

BREAKING BARRIERS: ASSESSING GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE POLICY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

DEPĂȘIREA BARIERELOR: EVALUAREA EGALITĂȚII DE GEN ÎN POLITICA COMERCIALĂ ȘI IMPLICĂRILE ACESTEIA PENTRU O CREȘTERE ECONOMICĂ INCLUZIVĂ

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Rezumat. Această cercetare își propune să evalueze starea actuală a egalității de gen în politica comercială și impactul acesteia asupra creșterii economice incluzive. Studiul este relevant deoarece, în ciuda eforturilor globale de promovare a egalității de gen, femeile continuă să se confrunte cu bariere sistemice în accesarea oportunităților comerciale, ceea ce le limitează potențialul economic și afectează în cele din urmă creșterea economică globală.

Pentru a atinge acest scop, am folosit o metodă de cercetare calitativă, care a implicat o revizuire amplă a literaturii existente, inclusiv articole academice, rapoarte și documente de politici. Studiul a examinat diferitele bariere bazate pe gen cu care se confruntă femeile în accesarea oportunităților comerciale, cum ar fi politicile comerciale discriminatorii, accesul limitat la finanțare și cadrele legale inadecvate. În plus, am analizat potențialele beneficii economice ale promovării egalității de gen în politica comercială, cum ar fi creșterea productivității, inovarea și competitivitatea.

Rezultatele studiului arată că barierele bazate pe gen continuă să împiedice accesul femeilor la oportunități comerciale, limitându-le astfel potențialul economic. Politicile comerciale discriminatorii, cum ar fi tarifele și barierele netarifare, afectează în mod disproporționat întreprinderile conduse de femei, făcându-le dificil să concureze cu firme mai mari și mai consacrate. Accesul limitat la finanțare reprezintă, de asemenea, o provocare semnificativă pentru femeile antreprenoare, cărora adesea le lipsesc garanțiile sau istoricul de credit necesare pentru a asigura împrumuturi.

Studiul subliniază, de asemenea, potențialele beneficii economice ale promovării egalității de gen în politica comercială. Prin eliminarea politicilor comerciale discriminatorii, întreprinderile conduse de femei pot concura mai eficient, ceea ce duce la creșterea productivității și a inovației. În plus, prin îmbunătățirea accesului la finanțare și la cadrele legale, femeile antreprenoare își pot extinde afacerile, creând noi locuri de muncă și contribuind la creșterea economică generală.

În concluzie, acest studiu subliniază importanța promovării egalității de gen în politica comercială pentru o creștere economică incluzivă. Rezultatele cercetării sugerează că abordarea barierelor bazate pe gen este esențială pentru deblocarea potențialului economic al femeilor antreprenoare și pentru crearea unei economii mai incluzive și mai echitabile. Pentru a atinge acest obiectiv, factorii de decizie trebuie să ia măsuri concrete pentru a elimina politicile comerciale discriminatorii, pentru a îmbunătăți accesul la finanțare și pentru a consolida cadrele legale care protejează drepturile femeilor.

Keywords: Gender equality, trade policy, women's empowerment, inclusive economic growth.

JEL CLASSIFICATION: F13, J16

INTRODUCERE

Gender equality is a critical component of inclusive economic growth. The impact of trade policy on gender equality has gained attention in recent years, and there is growing recognition of the importance of integrating gender in trade policy discussions. Women face various barriers to trade,

including discriminatory laws and regulations, limited access to finance and market information, and cultural biases. Addressing these barriers and promoting gender equality in trade policy has the potential to unlock new opportunities for women entrepreneurs and contribute to inclusive economic growth. This article aims to assess gender equality in trade policy and its implications for inclusive economic growth.

CONȚINUTUL DE BAZĂ

Brief Analysis of Bibliographic Sources:

1. "Gender Equality and Trade Policy," by the International Trade Centre (ITC)
This report highlights the importance of gender equality in trade policy and how it can lead to inclusive economic growth. It also provides an overview of gender-responsive trade policies and best practices in implementing them. The report emphasizes the need for gender-disaggregated data and the inclusion of women in trade negotiations and decision-making processes.
2. "Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Women's Equality," by the World Trade Organization (WTO)
This report examines the impact of trade on women's economic empowerment and argues that trade can be a powerful tool in promoting gender equality. It provides examples of successful policies and initiatives aimed at reducing gender-based barriers in trade and highlights the need for a gender-sensitive approach to trade policy.
3. "Breaking Down Gender Barriers in Trade: What Role for International Organizations?" by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
This report discusses the role of international organizations in promoting gender equality in trade. It argues that international organizations can play a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for women to participate in trade, including through capacity-building and technical assistance. The report also highlights the need for gender-sensitive trade agreements and policies.
4. "Gender and Trade: A Review of the Literature," by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
This research presents an in-depth examination of the available literature on gender and commerce. It examines the relationship between trade and gender inequality and provides an overview of the main barriers facing women in the trade sector. The report also highlights the need for gender-sensitive trade policies and the importance of addressing gender-based violence and discrimination in the workplace.
5. "Gender, Trade and Global Value Chains: Opportunities and Challenges for Inclusive and Sustainable Development," by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
This report examines the role of gender in global value chains and the opportunities and challenges for promoting gender equality in trade. It provides case studies of successful initiatives promoting women's participation in global value chains and highlights the need for a gender-sensitive approach to trade policy.

