



Digital Inclusion in Rural Chad: An Action Research Study on the Digital Divide

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Abstract

Digital inclusion is a critical issue in rural communities across Africa, particularly affecting Chad where digital infrastructure is underdeveloped and access to technology remains limited. An action research approach was employed, involving community surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews with local stakeholders. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. A significant proportion (35%) of the rural population in Chad reported limited internet access, predominantly due to cost and lack of infrastructure. Digital literacy levels among adults were found to be low, with only 20% able to use basic online services such as email or social media. The study highlights substantial gaps in digital inclusion within rural Chad's population, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to bridge this divide. Immediate steps should include community-based initiatives focused on reducing internet costs and improving access points. Educational programmes aimed at increasing digital literacy are also recommended.

Keywords: *Chad, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Access Studies, Participatory Action Research, Digital Divide, Community Informatics, Rural Development*

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