphi_2 \ln[T(t)/Y(t)] \quad (11)$$
$$+ \varphi_3 \ln L(t) + \varphi_4 REFORM + u(t)$$

where the binary variable , $REFORM = \begin{cases} 0 \ for \ t = 1967 \ - 1985 \\ 1 \ for \ t = 1986 \ - 2015 \end{cases}$

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[2] The Hecksher-Ohlin model

[3] The Ricardian model

[4] The endogenous growth model

$\Delta \ln Y(t)$ and $\pi(t)$ are as defined in equation (10), $I(t)/Y(t)$ stands for investment as a share of GDP, $L(t)$ is the annual population growth rate, $T(t)/Y(t)$ is trade openness calculated as the ratio of the sum of exports and imports to GDP, α is a constant and $u(t)$ the random error term. The choice of the control variable in the linear model (11) is consistent with the choice made in other empirical works investigating the relationship between inflation and growth (Rutayisire, 2013 [2], Khan and Senhadji, 2001 [18], 2001; Mubarik, 2005 [20]; Risso and Carrera, 2009 [70]; et al.,2009 [33]). The real GDP growth rate, inflation, investment, trade and rate of growth of population are computed by using log transformation method that eliminates, at least partially, the strong asymmetry distribution. The log transformation, to some extent, smoothens time trend in the dataset (Mubarik, 2005) [20]. Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18] and Mubarik (2005) [20] calculate growth rates of macroeconomic variables using log transformation, which provides best fit in the class of non-linear models.

5.2. Non-Linear Regression Model

It has been shown in the empirical analysis that it may be theoretically plausible that in addition to the linear relationship of inflation and economic growth; there is also nonlinear relationship between the two variables. To investigate the existence of non-linear relationship between inflation and economic growth, most empirical studies use the threshold endogenous model developed by Sarel (1996) [15] and Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18]. This model requires a large number of data to make valid statistical inference. Other empirical studies on growth use the quadratic function approach (Yabu and Kessy, 2015 [36]; Rutayisire, 2013 [2]; Pollin and Zhu, 2005 [23] Clements et al., 2005[37]; Devarajan et al., 1996 [36]; Hermes and Lensink, 2001[39] and Patillo et al., 2002[40]).

A quadratic effect implies that predictor variables interact with themselves. It is also reasonable to argue that growth-inflation regression needs to include other plausible determinants of growth. Thus, in line with previous empirical studies, the non-linear relationship between inflation and growth can be expressed as

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln [1 + \pi(t)] + \gamma_2 \ln [1 + \pi(t)]^2 + \varphi_1 \ln [I(t)/Y(t)]$$
$$+ \varphi_2 \ln [T(t)/Y(t)] + \varphi_3 \ln L(t) + \varphi_4 REFORM + u(t) \quad (12)$$

where the squared term of inflation, $[1 + \pi(t)]^2$ has been added to account for the non linear or quadratic effect of inflation on economic growth. All control variables: investment as a share of GDP, population growth, and openness are as defined in equation (11). In order to find whether the hypothesis of non-linear effect of inflation on growth is confirmed, equation (12) is estimated and the significance of the coefficients of the linear and squared terms is assessed. If both coefficients are significantly different from zero, we can find out the point of the quadratic function that identifies the critical point of inflation. To calculate the critical point corresponding to the inflation threshold

level, the partial derivative of equation (12) is computed with respect to inflation, $[1 + \pi(t)]^2$. The derivative yields the equation that is set equal to zero:

$$\frac{\partial \Delta \ln Y(t)}{\partial \pi \ln [1 + \pi(t)]} = \gamma_1 + 2\gamma_2 = 0 \tag{13}$$

Solving equation (13) for the critical point of inflation, π^* beyond which the marginal impact of inflation on economic growth becomes negative gives the following equation:

$$\pi^* = -\frac{\gamma_1}{2\gamma_2} \tag{14}$$

Quadratic effects between inflation and growth can be analyzed by means of nonlinear regression analysis as shown above; however, it is well known that nonlinear regression is plagued by measurement error and multicollinearity (Aiken & West, 1991 [115]; Cohen et al., 2003 [116]; Dimitruk *et al*., 2007 [117] and Moosbrugger *et al*., 1997 [118]). The estimated regression weight associated with a nonlinear term or quadratic term underestimates the population coefficient. The consequence of this lack of reliability is that the true effects (parameter values) may be underestimated. Ignoring measurement error can therefore lead to biased estimates of the effects. Also, the linear and quadratic terms may be correlated (Busemeyer & Jones, 1983 [119]; Ganzach, 1997 [120]; Kelava, *et al*., 2008 [121]; Lubinski & Humphreys, 1990 [122] and MacCallum & Marr, 1995 [123]). When explanatory variables are correlated, estimated regression coefficients may vary widely from one data set to another (Dimitruk et al., 2007 [117]).

