

Leveraging Technology for Gender-Inclusive Governance in Nigeria: Assessing Digital Strategies to Advance Gender Equality

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of technology in advancing gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria, with a focus on evaluating digital strategies that can promote gender equality and enhance women's participation in governance. Despite Nigeria's commitment to international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 5, systemic gender disparities persist in political representation, economic opportunities, and social inclusion. Traditional policy approaches have often fallen short due to entrenched cultural norms, limited access to resources, and inadequate institutional mechanisms. In response, this research investigates how technological innovations, including e-governance platforms, mobile applications, and data analytics, can serve as transformative tools for addressing these challenges. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of existing digital initiatives with qualitative insights from interviews with policymakers, civil society actors, and women leaders. Key findings reveal that digital tools have the potential to amplify women's voices, streamline access to government services, and facilitate evidence-based policymaking through disaggregated data collection. However, significant barriers remain, including the digital gender divide, low levels of digital literacy among women, and infrastructural limitations in rural areas. To address these gaps, the study recommends targeted investments in digital infrastructure, capacity-building programs for women, and the integration of gender-responsive design principles into technological solutions. By leveraging technology strategically, Nigeria can move closer to achieving gender equality and fostering inclusive governance systems that reflect the needs and aspirations of all citizens. This research contributes to ongoing global discussions on the intersection of technology, governance, and gender equity.

Keywords: Technology, Gender - Inclusive Governance, Gender Equality, Digital Strategies, E-Governance, Women's Participation, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Gender equality remains a critical global challenge, with significant implications for social, economic, and political development. In Nigeria, despite its status as Africa's largest economy and most populous nation, systemic gender disparities persist, undermining inclusive governance and sustainable development. These disparities manifest in various forms, including unequal access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and political representation. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report (2023), Nigeria ranks 133rd out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity, reflecting deep-rooted structural and cultural barriers that hinder progress toward gender equality. The persistence of these challenges

underscores the need for innovative approaches to address gender inequality, particularly within the realm of governance.

Governance, as a mechanism for decision-making and resource allocation, plays a pivotal role in shaping societal outcomes. However, traditional governance systems in Nigeria have often excluded women, perpetuating patriarchal norms that limit their participation and influence. Women constitute approximately 49% of Nigeria's population (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022), yet they remain underrepresented in leadership roles across all levels of government. For instance, as of 2023, women hold only 7% of seats in Nigeria's National Assembly, one of the lowest rates globally (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2023). This lack of representation not only marginalizes women but also undermines the effectiveness of governance by excluding diverse perspectives essential for inclusive policymaking.

In recent years, technological advancements have emerged as a potential catalyst for transforming governance systems and addressing gender disparities. Digital technologies, such as e-governance platforms, mobile applications, and data analytics, offer unprecedented opportunities to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. For example, e-governance initiatives can streamline access to public services, enabling women to overcome barriers related to mobility and time constraints. Mobile technologies, which have seen widespread adoption in Nigeria with over 150 million active mobile subscribers as of 2022 (Nigerian Communications Commission, 2022) can serve as tools for disseminating information, mobilizing advocacy efforts, and fostering grassroots participation. Furthermore, data-driven approaches can help policymakers identify gender-specific needs and design targeted interventions to address them.

Despite these promising developments, the digital gender divide remains a significant obstacle in Nigeria. Studies indicate that women are less likely than men to own mobile phones or have access to the internet, largely due to socioeconomic factors such as poverty, low literacy levels, and cultural restrictions (GSMA, 2022). This disparity limits the potential impact of digital strategies on gender equality, as women are often excluded from the benefits of technological innovations. Additionally, infrastructural challenges, such as unreliable electricity and limited broadband connectivity in rural areas, further exacerbate the problem. These issues highlight the importance of addressing both technological and socio-cultural barriers to ensure that digital solutions are inclusive and equitable.

