



# **Digital Inclusion and the Digital Divide in Somali Rural Communities: A Survey Study**

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## **Abstract**

The digital divide in rural African communities is a significant issue affecting economic development and social inclusion. A survey was conducted with a sample size of 300 participants across various regions in Somalia, employing both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The survey revealed that only 45% of respondents owned smartphones, indicating significant digital exclusion among rural populations. Rural communities face substantial challenges in accessing digital technologies due to socio-economic disparities and infrastructure limitations. Investment in digital literacy programmes and improved internet connectivity are recommended to bridge the digital divide. digital inclusion, rural Somalia, smartphone ownership, digital divide

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Digital Divide, Inclusion Studies, Information Accessibility, Rural Development, Technological Gap, Survey Methods*

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