5.2. Threshold Endogenous Model

The model is developed by Khan and Senhadji (2001) [18] for the analysis of threshold level of inflation for industrialized and developing countries. Following the aforementioned work, this study is based on six-variable model consisting of economic growth, inflation rate, total investment-to-GDP ratio, trade-to-GDP ratio, population growth rate and economic reform. Threshold level of inflation is based on the following equation:

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln [1 + \pi(t)] + \gamma_2 D_t \ln [1 + \pi(t) - \pi^*] + \varphi_1 \ln [I(t)/Y(t)] \tag{15}$$
$$+ \varphi_2 \ln [T(t)/Y(t)] + \varphi_3 \ln L(t) + \varphi_4 REFORM + u(t)$$

π^* : assumed threshold level of inflation

D_t : dummy variable for extra inflation, $D_t = \begin{cases} 1 : \pi > \pi^* \\ 0 : \pi \leq \pi^* \end{cases}$

Equation (15) reveals the impact of inflation and extra inflation on GDP growth. The parameter π^* represents the threshold inflation level with the property that the relationship between economic growth and inflation is given by (i) low inflation: γ_1 (ii) high inflation: $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2$. High inflation means that when long-run inflation estimate is significant then both $(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)$ would be added to see their impact on economic

growth and that would be the threshold level of inflation. While the value of $\pi*$ is given arbitrarily for the estimation, the optimal $\pi*$ is obtained by finding that value that minimizes the residual sum of squares (RSS) (Mubarik, 2005 [20]). Thus, the optimal threshold level is that which minimizes the sequence of residual sum of square (RSS). Inflation at this level has a significant impact on economic growth (Mubarik, 2005 [20]).

6. Empirical Results and Discussions

6.1. Descriptive Statistics and Correlation Matrix of the Variables

Descriptive analysis and correlation matrix are conducted to ascertain the statistical properties of the variables. Tables 5 and 6 present descriptive statistics and correlation matrix of the variables of the estimation models. The descriptive statistics suggest that inflation, inflation squared, investment-to-GDP ratio and trade-to-GDP ratio are approximately normally distributed because their respective skewness is less than 0.5 in absolute values.

In the same line, the probabilities of these variables fail to reject the null hypothesis of normal distribution. However, both skewness and probabilities of real GDP growth and rate of population growth reject the null hypothesis of normal distribution. The Jarque-Bera (JB) statistics test is used to test for normality of the residuals. Figure 7 reports that probability value of 25 percent fails to reject a null hypothesis that residuals are normally distributed. This indicates that regression model is good.

The correlation matrix of the variables of the regression model as reported in Table 6 suggests that economic growth is positively correlated with investment-to-GDP ratio, trade-to-GDP ratio, reforms and inflation squared term, but negatively correlated with inflation and population growth rate. The correlation matrix also shows that the pair-wise correlations between explanatory variables, except inflation and inflation squared term, are not quite high, indicating that multicollinearity is not a serious problem.

Table 5. Descriptive Data Analysis, 1967-2015

	$\Delta \ln Y(t)$	$\ln[1+\pi(t)]$	$\ln[1+\pi(t)]^2$	$\ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$	$\ln[T(t)/Y(t)]$	$\ln L(t)$
Mean	1.281426	2.666242	7.523285	3.075326	3.550603	1.112116
Median	1.526056	2.624651	6.888792	3.075711	3.645711	1.137718
Maximum	2.135867	3.614855	13.06717	3.610447	4.039451	1.236922
Minimum	-0.916291	1.502495	2.257491	2.420517	2.846309	0.906206
Std. Dev.	0.746727	0.650441	3.462517	0.333197	0.334512	0.076623
Skewness	-1.224073	-0.048275	0.150351	-0.170087	-0.619188	-1.325801
Kurtosis	3.843961	1.564658	1.538394	2.081091	2.166004	4.085157
Jarque-Bera	13.69079	4.225291	4.546207	1.960228	4.551124	16.75914
Probability	0.001064	0.120918	0.102992	0.375268	0.102739	0.000230
Sum	62.78986	130.6459	368.6410	150.6910	173.9796	54.49370
Sum Sq. Dev.	26.76489	20.30751	575.4732	5.328975	5.371132	0.281812
Observations	49	49	49	49	49	49

Source: Author's computations using World Bank, WDI Data, 2016 [45] and Bank of Tanzania, Annual Report (Various Issues)

Table 6. Correlation Matrix of the Variables, 1967-2015

	$\Delta \ln Y(t)$	$\ln[1+\pi(t)]$	$\ln[1+\pi(t)]^2$	$\ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$	$\ln[T(t)/Y(t)]$	$\ln L(t)$	$REFORM$
$\Delta \ln Y(t)$	1						
$\ln[1+\pi(t)]$	-0.498800	1					
$\ln[1+\pi(t)]^2$	0.483430	0.995880	1				
$\ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$	0.331184	-0.309421	-0.327761	1			
$\ln[T(t)/Y(t)]$	0.139910	-0.230264	-0.257028	0.082467	1		
$\ln L(t)$	-0.244089	0.241944	0.244575	0.005207	-0.603845	1	
$REFORM$	0.335031	-0.105239	-0.100920	-0.089158	-0.004837	-0.318949	1

Source: Author's computations using World Bank, WDI Data, 2016 [45] and Bank of Tanzania, Annual Report (Various Issues)

6.2. Time Series Properties of Variables

6.2.1.   Stationarity Tests

The Augmented Dickey-Fuller (*ADF*) and Phillip-Perron (*PP*) methods are conducted to check for a unit root for all variables in both levels and first differences. Unit root test results are reported in Table 7, which suggest that the hypothesis of a unit root cannot be rejected in all variables in levels. It is therefore concluded that all variables are non-stationary at their levels. However, the hypothesis of a unit root is rejected in first differences. The unit root test results for the first difference are reported in Table 8. This also suggests that, further estimations could be carried while in first difference in order to avoid spurious correlation.

