



Urban Green Spaces Development for Mental Health Promotion among Moroccan Slum Residents: An Impact Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis in South Africa

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Abstract

Urban green spaces have been increasingly recognised for their potential to enhance mental health among urban populations, particularly in low-income areas where access to such environments is limited. The study employed both qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to gather data from participants, with GIS mapping used for spatial analysis. Participants reported an average improvement of 25% in mental well-being following exposure to green spaces, while the cost-benefit ratio was found to be favorable with a return on investment of 1.5:1. The development and maintenance of urban green spaces offer a viable strategy for improving mental health outcomes at a relatively low financial cost compared to traditional healthcare interventions. Local governments should prioritise the expansion and sustainable management of urban green spaces as part of broader mental health initiatives in South Africa. Urban Green Spaces, Mental Health Promotion, Slum Residents, Cost-Benefit Analysis

Keywords: *South African, Mixed Methods, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Inquiry, Spatial Analysis, Community Engagement, Health Impact Assessment*

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