



and Informal Sector Dynamics in Urban Mali: An African Perspective

Oumarou Diawara¹

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Bamako (consolidated)

Published: 23 January 2004 | **Received:** 02 October 2003 | **Accepted:** 25 November 2003

Correspondence: odiawara@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18785784](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18785784)

Author notes

Oumarou Diawara is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Bamako (consolidated) and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.

Abstract

Urbanization in Mali has accelerated, leading to a significant increase in informal sector employment. This sector is crucial for poverty reduction and economic resilience but faces challenges in terms of regulation and support from formal institutions. This survey research employed a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. Data was collected from 500 randomly selected informal sector workers in three major cities of Mali. The findings suggest that informally employed individuals experience higher levels of stress (43%) compared to those in formal sectors, indicating significant psychological strain due to irregular work schedules and income instability. This study highlights the importance of integrating psychological support into urban development strategies for informal sector workers. The research contributes to understanding the complex interplay between socio-economic factors and mental health in African contexts. Policy recommendations include enhancing access to social protection schemes, providing training on stress management techniques, and advocating for inclusive labour policies that recognise the importance of informality in the economy.

Keywords: *African geography, urbanization, informal sector, psychology, livelihoods, resilience, qualitative methods*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge