



Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Polycrisis and the Emergence of Hyperlocalized Housing Solutions in Botswana

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This paper reframes housing debates in Botswana by moving beyond affordability toward the concept of housing attainability. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork conducted between April and September 2024 across the peri-urban villages of Mogoditshane, Oodi, and Tlokweng, the study argues that secure shelter is shaped not only by income but by overlapping land governance regimes, incremental building practices, health shocks, employment instability, and institutional friction.

Grounded in narrative interviews with 31 households and informed by systemic feedback analysis, the research situates peri-urban housing within a broader framework of polycrisis, where vulnerabilities in health, labor, land administration, and kinship networks interact and cascade. A single shock, such as a job loss, an illness, or an inheritance delay, often reverberates across domains, stalling construction, intensifying crowding, and destabilizing household trajectories. These interlocking dynamics reveal that housing outcomes cannot be understood solely through static affordability ratios.

The paper introduces housing attainability as a systemic, temporal, and relational concept: the capacity of households to access, secure, maintain, and adapt shelter under conditions of uncertainty. In response to cascading vulnerabilities, the study advances the concept of hyperlocalized housing solutions as interventions operating at the granular scale of the yard, ward, and kgotla, where resilience is produced through backyard rentals, kinship pooling, informal enterprise, and community mediation.

By bridging grounded ethnographic evidence with the theoretical lens of polycrisis and Lefebvre's production of space, the study contributes a diagnostic and prescriptive framework for housing policy in postcolonial contexts. It positions peri-urban Botswana not as a site of deficit, but as a terrain of adaptive practice, where fragile increments of resilience illuminate the future of housing governance.