



# Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare: A Critical Examination in Rwandan Cities

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## Abstract

Urbanization in Rwanda has led to significant population growth, particularly in informal settlements, posing challenges for social welfare provision. A mixed-method approach combining qualitative interviews with administrative data analysis to understand service delivery gaps and community needs. The study underscores the urgent need for inclusive policies that address the specific challenges faced by informal settlement communities in Rwandan cities. Policy recommendations include enhancing community-led services and integrating informal settlements into urban planning frameworks to ensure equitable access to social welfare programmes.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Exclusion, Urban Policy, Development Theory, Participatory Research, Slum Upgrading*

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