Table 7. ADF and PP Unit Root Tests for Stationarity: Level Variables

Variable	ADF t-value		PP t-value		I(d)
	Without Trend	With Trend	Without Trend	With Trend	
$\ln Y(t)$	-1.669	-4.517	-1.331	-4.516	I(0)
$\ln[1 + \pi(t)]$	-0.711	-2.339	-0.667	-2.319	I(0)
$\ln[1 + \pi(t)]^2$	-1.002	-2.254	-0.906	-2.254	I(0)
$\ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$	-0.648	-2.393	-0.840	-2.558	I(0)
$\ln[T(t)/Y(t)]$	-0.036	-1.511	-0.016	-1.830	I(0)
$\ln L(t)$	-0.925	-1.033	-0.312	-1.638	I(0)
Critical Values (5%)	-1.948	-3.506	-1.948	-3.506	

 Notes: (1) I(d) = Order of Integration

Sample: 1967-2015

Table 8. *ADF and PP Unit Root Tests for Stationarity: First Difference*

Variable	ADF t-value		PP t-value		I(d)
	Without Trend	With Trend	Without Trend	With Trend	
$\ln Y(t)$	-9.370	-9.198	-19.782	-28.033	I(1)
$\ln[1+\pi(t)]$	-7.727	-7.605	-7.827	-7.875	I(1)
$\ln[1+\pi(t)]^2$	-7.698	-7.581	-7.954	-7.857	I(1)
$\ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$	-4.380	-4.529	-7.163	-7.541	I(1)
$\ln[T(t)/Y(t)]$	-5.583	-5.557	-5.558	-5.528	I(1)
$\ln L(t)$	-2.803	-3.591	-2.948	-3.617	I(1)
Critical Values (5%)	-1.948	-3.509	-1.948	-3.509	

Notes: (1) I(d) = Order of Integration
Sample: 1967-2015

6.2.2. Cointegration Test Results

Having established that the variables are non-stationary at level but when integrated of the same order (i.e. first difference) they become stationary, the next procedure is to test the possibility of long run relationship among the variables used in the regression model. Trace and Maximum Eigen value are used to determine the presence of co-integration between variables. Table 9 reports the results of the Johansen test for cointegration. On the basis of the Maximum Eigen value test, the null hypothesis of no cointegration $(r=0)$ is rejected at the 5 percent level of significance in favour of the specific alternative, namely that there is at most three cointegrating vector $(r=3)$[5]. The implication is that a linear combination of all the seven series is found to be stationary and that there is a stable long-run relationship between the series.

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[5] 10 This is because the first significant value, where trace statistic is less than critical value at 5% level, was found at maximum rank of two.

Table 9. *Johansen Test for Cointegration*

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigen value	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.7229	143.7667	95.7536	0.0000
At most 1 *	0.4974	83.4456	69.8188	0.0028
At most 2 *	0.4563	51.1050	47.8561	0.0240
At most 3	0.2373	22.4646	29.7970	0.2734
At most 4	0.1665	9.7281	15.4947	0.3022
At most 5	0.0245	1.1667	3.8414	0.2801

Trace test indicates 3 cointegrating eqn(s) at the 0.05 level
 * denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level
 **MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-values
Sample: 1967-2015

6.3. Granger Causality Test

Before estimating the model, Granger Causality test is applied to measure the causation between inflation and economic growth. The reason for this test is that inflation may not be an exogenous variable in the growth-inflation regression, and consequently, the inflation coefficient may be biased (Rutayasire, 2013 [2]). The seriousness of this problem will depend, to a large extent on whether, the causality runs mainly from inflation to growth, or the other way around, in which case a bias will be present (Khan and Senhadji, 2001 [18]).

The direction of the relationship is explicitly tested through the Granger Causality test and the estimate results are presented in Table 10. Based on minimum Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Schwarz criterion both the variables up to second lags are used in Granger Causality test. The results suggest that the causality between two variables is bi-directed. Both null hypotheses are rejected at 10 percent level of significance. The most striking point of these estimations is the presence of bi-direction. Hence in Tanzania there exists the possibility of long-run causality from growth to inflation.

Table 10: *Pairwise Granger Causality Tests*

Null Hypothesis:	Obs	F-Statistic	Prob.
Inflation does not Granger Cause Growth	47	2.69381	0.0793
Growth does not Granger Cause Inflation		2.98944	0.0611

Sample: 1967-2015 Lags: 2
Source: Author's computations Using Data from WDI, 2016 [45]

6.4. Results of the Quadratic Regression Model

Estimation involves regressing a model with an error-correction mechanism *(ECM)* by the OLS. According to the Granger Representation Theorem *(GRT),* if a number of variables, are cointegrated, then there will exist an *ECM* relating these variables and *vice versa*. The error correction model tells us the degree to which the equilibrium behaviour drives short run dynamics. Equilibrium relationship in turn have implications for short run behaviour, one or more series move to restore equilibrium. As one might expect from the theoretical analysis, the coefficient of ECM_{t-1} is negative and significant at the 10 percent level (Table 11). Specifically, it is revealed that in a case of shock and disequilibrium, the model converges to its equilibrium position in the long-run. From the estimation results, it is revealed that 30 percent of the disequilibrium is adjusted in each year.

