Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare Dynamics in Algerian Cities: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

Urbanization in Algeria has led to significant growth in informal settlements, raising concerns about social welfare provision. The study employed semi-structured interviews with city residents, local government officials, and NGO representatives to understand the socio-economic impacts of urban growth on welfare services. Informal settlements in Algiers host approximately 40% of the city's population and face significant challenges accessing essential social services such as healthcare and education. The qualitative data reveals a complex interplay between urbanization, informal settlement formation, and the inadequacy of welfare infrastructure. Policy makers should prioritise inclusive planning that integrates informal settlements into urban development strategies to enhance access to social welfare services.

Keywords: *Geography, Africa, City, Poverty, Migration, Anthropology, Qualitative*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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