



Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in East Africa: A Qualitative Study in Egypt

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Published: 04 October 2001 | **Received:** 01 June 2001 | **Accepted:** 10 August 2001

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18731357](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18731357)

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs have become critical components in fostering economic growth and development across East Africa. Egypt's position within this region makes it a valuable case study for understanding these phenomena. A qualitative research approach was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with a diverse sample of stakeholders including entrepreneurs, policymakers, educators, and industry representatives. Data collection was supplemented by document analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. The study identified a significant proportion (45%) of innovation hubs in Egypt as having received government funding, which has facilitated their establishment and sustainability. Furthermore, these hubs have been instrumental in fostering collaboration between local businesses and academic institutions, contributing to technological advancements and job creation. This research highlights the importance of governmental support for entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs, particularly through targeted funding mechanisms. The findings suggest that such initiatives can significantly enhance regional economic development by promoting knowledge sharing and business networking. To further strengthen Egypt's entrepreneurial landscape, policymakers should consider expanding existing funding programmes and encouraging more private sector investments into these hubs. Additionally, fostering a culture of innovation within educational institutions could be crucial for nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, Innovation Hubs, East Africa, Egypt, Qualitative Study

Keywords: *Geographic, Entrepreneurship, Ecosystems, Innovation, Hubs, Development, Contextual*

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