The Durbin Watson statistic that detects the serial correlation problem shows that the error correction model does not suffer from autocorrelation problem. For the error correction model, other four diagnostic tests are employed to check the problem of serial correlation, misspecification, heteroscedasticity and non-normal distribution. In these diagnostic tests, the Breusch-Godfrey serial correlation Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test confirms that the residual terms in the model are serially independent. In the same vein, the ARCH LM test strongly suggests that there exists no heteroscedasticity in the residual terms of the model. Hence, the null hypothesis of no heteroscedasticity cannot be rejected implying that the variance of the error term is constant. Moreover, Ramsey RESET test suggests that the model is specified correctly. Lastly, the diagnostic tests show that the error correction model does not suffer from non-normality. The quantile-quantile plot and Jarque-Bera normality test suggest that the residuals of the model are normally distributed. The fact that the error correction model passes all the diagnostic tests, the findings are reliable.

The goodness of fit of the model as reflected in the coefficient of determination $\left(R^2\right)$ is satisfactory; the quadratic regression model explains about 50 percent of the variation in growth. Binary variable, reforms turns to be statistically insignificant and therefore it is omitted from the regression. Moreover, the F-statistic shows that the variables are jointly significant at the 1 percent level of significance.

Table 11. Estimation Results: Dependent Variable, $\Delta \ln Y (t)$

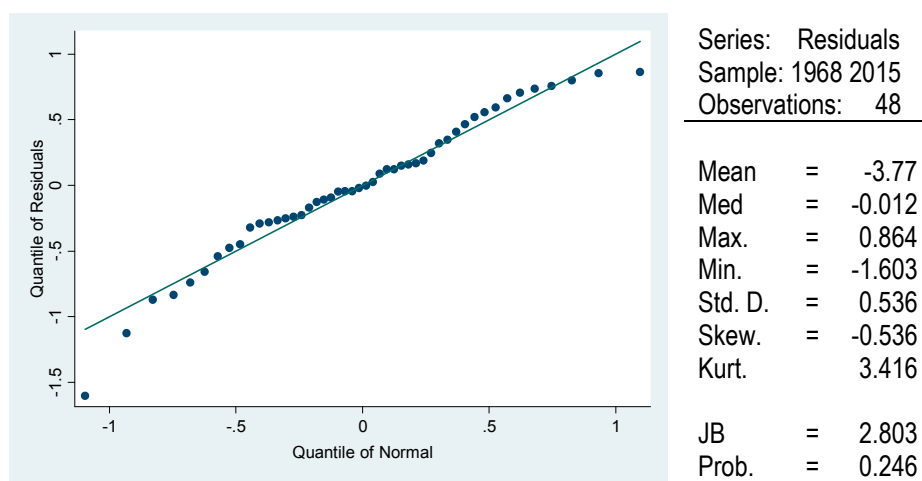
Variable	Coeff.	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	VIF
Constant	11.1538	2.1476	5.1934	0.0000	4.6124
Inflation, $\Delta Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-4.3703	1.2204	-3.5808	0.0009	1.4895
Inflation Squared, $\Delta Ln(1+\pi_t)^2$	0.8664	0.2586	3.3492	0.0017	0.0669
Investment, $\Delta Ln(I/Y)$	0.0336	0.0124	2.7084	0.0098	0.0001
Trade, $\Delta Ln(T/Y)$	0.0378	0.0124	3.0359	0.0042	0.0001
Population, $\Delta Ln(Lt)$	-1.8871	0.5878	-3.2101	0.0026	0.3455
ECM_{t-1}	-0.3033	0.1571	-1.9299	0.0606	0.0247

R-squared	0.5053	Diagnostic Tests:			
Adjusted R-squared	0.4329	Heteroskedasticity			
F-statistic	6.9806	F-stat = 1.0692		Prob =	0.3067
Prob(F-statistic)	0.0000	Obs*R-sq =1.0908		Pr. χ^2 =	0.2963
Durbin-Watson stat	1.9617	Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test			
		F-stat = 2.4844		Prob =	0.0965
		Obs*R-sq =5.4245		Pr. χ^2 =	0.0664
		Ramsey RESET	=	1.4270[0.2381]	

Estimation Sample: 1967-2015

Figure 7: Normality Test of the Residuals: Quartile-Quintile Plot

Series: Residuals
Sample: 1968 2015
Observations: 48

Mean	=	-3.77
Med	=	-0.012
Max.	=	0.864
Min.	=	-1.603
Std. D.	=	0.536
Skew.	=	-0.536
Kurt.		3.416
JB	=	2.803
Prob.	=	0.246

Notes: The Normality test indicates that residuals are normally distributed as we unable to reject the null hypothesis of normality using Jacque-Bera at both 5 percent.

Unsurprisingly, the results suggest a significant impact of openness of the economy and investment on economic growth. Both the coefficients on trade liberalization or degree of openness measured as trade-to-GDP ratio and the ratio of investment-to-GDP are statistically significant at the 1 percent level. Also, both coefficients have signs as they are expected. Results indicate that a 1 percent increase in the degree of openness may lead to a 0.04 percent increase in real GDP growth. In particular, more open economy encourages inflow of funds into the country. Also, domestic firms may become more efficient because of competition from foreign firms. In addition, if the country is able to export more products, there will be more inflow of foreign exchange into the country while imports of raw materials from the rest of the world would imply more production in the domestic economy. Similarly, consistent with the existing literature, the investment as a share of GDP has a powerful positive effect on growth. Results indicate that a 1 percent point increase in investment may cause a 0.03 percent point increase in growth.

