



Traditional Governance Structures and Modern Democracy in Southern Africa: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

Kamija Mwakalisa¹

¹ Department of Research, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro

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Correspondence: kmwakalisa@outlook.com

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Author notes

Kamija Mwakalisa is affiliated with Department of Research, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Southern Africa's traditional governance structures have coexisted alongside modern democratic processes since independence. Understanding how these systems interact is crucial for sustainable development. This mixed-methods study integrates qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys to analyse perceptions of governance among local communities and government officials. Community leaders reported a strong preference for maintaining traditional councils alongside modern democratic institutions, highlighting the importance of hybrid governance models. Findings suggest that incorporating traditional structures into democratic processes can enhance legitimacy and effectiveness in governance settings. Policy makers should consider integrating traditional leadership roles within contemporary political frameworks to foster inclusive and effective governance. Traditional Governance, Modern Democracy, Hybrid Models, Southern Africa, Tanzania

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Socio-Cultural, Qualitative, Quantitative*

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