



Digital Exclusion in Rural Somali Communities: A Meta-Analysis of Digital Inclusion Efforts

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Abstract

Digital exclusion is a significant issue in rural African communities, particularly those affected by conflict such as Somalia. The digital divide often exacerbates existing inequalities and hinders access to essential services. The analysis employs a comprehensive literature review approach, integrating data from multiple case studies across different regions of Somalia. Quantitative synthesis methods will be used to aggregate findings and identify common themes. Findings indicate that community-led initiatives, such as the provision of low-cost devices and digital literacy programmes, have shown promising results in increasing access to technology among rural populations. While progress has been made, persistent challenges include limited infrastructure, financial constraints, and cultural barriers. Further research is needed to tailor interventions more effectively. Policy makers should prioritise investment in community-based digital inclusion programmes, alongside efforts to improve infrastructure and address socio-cultural obstacles. digital exclusion, rural Somalia, digital literacy, inclusive development

Keywords: *African geography, Digital divide, Rural development, Quantitative methods, Empirical studies, Technology adoption, Community engagement*

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