AGPE THE ROYAL GONDWANA RESEARCH JOURNAL
OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
ISSN (E): 2583-1348 | A Peer reviewed | An Open Access & Indexed
Volume 07 | Issue 09 | September 2026 | *www.agpegondwanajournal.co.in* | Page No. 08-15

DIGITAL, FINANCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

G. Gnanasurya[1] & Dr. S. Dhanasekaran[2]

1. Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Thiruvalluvar University, Serkkadu, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

2. Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Thiruvalluvar University, Serkkadu, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

In order to achieve equitable and sustainable economic growth, digital, financial, and infrastructure connectivity has become essential. Effective digital connectivity allows people and organizations to access information, digital services, education, markets, and job possibilities in the context of rapid technological transformation. In a similar vein, financial connectedness strengthens financial inclusion and increases economic prospects for underprivileged and marginalized groups by facilitating access to banking, digital payments, credit, and other financial services. The effective flow of people, products, services, and information between areas is further supported by infrastructure connectivity, which includes transportation, communication, and basic infrastructure. The study employs an empirical methodology to evaluate the relationships between these aspects of inclusive growth and connectedness utilizing pertinent secondary data and suitable statistical and econometric approaches. It is anticipated that the study would emphasize how crucial integrated connectivity is to lowering inequality, expanding access to economic possibilities, and boosting involvement in the digital economy.

Key Words: Inclusive Growth, Sustainable Economic Growth, Financial Inclusion, Economic Opportunities, Digital Economy, Inequality, Econometric Analysis.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:	RESEARCH ARTICLE
G. Gnanasurya Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Thiruvalluvar University, Serkkadu, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India Email: gnanasurya982@gmail.com	

Introduction

Digital connectivity has become an important driver of economic and social development in the modern digital era. It enables individuals, businesses, and communities to access information, digital services, education, employment opportunities, markets, and government services through the internet and digital technologies. Improved digital connectivity can reduce geographical and social barriers and provide greater opportunities for people, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. Digital connectivity also supports businesses by improving communication, access to markets, digital payments, online services, and productivity. By expanding access to digital resources and opportunities, it can help reduce inequalities and promote broader participation in economic activities. Therefore, examining the role of digital connectivity is important for understanding how digital access can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This study focuses on the role of digital connectivity in creating equal opportunities, improving economic participation, and supporting sustainable development. Financial connectedness is becoming a crucial element of contemporary economic growth. It facilitates easier access to banking services, digital payments, credit, savings, insurance, and other financial services for people, households, enterprises, and communities. Reducing financial exclusion and advancing financial inclusion are significantly aided by increased access to financial services**. Sustainable growth** means **economic growth that can continue for a long period without harming the environment, exhausting natural resources, or reducing the opportunities of future generations. Development or expansion that satisfies present needs without endangering the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own is known as sustainable growth. It strikes a balance between social responsibility, environmental preservation, and economic advancement. In the context of business and finance, it also refers to the fastest rate at which a corporation may expand without taking on additional debt by using its own internal funds and resources.** Sustainable economic growth is the increase in a country's production of goods and services over time managed in a way that meets current needs without harming the environment, using up finite resources, or hurting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Objectives

- To examine the role of digital connectivity in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- To analysis the impact of financial connectivity on financial inclusion and economic opportunities.
- To examine the relationship between digital, financial and infrastructure connectivity and inclusive growth.

Digital Connectivity Digital connectivity means the ability of people, devices, and systems to link, communicate, and share data through digital networks like the internet and mobile systems. It includes wired and wireless tools that let users access online services, run cloud programs, and talk to other machines.

Core Parts of Digital Connectivity

- Networks: Fiber-optic cables, Wi-Fi routers, and 4G or 5G mobile towers.
- Hardware: Phones, computers, and smart home items.
- Cloud Services: Online tools and shared data storage that need steady internet to work.

Digital India – Power to Empower

Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India, launched on **1 July 2015** by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Its main vision is to transform India into a **digitally empowered society and knowledge economy**. Through digital delivery of services, expansion of the digital economy and creation of employment opportunities, the Digital India programme has been improving the lives of citizens.

Growth of Digital India

The Digital India programme has shown a **consistent upward growth trajectory** and achieved several important milestones and initiatives. Significant progress has been made in areas such as **broadband connectivity, universal mobile connectivity, public internet access and digital governance**.