The growth in the population seems to have a negative effect on the growth of the economy. Indeed, the coefficient for the population is significant different from zero at the 1 percent level implying that a 1 percent increase in population may reduce real GDP growth by 1.9 percent *ceteris paribus*. The negative effect of population is broadly consistent with previous studies such Malthus (1798) [106] and Tsen & Furuoka (2005) [105].

The most striking point of the estimations is that the estimated coefficient of the linear term of inflation is negative while the estimated coefficient of the square term of inflation is positive, suggesting a U-shaped effect as opposed to inverse or inverted U-shaped relationship found in other countries by previous studies. The estimated coefficients of both terms are significant at the 1 percent level. These results suggest that the relationship between inflation and growth is non linear with the existence of at least one break point. The relationship is negative at some level this is because inflation in the economy causes production to slow down since products are produced at higher prices. Inflation also increases the welfare cost to society, reduces international competitiveness of a country because of more expensive exports, and thereby reduces economic growth in the long-run. Indeed, this result is in support with the estimated results of Fischer (1979) [124], Gosh and Phillips (1998) [17] and Faria and Carneiro (2001) [83], Ayyoub et al. (2011) [125].

 After a particular level the relationship becomes positive. This is an interesting finding and deserves more attention for further and future research. Indeed, the aggregate supply-aggregate demand (AS-AD) framework postulates a positive relationship between inflation and growth where, as growth increases, so does inflation. Also, previous empirical studies, for example, Seleteng (2012) [3] finds a positive association between inflation and growth in Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia suggesting that despite increases in inflation tax, these countries still manage to register positive growth rates, although these growth rates may still be below their potential growth rates. These findings also imply that the relationship between inflation and economic growth, depends on the nature and structure of the economy, and varies from country to country.

These results suggest that the Mundell-Tobin effect may be valid for high inflation, in which people strongly realize the importance of substituting money for interest-bearing assets. The reason is that increasing the rate of monetary growth by increasing inflation reduces the real return to holding money and causes a portfolio shift towards capital. As a result the costs of inflation partially offset the benefits from the Mundell-Tobin effect. An increase in inflation causes an increase in capital investment, and in turn, an increase in economic growth. However, it can be suggested that the negative impact of inflation (as measured by a linear term) on economic growth is greater than the positive response of growth to changes in inflation (as measured by the squared term). In fact, as reported in Table 11, a 1 per cent increase in inflation tax will reduce the economic growth rate by about 4. 4 per cent and this is a detrimental effect. Whereas the positive impact of inflation on growth, suggests that a 1 percent increase in inflation will raise growth by less than 0.9 percent. These results imply that the country is better off if it manages to contain inflation.

6.5. Results of the Threshold Endogenous Model

Testing the significance of the quadratic term might be misleading because the quadratic and linear term are highly correlated and therefore we may get non-essential correlation which leads to inflated standard errors. The estimation of Equation (7) gives a precise value of threshold inflation level and also quantifies the impact of that level on economic growth. For this purpose Equation (15) is estimated and the adjusted *R*-squared $\left(\overline{R}^2 \right)$ and residual sum of squares *(RSS)* for threshold level of inflation ranging from $\pi* = 3.25$ percent to $\pi* = 7.00$ percent are computed for the given period of 1967-2015. The optimal threshold level is the one that minimizes the sequence of *RSS* (Mubarik, 2005) or maximizes $\overline{R}^2$.

The *t*-statistics and their *p*-vales of the estimation equation (15) are given in Table 13. All of the coefficient estimates reported in Table 12 are statistically significant, and have the signs as reported in the previous estimation. In fact, all the explanatory variables in the growth model are significant at 1 percent level, when inflation is at its threshold. Of greater interest, the coefficient on inflation is negative and significant by a wide margin. The negative sign of the dummy variable, $D_t \ln \left[1 + \pi(t) - \pi* \right]$, is unsurprising because only low inflation rates, ranging from 3.25-7.00 percent are considered in the estimation. The *p*-values on the coefficients, γ_1 and γ_2 suggest that even for low levels of inflation, there is negative relationship between inflation and economic growth. The results indicate that $\overline{R}^2$ falls whereas RSS increases with the level of inflation, implying that economic growth is maximized at a very low inflation rate (Figures 8 and 9). Indeed, the value of $\overline{R}^2$ declines from 0.468 to 0.439 while RSS rises from 12.415 to 13.085 as the inflation threshold assigned arbitrarily $(\pi*)$ increases from 3.25 percent and 7 percent.