The intersection of technology and gender-inclusive governance has garnered increasing attention in academic and policy circles. Scholars argue that leveraging technology effectively requires a holistic approach that integrates gender-responsive design principles into technological solutions (World Bank, 2021). For instance, designing user-friendly interfaces and providing content in local languages can enhance accessibility for women with limited digital literacy. Similarly, promoting digital skills training programs tailored to women's needs can empower them to harness the full potential of technological tools. Moreover, fostering partnerships between governments, private sector actors, and civil society organizations is crucial for scaling up successful digital initiatives and ensuring their sustainability.

Nigeria's commitment to international frameworks, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscores the urgency of addressing gender inequality through innovative means. Goal 5 of the SDGs specifically calls for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, with targets emphasizing the elimination of discriminatory laws, the enhancement of women's political participation, and the use of technology to promote gender empowerment (United Nations, 2023). While Nigeria has made some progress in aligning its national policies with these global commitments, implementation gaps remain a significant challenge. For example, the National Gender Policy (2006) outlines strategies for promoting gender equality, but its execution has been hampered by inadequate funding, weak institutional capacity, and insufficient monitoring mechanisms (Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, 2022).

Against this backdrop, this study seeks to explore how technology can be leveraged to advance gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria. By evaluating existing digital strategies and identifying best practices, the research aims to provide actionable recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders.

Despite Nigeria's commitment to international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender inequality remains a pervasive issue, undermining inclusive governance and sustainable development. Women constitute nearly half of Nigeria's population but are significantly underrepresented in political, economic, and social decision-making processes. As of 2023, women hold only 7% of seats in Nigeria's National Assembly, reflecting systemic barriers that limit their participation in governance (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2023). This exclusion perpetuates policies that fail to address the specific needs of women, exacerbating disparities in areas such as education, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

While technological advancements offer innovative solutions to enhance governance systems, their potential to promote gender equality remains underexplored and inadequately implemented in Nigeria. The digital gender divide further compounds the problem, as women face challenges such as limited access to technology, low digital literacy, and cultural restrictions that hinder their ability to benefit from digital tools (GSMA, 2022). Without addressing these barriers, technological interventions risk reinforcing existing inequalities rather than alleviating them.

Moreover, there is a lack of comprehensive research evaluating the effectiveness of digital strategies in advancing gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria. This study seeks to address this gap by examining how technology can be leveraged to overcome structural and cultural barriers, foster women's participation, and promote equitable governance. By identifying best practices and actionable recommendations, the research aims to contribute to the development of more inclusive and responsive governance systems in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

Technology

Technology, as a transformative force, has reshaped the way societies function, interact, and govern themselves. In the context of governance, technology refers to the application of digital tools, platforms, and systems to enhance decision-making processes, improve service delivery, and foster citizen engagement. Over the past two decades, rapid advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs) have revolutionized governance systems worldwide, offering innovative solutions to longstanding challenges such as inefficiency, corruption, and exclusion. In Nigeria, where governance structures have historically been characterized by opacity and limited citizen participation, technology presents an opportunity to create more transparent, accountable, and inclusive systems.

At its core, technology serves as an enabler of connectivity and access. Digital platforms such as e-governance portals, mobile applications, and social media networks have democratized access to information, allowing citizens to engage with government institutions in unprecedented ways. For instance, e-governance initiatives like the Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS) in Nigeria have streamlined tax collection processes, reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks and enhancing transparency (Federal Inland Revenue Service, 2021). Similarly, mobile technologies have emerged as powerful tools for service delivery, particularly in rural areas where traditional infrastructure is lacking. Mobile money platforms, for example, have facilitated financial inclusion by providing women and marginalized groups with access to banking services that were previously inaccessible (GSMA, 2022).

However, the potential of technology extends beyond efficiency gains; it also holds significant promise for addressing systemic inequalities. Data analytics, for instance, can be leveraged to identify gender disparities

and inform evidence-based policymaking. By disaggregating data based on gender, policymakers can gain insights into the unique needs and challenges faced by women, enabling them to design targeted interventions. For example, the use of geospatial data in healthcare planning has helped identify regions with high maternal mortality rates, prompting governments to allocate resources more effectively (World Health Organization, 2021). Furthermore, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms are increasingly being used to predict trends and optimize resource allocation, offering new possibilities for addressing complex social issues.

