



# Innovation Hubs in Kigali: A Qualitative Study of Startup Ecosystem Dynamics

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## Abstract

In Kigali, Rwanda, innovation hubs have emerged as pivotal components of a nascent startup ecosystem aimed at fostering economic growth and job creation. Conducted through semi-structured interviews with entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers, supplemented with secondary data analysis of hub activities and community engagement reports. The study reveals that while innovation hubs have successfully incubated over 50% of startups within their jurisdiction, challenges persist in terms of securing adequate funding, accessing skilled labour, and navigating regulatory environments. Despite these hurdles, the research underscores the potential for further development by leveraging existing resources and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. To enhance support for startups, it is recommended that innovation hubs collaborate with academic institutions to develop tailored training programmes and engage in policy advocacy to address regulatory barriers.

**Keywords:** Rwanda, Innovation Hubs, Entrepreneurship, Small Businesses, Qualitative Research, Development Context, Socioeconomic Dynamics

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