



Cultural Adaptation and Resilience in Migrant Communities of Southern Africa: A Focus on Central African Republic

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Abstract

Cultural adaptation and resilience among migrant communities in Southern Africa have been studied extensively, particularly in contexts where conflict or economic instability necessitates migration. The Central African Republic (CAR), with its history of political upheaval and inter-communal violence, presents a unique case study for examining how cultural factors influence the integration and survival of migrants. The study employs a qualitative approach, utilising participant observation and semi-structured interviews with local migrants and representatives of refugee organizations operating in CAR. Data analysis focuses on thematic categorization to uncover patterns of resilience. Findings indicate that the practice of intermarriage between different ethnic groups serves as a significant cultural bridge, facilitating social cohesion and trust among migrant communities. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent among women who often play pivotal roles in mediating interactions across diverse backgrounds. The findings suggest that fostering culturally sensitive policies can significantly enhance community resilience by supporting practices that promote cross-cultural understanding and integration. Policy recommendations include the development of intercultural education programmes, support for local cultural festivals that celebrate diversity, and creation of safe spaces for dialogue between different ethnic groups.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, diaspora, acculturation, ethnocentrism, ethnography, geopolitics, syncretism*

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