



Digital Exclusion and Caste in India: A Meta-analytical Study

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Abstract: *During the COVID era, almost every field got better because of the use of digital technology. It filled almost all social gaps. Many people have adopted technology because it meets their needs, but there is also a digital divide between different ethnographic. In this study, the digital divide between different social groups in India was looked at. A meta-analytical study was used to find out what the results were. Researchers used information from different reports and findings from the COVID-19 era. The study looked at the first-level digital divide (access to computers and the Internet) and the second-level digital divide (soft skills to use computers and the Internet) between disadvantaged caste groups and others. Using a method called "nonlinear decomposition," this paper also shows how the digital divide between these groups is caused by differences in socioeconomic factors that are based on caste. The results show that there is a big first-level and second-level digital divide in India between the lower caste groups and the rest of the country. The results of the non-linear decomposition show that the caste-based digital divide in India has its roots in the social and economic neglect of lower-caste groups in the past. More than half of the digital divide based on caste is caused by the fact that people from disadvantaged caste groups have less education and make less money than people from other caste groups. The results of this study show how important it is to fix the differences in education and income between India's different castes in order to close the digital divide.*

Keywords: Digital Exclusion, COVID-19, Castes, Social Exclusion