



Strategic Approaches to Enhancing Digital Access in Rural South Africa

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Abstract

Rural areas in South Africa face significant digital access barriers, limiting their participation in modern economic activities and social services. A mixed-methods approach involving surveys ($n=300$), *focus groups* ($n=25$), \wedge *qualitative interviews* ($n=10$). Internet access in rural areas is limited to 40% of households, with a higher proportion (60%) having unreliable connections. Digital literacy programmes are effective but need targeted interventions. Strategic approaches focusing on improving internet infrastructure and implementing tailored digital education initiatives can significantly reduce the digital inclusion gap in rural South Africa. Invest in robust broadband networks, establish community-based digital hubs, and integrate digital literacy into schools and local governance structures. Digital Inclusion, Rural Connectivity, Digital Literacy Programmes

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Africa, Ethnicity, SpatialAnalysis, BoundaryValueProblems*

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