



Digital Inclusion Policy in Rural African Communities: Mitigating the Digital Divide in Egypt's Governance Context

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Abstract

Digital inclusion policies aim to bridge the digital divide by equipping underserved communities with access to technology and digital literacy skills. In rural African communities, this is particularly challenging given existing disparities in infrastructure and socio-economic conditions. A qualitative approach was employed to analyse policy documents, interviews with stakeholders, and case studies of successful projects in selected rural areas. The analysis aimed at understanding policy implementation and impact from a governance perspective. The findings indicate that while Egypt has made progress in improving internet access through public-private partnerships, the penetration rate remains low among rural populations, particularly in remote regions where service delivery is challenging. Despite initial successes, ongoing challenges include inadequate funding for maintenance and expansion of digital infrastructure, as well as limited community engagement mechanisms. To enhance policy effectiveness, it is recommended that Egypt should allocate more resources towards infrastructure development, increase public-private cooperation, and strengthen community involvement in project planning and execution.

Keywords: *Digital Divide, Sub-Saharan Africa, Technological Literacy, Access Equity, Community Development, Participatory Governance, E-Governance*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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