Table 12. Estimation Results: Dependent Variable, $\Delta \ln Y (t)$

π^*	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	RSS $(\overline{R}^2)$
3.25%	Constant	10.5427	1.8216	5.7874	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.2547	0.5196	-4.3391	0.000	
	D(π_t-3.25)	-0.1475	0.0380	-3.8807	0.000	12.415
	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0340	0.0119	2.8359	0.007	(0.468)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0416	0.0122	3.4039	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-2.0207	0.5735	-3.5228	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2845	0.1572	-1.8091	0.077	
3.50%	Constant	10.5795	1.8285	5.7857	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.2547	0.5196	-4.3390	0.000	
	D(π_t-3.50)	0.1475	0.0380	3.8807	0.000	12.415
	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0339	0.0119	2.8359	0.007	(0.468)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0415	0.0122	3.4039	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-2.0207	0.5735	-3.5228	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2844	0.1572	-1.8091	0.077	
3.75%	Constant	10.6164	1.8355	5.7838	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.2547	0.5196	-4.3390	0.000	
	D(π_t-3.75)	0.1475	0.0380	3.8807	0.000	12.415
	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0339	0.0119	2.8359	0.007	(0.468)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0415	0.0122	3.4039	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-2.0207	0.5735	-3.5228	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2844	0.1572	-1.8091	0.077	
4.00%	Constant	10.5501	.8376	5.7409	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.2078	0.5139	-4.2956	0.000	
	D(π_t-4.00)	-0.1443	0.0376	-3.8324	0.000	12.488
	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0339	0.0120	2.8227	0.007	(0.465)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0411	0.0122	3.3644	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-2.0087	0.5749	-3.4940	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2862	0.1571	-1.8218	0.075	
4.25%	Constant	10.532	1.8420	5.7180	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.1840	0.5111	-4.2732	0.000	
	D(π_t-4.25)	-0.1427	0.0374	-3.8076	0.000	12.561
	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0338	0.0120	2.8155	0.007	(0.463)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0408	0.0122	3.3442	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-2.0024	0.5755	-3.4790	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2870	0.1570	-1.8275	0.074	

$\pi\ ^*$	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	RSS $\left(\overline{R}^{\,2}\right)$
	Constant	10.5135	1.8461	5.6947	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.1599	0.5081	-4.2503	0.000	
	D(π_t-5.75)	-0.1411	0.0373	-3.7822	0.000	12.580
4.50%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0338	0.0120	2.8079	0.007	(0.461)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0406	0.0122	3.3236	0.001	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9959	0.5762	-3.4636	0.001	
	$ECM_{\,t-1}$	-0.2878	0.1570	-1.8329	0.074	
	Constant	10.4923	1.8501	5.6709	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.1355	0.5052	-4.2270	0.000	
	D(π_t-6.00)	-0.1394	0.0371	-3.7562	0.000	
4.75%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0337	0.0120	-2.7999	0.007	12.601
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0404	0.0122	3.3026	0.002	(0.460)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9891	0.5769	-3.4479	0.001	
	$ECM_{\,t-1}$	-0.2885	0.1569	-1.8379	0.073	
	Constant	10.4398	1.8513	5.6389	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.0976	0.4999	-4.1961	0.000	
	D(π_t-3.75)	-0.1370	0.0368	-3.7210	0.000	
5.00%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0338	0.0121	2.7959	0.007	12.660
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0400	0.0122	3.2732	0.002	(0.458)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9794	0.5779	-3.4251	0.001	
	$ECM_{\,t-1}$	-0.2886	0.1570	-1.8373	0.073	
	Constant	10.3692	1.8485	5.6095	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.0545	0.4929	-4.1675	0.000	
	D(π_t-4.00)	-0.1343	0.0364	-3.6870	0.000	
5.25%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0338	0.0121	2.7914	0.007	12.718
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0397	0.0122	3.2465	0.002	(0.455)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9684	0.5786	-3.4016	0.001	
	$ECM_{\,t-1}$	-0.2886	0.1571	-1.8363	0.073	
	Constant	10.263	1.8383	5.5829	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-2.0058	0.4843	-4.1412	0.000	
	D(π_t-4.25)	-0.1313	0.0359	-3.6541	0.000	
5.50%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0338	0.0121	2.7833	0.008	12.774
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0395	0.0122	3.2248	0.002	(0.453)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9522	0.5788	-3.3724	0.001	
	$ECM_{\,t-1}$	-0.2884	0.1572	-1.8336	0.074	

π *	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	RSS $\left(\overline{R}^{\,2}\right)$
	Constant	10.1736	1.8280	5.5654	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.9581	0.4747	-4.1250	0.000	
	D(π_t -5.75)	-0.1286	0.0354	-3.6306	0.000	12.812
5.75%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0337	0.0121	2.7719	0.008	(0.451)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0394	0.0122	3.2118	0.002	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9438	0.5793	-3.3554	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2880	0.1573	-1.8311	0.074	
	Constant	10.0856	1.8175	5.5489	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.9102	0.4648	-4.1096	0.000	
	D(π_t -6.00)	-0.1259	0.0349	-3.6077	0.000	
6.00%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0336	0.0121	2.7578	0.008	12.855
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0393	0.0123	3.2004	0.002	(0.446)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9373	0.5798	-3.3413	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2877	0.1573	-1.8292	0.074	
	Constant	9.9673	1.8048	5.5225	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.8569	0.4547	-4.0836	0.000	
	D(π_t -3.75)	-0.1227	0.0343	-3.5735	0.000	
6.25%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0333	0.0122	2.7343	0.009	12.914
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0392	0.0123	3.1807	0.002	(0.445)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9245	0.5803	-3.3161	0.001	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2865	0.1573	-1.8213	0.075	
	Constant	9.8327	1.7921	5.4865	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.7975	0.4441	-4.0475	0.000	
	D(π_t -4.00)	-0.1191	0.0337	-3.5285	0.001	
6.50%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0329	0.0122	2.6969	0.010	12.991
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0389	0.0123	3.1530	0.003	(0.443)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9107	0.5813	-3.2864	0.002	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2827	0.1573	-1.7972	0.079	
	Constant	9.7231	1.7822	5.4555	0.000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.7444	0.4342	-4.0173	0.000	
	D(π_t -4.25)	-0.1161	0.0332	-3.4899	0.001	
6.75%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	0.0327	0.0122	2.6762	0.010	13.059
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.0388	0.0123	3.1313	0.003	(0.440)
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.9014	0.5825	-3.2640	0.002	
	ECM_{t-1}	-0.2811	0.1573	-1.7867	0.081	

