

Chapter 15

Navigating Globalization and Digitalization: Strategies for Enhancing Digital Inclusion

Patcha Bhujanga Rao

 <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4736-8497>

Jain University (Deemed), India

Rammya. B.

 <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2917-275X>

VET First Grade College, India

Shamili Sri A.

Jain University (Deemed), India

Preethi Inampudi

 <http://orcid.org/0009-0006-1339-0417>

VET First Grade College, India

Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Meegada

 <http://orcid.org/0009-0000-9132-3742>

Sreenivasa Institute of Technology and Management Studies, Chittoor, India

ABSTRACT

This article examines the intersection of globalization, digitalization, and digital inclusion, emphasizing the need for equitable access to digital technologies and proficiency in using them. It identifies a research gap and proposes objectives to analyze the effects of globalization and digitalization on digital inclusion disparities among marginalized populations, assess specific challenges faced by underserved

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groups, investigate existing digital inclusion strategies' effectiveness, and propose targeted interventions. The recommendations include promoting digital technology usage, implementing education and training programs, enacting policy interventions, fostering community engagement, addressing barriers, and advocating for continuous monitoring and evaluation. Overall, digital inclusion is critical to fostering a more equitable and inclusive society in the digital age.

INTRODUCTION

The present era is characterized by unparalleled global interconnectedness and rapid technological advancement, which have had a profound impact on cultures worldwide (Smith, 2020). The boundaries between nations and societies have become increasingly blurred due to the forces of globalization, which denote the accelerated pace of transformation in economies, cultures, and communities (Johnson, 2021). Consequently, the dynamics of work, communication, and human interaction have undergone dramatic changes owing to the pervasive digitalization facilitated by advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs) (Anderson, 2022). Global interconnectedness and technological advancement in the current period are unprecedented, and this has led to profound shifts in cultures all across the world (Brown, 2019). A more linked world without boundaries has been brought about by globalization, which is the term used to describe the accelerated speed of change in economies, cultures, and communities (Garcia, 2023). The way we work, communicate, and engage with one another has changed dramatically as a result of digitalization, which is fueled by advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) (Lee, 2024).

The unprecedented global interconnectedness and technological advancement witnessed today necessitates a focus on digital inclusion, particularly in the context of a rapidly globalized world (Miller, 2019). Digital inclusion aims to ensure that individuals, irrespective of their financial status, physical abilities, or geographical location, have equitable access to and proficiency in utilizing digital technologies (Patel, 2020). To actively participate in the digital economy and society, individuals must have access to technology and internet connectivity, as well as possess the necessary skills to comprehend and effectively utilize digital tools and platforms (Nguyen, 2021).

In the context of our interconnected and globalized world, digital inclusion has emerged as a fundamental requirement in today's dynamic society (Kim, 2022). Regardless of financial circumstances, physical abilities, or geographical location, ensuring that everyone has equal access to digital technologies and the necessary skills to utilize them efficiently has become imperative (Davis, 2023). Digital inclusion

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