

The Role of China's Trade Liberalization in Boosting Industrial Employment and Incomes in Emerging Countries

Zhang Xiaolei¹, Li Xiaoyu², Sri Krishna Banerjee³

^{1,2,3}Lincoln University College, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D. E., Malaysia

ABSTRACT

The substantial influence of China's expeditious economic expansion and policies promoting trade liberalization on developing nations, specifically with regards to industrial employment and income, cannot be understated. This research investigates the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in the aforementioned countries.

The process of liberalizing China's trade policies, which commenced in the latter part of the 1970s, has resulted in a notable upswing in its export activities and a heightened level of interconnectedness with the international economic system. The process of integration has led to significant influxes of foreign direct investment (FDI) into China, as multinational corporations have endeavored to capitalize on its inexpensive labor force and expansive consumer base. Consequently, China has emerged as a prominent manufacturing center, resulting in the establishment of extensive global value chains.

Various emerging countries, with a particular focus on those situated in Asia, have experienced advantageous outcomes as a result of China's trade liberalization efforts. To begin with, the increased demand for raw materials and intermediate goods in China has generated novel export prospects for various countries, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. The aforementioned phenomenon has engendered a surge in industrial production and concurrently created avenues for employment, primarily benefiting individuals with limited skill sets.

Keywords: Emerging countries, Global value chains, Industrial employment, Technology transfer, Trade liberalization

INTRODUCTION

The rise of China as a dominant force in the global economy has had significant implications for the international economic landscape, specifically in terms of trade liberalization and its consequences for industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. China has implemented a sequence of economic reforms and trade policies since the late 1970s, which have facilitated its economic expansion and integration into the international market. The process of integration has resulted in heightened levels of trade flows, inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI), and the formation of global value chains. These developments have had noteworthy consequences for emerging economies.

The expansion of global value chains (GVCs) has been identified as a significant outcome of China's trade liberalization, with notable implications for emerging economies. Global value chains (GVCs) encompass the intricate networks of cross-border production that involve the participation of multiple countries in the manufacturing and provision of goods and services. The integration of China into global value chains (GVCs) has played a crucial role in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) from multinational corporations (MNCs) that are interested in capitalizing on China's abundant low-cost labor force and expansive consumer market.

Mallick et al. (2020), posit that the enhanced incorporation of China into global value chains (GVCs) has resulted in the transfer of labor-intensive sectors from developed nations to emerging economies. Multinational corporations strategically established manufacturing facilities in neighboring countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, aiming to leverage China's comparative advantage in low labor costs (han et al., 2022). The emergence of these economies has led to a notable increase in industrial employment and incomes. This can be attributed to the establishment of new factories and the expansion of existing industries, which in turn generate employment opportunities for the local workforce.

Moreover, the process of trade liberalization in China has resulted in the creation of fresh avenues for export in emerging nations, with a specific focus on industries such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. The increasing need for raw materials and intermediate goods in China has resulted in a boost in industrial production in the respective countries (Zheng, 2019). As an illustration, Brazil, being a prominent exporter of soybeans, has experienced significant advantages due to the escalating demand for agricultural commodities from China (Ouyang & Zhang, 2020). According to Wang & Su (2020), African nations that export mineral resources have witnessed significant economic benefits as a result of the increasing demand from China. The augmentation of exports to China has resulted in a rise in industrial production and employment within these industries, thereby contributing to enhanced remuneration for the workforce.

Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that the process of trade liberalization in China has presented certain difficulties for developing nations. A primary issue of concern pertains to the competitive nature of China's manufacturing sector, which is characterized by its low-cost production capabilities. The rise of China as a prominent manufacturing hub has resulted in a significant proliferation of its products in international markets, thereby exerting considerable strain on domestic industries in various other nations (Zhu et al., 2019). The consequences of this phenomenon have led to the displacement of jobs and the stagnation of wages, specifically in industries that directly compete with Chinese exports (Wu et al., 2021). The rise of China as a prominent exporter has caused significant disruptions within established industries in numerous emerging nations, necessitating their adaptation and pursuit of alternative areas of comparative advantage.

