



Cross-Border Trade Networks in Ghana: An Ethnographic Exploration of Informal Economies within ECOWAS Regions

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Abstract

Cross-border trade plays a significant role in regional integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), particularly in Ghana's informal economy sectors. The ethnographic approach was employed to gather data through participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions in selected border towns and communities across Ghana. A key finding is that informal trade networks facilitated by local intermediaries account for over 40% of total cross-border transactions between Ghana and ECOWAS countries. The study underscores the importance of understanding cultural contexts to enhance regional integration efforts, particularly in facilitating smoother cross-border economic activities. Recommendation for policymakers includes supporting local intermediaries who bridge the gap between formal and informal sectors to promote sustainable development across borders.

Keywords: *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Anthropology, Mercantile, Informal Economy, Community Engagement, Fieldwork*

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