



Digital Inclusion and the Digital Divide in Niger Rural Communities: An Action Research Inquiry

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Abstract

Rural communities in Niger face significant challenges in accessing digital technologies, exacerbating a perceived digital divide. A participatory action research approach was employed, involving community consultations, surveys, and technology assessments conducted by local stakeholders. Community members reported a significant interest in accessing digital tools for education and economic activities, though access barriers remain substantial. Digital inclusion efforts must prioritise infrastructure development and community engagement to effectively address the digital divide. Investment should be directed towards broadband expansion and training programmes that cater specifically to rural populations.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Geographic Information Systems, Participatory Action Research, Digital Divide, Rural Development, Community Engagement, Socio-Technical Systems*

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