



Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Malawi's Business Context: An Analytical Framework for Policy Makers

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Abstract

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Malawi's business context are underexplored yet hold significant potential for sustainable development. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis to explore perceptions and applications of IKS within local businesses. IKS are predominantly used in agricultural sectors, where they guide traditional farming techniques. Among the interviewed businesses, 75% reported using at least one aspect of IKS for decision-making processes. The analytical framework reveals a strong correlation between the integration of IKS and business success, suggesting that policymakers should prioritise education and recognition programmes to harness these resources effectively. Policymakers are advised to implement educational initiatives targeting both public institutions and private enterprises, emphasising the value of IKS in fostering sustainable economic growth.

Keywords: *African Geography, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Business Anthropology, Ethnography, Participatory Research, Sustainability Models, Cultural Competence*

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