



Informal Sector Dynamics and Legal Frameworks in Senegal's Urban Areas: A Mixed-Methods Exploration

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Abstract

Informal sector activities are prevalent in urban areas of Senegal, contributing significantly to the economy but often operating outside formal legal frameworks. The research integrates qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys to analyse data from over 150 respondents across various urban centers in Senegal. A combination of structured questions and open-ended inquiries was used to gather detailed information about legal compliance and sector dynamics. A notable finding is the significant proportion (38%) of respondents who reported engaging with informal sector activities, which often operate without formal permits or contracts due to local enforcement challenges and economic pressures. This highlights a critical gap in regulatory support for these businesses. This mixed-methods study underscores the importance of understanding informal sector dynamics within urban African contexts by integrating legal frameworks effectively. Policy makers should consider developing targeted interventions that address both formalizing existing informal activities and improving enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with laws while supporting local economies.

Keywords: *African geography, Legal pluralism, Mixed methods, Participatory observation, Soft law, Urban studies, Customary law*

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