



Digital Inclusion and the Digital Divide in Rural African Communities of Uganda: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

In recent years, digital inclusion has become a critical aspect of socioeconomic development in rural African communities, particularly in Uganda where access to and utilization of digital technologies remain uneven. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising in-depth interviews with community members and focus group discussions among key stakeholders such as local leaders, educators, and technology providers. Data was analysed using thematic content analysis. Interviews revealed significant disparities in internet access and technological skills across different rural communities, with women and elderly individuals disproportionately affected by the digital divide. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to bridge the digital gap, including community-based training programmes and government initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and digital literacy. Recommendations include developing culturally sensitive educational materials, enhancing public-private partnerships for technology deployment, and integrating digital inclusion into broader development policies.

Keywords: *African geography, digital divide, inclusion studies, participatory action research, rural development, technology adoption, indigenous knowledge systems*

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