



# Youth Engagement in Legal Processes Across African Jurisdictions: A Comparative Analysis Emphasising Ethiopia

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## Abstract

The engagement of youth in legal processes across African jurisdictions is a relatively under-researched area, with particular interest focused on Ethiopia as a case study. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis from legal documents and surveys of youth organizations. Data was collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews conducted with judges, lawyers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and young participants in Ethiopia. Cross-jurisdictional comparative analysis is used to highlight thematic similarities and differences. Youth engagement significantly contributes to legal outcomes, particularly in dispute resolution processes where their insights often lead to more equitable settlements. However, a notable challenge identified was the lack of formal recognition and training for youth mediators, leading to uneven participation across regions. The study underscores the importance of integrating youth into legal frameworks to enhance justice delivery systems. Future research should focus on developing standardised protocols that recognise and support youth as active stakeholders in legal processes. Policy makers are encouraged to develop comprehensive training programmes for youth mediators, integrate youth representation into judicial proceedings, and establish mentorship initiatives to foster their professional development.

**Keywords:** *African, Youth, Jurisprudence, Methodology, Empowerment, Participation, Contextualization*

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