

AI Readiness and Adoption in Emerging Economies: Barriers and Pathways

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Abstract

This study presents a comprehensive assessment of AI adoption and readiness in Global South economies, highlighting a rapidly evolving yet complex landscape. AI integration spans multiple sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, manufacturing, and services, but is hindered by infrastructural deficits, a lack of skilled workforce, inadequate policy frameworks, and limited trust in AI technologies. By examining theoretical and empirical evidence, this work explores data availability, data governance, and protection policies while assessing infrastructural capabilities necessary for AI adoption. Additionally, successful implementation cases from selected countries provide insights into both challenges and opportunities. While the path to AI integration is fraught with obstacles, its successful implementation could significantly reshape the economic landscapes of the Global South.

Keywords: Technology Trust, AI Adoption, Global South, AI-Readiness, Infrastructure Deficits, Tech Policy Frameworks

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