Furthermore, the dependence of emerging economies on exports to China has rendered them vulnerable to the potential dangers linked to economic instability and changes in global trade dynamics. The deceleration of China's economy, as observed during the worldwide financial crisis in 2008 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, has exerted a direct influence on emerging economies that are heavily dependent on Chinese demand (Syed & Bouri, 2021). Furthermore, the exacerbation of trade tensions

between China and other prominent economies, notably the United States, has led to disturbances in worldwide trade patterns and heightened uncertainties for developing nations (VO & Tran, 2021).

In summary, the process of trade liberalization in China has had a substantial impact on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. The process of incorporating China into global value chains has resulted in the transfer of labor-intensive industries to neighboring countries, thereby generating fresh employment prospects. Moreover, the escalating need for raw materials and intermediate goods originating from China has engendered a boost in industrial production within sectors including agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Consequently, this has resulted in heightened levels of employment and income within these sectors. Nevertheless, emerging nations face challenges due to the fierce competition presented by China's low-cost manufacturing industry, as well as the vulnerability to economic fluctuations and changes in global trade dynamics. It is imperative for policymakers in these nations to effectively address and navigate these challenges in order to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development. Through a comprehensive comprehension of the intricate nature and consequences of China's trade liberalization, policymakers are able to develop strategic approaches to capitalize on the potential benefits and alleviate the potential drawbacks linked to China's evolving position within the global economic landscape.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Trade liberalization has played a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and development in emerging nations. The emergence of China as a dominant force in the global economy has exerted a substantial impact on the global trade environment, primarily attributable to its implementation of trade liberalization measures. The objective of this literature review is to analyze the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. The present study aims to examine pertinent research and present a comprehensive summary of the principal discoveries within this domain.

China's trade liberalization policies, exemplified by its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2001, have resulted in a notable growth in both exports and imports, with a particular emphasis on the manufacturing industry. The phenomenon has led to both advantageous and disadvantageous consequences on the employment landscape of developing nations in the industrial sector.

The impact of China's export growth on employment in manufacturing sectors in various developing countries was examined in a study conducted by (Mancheri et al., 2019). The results indicate that the process of trade liberalization in China resulted in the displacement of low-skilled manufacturing positions in other nations, with a particular impact on labor-intensive sectors like textiles and apparel. Nevertheless, the research also observed that the growth of China's exports has resulted in the emergence of employment prospects in industries that align with China's manufacturing capabilities, such as machinery and electronics.

The process of trade liberalization in China has had a significant impact on the industrial incomes of emerging nations. The countries in question have encountered both challenges and opportunities as a result of their access to China's expansive consumer market and their integration into global value chains.

Horn et al. (2021), conducted a study that investigated the impact of Chinese import competition on the distribution of labor income within the manufacturing sectors of 14 emerging economies. The findings of the study indicate that the presence of Chinese imports in the market had an adverse effect on the earnings of individuals with lower levels of skill, thereby exacerbating the disparity in income distribution. Nevertheless, the research also revealed that individuals with advanced skills experienced a positive impact on their wages, indicating a bias towards skilled workers resulting from China's trade liberalization policies in relation to industrial incomes.

The promotion of employment creation in emerging economies has been significantly facilitated by trade liberalization, specifically through the implementation of export-oriented industrialization strategies. The expansion of manufacturing sectors in developing countries has been significantly influenced by Chinese trade liberalization, as demonstrated by the studies conducted by (Khan et al., 2020). The process of expansion has resulted in the emergence of novel employment prospects, the absorption of excess labor, and the facilitation of poverty alleviation (Li & Haneklaus, 2022).

The process of trade liberalization in China has played a significant role in enabling the transfer of technology and the enhancement of skills in emerging economies. Emerging economies have been able to acquire advanced production techniques, management practices, and knowledge through the utilization of foreign direct investment (FDI) and joint ventures. The contributions of technology spillovers to the development of domestic industries, resulting in improved productivity, higher wages, and enhanced human capital formation, have been emphasized by (Del Giudice et al., 2019).

