



Water Quality Management Mechanisms in Urban Fishing Communities of Lagos, Nigeria: An Ethnographic Study

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Abstract

Urban fishing communities in Lagos, Nigeria face significant challenges related to water quality management due to rapid urbanization and inadequate infrastructure. An ethnographic study was conducted involving participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with stakeholders in three fishing communities over a year-long period. Participants reported that while community-led initiatives have improved water quality management to some extent (70% of respondents), they often encounter resource constraints and lack formal recognition from local authorities. Despite challenges, urban fishing communities exhibit resilience in managing water quality through informal mechanisms. Formal integration could enhance their effectiveness and sustainability. Local authorities should recognise and support these community-led initiatives by providing technical assistance and resources to ensure long-term viability.

Keywords: *Geographic, Urbanization, Community-Based, Sustainability, Participatory, Ethnography, Water Scarcity*

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