



Enforcement Strategies in Kenyan Domestic Courts: An Ethnographic Perspective on Human Rights Law

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Abstract

Enforcement of human rights law in domestic courts is a critical but understudied area in Kenya's legal landscape. An ethnographic study was conducted involving participant observation, interviews with judges, court staff, and community members in selected districts. Data collection focused on case files and court recordings over a six-month period. Court enforcement strategies varied significantly across regions, with a notable trend towards informal settlements receiving less attention compared to urban centers. While formal legal processes were evident, the study highlighted significant reliance on informal mechanisms for resolution of human rights cases, especially in rural areas. Enhanced training for judges and court personnel on alternative dispute resolution methods could improve case outcomes in underserved regions.

Keywords: *African geography, ethnography, human rights, jurisprudence, legal anthropology, qualitative methods, social norms*

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