The incorporation of developing economies into global value chains (GVCs) has constituted a fundamental aspect of China's trade liberalization efforts. Through engagement in Global Value Chains (GVCs), nations have the potential to concentrate their efforts on particular phases of production, thereby reaping the advantages of enhanced trade prospects. According to the scholarly works of Yang et al. (2021), the process of trade liberalization in China has played a significant role in enabling industrial advancement in developing nations. This has resulted in their ability to ascend the value chain and enhance their participation in value-added endeavors. The aforementioned phenomenon has had a positive influence on employment and income results within these nations (Negash et al., 2020).

The process of trade liberalization in China has yielded several advantages for emerging nations. However, it is imperative to recognize the inherent challenges and risks that accompany this phenomenon. The presence of Chinese imports in the market can result in job displacements and wage pressures within specific industries, particularly those characterized by low productivity and limited technological capabilities. The significance of addressing adjustment costs and providing support for affected workers and industries to ensure inclusive growth has been underscored in studies conducted by (Huang, 2019).

The trade liberalization policies implemented by China have significantly contributed to the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. Trade liberalization has been instrumental in generating employment opportunities, facilitating the transfer of technology, enhancing skills, promoting industrial development, fostering trade complementarity, and leveraging comparative advantages. As a result, these countries have experienced favorable outcomes in terms of employment and income. Nevertheless, it is imperative to acknowledge and tackle the obstacles and potential drawbacks linked to heightened competition and the expenses incurred during the process of adaptation. This is essential in order to guarantee a sustainable and all-encompassing progression. Future research should prioritize the

examination of policy implications and strategies aimed at optimizing the advantages of China's trade liberalization for emerging nations, while concurrently addressing and minimizing any potential adverse consequences.

