



# Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Gabon: A Qualitative Exploration

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## Abstract

Youth in urban Gabon face diverse socio-economic challenges that influence their sense of identity and political engagement. The research employs a qualitative approach involving semi-structured interviews with urban youth in Gabon. Data collection was guided by thematic analysis of participants' narratives about their personal development and political involvement. Participants reported that maintaining cultural traditions plays a significant role in their identity formation, influencing their participation in local festivals and community events. Economic aspirations related to education and entrepreneurship were also noted as motivating factors for political engagement, with over half indicating plans to vote or run for office if eligible. Urban youth in Gabon exhibit varied identities that impact their levels of political participation through cultural expressions and economic pursuits. Policymakers should consider integrating cultural preservation programmes into urban development strategies and provide resources for educational initiatives to enhance civic education among youth.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Urbanization, Identity Politics, Ethnography, Cultural Studies, Community Engagement, Intersectionality*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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