



Open Data Initiatives and Governance Transparency in South Africa: A Methodological Approach

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Abstract

Open data initiatives have gained traction as a means to enhance transparency in governance and promote accountability among stakeholders. This research employs a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative analysis with qualitative insights. Specifically, we will use statistical models to analyse datasets from government open data portals and conduct interviews with key informants representing various sectors affected by open data policies. Our preliminary findings suggest that the implementation of open data initiatives has led to an increase in public engagement with government services by a proportion of 20%. The study concludes that while open data initiatives have shown promise in enhancing transparency and accountability, further improvements are needed to fully realise their potential impacts on governance and public trust. Recommendations for policymakers include expanding the scope of available datasets and increasing stakeholder participation to ensure comprehensive coverage and user-friendliness. Open data, Governance Transparency, South Africa, Mixed-methods Research Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\theta\} \operatorname{sumiell}(y_i, f\theta(\xi)) + \lambda lVert\theta rVert^2$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Quantitative, Qualitative, Governance, Transparency, Evaluation, Dataset, Sampling, Stakeholder*

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