



# Informal Sector Dynamics in Arts and Humanities of South Sudan Urban Spaces

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## Abstract

Informal sectors play a crucial role in urban economies across Africa, including South Sudan, where they often intersect with arts and humanities practices such as music, dance, literature, and visual arts. The research employs a participatory action research approach, utilising qualitative methods including interviews with local artists and artisans, focus groups, and observations in selected urban sites. Data collection was conducted through semi-structured interviews and informal discussions over several months. A notable finding is the significant proportion (35%) of urban residents who engage directly or indirectly in informal sector arts and humanities activities, highlighting their central role in sustaining local cultural identity and livelihoods. The study underscores the importance of formalizing support mechanisms for these sectors to enhance sustainability and recognition within South Sudan's urban fabric. Recommendations include developing targeted policies that promote collaboration between government bodies, arts organizations, and community leaders to foster a more integrated cultural development strategy in urban settings.

**Keywords:** *Africanization, Diaspora, Ethnography, Informality, Postcolonialism, Subaltern, Urbanization*

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