



## Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Egyptian Cities: Implications for Social Welfare Policies

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### Abstract

Urbanization in Egyptian cities has led to significant growth and transformation, particularly in informal settlements where a substantial portion of the population resides. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis was employed to assess residents' needs and challenges in these areas. Informal settlement residents face acute housing shortages, with a reported 70% of households residing in overcrowded conditions, which compromises their access to basic services. Social welfare policies must prioritise upgrading informal settlements to improve living standards and ensure equitable service provision for all city dwellers. Implementing targeted social support programmes alongside infrastructure improvements is recommended to address the housing crisis and enhance community well-being.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Development Dynamics, Social Welfare, Community Participation, Participatory Planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)*

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