



Youth Identity and Political Engagement in Urban Tanzania: A Policy Agenda

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Abstract

Youth identity in urban Tanzania is evolving amid socio-economic challenges. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys among youth aged 18-30 in four urban areas of Tanzania, focusing on their perceptions of national identity and political efficacy. Youth identification with local over national identities is prevalent (65%), while political efficacy scores indicate a need for more inclusive governance structures to engage them effectively. Urban youth in Tanzania are key stakeholders in shaping democratic processes but require tailored policies that address their specific identity and engagement needs. Implement targeted education programmes on national unity and civic responsibility, and develop political leadership opportunities that reflect youth demographics and aspirations.

Keywords: *Tanzania, Urbanization, Youth Movements, Identity Politics, Social Capital, Community Development, Empowerment Strategies*

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