



Innovation Hubs and Startups in Kigali: An Ecological Study of an Emerging African Ecosystem

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Abstract

In Kigali, Rwanda, a burgeoning startup ecosystem has emerged around innovation hubs, reflecting broader African trends towards entrepreneurship and technological advancement. This study employed an ecological approach to investigate the interconnectedness of innovation hubs and startup ecosystems in Kigali. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, investors, and hub managers. The analysis revealed a clear thematic direction towards mentorship programmes as pivotal for startups within the hubs, where approximately 60% of interviewees reported significant support from these resources. This study underscores the importance of mentorship in nurturing entrepreneurial ventures within innovation hubs and provides insights into their role in fostering an ecosystem conducive to startup success in Kigali. Further research should focus on measuring the economic impact of these hubs and identifying best practices for scaling successful models across other African cities. Innovation Hubs, Startups, Entrepreneurship, Ecosystems, Mentorship Programmes

Keywords: *Geographic, African, Ecosystems, Qualitative, Innovation, Hubs, Startups*

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