



Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare in Eritrean Cities: A Critical Review

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Abstract

Urbanization in Eritrea has accelerated rapidly since the late 1980s when independence was achieved, leading to significant challenges in managing urban areas and providing social welfare services. A critical literature review approach was employed, synthesizing existing research on urban development, informal settlements, and social welfare policies in Eritrea. The analysis reveals a substantial proportion (56%) of the urban population resides in informal settlements, highlighting a significant challenge for effective service delivery by government agencies. Despite efforts to improve infrastructure and services, disparities in access remain pronounced between formal and informal settlements. Recommendations include targeted investments in informal settlement upgrading, strengthening community-based social welfare programmes, and developing inclusive urban planning policies.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, peri-urbanization, ethnography, social justice, quantitative analysis*

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