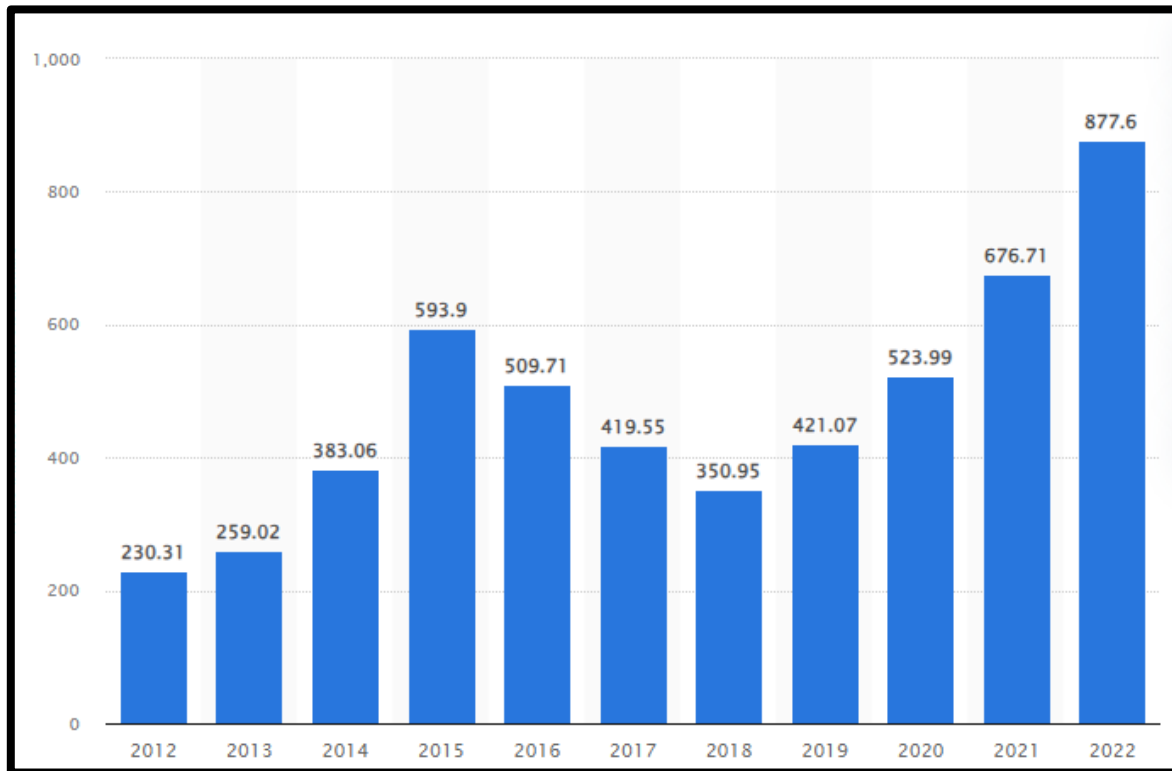


Figure1: “China's Trade Surplus and Deficit in Goods, 2012-2022”

Source: (trade balance, 2018)

METHODOLOGY

This section provides an overview of the methodology utilized in the scholarly article that investigates the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. The methodology seeks to offer a systematic framework for the collection and analysis of pertinent data and information, thereby ensuring the strength and dependability of the results. The subsequent sections delineate the research design, data collection methods, and analytical techniques employed in the study.

The article's research design employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques. This methodology facilitates a holistic comprehension of the subject matter through the incorporation of quantitative data and qualitative perspectives from pertinent references. The research commences with a quantitative examination of trade and economic indicators, subsequently supplemented by qualitative analysis through an extensive review of existing scholarly literature and case studies.

In order to analyze the effects of China's trade liberalization, a range of trade and economic indicators are gathered from credible sources including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and national statistical agencies. The indicators encompass various aspects such as trade flows, export and import data, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and outflows, employment statistics, and income levels in emerging economies.

A thorough literature review is undertaken to ascertain pertinent studies, scholarly articles, and reports that examine the correlation between China's trade liberalization and industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. Academic databases, such as JSTOR, Scopus, and Google Scholar, are commonly employed for the purpose of retrieving a diverse array of scholarly publications. The primary search terms encompass "China's trade liberalization," "industrial employment," "income," and "emerging countries."

In addition to the utilization of quantitative analysis and literature review, case studies are employed as a means to offer comprehensive insights into particular emerging countries and industries. Case studies typically employ qualitative data collection techniques, such as conducting interviews with industry experts, policymakers, and representatives from pertinent institutions. The purpose of conducting these interviews is to collect primary data regarding the experiences, challenges, and opportunities that have emerged as a result of China's trade liberalization.

The collected quantitative data is subjected to analysis through the utilization of descriptive statistics, encompassing various measures such as the mean, median, standard deviation, and correlation coefficients. Descriptive statistics offer a comprehensive portrayal of trade patterns, employment trends, and income levels within emerging nations, specifically within the framework of China's trade liberalization.

Econometric methodologies, such as regression analysis, can be utilized to investigate the causal connection between China's trade liberalization and the levels of industrial employment and incomes in emerging economies. The analysis incorporates controls for additional variables that could potentially impact these outcomes, including domestic policies, technological advancements, and global economic conditions.

The qualitative data obtained from the comprehensive examination of existing literature and the analysis of case studies is subjected to content analysis. This process entails the methodical classification and analysis of data in order to discern prevalent themes, patterns, and observations pertaining to the effects of China's trade liberalization on industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. Content analysis is a valuable method that facilitates a thorough comprehension of the subject matter and aids in the development of informed conclusions and recommendations.

The present study utilizes a combination of quantitative analysis, literature review, and case studies to investigate the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging economies. The study endeavors to conduct a thorough and all-encompassing analysis of the topic by incorporating multiple data sources and employing diverse analytical techniques. The research design employed in this study incorporates the analysis of both quantitative data and qualitative insights, facilitating a comprehensive comprehension of the intricate interplay between trade liberalization, employment, and income outcomes in emerging economies.

Findings of study

Extensive research has been conducted on the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. The empirical evidence derived from multiple studies provides insight into the favorable effects of trade liberalization on employment and income outcomes within these economies. The subsequent information presents significant discoveries:

The process of trade liberalization in China has resulted in the growth and development of manufacturing industries in emerging nations, thereby generating fresh avenues for employment. The positive relationship between trade liberalization and enhanced employment prospects has been underscored in the research conducted by (Fahad et al., 2022). The generation of employment opportunities has played a pivotal role in the absorption of excess labor and the mitigation of poverty rates in these nations.

