



Environmental Justice Movements in Resource-Rich African Nations: A Survey Analysis in Malawi

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Abstract

Environmental justice movements in resource-rich African nations have gained increasing attention for their potential to address environmental degradation and social inequalities. Malawi is a case study of such dynamics, where local communities often face disproportionate impacts from mining and other extractive industries. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including a structured questionnaire surveying activists, community members, and government officials, complemented by semi-structured interviews with selected stakeholders. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. The findings indicate that environmental justice movements in Malawi are primarily composed of grassroots organizations and local leaders who advocate for sustainable development and equitable resource distribution. The proportion of community-based initiatives has increased over the decade, reflecting growing awareness of environmental issues and social injustices. This study contributes to the understanding of how environmental justice movements have evolved in a context of rapid industrialization and limited government oversight in Malawi. It highlights the importance of local participation and advocacy in addressing environmental challenges. Policy recommendations include strengthening community engagement mechanisms, enhancing legal frameworks that protect rights to information and participation, and fostering international collaboration for sustainable resource management.

Keywords: *African geography, resource wealth, environmental degradation, social inequalities, community activism, stakeholder engagement, participatory research*

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