

# Small and Medium Enterprises and Their Role in Reducing Labor Migration Case Study: Afghanistan

Zabihullah Wahab<sup>1</sup>, Abubakr Madaqiq<sup>2</sup>, Hidayatullah Qazi<sup>3</sup>

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## Abstract

*Migration is considered one of the most significant social phenomena in human societies, shaped and expanded by a range of factors. Among these, unemployment and economic hardship are recognized as major drivers of migration in developing countries. The present study aims to examine the relationship between employment conditions, particularly the availability and development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the level of labor migration. Specifically, it explores the extent to which the lack of job opportunities in the SME sector in Afghanistan contributes to the migration of individuals abroad, particularly among the youth and the working-age population.*

*This research employs a descriptive analytical and statistical methodology. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire developed by the author. The study population primarily consists of two groups: the first group includes individuals who migrated due to unemployment and the absence of suitable job opportunities, while the second group comprises those who, owing to their involvement in small and medium enterprises within the country, exhibited less inclination to migrate. The comparison between these groups was designed to assess the impact of employment status on migration tendencies. In addition, theoretical support was drawn from library resources, and the collected data was analyzed using SPSS software along with Google Forms tools. This approach enabled precise statistical analysis and a deeper understanding of the variables under investigation.*

*The findings reveal a direct and significant relationship between the unemployment rate and the shortage of employment opportunities in the SME sector, and the rise in labor migration. These results suggest that the absence of sustainable employment opportunities compels individuals to leave their place of residence in search of better prospects in other countries or regions. Accordingly, the targeted development and support of small and medium enterprises can be regarded as an effective strategy to reduce migration rates and retain human capital within the country.*

**Keywords:** *Small and Medium Enterprises, Labor Migration, Unemployment, Job Opportunities*

<sup>1</sup>. Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, Salam University – Kabul. 0708793717. [zabihullah.w123@gmail.com](mailto:zabihullah.w123@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>. Department of Law, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Salam University, and PhD candidate in Private Law, Islamic Azad University, Mashhad Branch. 0789701386, [a.madaqiq21@gmail.com](mailto:a.madaqiq21@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>. Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, Salam University – Kabul.