



Access to Justice in Urban Slums: A Comparative Analysis of Vulnerable Populations in Ethiopia,

Mekuria Belay^{1,2}, Yared Abebe^{1,3}

¹ Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)

² Department of Research, Gondar University

³ Gondar University

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Correspondence: mbelay@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Mekuria Belay is affiliated with Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Yared Abebe is affiliated with Gondar University and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

Urban slums in Ethiopia present a unique challenge for access to justice due to limited legal infrastructure and social services. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis of legal aid records from two selected urban slum areas in Addis Ababa. Women were significantly less likely to use formal justice mechanisms (20% vs. 35%, $p < 0.01$) compared to men, highlighting gender disparities in access to justice. The study underscores the need for targeted legal reforms and community-based legal education programmes to improve access to justice for vulnerable urban slum residents. Policy recommendations include increasing funding for women's legal aid services and developing culturally sensitive legal awareness campaigns.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, urbanization, jurisprudence, ethnography, legal pluralism, social determinants, human rights*

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