

Abstract

This research explores the impact of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on international trade flows, employing a mixed-methods approach to provide a comprehensive analysis. FTAs have become a cornerstone of global economic policy, yet their effects on trade patterns remain complex and multifaceted. By combining quantitative and qualitative data, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how FTAs influence trade volumes, partner relationships, and economic integration between member countries.

In the quantitative phase, this study utilizes econometric models to analyze trade flow data across countries with active FTAs. Using various metrics, such as trade volume changes and tariff reduction levels, we assess the tangible effects FTAs have on trade dynamics. The analysis takes into account variables like GDP growth, distance, and political factors, offering a clear picture of how FTAs affect bilateral trade relationships across different regions.

The qualitative phase complements this by gathering insights from policymakers, trade experts, and business leaders through interviews and case studies. These interviews allow for an in-depth understanding of the motivations behind FTAs and the challenges faced by businesses operating in trade-bloc environments. By integrating both methods, the study aims to bridge the gap between theoretical models and real-world trade experiences, providing a holistic view of FTAs' role in shaping global commerce.