



Cultural Adaptation and Resilience in Migrant Communities of Southern Africa: A Comparative Study in Senegal

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Abstract

Migrant communities in Southern Africa face unique challenges that impact their cultural adaptation and resilience. Senegal is a significant hub for migration from countries like Mali, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso, presenting an opportunity to study these dynamics. The research employs a qualitative approach involving semi-structured interviews with migrants from various backgrounds. Data collection is conducted through focus group discussions and participant observation within Senegalese communities to understand cultural practices and resilience mechanisms. Findings indicate that Senegalese migrant communities in urban areas predominantly rely on strong kinship networks for social support, which significantly aids their adaptation process. There is a notable trend towards preserving traditional festivals and languages despite economic pressures. The study reveals the importance of maintaining cultural heritage as a cornerstone for resilience among migrants in Senegal, offering insights into strategies that could be beneficial for other diaspora communities. Policy makers should consider supporting initiatives that enhance community cohesion and preserve cultural identities to facilitate smoother integration processes among migrant populations.

Keywords: *Africanization, Cultural Hybridity, Diaspora Studies, Migration Theory, Multiculturalism, Postcolonial Studies, Transnationalism*

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