



# Access to Justice in Urban Slums: An Ethnographic Study of Vulnerable Populations in Niger

**Hawa Demba**

*Islamic University of Niger, Say*

Correspondence: [hdemba@gmail.com](mailto:hdemba@gmail.com)

Access to Justice in  
Urban Slums:

DOI

[10.5281/zenodo.18720](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18720)

[152](#)

**50**

---

Received 26 November 1999

Accepted 17 March 2000

## Abstract

Urban slums in Niger are characterized by high levels of poverty and vulnerability, with limited access to justice for their residents. This study focuses on understanding how vulnerable populations navigate legal systems within these urban environments. This study employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with residents of urban slums in Niger to gather qualitative insights into their legal experiences and challenges. Findings indicate that a significant proportion (35%) of vulnerable populations encountered barriers when trying to access formal justice mechanisms. Common issues include language barriers, lack of documentation, and distrust towards institutions. The study concludes by highlighting the need for tailored legal literacy programmes and community-based mediation services to improve justice outcomes for urban slum residents in Niger. Recommendations include developing culturally sensitive legal aid initiatives, improving infrastructure in slums, and enhancing communication between local authorities and vulnerable communities.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Slums, Community, Anthropology, Legal Pluralism, Power Relations, Social Stratification*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge