



Urban Youth Entrepreneurship Support Programmes in Dakar Slums: An Evaluation of Financial Inclusion Services Accessibility

Dieng Ndiaye¹, Ndiaye Sene², Alioune Diop³, Toure Guindo⁴

¹ Department of Research, Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB)

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB)

³ Department of Research, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal

⁴ Institut Pasteur de Dakar

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Correspondence: dndiaye@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Dieng Ndiaye is affiliated with Department of Research, Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Ndiaye Sene is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Alioune Diop is affiliated with Department of Research, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Toure Guindo is affiliated with Institut Pasteur de Dakar and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Urban youth entrepreneurship is a critical area of focus in Senegal's development agenda, particularly in Dakar slums where access to financial services remains limited. Qualitative research methods, including semi-structured interviews with 50 youths involved in the programmes and focus group discussions with community leaders, were employed to gather data from a representative sample of participants. Participants reported significant barriers such as high transaction fees (72%) and limited access points (60%), which hindered their ability to use financial services effectively for business growth. The evaluation highlights the need for comprehensive financial inclusion strategies that address accessibility issues, particularly in underserved urban youth populations. Programme providers should consider reducing transaction fees and expanding physical access points to ensure greater financial inclusion among Dakar slum youths.

Keywords: *Urbanism, Geography, Anthropology, Microfinance, Development Economics, Participatory Research, Youth Empowerment*

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