



# Strategies for Enhancing Digital Access in Rural South Africa: A Methodological Framework

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## Abstract

Digital access in rural South Africa is uneven, exacerbating socioeconomic disparities. Efforts to bridge this gap often focus on infrastructure and digital literacy programmes. The research employs mixed-methods, integrating surveys ( $N = 200$ ) with qualitative interviews ( $n = 30$ ). Data is analysed using thematic analysis supplemented by logistic regression models to predict access outcomes. Survey data reveals a significant proportion (45%) of rural residents lack basic digital literacy skills, while 18% have no internet access. Qualitative insights highlight challenges such as cost and technological barriers. The methodological framework identifies key areas for intervention to improve digital inclusion in rural South Africa, including targeted training programmes and community engagement initiatives. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged to fund and implement these interventions. Policy support is needed to address infrastructure gaps and reduce costs for users. Digital Inclusion, Rural Development, Mixed-Methods Research, Logistic Regression

**Keywords:** *Digital Divide, Geographic Information Systems, Participatory Mapping, Community Engagement, Socioeconomic Analysis, Accessibility Studies, GIS Mapping Techniques*

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