



Open Data Initiatives and Governance Transparency in Botswana: A Scholarly Analysis

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Abstract

Open data initiatives have become increasingly important in promoting transparency and accountability in governance across various countries. Botswana, with its robust ICT infrastructure, is an ideal case study for examining the impact of such initiatives on government operations. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews to gather data from government officials, civil society organizations, and the general public. Public engagement in open data projects has shown a significant increase over recent years, with approximately 75% of respondents indicating higher levels of trust in government information compared to pre-initiative levels. Data accuracy remains a challenge, with an average error rate of $\pm 10\%$ reported by participants. Open data initiatives have successfully fostered greater transparency and accountability within Botswana's governance structures, although continuous efforts are needed to improve data quality. Future open data projects should prioritise data accuracy and reliability through rigorous validation processes. Stakeholder collaboration is essential for effective implementation and sustainable outcomes. Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{ \sum_i \ell(y_i, f(\theta; \xi)) + \lambda \|\theta\|_2^2 \}$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: *Geographic, Africa, OpenData, GovernanceTransparency, ICTInfrastructure, Methodological, EthnoculturalAnalysis*

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