



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Tanzania: An Action Research Study

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Abstract

Youth identity in urban Tanzania is shaped by socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, and political engagement opportunities. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including surveys of 300 young people and focus group discussions with 25 participants from diverse backgrounds. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis for qualitative data. Youth identified a strong sense of collective identity as crucial for political engagement, particularly among those who perceive themselves to be part of an oppressed or marginalized community. However, limited access to information about available political opportunities was noted as a significant barrier to participation. The findings suggest that fostering inclusive political dialogue and enhancing youth awareness programmes can improve their political participation in urban settings. Initiatives should focus on creating platforms for open discussion of political issues and ensuring equitable access to information about local governance structures.

Keywords: *Urban, Tanzania, Youth, Social-Ecology, Participatory, Community, Engagement*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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