



Youth Engagement in Legal Paradigms of Guinea-Bissau: A Contemporary Analysis

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Abstract

Youth engagement in legal paradigms is increasingly recognised as crucial for sustainable development in Africa. Guinea-Bissau's youth population presents a significant demographic challenge and opportunity. A qualitative approach was employed through interviews with youth leaders and consultations with relevant government agencies to gather insights on current legal issues affecting them. Youth in Guinea-Bissau are particularly interested in access to justice and protection against human rights abuses, indicating a strong need for legal education and community-based support programmes. The findings underscore the importance of integrating youth perspectives into legislative processes and highlight the necessity of fostering a culture of respect for human rights among young citizens. Policy recommendations include enhancing legal literacy programmes targeting youth and establishing more accessible courts to ensure fair justice delivery in rural areas.

Keywords: *Africanization, Decoloniality, Legal Pluralism, Youth Activism, Critical Race Theory, Postcolonial Studies, Indigenization*

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