Despite these opportunities, the adoption of technology in governance is not without challenges. One major concern is the digital divide, which disproportionately affects women and marginalized groups. Studies indicate that women in Nigeria are less likely than men to own smartphones or have internet access, largely due to socioeconomic barriers such as poverty, low literacy levels, and cultural norms (International Telecommunication Union, 2022). This disparity limits the reach and impact of digital governance initiatives, as women are often excluded from the benefits of technological innovations. Additionally, cybersecurity risks and privacy concerns pose significant threats to the integrity of digital systems, undermining public trust in e-governance platforms.

Another critical aspect of technology in governance is its ability to amplify voices and foster civic participation. Social media platforms, for instance, have become vital spaces for advocacy and mobilization, enabling citizens to hold governments accountable and demand greater inclusivity. Movements such as #BringBackOurGirls, which gained global attention through social media campaigns, demonstrate the power of technology to galvanize collective action and drive policy change (Adegoke, 2020). However, the misuse of technology for misinformation and propaganda highlights the need for robust regulatory frameworks to ensure ethical and responsible use.

Thus, technology represents a double-edged sword in the realm of governance. While it offers immense potential to enhance transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity, its benefits are contingent upon addressing structural and cultural barriers. Bridging the digital gender divide, investing in digital literacy programs, and fostering partnerships between governments, private sector actors, and civil society organizations are essential steps toward harnessing the full potential of technology for inclusive governance. As Nigeria continues to navigate the complexities of digital transformation, understanding the multifaceted role of technology is crucial for advancing gender equality and fostering sustainable development.

Gender-Inclusive Governance

Gender-inclusive governance refers to the integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of governance, ensuring that policies, programmes, and institutions are designed and implemented in ways that promote gender equality and empower all individuals, regardless of their gender identity. At its essence, gender-inclusive governance seeks to dismantle systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality and exclusion, creating spaces where diverse voices are heard, valued, and acted upon. In Nigeria, where patriarchal norms and cultural practices have historically marginalized women, achieving gender-inclusive governance remains a formidable yet necessary challenge.

The concept of gender-inclusive governance is rooted in the broader framework of good governance, which emphasizes principles such as transparency, accountability, participation, and equity. However, traditional governance systems in Nigeria have often fallen short of these ideals, particularly in terms of gender representation and responsiveness. Women constitute nearly half of Nigeria's population, yet they remain underrepresented in leadership roles across all levels of government. For example, as of 2023, women occupy only 7% of seats in the National Assembly, reflecting entrenched biases that limit their political participation (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2023). This lack of representation not only undermines the legitimacy of

governance systems but also perpetuates policies that fail to address the specific needs and priorities of women.

To achieve gender-inclusive governance, deliberate efforts must be made to mainstream gender considerations into policy formulation and implementation. Gender mainstreaming involves assessing the implications of policies and programs for both men and women, ensuring that gender disparities are identified and addressed at every stage of the decision-making process (United Nations Development Programme, 2021). For instance, incorporating gender-sensitive budgeting practices can help allocate resources equitably, prioritizing sectors such as education, healthcare, and economic empowerment that disproportionately impact women. Similarly, adopting quotas or affirmative action measures can enhance women's political representation, providing them with the platform to advocate for inclusive policies.

Another critical dimension of gender-inclusive governance is the promotion of women's leadership and agency. Empowering women to take on leadership roles not only challenges existing power dynamics but also enriches governance systems by bringing diverse perspectives to the table. Research shows that increasing women's participation in decision-making leads to more effective and sustainable outcomes, as policies are more likely to reflect the needs of the entire population (World Bank, 2021). For example, countries with higher levels of female representation in parliament tend to prioritize issues such as healthcare, education, and social welfare, which benefit society as a whole (OECD, 2022).

However, achieving gender-inclusive governance requires addressing deeply entrenched cultural and structural barriers. In Nigeria, societal norms that associate leadership with masculinity continue to hinder women's advancement in public life. These norms are reinforced by discriminatory laws and practices that restrict women's access to education, employment, and property ownership. For instance, customary and religious laws often deny women equal inheritance rights, perpetuating cycles of poverty and disempowerment (African Union, 2022). Addressing these barriers necessitates comprehensive legal reforms, coupled with awareness-raising campaigns to shift cultural attitudes and promote gender equality.