	Constant	9.652569	1.773096	5.443906	0.0000	
	Inflation, $Ln(1+\pi_t)$	-1.701324	0.424379	-4.008968	0.0003	
	D(π_t -5.75)	0.113993	0.032817	3.473572	0.0012	13.085
7.00%	Investment, $Ln(I/Y)$	-0.032840	0.012269	-2.676702	0.0106	(0.439)
	Trade, $Ln(T/Y)$	0.038777	0.012411	3.124384	0.0033	
	Population, $Ln(Lt)$	-1.899954	0.583267	-3.257433	0.0023	
	ECM_{t-1}	0.281789	0.157366	1.790653	0.0807	

Figure 8: Inflation versus Adjusted R-Squared

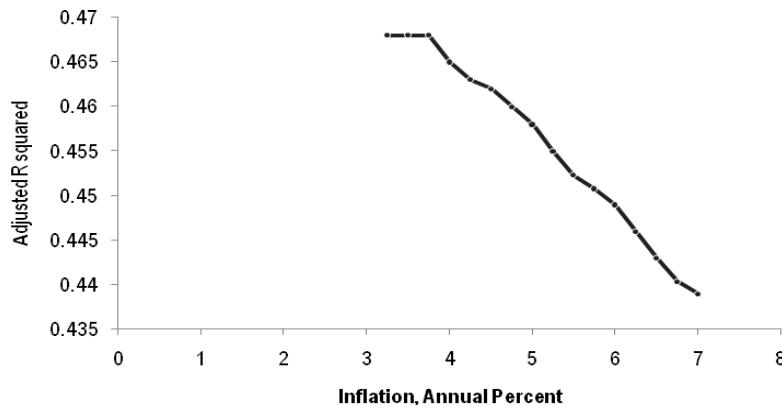



Figure 9: Inflation versus Residual Sum of Squares

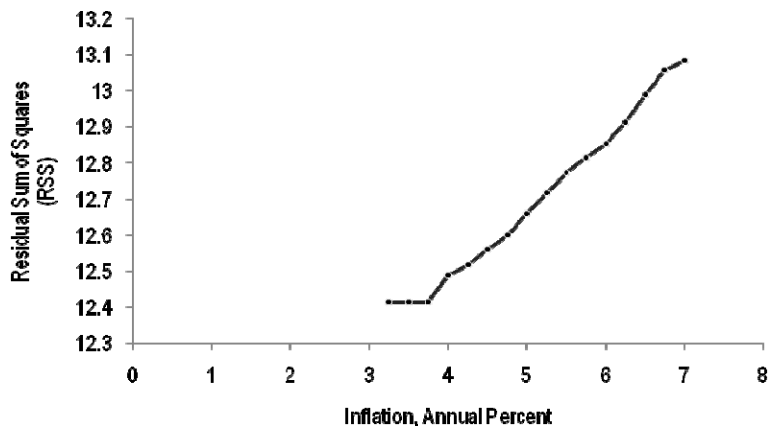



Figure 8 suggests that $\overline{R}^2$ is maximized at inflation levels between 3.25 percent and 3.75 percent. RSS is also minimized at these levels of inflation (Figure 9). Hence these levels of inflation are considered as the threshold levels of inflation.

6.6. Diagnostic Checking

The diagnostic tests are carried out for sixteen equations. The residuals for all the estimated equations are found to be normally distributed and stable. No serial correlation and heteroscedasticity are observed in all the equations, implying that the estimates are reliable and therefore, can be relied upon. However, only diagnostic results for the $\pi^* = 3.75$ percent are summarized in Table 13.

Table 13. Diagnostic Tests for desired Level $\pi^* = 3.75$ Percent

	Test for	Test Statistic	Probabilities	Conclusion
1	Normality (JB test)	2.959	0.228	Residuals Normally distributed
2	Serial Correlation (LM test)	1.992	0.150	No serial correlation
3	Heteroskedasticity	0.575	0.567	No heteroskedasticity
4	Stability			Stable

The Table shows that there are no serial autocorrelation and heteroskedastic problems in the residual distribution. Also the residuals are normally distributed.

