



Open Data Initiatives and Governance Transparency in South Sudan: An Analytical Study

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Abstract

Open data initiatives have gained traction globally as a means to enhance governance transparency and accountability, particularly in contexts where traditional forms of information dissemination are hindered by bureaucratic inefficiencies or security concerns. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of publicly available datasets with qualitative interviews among stakeholders involved in government, civil society organizations, and international development agencies. Data from open data portals revealed that 72% of the published datasets contained information crucial for governance oversight, such as budget allocations and procurement processes. Interviews highlighted significant improvements in citizen engagement through participatory budgeting initiatives. Open data initiatives have significantly enhanced transparency in South Sudan's governance structures, fostering a more accountable public administration. However, challenges persist related to data quality and availability across different sectors. To further enhance the impact of open data initiatives, there is a need for improved data standardization and regular validation processes to ensure reliability and relevance of information. Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\theta\} \operatorname{sumiell}(y_i, f\theta(\xi)) + \lambda \operatorname{Vert}\theta \operatorname{rVert} 2^2$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: Sub-Saharan, Openness, Governance, Transparency, Accountability, WebGIS, Participatory Democracy

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