

Abstract

This research examines the effect of international trade policies on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), focusing on how trade regulations, tariffs, and international agreements impact their operations, growth, and market access. As SMEs play a crucial role in the global economy, understanding how trade policies shape their ability to compete internationally is vital for policymakers and business leaders alike. This study aims to provide insights into both the challenges SMEs face due to trade policies and the opportunities these policies can create for global expansion.

Using a comparative mixed-methods approach, the study combines quantitative analysis and qualitative case studies to evaluate the impact of trade policies on SMEs. The quantitative component surveys SMEs across different industries and countries to assess how trade tariffs, export regulations, and free trade agreements influence their profitability, market reach, and overall performance. The study compares SMEs operating in various regions, analyzing the variations in impact based on the nature of trade policies and the industries involved. The qualitative aspect includes case studies and interviews with SME owners and managers to explore their experiences navigating trade policies, identifying key challenges, and uncovering strategies used to adapt.

By integrating both quantitative and qualitative data, this research offers a well-rounded view of the effects of international trade policies on SMEs. The findings aim to provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and SMEs to improve the alignment of trade policies with the needs of small businesses, fostering a more conducive environment for international trade.