



Innovation Hubs within Kigali's Startup Ecosystem: An Ethnographic Exploration in Rwanda,

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Abstract

In Rwanda, Kigali has emerged as a significant hub for innovation within Africa's startup ecosystem. This study aims to explore the development and characteristics of these hubs in detail. This study employs ethnographic methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis to gather insights from key stakeholders involved in these hubs. A notable finding is the prevalence of informal networking among entrepreneurs, which significantly influences their access to resources and markets. This phenomenon represents a core aspect of the startup ecosystem dynamics within Kigali's innovation hubs. The ethnographic exploration reveals that innovation hubs in Kigali are pivotal nodes for fostering entrepreneurial activities by facilitating knowledge exchange and resource sharing. Recommendations suggest enhancing formal support structures to complement existing informal networks, thereby amplifying the ecosystem's effectiveness in driving innovation.

Keywords: *African innovation hubs, startup ecosystems, ethnographic methods, Rwanda geography, socio-economic factors, community networks, entrepreneurial culture*

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