



Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare in Tanzanian Cities: An Ethnographic Inquiry

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Abstract

Urbanization in Tanzania has led to significant population growth, particularly in informal settlements, which often lack adequate social welfare services. The research employed ethnographic methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document review to understand the dynamics between urban development and social services delivery in selected Tanzanian cities. A key finding is that informal settlements often experience a disproportionate burden of social welfare needs compared to formal areas, with approximately 60% of identified service gaps occurring in these settings. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy reforms to improve access to essential services within informal settlements. Recommendations include developing community-led initiatives that integrate social welfare programmes into existing urban development frameworks, alongside improved data collection mechanisms to better inform service provision. Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, Tanzanian Cities

Keywords: *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, Geography of Africa, Ethnography, Community Development, Anthropology*

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