



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Kenyan Cities: An Ethnographic Exploration of Social Welfare Dynamics

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Abstract

Urbanization in Kenyan cities has led to rapid growth of informal settlements, characterized by inadequate housing and basic services. The study employed participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions with residents and local authorities in Nairobi and Kisumu cities. A significant proportion (35%) of the population in informal settlements reported inadequate access to basic sanitation facilities, highlighting a critical public health issue. Informal settlement dynamics reveal complex social welfare challenges and resilience strategies among residents. Policy initiatives should prioritise infrastructure development and community engagement for equitable service delivery in urban growth areas.

Keywords: *Geographic, Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, Community Development, Ethnography, Socio-Spatial Dynamics*

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