



Traditional Governance Structures versus Modern Democracy in Southern Africa: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Southern Africa is characterized by a diverse array of traditional governance structures coexisting with modern democratic systems in various countries, including Seychelles. This comparative study aims to explore and analyse these two distinct forms of governance within the region. The methodology employed in this comparative study involves qualitative research methods such as interviews, surveys, and document reviews. The data collected from these sources will be analysed using thematic analysis techniques. Findings indicate that traditional governance structures often emphasise communal decision-making processes whereas modern democracy typically relies on elected representatives and participatory mechanisms. These differences are particularly evident in the role of customary leaders versus elected officials in policy implementation. This study concludes by highlighting the unique strengths and challenges associated with both traditional and modern democratic governance systems, providing insights for policymakers aiming to enhance societal development within Southern Africa. Based on the findings, it is recommended that policymakers consider integrating elements of traditional governance structures into modern democracy frameworks where appropriate. This could involve fostering more inclusive decision-making processes and enhancing community participation in policy formulation.

Keywords: *African geography, Traditional institutions, Governance models, Modernization processes, Comparative analysis, Indigenous governance, Socio-political structures*

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