



# Digital Inclusion and the Digital Divide in Rural Algerian Communities: An Ethnographic Exploration

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## Abstract

Algeria's rural communities are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of digital access and use compared to urban areas. This disparity is exacerbated by socio-economic factors such as poverty, education levels, and geographical isolation. The research employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with a diverse sample of community members from various regions in Algeria. Data collection took place over six months. A notable finding is the significant proportion (45%) of rural households that lack basic internet access, often due to cost constraints and infrastructure limitations. Additionally, there is substantial variation in digital literacy levels across different age groups. The study highlights the critical need for targeted interventions focused on improving broadband accessibility and enhancing digital skills training programmes tailored to local needs. Local governments should prioritise investment in rural telecommunications infrastructure alongside community-led initiatives aimed at increasing internet affordability and promoting digital literacy among older adults.

**Keywords:** *Geographical, Rural, Digital Divide, Anthropology, Methodology, Socioeconomic, Community Studies*

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