

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES - A CURRENT SCENARIO

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has transformed societies across the globe, yet its benefits and opportunities have not been equitably distributed. This paper critically examines the multifaceted impact of technology on marginalized communities, including economically disadvantaged groups, rural populations, people with disabilities, and historically oppressed castes and ethnicities. While technology has the potential to empower these communities through access to information, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, it often simultaneously reinforces existing structural inequalities due to systemic barriers such as digital illiteracy, lack of infrastructure, and socio-economic exclusion. This study draws on interdisciplinary literature, case studies, and empirical data to explore both the enabling and excluding effects of digital innovations. For instance, while mobile banking and e-governance platforms have increased access to services for some rural users, digital divides persist due to language barriers, affordability issues, and lack of digital skills. The paper also addresses the surveillance and data privacy concerns that disproportionately affect marginalized users, whose lack of legal literacy and representation renders them vulnerable. By highlighting successful grassroots digital initiatives, such as community internet hubs and inclusive technology design projects, the research underscores the importance of participatory approaches that centre the voices of the marginalized. The paper concludes by recommending policy interventions and inclusive tech development strategies aimed at bridging the digital divide and fostering equitable digital citizenship.

Keywords: Digital divide, marginalized communities, inclusive technology, empowerment, social inequality, access to technology