



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Chad: A Comparative Study in African Contexts

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Abstract

Youth identity in urban Chad is influenced by a complex interplay of social, economic, and cultural factors. Political participation among young people often reflects their perceptions of governance effectiveness and civic engagement opportunities. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews ($n=50$) and quantitative surveys ($n=200$) was employed. Data analysis utilised thematic coding for qualitative content and structural equation modelling for statistical relationships. Youth in urban Chad exhibit a strong identification with their cultural heritage, but this is not uniformly translated into political engagement. Economic opportunities significantly influence participation levels. The study highlights the importance of integrating youth identity within broader governance strategies to enhance political participation and societal development. Policy makers should consider fostering economic growth and implementing inclusive political processes that respect cultural identities for greater civic engagement among young people. Youth Identity, Political Participation, Urban Chad, African Context, Comparative Study

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, urbanization, identity politics, post-colonialism, cultural hegemony, neo-patrimonialism, agency theory*

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