

A STUDY OF EFFECT OF DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON E-GOVERNMENT DIVIDE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

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Republic of Mauritius. Findings would encourage wider e-participation and e-inclusion into policy-making from all segments of the population.

Methodology: A stratified random sample of 310 users and non-users of e-government was used. Logistic regression was estimated. The non-significant Hosmer-Lemeshow test and the Nagelkerke R^2 of 0.538 imply that the logit model is useful in predicting the e-government divide.

Main Findings: The classification table shows 81% correct classification. All Wald Chi-Square statistics are reported. This research reveals that marital status and gender do not predict the e-government divide. Age ($p < 0.01$), education ($p < 0.001$), middle income range ($p < 0.05$), dwellership ($p < 0.01$) and public sector employment ($p < 0.05$) affect a citizen's decision to adopt e-government. The massive investments in e-government initiatives cannot be justified as these have not catered for universal coverage. Young citizens are 20 times more likely than old citizens to adopt e-government.

Implications/Applications: The tendency to use e-government increases as more education is acquired. Rural dwellership almost triples the odds of e-government adoption although these citizens are less educated than their urban counterparts. Public sector employees are 3.6 times more likely to use government websites than the self-employed. Monthly income earners of Rs 20001 to Rs 35000 are 3.3 times more likely to use e-government services than those earning up to Rs 10000. This study is ground-breaking and challenges the belief that rural dwellers are marginalized and reinforces the importance of education within the theoretical framework of the e-government divide.

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