

Research Proposal

Examining the Effects of Logistics Gig Work on Uzbekistan's Youth and Economy

Mirziyo Muhammadiyev

1. The Research Question

Is it a positive or a negative trend for Uzbek youth to work in US-oriented logistics in terms of economic and social effects?

2. Research Methods

The research will utilize mixed-methods, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection. Firstly, a survey will be conducted among employees and employers of logistics firms in Uzbekistan, aiming to yield both quantitative and qualitative information on average age, level of education, and—essentially—satisfaction levels. A group of professionals with direct work or research experience in the logistics sphere of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be selected and invited to online or offline interviews to yield larger sample-size statistics and a deeper qualitative context on the topic of the study. Finally, several trustworthy resources, such as research papers, national news channels, and official open-source documents, will be analyzed to create a theoretical framework and gain relevant quantitative statistics. The legitimacy of resources is evaluated by the number of citations and verification marks on government documents.

3. Academic Context

English Language proficiency in Uzbekistan is among the lowest, so when a young person achieves a high score in international English exams such as IELTS, TOEFL, DET, and others, he/she is often considered an academically advanced student, receiving subsidiary points in national university exams and even monetary rewards. Big future academic commitments are expected from such

young individuals. However, they seem to prioritize instant rewards of gig work, sacrificing their academic performance, career potential, and physical and mental health. Promised \$1000-\$3000 monthly salaries attract them more than long-term career or academic success because those salaries are 2-6 times higher than the average salaries of Uzbek employees with years of experience.

But when we remember that those young gig workers toil in 8-hour night shifts because of time differences in the US, we understand that they are actually getting underpaid by US standards for their such commitment and risk to their health. They mostly choose the US logistics market to work in due to higher demand and salaries, changing their lifestyles to unnatural nocturnal ones.

It is clear that the Uzbek logistics firms with predominantly young workers certainly bring significant income to both the Uzbek economy and the US companies working with those firms. The goal of this study is to see whether the benefits of this trend outweigh the problems it may cause or not.

4. How Your Research Fits

There is a visible gap in the investigation of the US truck logistics market's effect on the Uzbek economy, education, and labor market. Possible reasons for this gap are its limited relevance to Central Asian countries and the absence of active research groups in Uzbekistan acknowledging this topic, yet logistics rush among youth has only been rising in popularity.

5. Timeline

Week	Week Goal
Week 1	Kickoff the survey
Week 2	Write a complete Research Outline
Week 3	Stop the survey; analyze the results
Week 4	Conduct and analyze the interviews

Week 5	Explore relevant studies, research papers, articles, documents, statistics, news; analyze for triangulation
Week 6	Finish the first half of a Draft Paper
Week 7	Complete the First Draft of the paper
Week 8	Revise the first draft based on peer-reviewed feedback, improving structure and strengthening citations
Week 9	Complete the final draft with the professional review feedbacks
Week 10	Search for the fitting journal to publish in
Week 11	Do the final proofreading and formatting to ensure adherence to the journal guidelines
Week 12	Submit the Final Paper

6. Publication Goals

Given the research's unique insight into the socioeconomic effects of logistics trends on Uzbekistan, it is planned to be published in a number of popular journals from both Uzbekistan and Central Asia to reach a broader audience. The potential journals for a publication are Journal of Central Asia Economy, The Innovation Economy (Uzbekistan), Labor Economics and Human Capital, Ijtimoiy Fikr, and more to be explored.

7. Roadblocks and Concerns

Some possible concerns regarding the research process are the scarcity of economic statistics illustrating the impact of logistics on the Uzbek economy, the unavailability of the interview candidates, and the insufficiency of the survey responses, which produce weak results that are hardly applicable to bigger samples. To address the lack of economic statistics, the study will triangulate

data from alternative sources such as company reports, job postings, and international databases, while using estimated models to approximate logistics' contribution to the economy. To overcome interview candidate unavailability, partnerships with logistics firms and professional associations will be established, and flexible online or asynchronous interviews will be offered to increase participation. Finally, to mitigate the issue of a small survey sample, the survey will be distributed through multiple online platforms and social networks, supported by incentives and snowball sampling to expand reach and ensure stronger quantitative validity.