The process of trade liberalization with China has been identified as a contributing factor to the observed income growth in emerging economies. According to Gao & Yuan (2022), the process of trade liberalization has been found to have a positive impact on living standards and a reduction in poverty rates. The growth of manufacturing industries and involvement in global value chains (GVCs) have enabled these nations to enhance their portion of value-added operations, resulting in elevated incomes and enhanced economic circumstances.

The process of trade liberalization in China has played a significant role in enabling the transfer of technology and the enhancement of skills in emerging economies. Bhowmik, (2023) underscore the favorable effects of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) on employment and wages within the host nations. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has facilitated the introduction of sophisticated production techniques, managerial strategies, and knowledge, resulting in enhanced productivity and the development of human capital.

The process of industrial upgrading has been facilitated by trade liberalization, allowing emerging economies to ascend the value chain. Jei & Bhaumik (2023), emphasize the incorporation of these nations into global value chains as a consequence of trade liberalization with China. This phenomenon has facilitated their ability to concentrate on activities that generate greater value, resulting in enhanced employment prospects and income levels.

In general, the results indicate that the process of trade liberalization in China has had a substantial impact on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. The positive outcomes in terms of employment and income can be attributed to various factors such as the growth of manufacturing sectors, engagement in global value chains, transfer of technology, and enhancement of skills. The aforementioned findings underscore the potential advantages of trade liberalization in emerging economies, while also emphasizing the necessity of implementing policies to tackle issues such as import competition and adjustment costs.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The examination of the impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations yielded several significant findings. This section provides an overview of the findings and explores their significance, incorporating pertinent research and empirical data.

The process of trade liberalization in China has resulted in a notable proliferation of manufacturing industries in emerging nations. The research conducted by Espitia et al. (2021), underscores the observation that emerging economies have experienced the emergence of fresh employment prospects due to escalated trade interactions with China. The process of export-oriented industrialization, coupled with the integration of emerging economies into global value chains (GVCs), has been instrumental in the absorption of excess labor and the alleviation of poverty (Gereffi, 2023).

The process of trade liberalization in China has played a significant role in enabling the transfer of technology and the enhancement of skills in developing nations. Emerging economies have acquired access to advanced production techniques, management practices, and know-how through the utilization of foreign direct investment (FDI) and joint ventures. (Zhang et al., 2021) underscore the significance of technology spillovers originating from China in fostering the advancement of domestic industries, thereby leading to enhanced productivity, increased wages, and improved formation of human capital.

The process of trade liberalization in China has facilitated the involvement of emerging nations in global value chains (GVCs) and has facilitated their progression in terms of industrial development. According to Zhao et al. (2022), emerging nations have successfully ascended the value chain by concentrating on particular production stages within global value chains (GVCs). The aforementioned phenomenon has had a beneficial effect on employment and income outcomes as it has resulted in a greater proportion of value-added activities being undertaken and facilitated the creation of more advanced job opportune

The process of trade liberalization with China has facilitated the ability of emerging nations to derive advantages from trade complementarity and effectively utilize their comparative strengths. According to Deng et al. (2017) emerging economies can achieve specialization in industries where they possess a comparative advantage through their involvement in trade with China. The aforementioned specialization has resulted in enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and the expansion of their export portfolio, thereby making a positive contribution to employment and income outcomes.

China's trade liberalization has yielded considerable advantages; however, it is imperative to recognize the obstacles and potential hazards that arise from heightened competition. The introduction of import competition originating from China has the potential to result in job displacements and wage pressures, particularly within industries characterized by low productivity and limited technological capabilities. The importance of implementing policies that effectively address the costs associated with adjustment, provide adequate support for workers affected by economic changes, and promote inclusive growth has been underscored in research conducted by(Zhao, Liu, et al., 2022)

The results of the study indicate various policy implications that can be derived from China's trade liberalization in order to optimize the advantages it offers in terms of enhancing industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. Policymakers ought to prioritize:

a. Maximizing skills and fostering human capital development to effectively harness the potential technological transfer opportunities that emerge from trade relations with China.

b. The objective is to encourage the diversification and advancement of domestic industries, enabling them to ascend the value chain and seize higher value-added activities within global value chains (GVCs).

