

DIGITAL READINESS TYPOLOGY OF 38 PROVINCES IN INDONESIA BASED ON THE THREE PILLARS OF IMDI 2025

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Abstract

Digital transformation in Indonesia is growing rapidly along with increasing internet penetration, but equalizing digital readiness across provinces remains a challenge. This study aims to analyze the typology of digital readiness of 38 provinces in Indonesia based on the three main pillars of the 2025 Indonesian Digital Society Index (IMDI): the Infrastructure and Ecosystem Pillar, the Digital Literacy Pillar, and the Empowerment Pillar. The study uses a qualitative descriptive approach utilizing secondary data from the 2025 IMDI publication published by the Ministry of Communication and Digital (Komdigi). The analysis was conducted by mapping the achievements of each pillar, grouping digital readiness typologies, and identifying digital gap clusters between provinces. The results show that digital readiness in Indonesia remains heterogeneous. The Infrastructure and Ecosystem Pillar has the highest national achievement, while the Empowerment Pillar has the lowest achievement, indicating that digital infrastructure development has not been fully followed by productive technology utilization. Based on the classification results, provinces in Indonesia can be grouped into four typologies: Very High Digital Readiness, High Digital Readiness, Medium Digital Readiness, and Low Digital Readiness, as well as four digital divide clusters: Digital Leader, Digital Emerging, Digital Transition, and Digital Lagging. These findings indicate that digital transformation policies need to be directed not only at equitable infrastructure, but also at strengthening digital literacy, empowering communities, and developing a digital economic ecosystem according to the characteristics of each region to realize more inclusive and sustainable development.

Keywords: Digital Divide; Digital Readiness; Indonesian Digital Society Index (IMDI); Provincial Typology; Digital Transformation.

INTRODUCTION

In a world increasingly dominated by information and communication technology (ICT), the digital economy has emerged. The digital divide has come into the spotlight through several United Nations (UN) reports and has become a critical concern for organizations, policymakers, and academics from various fields (Lythreath et al., 2022). The digital divide is described as a new cause of inequality, referring to the gap between those with adequate access to ICT and those with poor or no access at all. Various factors contribute to the exclusion of some populations from the digital world: geography, income level, digital literacy, and age are among the most frequently cited causes (Herrero-