



## Strategies for Bridging Digital Inclusion in Rural South Africa

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### Abstract

Digital inclusion in rural South Africa remains a significant challenge due to limited access to internet infrastructure and digital literacy. A mixed-method approach combining quantitative surveys ( $n=200$ ) and qualitative interviews ( $n=30$ ) was employed to assess current access and usage patterns among rural populations. Findings indicate that 45% of respondents reported having internet access, with an even distribution across different socioeconomic groups. However, only 30% of users could confidently use digital platforms for educational purposes. While initial access is broadly distributed, significant disparities in digital literacy hinder effective utilization of available resources. Prioritise community-led initiatives that focus on enhancing digital skills and creating tailored training programmes to address specific user needs.

**Keywords:** Digital Divide, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Participatory Action Research, Community Empowerment, E-Literacy, Accessibility Studies, Telecommunications Infrastructure

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