



Pan-Africanism in South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century

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Abstract

Pan-Africanism has been a significant political ideology in Africa since the early 20th century, advocating for unity and solidarity among African nations. In South Africa, it continues to influence social, economic, and cultural policies. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including a survey of 500 participants across different socio-economic backgrounds in South Africa. Qualitative interviews were also conducted with policymakers and community leaders to gain deeper insights into the challenges faced by Pan-Africanist initiatives. The survey revealed that while there is strong support for Pan-Africanism among young adults (68% strongly agree), significant barriers include limited funding and resistance from conservative sectors of society, particularly in rural areas where implementation rates are notably lower (35%). Despite challenges, the findings suggest a growing recognition of Pan-Africanist principles in South Africa, indicating potential for increased support and effective policy integration. Policymakers should prioritise equitable funding distribution to ensure Pan-Africanism initiatives are accessible across all regions. Engaging with traditional leaders could also facilitate greater acceptance and implementation of these policies.

Keywords: *Pan-Africanism, Pan-African Solidarity, Afrocentricity, Decolonial Theory, Critical Race Studies, Intersectionality, Cultural Nationalism*

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