India's Digital Economy

According to the **State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024**, released by the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**, India ranks **third in terms of the digitalization of its economy**. India's strong **digital infrastructure** has been a major contributor to this achievement. The government is also focusing on social welfare programmes, skill development and education to achieve the vision of **"Viksit Bharat – Developed India by 2047."**

Future of Digital India

India aims to become a global leader in emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing and space exploration**. Through Digital India, the government seeks to promote **inclusive growth, innovation and technological advancement**, while strengthening India's position in the global digital economy.

Financial Connectivity

The safe infrastructure, technology, and network integration that enable businesses, banks, and financial markets to effortlessly exchange data and complete transactions is known as financial connection.

Important Financial Connectivity Types: Direct connections between corporate treasury systems and banks through SWIFT messaging, Host-to-Host (H2H) configurations, or Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to handle cash and statements.

Financial Markets Connectivity: For quick execution and real-time data, ultra-low-latency networks link trading companies directly to international stock exchanges.

Payment connectivity: is the technical infrastructure that allows companies to send payment instructions and obtain settlement information via payment service providers.

Infrastructure Connectivity

Infrastructure connectivity refers to the physical and basic infrastructure networks that connect people, places, businesses, and markets, enabling the movement of people, goods, services, energy, and information.

Key Components

- Roads and highways – facilitate the movement of people and goods.
- Railways and transport – connect different regions and markets.
- Electricity – supports households, businesses, and economic activities.
- Telecommunication networks – enable communication and information sharing.
- Internet infrastructure – provides digital access and online services.
- Water and basic services – improve living standards and human development.
- Logistics infrastructure – facilitates the movement of goods and services.

Sustainable Growth

Sustainable growth refers to economic development that can be maintained over the long term while balancing **economic, social, and environmental needs**. It aims to increase income, employment, productivity, and living standards without causing excessive environmental damage or exhausting natural resources. Sustainable growth also focuses on reducing poverty and inequality and ensuring that the benefits of economic development are shared across different sections of society. Therefore, it seeks to meet the needs of the present generation while ensuring that **future generations have sufficient resources and opportunities to meet their own needs.**

Main dimensions of sustainable growth

1. **Economic sustainability** – continuous economic growth, employment and productivity.

2. **Social sustainability** – reducing poverty and inequality and improving access to education, healthcare and opportunities.
3. **Environmental sustainability** – protecting natural resources, reducing pollution and addressing climate change.

Four main concepts

Concept	Meaning	Main Concepts	Examples
Digital Connectivity	"The ability of individuals, businesses and communities to access, communicate and exchange information through digital networks and technologies."	Digital access and communication	Internet, mobile networks, broadband, 4G/5G, digital platforms
Financial Connectivity	The ability of individuals and businesses to access and participate in financial systems and services.	Access to financial services and opportunities	Bank accounts, credit, insurance, savings, digital payments, UPI
Infrastructure Connectivity	The physical and basic infrastructure that connects people, places, businesses and markets	Physical access and movement	Roads, railways, transport, electricity, telecommunications, logistics
Sustainable Growth	Economic growth that can continue in the long term while balancing economic, social and environmental needs	Long-term economic, social and environmental well-being	Employment, poverty reduction, reduced inequality, efficient resource use, environmental protection