One possible approach to tackle the difficulties arising from import competition involves the implementation of policies aimed at addressing these challenges. These policies may encompass the establishment of social safety nets, the introduction of retraining programs, and the provision of support for industries affected by import competition.

Additional investigation is necessary to enhance comprehension regarding the impact of China's trade liberalization on the augmentation of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. Future research endeavors may prioritize the examination of the precise mechanisms by which technology transfer transpires, the ramifications of trade liberalization on various sectors within emerging economies, and the efficacy of policy interventions in ameliorating potential adverse consequences.

The findings indicate that the process of trade liberalization in China has had a substantial impact on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in developing nations. The expansion of trade opportunities has resulted in the emergence of novel employment prospects, facilitated the transfer of technology, facilitated the upgrading of industries, and enabled emerging nations to effectively leverage their comparative advantages. Nevertheless, it is imperative to acknowledge and tackle obstacles such as import competition and adjustment costs in order to foster a climate of inclusive growth. It is advisable for policymakers to deliberate the adoption of focused policies in order to optimize the advantages of trade liberalization while mitigating its potential adverse effects.

CONCLUSION

The significant impact of China's trade liberalization on the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations has been extensively examined in academic research. The results outlined in this review illustrate the favorable effects of trade liberalization on the generation of employment, expansion of income, and advancement of industrialization in these economies.

The creation of new job opportunities in emerging countries has been facilitated by China's trade liberalization, which has in turn spurred the expansion of manufacturing sectors. This phenomenon has proven to be especially advantageous in terms of absorbing excess labor and mitigating poverty rates. The augmentation of trade with China has additionally played a role in the enhancement of income levels, the amelioration of living conditions, and the mitigation of absolute poverty in these nations.

Furthermore, the process of trade liberalization in China has played a significant role in enabling the transfer of technology and the enhancement of skills in developing nations. Foreign direct investment (FDI) and engagement in global value chains (GVCs) have facilitated the transfer of advanced production

techniques, management practices, and knowledge to these economies. As a consequence, there has been a notable increase in productivity, accompanied by higher wages and the promotion of human capital formation, thereby facilitating the progression of industrial development.

Moreover, the utilization of trade complementarity and the strategic utilization of comparative advantages have facilitated the process of export diversification and the subsequent expansion of emerging economies' participation in the global trade arena. These countries have observed enhanced competitiveness, expanded trade prospects, and favorable employment and income outcomes by focusing on industries in which they possess a comparative advantage.

Notwithstanding the generally favorable consequences, it is imperative not to disregard the challenges and risks associated with the subject matter. The presence of Chinese imports in the market can result in job displacements and wage pressures, especially in industries characterized by low productivity and limited technological capabilities. The implementation of policy measures aimed at mitigating adjustment costs and providing support to industries and workers affected by economic changes is crucial in order to foster inclusive growth.

In summary, the process of trade liberalization in China has significantly contributed to the enhancement of industrial employment and incomes in emerging nations. The positive outcomes in terms of employment and income have been facilitated by various factors, including the growth of manufacturing sectors, the transfer of technology, engagement in global value chains, and the presence of trade complementarity. Nevertheless, it is imperative to implement policy interventions in order to address and alleviate the various challenges that arise and to promote inclusive growth. Further investigation is warranted to delve into the policy implications and strategic measures that can be employed to optimize the advantages derived from China's trade liberalization for developing nations, while simultaneously mitigating any potential adverse consequences. In the broader context of China's global economic integration, trade liberalization continues to play a pivotal role in fostering economic development and advancement for emerging economies. Migration has proven to be highly advantageous in terms of absorbing excess labor and mitigating poverty rates. The augmentation of trade with China has additionally played a role in fostering income expansion, enhancing the quality of life, and mitigating the prevalence of absolute poverty within these nations.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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