



# The Informal Sector and Education Engagement in Urban Africa: A Policy Perspective

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## Abstract

Urban Africa in South Africa is characterized by a diverse economy where the informal sector plays a significant role in employment and economic activities. Education engagement within this sector faces unique challenges due to its decentralized nature, limited formal recognition, and often lower income levels. The study employs a qualitative approach, analysing existing literature, government policies, and case studies from selected cities. Interviews with key stakeholders including educators, parents, and community leaders provide insights into current engagement practices. A notable finding is the significant proportion (40%) of informal sector workers who have children enrolled in non-formal education programmes, indicating a growing recognition of these options despite limited formal educational pathways. Current policies often overlook or underutilize the potential of non-formal education within the informal sector. Recommendations include integrating more informal sector perspectives into policy development and expanding support for existing initiatives. Develop tailored outreach programmes targeting informal workers, advocate for government funding to support these educational initiatives, and foster greater collaboration between formal and non-formal education providers.

**Keywords:** *Africanization, Education Policy, Informal Economy, Stakeholder Analysis, Urban Development, Youth Workforce, Zoning Strategies*

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