



Cultural Adaptation and Resilience in Migrant Communities of Southern Africa: A Study in Senegal

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Abstract

Migrant communities in southern Africa often face challenges related to cultural adaptation and resilience due to geographical displacement and socio-economic conditions. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with 30 Senegalese migrants living in Southern Africa, observations of traditional housing construction practices, and document analysis of available literature related to vernacular architecture in the region. A significant theme emerged regarding the strategic use of local materials such as adobe and thatch which not only facilitate cost-effective construction but also enhance environmental sustainability and cultural identity. The findings highlight how migrant communities leverage their traditional building skills to create sustainable living spaces, thereby reinforcing community bonds and resilience in new environments. Policy makers should consider integrating vernacular architecture into urban planning strategies, providing resources for local materials sourcing, and fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer within migrant communities.

Keywords: *Geographic, Migration, Adaptation, Resilience, Community, Qualitative, Theory*

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