



Digital Inclusion Dynamics in Rural Burkina Faso: Mapping the Digital Divide

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Abstract

Digital inclusion in rural communities of Burkina Faso remains a significant challenge, exacerbated by limited access to digital technologies and infrastructure. This study employs semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with community members in selected rural areas of Burkina Faso. A notable finding was a 40% disparity in internet access between those with basic digital skills (25%) and those without any skills at all (65%). The study highlights the critical role of community-led initiatives in bridging the Digital Divide, particularly focusing on youth engagement. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged to invest in digital literacy programmes targeting rural populations.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Participatory Action Research, Critical Theory, Social Capital, Technological Determinism, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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