



Impact of Community Development Initiatives on South African Township Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: A Three-Year Assessment

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Abstract

South African township economies are characterized by a high concentration of small businesses and entrepreneurship initiatives aimed at fostering local economic growth. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating quantitative survey data and qualitative interviews with entrepreneurs and stakeholders to comprehensively assess the effects of these initiatives. Community development projects significantly enhanced business skills training programmes among township entrepreneurs, leading to a 45% increase in participants' confidence levels in their entrepreneurial ventures compared to baseline measurements over three years. The findings underscore the critical role of community support and capacity-building programmes in nurturing sustainable entrepreneurship within South African townships. Policy makers should prioritise continuous investment in entrepreneur-focused training and mentorship programmes as a cornerstone for fostering robust township economies.

Keywords: *African Geography, Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, Community Development, Small Businesses, Microfinance, Mixed-Methods, Sustainability Assessment*

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