



Cultural Heritage Preservation Dynamics in Digital West Africa: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry into Kenya's Context

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Abstract

Cultural heritage preservation in digital age is a global concern, but its dynamics vary across regions and contexts. In West Africa, particularly Kenya, digital technologies are increasingly being used to engage communities in preserving local cultural heritages. This study aims to explore these dynamics. The methodology combines quantitative data collection via surveys with qualitative insights from semi-structured interviews. A total of 500 participants were surveyed to gather demographic information and perceptions on cultural heritage preservation. Interviews with 20 stakeholders provided in-depth understanding of the processes involved. Digital platforms have significantly increased public awareness about local heritages, leading to a 40% increase in community participation compared to traditional methods. However, challenges such as limited access to technology and funding remain significant barriers. This study highlights the potential of digital technologies for enhancing cultural heritage preservation efforts but also underscores the need for addressing existing disparities to ensure equitable engagement across all communities. Recommendations include increasing investment in digital infrastructure, developing educational programmes on digital preservation techniques, and fostering collaborations between stakeholders to overcome challenges. cultural heritage, digital age, stakeholder engagement, community participation

Keywords: *Cultural Heritage, Digital Age, West Africa, Community Engagement, Ethnography, Participatory Action Research, Geospatial Analysis*

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