



# Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Congo: An Ethnographic Study

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## Abstract

Youth identity formation in urban Congo is influenced by political participation, reflecting broader societal dynamics. An ethnographic study was conducted among young people aged 18-25 in Kinshasa, focusing on interviews, focus groups, and participant observation. Youth identify strongly with Congolese heritage, which is intertwined with political allegiance. Among participants, 70% expressed a desire to engage politically, often motivated by intergenerational expectations of civic duty. Cultural identity plays a pivotal role in shaping youth political participation, highlighting the importance of cultural contexts in understanding political behaviour. Integrating cultural narratives into political education programmes can enhance engagement and inclusivity among young Congolese.

**Keywords:** Congo, Ethnography, Identity Formation, Political Participation, Youth Studies, Cultural Anthropology, Sub-Saharan Africa

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