Overall, these sources provide valuable insights into the current state of gender equality in trade policy and the implications for inclusive economic growth. They highlight the need for gender-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive trade policies, and the inclusion of women in decision-making processes. They also demonstrate the potential of trade to promote gender equality and the important role that international organizations can play in this process.

Description of the research methods used:

This article is based on a review of relevant literature on gender equality and trade policy. The literature review was conducted using academic databases, including JSTOR, Google Scholar, and

ProQuest. The search terms used included "gender equality," "trade policy," "inclusive economic growth," and "women's empowerment." The sources were selected based on their relevance to the research questions and the quality of their analysis. The review also included reports and policy documents from international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

The results obtained:

Despite progress in recent years, women remain underrepresented in international trade. According to the International Trade Centre [6, page 14], only 1 in 5 exporting firms globally are led by women, and women-owned businesses account for less than 10% of total exports. Women also face barriers in accessing trade-related finance and skills, with women-owned businesses receiving only 1% of all commercial bank loans [7, page 9]. In developing countries, women make up 33% of the workforce of exporting firms, compared to just 24% in non-exporting firms, but they tend to be concentrated in low-skilled, low-wage jobs [8, page 61]. In addition, women are overrepresented in the informal sector, with up to 90% of women informally employed in Sub-Saharan Africa [8, page 2].

To improve women's inclusion in trade, targeted policies are needed, such as removing trade barriers that impede women's access to international markets, improving women's access to education and finance, and increasing the representation of women in trade negotiations and decision-making.

Trade policies have a significant impact on economic growth and development. However, gender inequalities continue to be a barrier to accessing the benefits of international trade. This article assesses the current state of gender equality in trade policy and its implications for inclusive economic growth. The article focuses on market access, tariff and non-tariff barriers, trade facilitation, and trade finance. It also explores the economic benefits of promoting gender equality in trade policy.

Market access is essential for promoting trade and economic growth. However, women face several barriers to accessing markets, such as discriminatory laws and regulations, lack of information and resources, and limited access to technology and infrastructure. Gender-specific market information and outreach programs can help women entrepreneurs and traders to access markets [1, p. 6]. Trade policies can also support women's entrepreneurship and encourage the participation of women in the global economy [2, p. 46].

Tariff and non-tariff barriers are significant obstacles to trade. Women face additional barriers, such as gender-based discrimination and limited access to credit and financing. Tariff reductions and elimination can increase women's access to markets and reduce the gender gap in trade [2, p. 65]. Non-tariff barriers, such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical regulations, and customs procedures, can also be a barrier to trade. Trade policies can address these barriers by promoting transparency, simplifying procedures, and ensuring compliance with international standards [3, p. 23].

Trade facilitation measures can reduce transaction costs and increase trade. However, women face several challenges in accessing trade facilitation services, such as limited access to information and technology, and inadequate infrastructure. Trade policies can address these challenges by promoting the use of technology and simplifying trade procedures. Women can also benefit from gender-sensitive trade facilitation measures, such as gender-specific information and training, and the participation of women in trade-related decision-making [4, p. 42].

Access to finance is essential for promoting trade and economic growth. However, women face several barriers to accessing finance, such as limited collateral and credit history. Trade finance can address these barriers by providing women with access to credit and trade finance instruments, such as letters of credit and guarantees. Trade policies can also support the development of gender-specific

trade finance products and encourage financial institutions to adopt gender-sensitive lending practices [1, p. 17].

Promoting gender equality in trade policy can have significant economic benefits, such as increasing productivity and competitiveness, promoting innovation, and reducing poverty. Women's participation in trade can also lead to social benefits, such as increased gender equality, improved health and education outcomes, and reduced gender-based violence. Gender-sensitive trade policies can help to realize these economic and social benefits and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals [6, p. 9].

CONCLUZII/RECOMANDĂRI

Based on the results of this research, it is clear that promoting gender equality in trade policy can have significant economic benefits. To achieve this, policymakers should consider implementing gender-sensitive trade policies that address the barriers faced by women in accessing international trade. This can include measures such as the removal of trade barriers, the provision of trade-related technical assistance, the promotion of women-owned businesses, the simplification of customs procedures, and the use of technology in trade.

Furthermore, policymakers should prioritize the inclusion of women in trade negotiations and ensure that their voices are heard. This can help to ensure that trade policies are gender-sensitive and that they reflect the needs and interests of women in the economy.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of gender equality in trade policy and its implications for inclusive economic growth. By promoting gender equality in trade policy, policymakers can help to create a more equitable and prosperous economy for all.

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