



Regional Economic Blocs in Ethiopia: A Mixed Methods Comparative Study

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Abstract

Regional economic blocs are emerging as a significant trend in Africa's development strategy, with Ethiopia playing a pivotal role in this dynamic. The research utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Qualitative data includes interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders, while quantitative data is derived from secondary sources such as government reports and international databases. A notable trend identified in the study is the high level of engagement (85%) among small and medium-sized enterprises in regional economic blocs, indicating a strong interest in collaborative efforts. The mixed methods approach has allowed for a nuanced understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with regional economic blocs in Ethiopia, offering insights that can inform future policy development. Policy makers are encouraged to enhance collaboration frameworks and provide more targeted support to small enterprises within these blocs to maximise their potential.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Sub-Saharan, Comparative, Mixed Methods, Regional Blocs, Development Studies, Geopolitics*

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