



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

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Abstract

Urbanization in Tanzania is rapidly transforming its cities, particularly affecting informal settlements where a significant portion of the urban population resides. A qualitative approach involving participant observation, semi-structured interviews with community members, and document reviews was employed to gather data from three selected informal settlements across two major Tanzanian cities. Residents reported a 50% higher incidence of social welfare issues compared to formal neighborhoods, primarily due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption within the local government systems. The ethnographic study reveals significant disparities in access to healthcare, education, and housing subsidies between informal settlements and formal areas, highlighting systemic barriers that need addressing. Policy recommendations include improving transparency in welfare distribution mechanisms and enhancing community engagement with local governance structures to ensure equitable service provision. Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, Tanzania

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