In addition to legal and institutional reforms, fostering partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, and international agencies is crucial for advancing gender-inclusive governance. Collaborative efforts can amplify advocacy efforts, share best practices, and mobilize resources to support gender equality initiatives. For example, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), launched in 2017, has played a pivotal role in promoting women's leadership and influencing policy agendas across the continent (African Union, 2022). Such initiatives underscore the importance of collective action in driving systemic change.

In conclusion, gender-inclusive governance is not merely a matter of fairness but a prerequisite for sustainable development. By integrating gender perspectives into governance systems, Nigeria can create more equitable and responsive institutions that reflect the needs and aspirations of all citizens. Achieving this vision requires addressing structural and cultural barriers, empowering women as leaders, and fostering collaborative partnerships. As Nigeria strives to build a more inclusive future, gender-inclusive governance must remain at the forefront of its development agenda.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a mixed-methods research design to evaluate the role of technology in advancing gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria. The mixed-methods approach allows for the integration of quantitative and qualitative data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The research is structured into three phases: data collection, data analysis, and interpretation.

The first phase involves the collection of quantitative data through surveys and secondary sources. A structured questionnaire was administered to 100 participants, including government officials, civil society

actors, and women leaders across six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The questionnaire was designed to assess the accessibility and effectiveness of digital tools such as e-governance platforms, mobile applications, and data analytics in promoting gender equality. Additionally, secondary data was sourced from reports by organizations such as the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigerian Communications Commission, and international bodies like the World Bank and United Nations. This data provided insights into trends such as internet penetration rates, mobile phone ownership, and gender-disaggregated statistics on political participation and service delivery.

In the second phase, qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. Approximately 20 key informants, including policymakers, technologists, and gender advocates, were interviewed to gain deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with leveraging technology for gender-inclusive governance. Focus group discussions involving women from rural and urban areas explored their experiences with digital tools and identify barriers to access and usage. Thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring patterns and themes in the qualitative data.

The final phase involved triangulating quantitative and qualitative findings to draw robust conclusions. Statistical tools such as SPSS were used to analyze survey data, while NVivo software was used to assist in organizing and analyzing qualitative data. Ethical considerations, including informed consent and confidentiality, was strictly adhered to throughout the research process. By combining empirical evidence with stakeholder perspectives, this study aims to provide actionable recommendations for integrating technology into gender-inclusive governance strategies in Nigeria. This methodology ensures a balanced and evidence-based approach to addressing the research objectives.

RESULTS

This section presents the findings from the study, which involved 100 quantitative respondents and 20 qualitative respondents. The quantitative data were analyzed using correlation analysis to identify relationships between variables, while the qualitative data were analyzed using NVivo software to extract themes and patterns. The results are presented in tables for the quantitative data and thematic summaries for the qualitative data.

Quantitative Data Presentation

The quantitative data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 100 respondents, comprising government officials, civil society actors, and women leaders across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. The questionnaire focused on assessing the accessibility and effectiveness of digital tools such as e-governance platforms, mobile applications, and data analytics in promoting gender-inclusive governance. Below is a summary of the key findings, presented in tabular form.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Quantitative Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	45	45%
	Female	55	55%
Age Group	18–30	25	25%
	31–45	40	40%

	46–60	25	25%
	Above 60	10	10%
Geopolitical Zone	North Central	15	15%
	North East	10	10%
	North West	15	15%
	South East	15	15%
	South South	20	20%
	South West	25	25%

The demographic profile indicates a relatively balanced distribution of respondents across gender, age groups, and geopolitical zones, ensuring representation from diverse perspectives.

Table 2: Accessibility of Digital Tools

Digital tool	Highly accessible	Moderately accessible	Not accessible	Total responses
E-Governance Platforms	30	40	30	100
Mobile Applications	45	35	20	100
Data Analytics Tools	20	50	30	100

The data revealed that mobile applications are the most accessible digital tool, followed by e-governance platforms. However, data analytics tools remain largely inaccessible, particularly in rural areas where infrastructure is limited.

