



Informal Cross-Border Trade Networks and Regional Integration Dynamics in ECOWAS Context: A Theoretical Framework Study in Burundi 2001

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Abstract

This study examines informal cross-border trade networks in Burundi within the context of ECOWAS (East African Community), focusing on regional integration dynamics. A qualitative research approach will be employed, involving interviews with traders, government officials, and civil society representatives to gather insights into the dynamics of informal cross-border trade. This study highlights the importance of informal cross-border trade in regional integration dynamics, particularly its impact on economic development and policy-making. Future research should explore ways to integrate these networks into formal regulatory structures to maximise their positive impacts while mitigating potential negative effects. Policy recommendations include enhancing coordination between national governments and regional bodies to create a more inclusive framework for informal cross-border trade, ensuring fair competition and equitable benefits across the region.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Ethnicity, Networks, SocialStructures, QualitativeResearch, IntegrationDynamics*

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