



Bridging Digital Inclusion in Rural South Africa: Strategies and Practices

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Abstract

Digital inclusion in rural South Africa remains a significant challenge due to infrastructure limitations, digital skills disparities, and socio-economic barriers. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis of community feedback surveys. The survey revealed a 40% higher proportion ($n=250$) of respondents who reported improved internet access compared to previous years, despite initial challenges. Rural communities show increased engagement with digital technologies facilitated by tailored support programmes and infrastructure upgrades. Investment in community-led initiatives and ongoing capacity building for local leaders is recommended to sustain digital inclusion efforts. Digital Inclusion, Rural South Africa, Community Engagement, Infrastructure Development

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, ruralization, e-participation, digital divide, technology adoption, community engagement, empowerment strategies*

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