



African Philosophy in Malawi: Contributions to Global Ethical Debates

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Abstract

African philosophy has emerged as a significant field of study within global ethical debates, with Malawi serving as an important case study due to its unique cultural and historical contexts. The research employs a thematic analysis of existing literature and interviews with scholars and practitioners who engage with African philosophy in Malawian contexts. Data collection focuses on secondary sources from academic journals, books, and relevant publications, supplemented by semi-structured interviews to gather insights from key informants. Themes such as ubuntu (community-oriented ethics) and chokwe (integrity and responsibility) are recurrent in philosophical discussions about Malawian values. Interviews revealed a strong emphasis on communal living and mutual support among the population, which aligns with these themes. The study concludes that African philosophy offers valuable insights into Malawi's ethical landscape, emphasising communal bonds and individual responsibility as foundational aspects of societal ethics. Policy makers should consider integrating elements from African philosophical traditions in their development strategies to enhance the resilience and sustainability of communities. Educators are encouraged to incorporate these philosophies into curricula to foster a deeper understanding of Malawian values among future generations.

Keywords: *African Studies, Ethnography, Hermeneutics, Postcolonial Theory, Philosophy of Culture, Qualitative Research, Cultural Anthropology*

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