



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Benin: A Mixed Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

Youth in urban Benin face complex challenges related to identity formation and political participation, shaped by socio-economic factors and cultural norms. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews ($n=30$) and quantitative surveys ($n=150$) gathered data from youth aged 18–29 in Benin's urban centers. Data analysis includes thematic coding for qualitative insights and statistical tests for quantifiable outcomes. Findings indicate that a significant proportion, 42%, of participants who identified with their ethnic group showed higher levels of political engagement compared to those without such identity recognition. The mixed-methods study reveals nuanced dynamics between youth identities and political participation in urban Benin, offering insights into policy-making aimed at promoting inclusive governance. Policy recommendations should focus on fostering a sense of collective identity among diverse youth groups within the context of urban development strategies to enhance their active engagement with local politics.

Keywords: *African Studies, Benin, Mixed Methods, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis, Identity Formation, Political Participation*

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