



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Africa: A Comparative Study in Namibia

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Abstract

Youth identity in urban Africa is a critical aspect of social cohesion and political stability. In Namibia, youth have increasingly engaged with politics, but their participation rates vary significantly across different urban settings. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. Data was collected from 500 participants in each city using a structured questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. In Windhoek, youth (42%) reported higher political engagement than those in Walvis Bay (31%). A thematic analysis of interview data revealed that identity perceptions significantly influenced their participation levels. The study concludes that while urban youth in Namibia are generally engaged with politics, the level of involvement varies by city. Identity is a key factor shaping this disparity. Policy makers should consider tailoring interventions to address specific challenges and identities within each city, thereby enhancing political participation among young people.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, SocialTheory, CulturalAnalysis, YouthStudies, PostcolonialCritique, ComparativeMethodology*

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