Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare in Ethiopian Cities: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Urbanization in Ethiopia has led to rapid growth of informal settlements, challenging traditional social welfare systems. An ethnographic study was conducted with interviews and observations focusing on key stakeholders such as community leaders, service providers, and residents. A significant proportion (70%) of residents in informal settlements reported difficulties accessing essential services like healthcare and education due to distance and cost barriers. The study highlights the critical need for tailored social welfare policies that address the unique needs of urban populations in Ethiopia's informal settlements. Policy makers should prioritise investment in infrastructure and community-led initiatives to improve access to basic services in these areas.

Keywords: *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Exclusion, Ethnography, Community Structures, Development Theory, Public Policy*

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