



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Rwanda: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

Youth in urban areas of Rwanda are at the forefront of socio-economic changes following decades of conflict and political instability. This study employs in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to gather qualitative data from urban Rwandan youths aged 18-30, aiming for a comprehensive understanding of their perspectives on identity and participation. Youth participants articulated strong generational divides regarding political efficacy, with approximately two-thirds expressing skepticism about current governance structures. The findings suggest that fostering inclusive civic education programmes can enhance youth engagement in urban political life, particularly for addressing generational conflict and promoting social cohesion. Urban policymakers should prioritise initiatives that bridge intergenerational gaps to improve the effectiveness of public services and promote a more cohesive community.

Keywords: *Rwanda, Urbanization, Youth, Identity, Participation, Community, Analysis*

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