7.   Conclusion and Policy Implications

The literature survey provides some useful insights into the relationship between inflation on economic growth. Although much evidence is accumulating in favour of negative real effects of inflation, there is no consensus in both the theoretical and empirical studies on the relationship between the two variables. The main argument that favours negative effect of inflation on growth is that low or moderate inflation indicates the macroeconomic soundness and creates a congenial atmosphere for investment. However, only low inflation cannot fulfil the sufficient condition for economic growth. In fact, some empirical studies show that the impact of inflation on growth is positive supporting the Keynesian theoretical framework of the macroeconomy and Mundell-Tobin effect. As a result, the inflation and economic growth relationship has become the issue of considerable interest among many economists and policy makers including IMF and World Bank. This paper uses time series data spanning from 1967 to 2015 to examine the effect of inflation on growth. It applies both quadratic regression and threshold endogenous models. The results of the paper are considerably significant because, one of the difficulties with applying the cross-country results to individual

country cases is that the cross-country evidence ignores the path by which a country arrived at a particular inflation rate. Contrary to some research results, the results presented here consistently suggest a negative relationship between inflation and growth which is both statistically and economically significant. The relationship in non-linear, in two senses: first, at low inflation rates, the relationship is negative; second, at very high inflation rates, the relationship is positive. This U-shaped relationship between inflation and growth implies that high inflation levels increase economic growth, albeit, proportionally less that decrease in growth during low inflation levels. These results are very interesting. In fact, they are contrary to many previous cross-country studies on non-linear effect of inflation on growth that support inverted U-shaped relationship between the two variables. However, the results may not be a surprise but suggest that even during high inflation levels the Mundell-Tobin framework may be valid. During high inflation episodes people increasingly shift money into interest bearing assets causing an increase in capital investment, and in turn, an increase in growth. This effect outweighs the cost of high inflations. This paper does not suggest that the Government and Bank of Tanzania should follow an inflation monetary policy. The U-shaped relationship implies that growth is at maximum when inflation is either very low or very high. The fact that the proportionate decrease in growth is high when inflation level is low than the proportionate increase in growth when inflation level is high, maintaining price stability and reducing inflation to the minimum possible rate will ultimately be the best policy recommendation to stable and sustained economic growth of the economy. The optimal inflation rate that ranges between 3.25 percent and 3.75 percent is obtained by minimizing the residual sum of squares and/or maximizing adjusted R-squared. These results do however warrant further investigation of a comparison of the economic benefits of very low and very high inflation episodes.

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Appendix

Table A1: Correlogram Test for Model

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln[1 + \pi(t)] + \gamma_2 \ln[1 + \pi(t)]^2 + \varphi_1 \ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$$
$$+ \varphi_2 \ln[T(t)/Y(t)] + \varphi_3 \ln L(t) + u(t)$$

	AC	PAC	Q-Stat	Prob
1	0.004	0.004	0.0010	0.975
2	-0.173	-0.173	1.5682	0.457
3	0.021	0.024	1.5924	0.661
4	0.123	0.095	2.4149	0.660
5	-0.165	-0.166	3.9395	0.558
6	-0.160	-0.129	5.4075	0.493
7	-0.185	-0.258	7.4089	0.388
8	-0.027	-0.100	7.4525	0.489
9	0.019	-0.027	7.4750	0.588
10	-0.086	-0.124	7.9377	0.635
11	0.046	0.032	8.0758	0.706
12	0.263	0.168	12.704	0.391
13	-0.044	-0.118	12.835	0.461
14	-0.126	-0.128	13.961	0.453
15	0.001	-0.132	13.961	0.528
16	-0.026	-0.173	14.012	0.598
17	0.038	0.085	14.121	0.658
18	-0.049	-0.017	14.317	0.708
19	0.005	0.091	14.319	0.765
20	0.059	0.034	14.615	0.798

Notes: The test for serial correlation using Correlogram indicates that there is no serial correlation in the model since none of the lag is found to be significant at both 5 percent and 10 percent level.

Table A2: Correlogram Test for Model

$$\Delta \ln Y(t) = \alpha + \gamma_1 \ln[1 + \pi(t)] + \gamma_2 D_t \ln[(1 + \pi(t)) - \pi^*] + \varphi_1 \ln[I(t)/Y(t)]$$
$$+ \varphi_2 \ln[T(t)/Y(t)] + \varphi_3 \ln L(t) + u(t)$$

	AC	PAC	Q-Stat	Prob.
1	-0.005	-0.005	0.0012	0.972
2	-0.126	-0.126	0.8323	0.660
3	0.001	-0.001	0.8323	0.842
4	0.127	0.112	1.7063	0.790
5	-0.206	-0.210	4.0687	0.540
6	-0.187	-0.168	6.0717	0.415
7	-0.142	-0.209	7.2579	0.403
8	-0.001	-0.080	7.2580	0.509
9	-0.024	-0.035	7.2940	0.607
10	-0.091	-0.134	7.8142	0.647
11	0.054	-0.012	8.0011	0.713
12	0.256	0.149	12.380	0.416
13	-0.014	-0.077	12.394	0.496
14	-0.132	-0.144	13.633	0.477
15	-0.024	-0.141	13.676	0.550
16	-0.014	-0.171	13.690	0.622
17	0.067	0.112	14.041	0.664
18	-0.074	-0.023	14.483	0.697
19	-0.020	-0.002	14.517	0.753
20	0.089	0.035	15.193	0.765

$\pi^* = 3.75$ Percent

Notes: The test for serial correlation using Correlogram indicates that there is no serial correlation in the model. None of the lag is found to be significant at both 5 percent and 10 percent level.