



Digital Inclusion Dynamics in Rural African Communities of South Africa: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Digital inclusion in rural African communities of South Africa remains a significant challenge due to infrastructure limitations and socioeconomic disparities. A comparative study approach was employed, analysing data from five randomly selected rural communities across South Africa's diverse geographic regions. Digital divide patterns revealed stark inequalities with only 30% of surveyed households having reliable internet connections. The study highlights the critical need for targeted government interventions and community engagement strategies to bridge this digital gap. Policy recommendations include increasing broadband infrastructure, enhancing public education on digital skills, and promoting private sector partnerships.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Geographic Information Systems, Digital Divide, Socioeconomic Factors, Empirical Research, GIS Technology, Community Development*

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