



# Women's ICT Literacy Programmes in Taita Hills: An Analysis of Poverty Reduction Effectiveness

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## Abstract

The Taita Hills region in Kenya is characterized by high levels of poverty and limited access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Women's participation in ICT literacy programmes has been proposed as a strategy for reducing poverty, but empirical evidence on their effectiveness is lacking. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including surveys, focus groups, and interviews with participants and stakeholders. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. Women who participated in the ICT literacy programmes showed significant improvement in basic computer skills (85% reported increased proficiency), which correlated with modest but measurable increases in income (12% of respondents experienced a 20-30% rise in earnings). While there is promise, the effectiveness of women's ICT literacy programmes in poverty reduction remains uneven. Key areas for improvement include enhancing digital infrastructure and addressing gender biases. Investment should be prioritised in building robust ICT networks and providing ongoing support to ensure sustained participation and skill development among female participants.

**Keywords:** Kenya, Taita Hills, Geographic Focus, Women's Empowerment, ICT Literacy, Poverty Reduction, Rural Development Studies

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