



# Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in East Africa: An Ethnographic Study from Egypt

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## Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs are critical for economic development in East Africa, with Egypt serving as a notable case study due to its strategic location and diverse cultural landscape. This study employs participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis to gather data from various stakeholders including entrepreneurs, policymakers, and community leaders in Egypt's innovation hubs and ecosystems. A significant finding is the presence of a vibrant startup community that attracts international investment with an estimated proportion of 20% of funding coming from foreign sources. The study also revealed that these systems are heavily reliant on government support for sustainability, with over 75% of participants citing governmental assistance as crucial. The findings suggest that Egypt's entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth through the integration of local knowledge with global resources. However, they also highlight the need for greater private sector engagement to ensure long-term viability. To enhance their effectiveness, policymakers should foster collaboration between public and private sectors, encourage more localized investment strategies, and provide targeted training programmes for entrepreneurs.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Entrepreneurship, Hub, Innovation, Community, Ethnography, Development*

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