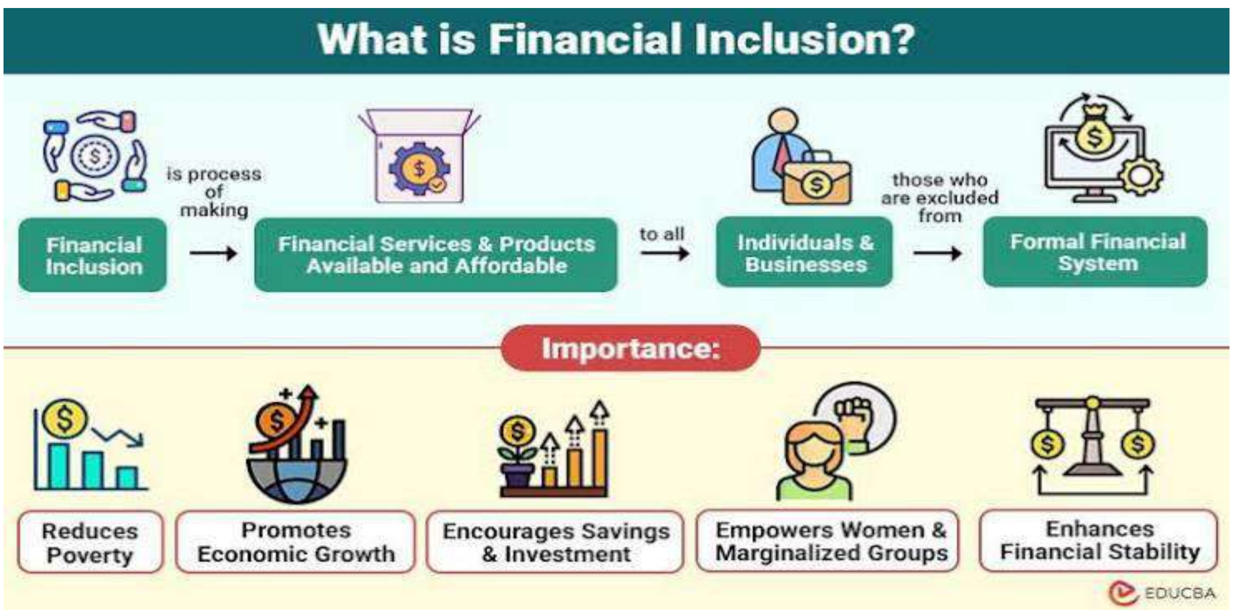
Financial connectivity of impacts

- **Promotes financial inclusion** – Provides access to financial services for all sections of society.
- **Improves access to banking services** – Helps people, especially in rural and underserved areas, access banking facilities.
- **Encourages savings** – Provides secure and convenient opportunities for people to save money.
- **Promotes digital payments** – Encourages the use of UPI, mobile banking and online payment systems.

- **Supports entrepreneurship** – Better access to finance helps individuals start and expand businesses.
- **Creates employment opportunities** – Financial access supports business growth and employment generation.
- **Empowers women economically** – Improves women's access to savings, credit, banking and financial decision-making.
- **Promotes inclusive and sustainable growth** – Better financial connectivity ensures wider participation in economic activities and supports long-term economic development.

Financial inclusion and economic opportunities.

For underprivileged and low-income groups, financial inclusion offers dependable and reasonably priced access to formal financial services like credit, insurance, and savings, which directly opens up important economic prospects.



Role of Digital Connectivity

1. Improves access to information – Provides people with quick and easy access to information and knowledge.
2. Promotes digital inclusion – Helps people from different social and economic groups participate in the digital economy.
3. Enhances access to education – Enables online learning, digital classrooms and educational resources.

4. Creates employment opportunities – Supports online jobs, remote work and digital entrepreneurship.
5. Improves access to markets – Helps businesses connect with customers and markets beyond their local areas.
6. Supports digital financial services – Enables mobile banking, UPI, online payments and other digital financial services.
7. Improves government services – Makes e-governance and public services more accessible and efficient.
8. Promotes innovation and productivity – Helps businesses adopt new technologies and improve their productivity.
9. Reduces the rural–urban digital gap – Better connectivity can provide rural communities with access to services and economic opportunities.
10. Supports inclusive and sustainable growth – By improving access to information, services, markets and employment, digital connectivity contributes to broader and more sustainable economic development.

Conclusion

Digital, financial and infrastructure connectivity are essential pillars for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Digital connectivity improves access to information, education, digital services, markets and employment opportunities, while financial connectivity provides individuals and businesses with access to banking, credit, savings, insurance and digital payment services. Infrastructure connectivity strengthens the movement of people, goods, services and information by improving transport, electricity, communication and other basic facilities. Although significant progress has been made in these areas, challenges such as the digital divide, limited financial access, inadequate infrastructure and regional inequalities continue to affect inclusive development. Therefore, an integrated approach that strengthens digital, financial and physical connectivity is necessary to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach all sections of society. Effective policies, investment in infrastructure, digital and financial literacy, and equal access to technology can help reduce inequalities and create greater economic opportunities. Overall, strengthening these three forms of connectivity can contribute significantly to building a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy.

Reference

1. **Albaity, M. (2024).** Economic growth and the proliferation of ICT infrastructures: Which causes the other? Economic Research, 37(1), 23-30.

2. **Suhrab, M, (2024).** Digital financial development and income inequality nexus: Can stechnology innovation and infrastructure development help in achieving sustainable development goals? Technology in Society, 76, 15-25.

3. **Kouladoum, J.-C. (2023).** Digital infrastructural development and inclusive growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Journal of Social and Economic Development, *25*(2), 403–427.

4. **Odhiambo, N. M. (2020).** Financial access, governance and insurance sector development in sub-Saharan Africa. Journal of Economic Studies, *47*(4), 849–875.

5. **Asongu, S, (2019).** Basic formal education quality, information technology, and financial development in sub-Saharan Africa. Sustainable Development, *27*(4), 544–557

6. **Siering, p (2017).** Digital finance and fintech: Current research and future research directions. Journal of Business Economics, *87*(5), 537–580.

■ ■ ■