



# Urbanization and Social Welfare in Informal Settlements of Niger: A Qualitative Study

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## Abstract

Urbanization in Niger has led to rapid growth of informal settlements, presenting challenges for social welfare provision. A qualitative study involving semi-structured interviews with residents, community leaders, and local government officials to understand the dynamics of informal settlement life and their interactions with social welfare programmes. Residents reported a significant disparity between the number of services available and those actually received, particularly in healthcare and education provision. The study highlights the need for tailored interventions that address both infrastructure needs and community engagement to improve service delivery in informal settlements. Local authorities should prioritise investment in basic facilities such as health centers and schools, while also fostering partnerships with civil society organizations to enhance service accessibility.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Exclusion, Community Participation, Ethnography, Cultural Diversity, Spatial Analysis*

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