



# Informal Sector Dynamics in Urban Benin: An Arts and Humanities Comparative Perspective,

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## Abstract

Informal sector dynamics in urban Benin have been studied primarily through economic lenses, but this study aims to explore these sectors from an arts and humanities perspective. This study employed a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys to analyse data from urban Benin's informal economy during the specified period. Cultural enterprises such as arts, crafts, and performances provided employment for approximately 40% of the urban population studied. These activities not only contribute economically but also foster community cohesion and cultural identity. The findings suggest that integrating an arts and humanities perspective into studies of the informal sector can offer valuable insights into its multifaceted contributions to society in urban Benin. Policy makers should consider supporting initiatives that enhance the recognition and sustainable development of informal cultural sectors, recognising their significant role in urban economies and communities.

**Keywords:** *Beninese, Diaspora, Ethnography, Folklore, Immaterial Labour, Postcolonialism, Visual Culture*

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