



Digital Platforms and Civic Engagement Among Nigerian Urban Informal Settlement Residents: A Theoretical Framework on Voting Participation Rates

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Abstract

Digital platforms have become increasingly prevalent in modern societies, offering new avenues for civic engagement beyond traditional mechanisms such as voting. In Nigeria's urban informal settlements, where access to formal political channels is limited or non-existent, digital platforms present an alternative means of participation and influence. The approach will be conceptual rather than empirical, employing existing literature and theories from political science, sociology, and communication studies to construct an analytical model. A comprehensive theoretical framework is proposed, which can guide future research and policy initiatives aimed at leveraging digital platforms for greater civic participation in Nigeria's urban informal settlements. Future studies should focus on developing targeted digital interventions that specifically address the unique challenges faced by urban informal settlement residents. Policy makers may also consider implementing policies to support these platforms as a means of enhancing democratic inclusion.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Urbanization, Digital Divide, Participatory Governance, Empowerment Studies, Quantitative Analysis, Social Capital*

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