



# Youth Identity and Political Engagement in Ethiopian Urban Areas: An Action Research Study

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## Abstract

Youth in urban Ethiopia are emerging as a significant demographic with potential for political engagement but often face barriers to participation. An action research approach was employed, involving surveys, focus groups, and interviews with a sample of urban youth across three major Ethiopian cities. Youth who identified strongly with both their cultural heritage and the broader Ethiopian nation were more likely to participate in political activities (35% vs. 20%). The study highlights the importance of integrating young people's sense of identity into political education programmes to increase engagement. Develop culturally sensitive educational initiatives that emphasise shared values and history, alongside traditional civic participation methods.

**Keywords:** *Ethiopia, Urbanization, Youth Studies, Identity Formation, Political Socialization, Community Engagement, Participatory Action Research*

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