



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Senegal: Implications for Social Welfare Systems

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Abstract

Urbanization in Senegal has led to significant growth in its cities, particularly Dakar, which is experiencing rapid population increases and unplanned urban sprawl. Qualitative research methods were employed, including interviews with local residents, government officials, and community leaders to understand the dynamics of urban growth and its effects on welfare services. Informal settlements now host approximately 40% of Dakar's population, presenting substantial challenges for social service delivery due to limited infrastructure and resources. The findings highlight the urgent need for integrated urban planning that addresses both formal and informal settlement areas to ensure equitable access to social welfare services. Government policies should prioritise investments in public transportation, affordable housing, and community development programmes within informal settlements to enhance service provision efficiency.

Keywords: *African Geography, Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Policy, Housing Policies, Spatial Planning, Community Development*

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