



Bridging Digital Inclusion Gaps in Rural South Africa Through Strategic Innovations

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Abstract

Rural communities in South Africa face significant digital inclusion gaps due to limited access to internet infrastructure and technology skills. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including surveys ($n=120$), *focus groups* ($n=8$), and *case studies* ($n=5$). Strategic interventions led to a 40% increase in internet access among targeted rural households over the first year. The findings suggest that tailored community engagement strategies are essential for effective digital inclusion. Policy makers should prioritise funding for broadband infrastructure and public-private partnerships for technology training programmes. Digital Inclusion, Rural South Africa, Community Engagement, Technological Solutions

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Africanization, Ethnoinformatics, SpatialDataScience, IndigenousTechnology, Ethnocommunication, DigitalDivideAnalysis*

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