

# **Social Protection in the Era of Neoliberalism:**

## **An Empirical Study of Small Enterprises' Workers in Fayoum City<sup>(\*)</sup>**

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### **Abstract:**

The present study aims to detect the availability of different indicators of social protection of the small enterprises' workers in the era of neoliberalism. These indicators include: work contract, health and social insurance, paid leave, job security and work stability, the availability of opportunities for career progression and wage increase in the future, and health and safety in the workplace. A social survey was conducted to collect data from (200) small enterprises' workers in Fayoum City using questionnaire, taking into account the diversity of activities of these enterprises in three economic sectors: trade, services, and industry. The study found that there are shortcomings in most social protection indicators among workers, as they lack work contract that defines the relationship between them and the employer, and they don't have health and social insurance, paid leave, as well as most of them don't feel stability and job security at work.

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(\*) This research is extracted from a PhD in Sociology presented by the researcher about "Decent Work in the Era of Neoliberalism: An Evaluative Study of Small Enterprises' Workers in Fayoum City", Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Fayoum University, Egypt. 2015.