

example, access to high-speed internet remains limited, making it difficult for people to participate in online learning, work remotely, or access government services. These infrastructural challenges are compounded by the high costs of mobile data and electricity, which further inhibit the spread of digital literacy in marginalized regions.

Studies by Van Dijk (2020) suggest that improving digital infrastructure, such as providing low-cost internet and enhancing mobile connectivity, could help close the digital literacy gap in these areas. Partnerships between governments, NGOs, and private sectors are seen as crucial in overcoming these barriers. For example, community-driven solutions, such as local internet hubs and mobile technology programs, have been proposed as potential interventions to enhance access to ICT resources.

Government-led initiatives and community partnerships have been shown to be effective in bridging digital literacy gaps in the Global South. A key strategy has been the integration of ICT training programs into formal and informal education systems. In Bangladesh, the government's "Digital Bangladesh" initiative aims to provide citizens with ICT skills through educational reforms and community-based digital literacy programs (Saha et al., 2022). Similarly, in South Africa, ICT training programs in schools have been shown to improve digital literacy among students, particularly when these programs are contextualized to local needs (Jaffer et al., 2007).

In addition to governmental programs, partnerships between NGOs and local communities have been successful in addressing digital literacy gaps. NGOs often focus on providing training to underserved populations, such as women, rural dwellers, and older adults. These initiatives focus not only on technical skills but also on fostering attitudes and behaviors that promote the use of technology for personal and professional development. For instance, community-run workshops and mobile-based training programs have proven effective in providing digital literacy to people who otherwise have limited access to formal education (Liu et al., 2020).

The literature also emphasizes the role of digital literacy in achieving broader developmental goals, including sustainable development. According to Radovanović et al. (2020), digital literacy is a critical skill for advancing education, healthcare, and economic development in the Global South. Digital skills are linked to better employment opportunities, increased productivity, and enhanced access to social services. Moreover, digital literacy is essential for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

As the digital economy continues to grow, countries in the Global South face the challenge of preparing their populations for participation in this new economy. To this end, digital literacy must be seen not only as a set of technical skills but as a cornerstone of social inclusion and economic empowerment.