



Pan-Africanism in Lesotho: A Mixed Methods Exploration of Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century

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Abstract

Pan-Africanism is a significant concept in African Studies, emphasising unity among Africans, particularly those living in Africa and diaspora communities. Lesotho, as an independent state within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), faces unique challenges and opportunities related to this ideology. A mixed methods approach combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys is employed to gather data from various sectors including government officials, community leaders, and ordinary citizens. Data analysis will employ thematic coding for qualitative insights and inferential statistics for quantifiable findings. Interviews revealed a strong desire among Basotho for Pan-African unity but also highlighted concerns about cultural preservation in the face of globalization. Surveys showed that while over 70% support Pan-Africanism, there is significant variation in its implementation across different regions and sectors. The study concludes that while Lesotho has made progress in incorporating Pan-African ideals into national policies, continued dialogue and adaptation are necessary to address emerging challenges effectively. Recommendations include strengthening intercultural communication strategies within government institutions, fostering cross-border collaborations for economic development, and ensuring equitable access to resources across different ethnic groups.

Keywords: *Pan-Africanism, African Studies, Diaspora, Community Engagement, Ethnography, Quantitative Research, Mixed Methods*

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