



Innovation Hubs and Startups in Kigali: An Ethnographic Study of African Ecosystems, 2009

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Abstract

This ethnographic study explores the development of innovation hubs and startup ecosystems in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. Data was collected through participant observation and semi-structured interviews with entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers. The study adopted an ethnographic approach for deep immersion into the local context. A notable finding is that innovation hubs have successfully incubated over 50 startups in Kigali's technology sector, significantly contributing to job creation and economic growth. The findings suggest that policy support and community engagement are critical for sustaining these ecosystems. Local governments should invest more in infrastructure and mentorship programmes to enhance the startup ecosystem's impact.

Keywords: *Africanization, Entrepreneurship, Ethnography, Innovation, Localisation, Networks, Startups*

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