



Digital Inclusion Policies in Rural Moroccan Communities: Narrowing the Digital Divide

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Published: 26 December 2008 | **Received:** 15 August 2008 | **Accepted:** 23 November 2008

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18862906](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18862906)

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Abstract

Digital inclusion policies in rural Moroccan communities are crucial for bridging the digital divide that persists between urban and rural areas. A qualitative study involving interviews with community leaders, policymakers, and technology providers, supplemented by secondary data analysis of existing policy documents and surveys conducted within selected rural communities. The findings suggest a significant gap in internet connectivity and digital literacy skills among rural residents, with only 30% of respondents having access to stable high-speed internet compared to 75% in urban areas. This disparity is further compounded by the limited availability of affordable technology devices and training programmes tailored for rural populations. Current policies are insufficient in addressing these digital divide issues, particularly due to a lack of targeted interventions that integrate technological resources with educational support and infrastructure development. Develop comprehensive digital literacy programmes that combine online courses, hands-on workshops, and community-led initiatives. Additionally, prioritise the deployment of affordable, reliable internet access in rural areas through public-private partnerships.

Keywords: *Digital Divide, Sub-Saharan Africa, Community-Based Initiatives, Participatory Methods, Technology Adoption, Socioeconomic Factors, Inclusive Policies*

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