



Strategies for Bridging Digital Inclusion in Rural South Africa: A Methodological Framework

Dumisani Dlamini^{1,2}, Nolwandle Nkabinde³, Gugu Xaba^{2,3}, Sibusiso Mkhize⁴

¹ Department of Artificial Intelligence, South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR)

² African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) South Africa

³ South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR)

⁴ Mintek

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Correspondence: ddlamini@aol.com

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Author notes

Dumisani Dlamini is affiliated with Department of Artificial Intelligence, South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR) and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Nolwandle Nkabinde is affiliated with South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR) and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Gugu Xaba is affiliated with South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR) and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Sibusiso Mkhize is affiliated with Mintek and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Abstract

Digital inclusion in rural South Africa remains a significant challenge, exacerbated by socioeconomic disparities and infrastructure limitations. The methodology combines qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys to assess the effectiveness of various digital literacy programmes. A mixed-methods approach will be employed, utilising both pre- and post-intervention data analysis. A preliminary survey revealed a 20% improvement in computer skills among participants after an intensive training programme, indicating potential efficacy. The methodological framework provides a robust structure for future digital inclusion initiatives by integrating feedback from rural communities with technological assessments. Future research should prioritise sustainability and scalability of interventions to ensure long-term impact on digital literacy in rural settings. digital inclusion, rural South Africa, mixed-methods approach, computer skills training Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\theta\} \operatorname{sumiell}(y_i, f\theta(\xi)) + \lambda \operatorname{Vert}\theta \operatorname{rVert} 2^2$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: *Digital Divide, Rural Development, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Analysis, Empirical Study, Socioeconomic Factors, Technological Access*

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