Table 3: Effectiveness of Digital Tools in Promoting Gender Equality

Digital tool	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Not effective	Total responses
E-Governance Platforms	25	35	40	100
Mobile Applications	30	40	30	100
Data Analytics Tools	15	35	50	100

Respondents generally perceive mobile applications as more effective than other tools in promoting gender equality. E-governance platforms and data analytics tools receive mixed reviews, with many respondents citing challenges such as lack of digital literacy and poor internet connectivity.

Correlation Analysis

To examine the relationship between accessibility and effectiveness of digital tools, a Pearson correlation analysis was conducted. The results are summarized below:

E-Governance Platforms: A moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.52$, $p < 0.05$) was found between accessibility and perceived effectiveness.

Mobile Applications: A strong positive correlation ($r = 0.71$, $p < 0.01$) was observed, indicating that higher accessibility significantly enhances the perceived effectiveness of mobile applications.

Data Analytics Tools: A weak positive correlation ($r = 0.35$, $p < 0.05$) was identified, suggesting that accessibility has a limited impact on the effectiveness of these tools.

These findings highlight the importance of improving access to digital tools, particularly mobile applications, to promote gender equality.

Qualitative Data Presentation

The qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 20 key informants, including policymakers, technologists, and gender advocates. The interviews explored their perspectives on the role of technology in advancing gender-inclusive governance, challenges faced, and potential solutions. NVivo software was used to analyze the data, identifying recurring themes and patterns. Key Themes Identified:

Barriers to Technology Adoption

Several respondents highlighted the digital gender divide as a significant barrier, noting that women often lack access to smartphones and the internet due to socioeconomic constraints.

Many women, especially in rural areas, lack the skills needed to use digital tools effectively, limiting their ability to benefit from technological innovations.

Cultural norms that restrict women's mobility and decision-making power were cited as obstacles to their engagement with digital platforms.

Opportunities for Leveraging Technology

Respondents emphasized the potential of mobile applications to empower women by providing access to information, financial services, and advocacy platforms.

The use of data analytics to identify gender disparities and inform evidence-based policies was widely regarded as a promising opportunity.

E-governance platforms were praised for their ability to enhance transparency and accountability, fostering greater trust in governance systems.

Recommendations for Policy Action

Respondents called for investments in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to bridge the digital divide.

Training programs tailored to women's needs were recommended to improve digital literacy and empower them to harness the full potential of technology.

Integrating gender-responsive design principles into technological solutions was identified as critical for ensuring inclusivity.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings from both the quantitative and qualitative data provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of technology in advancing gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria. The correlation analysis conducted on the quantitative data reveals a significant relationship between the accessibility of digital tools and their perceived effectiveness in promoting gender equality. For instance, mobile applications demonstrated a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.71$, $p < 0.01$) between accessibility and effectiveness, underscoring their potential as powerful tools for empowering women. However, e-governance platforms and data analytics tools exhibited weaker correlations, highlighting challenges such as limited internet connectivity, inadequate infrastructure, and low digital literacy that hinder their impact. These findings emphasize the need to address structural barriers to ensure equitable access to technology, particularly for women in underserved regions.

The qualitative data further enriches these insights by shedding light on the broader socio-cultural and systemic factors influencing the adoption of technology for gender-inclusive governance. Key informants identified the digital gender divide as a persistent obstacle, with women disproportionately affected by limited access to smartphones, the internet, and digital literacy training. Cultural norms that restrict women's autonomy and decision-making power were also cited as significant barriers, reinforcing existing inequalities. Despite these challenges, respondents expressed optimism about the transformative potential of technology. Mobile applications, for example, were praised for their ability to empower women by providing access to financial services, educational resources, and advocacy platforms. Similarly, data analytics tools were recognized for their capacity to inform evidence-based policymaking, enabling governments to design targeted interventions that address gender disparities.

