



Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare in Kenyan Cities: A Comparative Analysis

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Published: 18 September 2000 | **Received:** 27 July 2000 | **Accepted:** 02 September 2000

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18721509](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18721509)

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Abstract

Urbanization in African cities, such as those in Kenya, has accelerated over recent decades, leading to significant changes in settlement patterns and social welfare structures. The analysis employs a comparative approach, utilising secondary data from various Kenyan cities to evaluate differences in urban development strategies and their effects on social welfare outcomes. Urbanization has resulted in an uneven distribution of infrastructure and services across different settlements. Informal settlements face disproportionate challenges with regards to access to essential services such as healthcare and education. The study highlights the critical need for more inclusive urban planning practices that consider the needs of all residents, especially those living in informal areas. Policy recommendations include enhancing financial support mechanisms for informal settlements, integrating them into broader urban development plans, and improving service delivery efficiency through targeted interventions.

Keywords: *Africanization, Geopolitics, Urban Geography, Settlement Dynamics, Welfare Services, Social Cohesion, Comparative Methodology*

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