



Digital Divide in Rural Madagascar

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Abstract

Digital Divide refers to the uneven distribution of digital technologies and access across different communities in rural Madagascar. Qualitative research involving interviews with local community leaders, focus group discussions, and an online survey to gather data on digital access barriers and user needs. The analysis reveals a significant disparity in mobile internet connectivity (4G) availability across different regions of rural Madagascar, affecting about 60% of the population who lack reliable internet access. Despite limited resources, there is strong demand for digital services among rural communities to improve education and healthcare delivery. - Increase government investment in rural infrastructure development, particularly in mobile network expansion. - Encourage private sector partnerships to enhance digital literacy programmes. - Implement targeted subsidies for low-income households to reduce internet costs.

Keywords: *Madagascan, Digital Divide, Community Leadership, Participatory Research, Empowerment Strategies, Access Equity, Technological Stigmatisation*

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