



Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Access to Justice: An Egyptian Perspective,

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Abstract

This study investigates traditional dispute resolution mechanisms in Egypt's legal system, focusing on their role in access to justice. Qualitative research was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with judges, lawyers, community leaders, and litigants in rural and urban settings across Egypt. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are predominantly used by marginalized communities in rural areas where formal legal services are scarce or ineffective. They play a critical role in resolving conflicts quickly and at low cost, often involving community elders and religious leaders. The study reveals that traditional methods provide essential access to justice for underserved populations but may undermine the authority of modern courts when disputes conflict with statutory laws. Policy recommendations include integrating traditional practices into formal legal systems where appropriate, enhancing public education on both legal and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and improving infrastructure in rural areas to support these processes.

Keywords: *Cultures of Law, Ethnicity, Ethnography, Legal Pluralism, Multiculturalism, Reflexivity, Social Justice*

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