



# Urbanization and Social Welfare in Informal Settlements of Nigerian Cities: An Ethnographic Perspective

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## Abstract

Urbanization in Nigerian cities has accelerated rapidly over the past decades, leading to significant changes in social welfare systems within informal settlements. Ethnographic methods were employed to gather qualitative data, including participant observations, interviews with community members, and document analysis from local government records. A key finding is the disproportionate impact on elderly residents (over 60%) who face challenges in accessing essential social services such as healthcare and education due to inadequate infrastructure and resources. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions that address both immediate needs and long-term planning for sustainable urban development in informal settlements. Recommendations include increased investment in community-led initiatives, improved coordination between local government agencies, and enhanced public health services to support vulnerable populations.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Settlements, Urbanization, Welfare Systems, Ethnography, Community Engagement, Cultural Studies*

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