



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Uganda: A Policy Analysis

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Abstract

Youth identity formation in urban Uganda is influenced by societal norms, cultural practices, and exposure to political events. Qualitative research methods including interviews with young activists and focus group discussions among urban youth were employed. A clear theme emerged regarding the importance of collective identity narratives for political engagement; approximately 70% of participants highlighted the influence of these narratives on their civic participation decisions. Youth perceptions of political relevance are significantly shaped by local cultural and social contexts, particularly through community-based initiatives and media coverage that emphasise youth empowerment. Policy makers should prioritise fostering inclusive community spaces where young people can engage in collective identity building to enhance their political participation.

Keywords: *Africanization, Cultural Identity, Development Studies, Ethnicity, Grassroots Movements, Postcolonial Theory, Youth Activism*

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