A recurring theme in the qualitative findings was the importance of adopting a gender-responsive approach to technological design and implementation. Respondents emphasized the need to integrate gender considerations into the development of digital tools, ensuring they are accessible, user-friendly, and culturally relevant. Capacity-building programs tailored to women's needs were also recommended as a critical step toward bridging the digital literacy gap. Furthermore, investments in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, were highlighted as essential for expanding access to technology and fostering inclusivity.

By combining empirical evidence from the quantitative analysis with stakeholder perspectives from the qualitative interviews, this study underscores the multifaceted nature of leveraging technology for gender-inclusive governance. While digital tools offer immense potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, their effectiveness is contingent upon addressing structural and cultural barriers. This study's findings contribute to ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality in Nigeria by offering actionable recommendations, such as improving digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and adopting gender-responsive design principles. These strategies can help create more equitable governance systems that reflect the needs and aspirations of all citizens, ultimately fostering inclusive development and sustainable progress.

CONCLUSION

This study underscored the transformative potential of technology in advancing gender-inclusive governance in Nigeria, while also highlighting the multifaceted challenges that must be addressed to fully harness its benefits. The findings reveal a strong correlation between the accessibility of digital tools and their effectiveness in promoting gender equality, particularly in the case of mobile applications. However, systemic barriers such as the digital gender divide, low digital literacy, and infrastructural limitations continue to hinder equitable access to technology, disproportionately affecting women in rural and underserved areas. These challenges underscore the need for targeted interventions that go beyond technological adoption to address underlying socio-cultural and structural inequalities.

The qualitative insights further emphasize the importance of adopting a gender-responsive approach to technological design and implementation. Without deliberate efforts to integrate gender considerations into digital tools, there is a risk of perpetuating existing disparities rather than alleviating them. For instance, cultural norms that restrict women's autonomy and decision-making power remain significant obstacles to their engagement with technology. Addressing these barriers requires a holistic strategy that combines infrastructure development, capacity-building programs, and advocacy efforts to shift societal attitudes toward gender equality.

While the study provides valuable recommendations, it also highlights gaps in the current discourse on technology and governance. For example, the limited focus on data analytics tools in promoting gender equality suggests a need for greater investment in training and awareness-raising to unlock their potential. Additionally, the study's reliance on self-reported data from a relatively small sample size may limit the generalizability of its findings. Future research should explore larger and more diverse populations to validate these results and identify context-specific solutions.

However, leveraging technology for gender-inclusive governance is not merely a technical challenge but a deeply social and political endeavor. By addressing structural and cultural barriers, Nigeria can create more equitable governance systems that empower women and foster inclusive development. This study contributes to this vision by offering evidence-based recommendations that align with global commitments to achieving gender equality.

- Invest in expanding digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to ensure equitable access to technology. This includes improving internet connectivity, increasing broadband penetration, and providing affordable smartphones and devices to women. Evidence from the study highlights that limited access to technology disproportionately affects women, hindering their ability to benefit from digital governance tools.
- Implement targeted digital literacy training programs designed to address the specific challenges faced by women, such as low technological proficiency and cultural restrictions. These programs should focus on building skills in using e-governance platforms, mobile applications, and data analytics tools, enabling women to fully participate in digital spaces. The study identifies low digital literacy as a significant barrier to technology adoption among women.
- Integrate gender-responsive design into the development of digital tools to ensure they are accessible, user-friendly, and culturally relevant for women. This includes creating interfaces in local languages, simplifying navigation, and addressing gender-specific needs. The qualitative findings emphasize the importance of designing technologies that reflect the realities and priorities of diverse populations.
- Prioritize the development and promotion of mobile applications that empower women by providing access to financial services, educational resources, and advocacy platforms. The quantitative analysis reveals a strong positive correlation between the accessibility of mobile applications and their effectiveness in promoting gender equality, making them a powerful tool for inclusion.

- Utilize data analytics tools to identify gender disparities and inform evidence-based policymaking. Governments should invest in building capacity for data collection, disaggregation, and analysis to design targeted interventions that address the unique needs of women. The study highlights the potential of data-driven approaches to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance systems.

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