



Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare Dynamics in South African Cities,

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Abstract

Urbanization in South Africa has accelerated, particularly evident in the growth of informal settlements, which pose significant challenges to social welfare systems. The analysis employs a comparative approach using secondary data sources such as census reports, government statistics, and academic studies. A notable finding is that approximately 45% of the population in surveyed areas resides in informal settlements, highlighting their prevalence despite efforts to reduce them. Informal settlements have disproportionately affected access to essential services like healthcare and education, necessitating targeted interventions by local governments. Local authorities should prioritise infrastructure development and service delivery for these communities to improve social welfare outcomes. Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, South Africa, Comparative Study

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, peri-urbanization, neoliberalism, poverty, inequality, governance, resilience*

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