



Eco-Friendly Textile Dyeing Processes in Southern Malawi Communities: Adoption Rates and Pollution Reduction

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Abstract

Southern Malawi communities are facing environmental challenges due to traditional textile dyeing practices that contribute significantly to water pollution. A participatory action research approach was employed involving interviews, focus groups, and baseline surveys to gather data from 100 participants across five districts. Data analysis used thematic content analysis for qualitative insights. Eco-friendly dyeing processes were adopted by 75% of respondents, with a notable preference for natural dyes over synthetic ones, indicating community-led environmental stewardship trends. The research underscores the potential of cultural engagement in promoting sustainable textile practices that reduce pollution without compromising traditional skills or economic viability. Promote public-private partnerships to fund training and resources for eco-friendly dyeing processes, alongside community education programmes focused on sustainability goals. Eco-Friendly Textile Dyeing, Southern Malawi Communities, Pollution Reduction, Cultural Sustainability

Keywords: *African Geography, Participatory Action Research, Sustainable Textile Production, Community-Based Initiatives, Ecological Stewardship, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Environmental Sustainability*

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