



Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS Comoros: A Theoretical Framework

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade has been a significant part of economic activity in the Comoros, particularly within the context of regional integration efforts like ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). This phenomenon highlights the importance of understanding how informal trade networks influence broader regional development strategies. The study employs a qualitative research approach, drawing from existing literature, theoretical frameworks, and case studies of similar regions to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. This theoretical framework provides a foundational understanding of the complex interplay between informal cross-border trade and regional integration strategies in Comoros, offering insights that can inform future research and policy development within ECOWAS. Future studies should focus on developing comprehensive regulatory frameworks to support and formalize informal cross-border trade, thereby enhancing economic stability and growth across the region.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, regionalism, neo-institutionalism, economic geography, migration patterns, cross-border networks, indigenous knowledge systems*

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