



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in African Cities: A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Social Welfare in Mauritius, 2009

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Abstract

Urbanization in African cities has led to rapid growth, often accompanied by informal settlements that challenge traditional social welfare systems. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis to explore perceptions and practices of social welfare among residents and service providers. Residents in informal settlements reported significant challenges accessing basic services, with over 70% expressing dissatisfaction with current welfare programmes. The findings highlight the urgent need for tailored interventions that address both the socio-spatial dynamics and specific needs of these communities. Policy recommendations include integrating informal settlements into urban planning frameworks and developing targeted social welfare policies that prioritise community engagement and inclusivity.

Keywords: *African geography, urbanization, informal settlements, social welfare, spatial analysis, qualitative methods, quantitative analysis*

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