



Emerging Area in Internet Governance Access, Quality and Affordability in Nepal, 2023

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Digital Nepal frame work

2019 digital Nepal framework is a strategic initiative by the government of Nepal aimed at leveraging digital technologies to accelerate economic growth, improve governance and enhance the quality of citizen.



Key objective:

- Economic growth
- Social inclusion
- Governance
- Infra development



Its main focus area are:

- Digital Foundation
- Agriculture, Health
- Education, Energy
- Tourism, Finance
- Urban Infrastructure



Implementation

The framework outlines a **collaborative approach** involving the government, private sector, and international partners. It emphasizes capacity-building, policy reforms, and the creation of a conducive environment for digital innovation and investment.



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Internet use in Nepal in 2023



There were 15.85 million internet users in Nepal in January 2023.

Nepal's internet penetration rate stood at 51.6 percent of the total population at the start of 2023.

Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) analysis indicates that internet users in Nepal increased by 181 thousand (+1.2 percent) between 2022 and 2023.

Internet usage in Nepal is highly uneven, with urban areas, especially in the Terai and hill regions, enjoying better access, while remote and mountainous areas face significant connectivity challenges.



Internet connection speeds in Nepal



Data published by Ookla indicate that internet users in Nepal could have expected the following internet connection speeds at the start of 2023:

- Mobile internet connection speed via cellular networks: 13.49 Mbps.
- Fixed internet connection speed: 48.45 Mbps.

Mobile connections in Nepal

According to data from GSMA Intelligence, there were 42.78 million mobile phone connections in Nepal in early 2023.

However, since many people around the world often use more than one mobile connection, one for personal use and one for work, it is common for mobile connectivity numbers to significantly exceed the overall population figure.

Figures from GSMA Intelligence indicate that mobile connectivity in Nepal accounted for 139.2 percent of the total population in January 2023.

The number of mobile connections in Nepal increased by 1.4 million (+3.3 percent) between 2022 and 2023.



Social media usage in Nepal in 2023 is growing rapidly, with Facebook, Twitter X, and Instagram leading the way. The platforms are used for entertainment, communication, business, and information sharing, though challenges like misinformation persist.

Internet Broadband Status



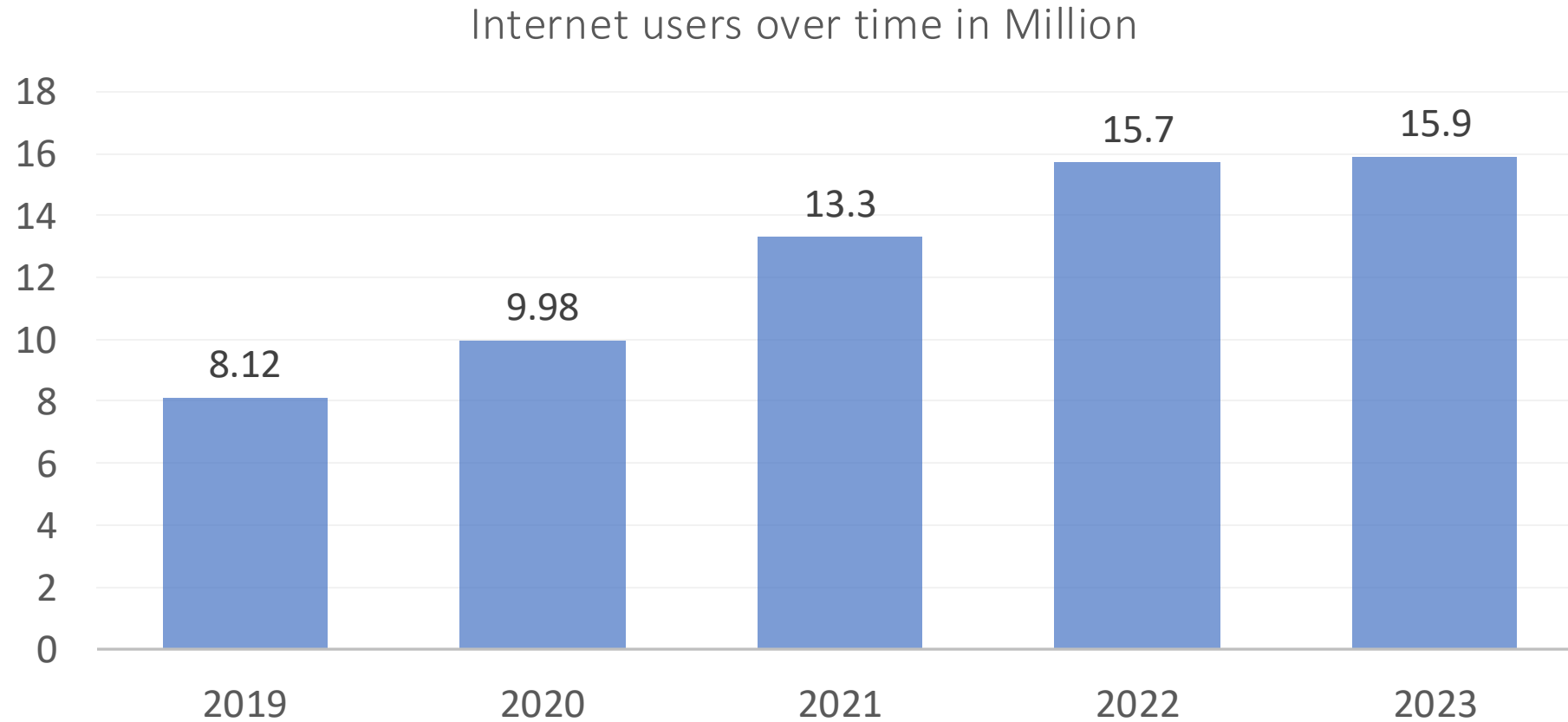
The number of users of high-speed internet (broadband) is increasing in the country.

According to the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), there are a total of 27.7 million broadband internet users in the country. Among them, 19 million 853 thousand were mobile broadband users.

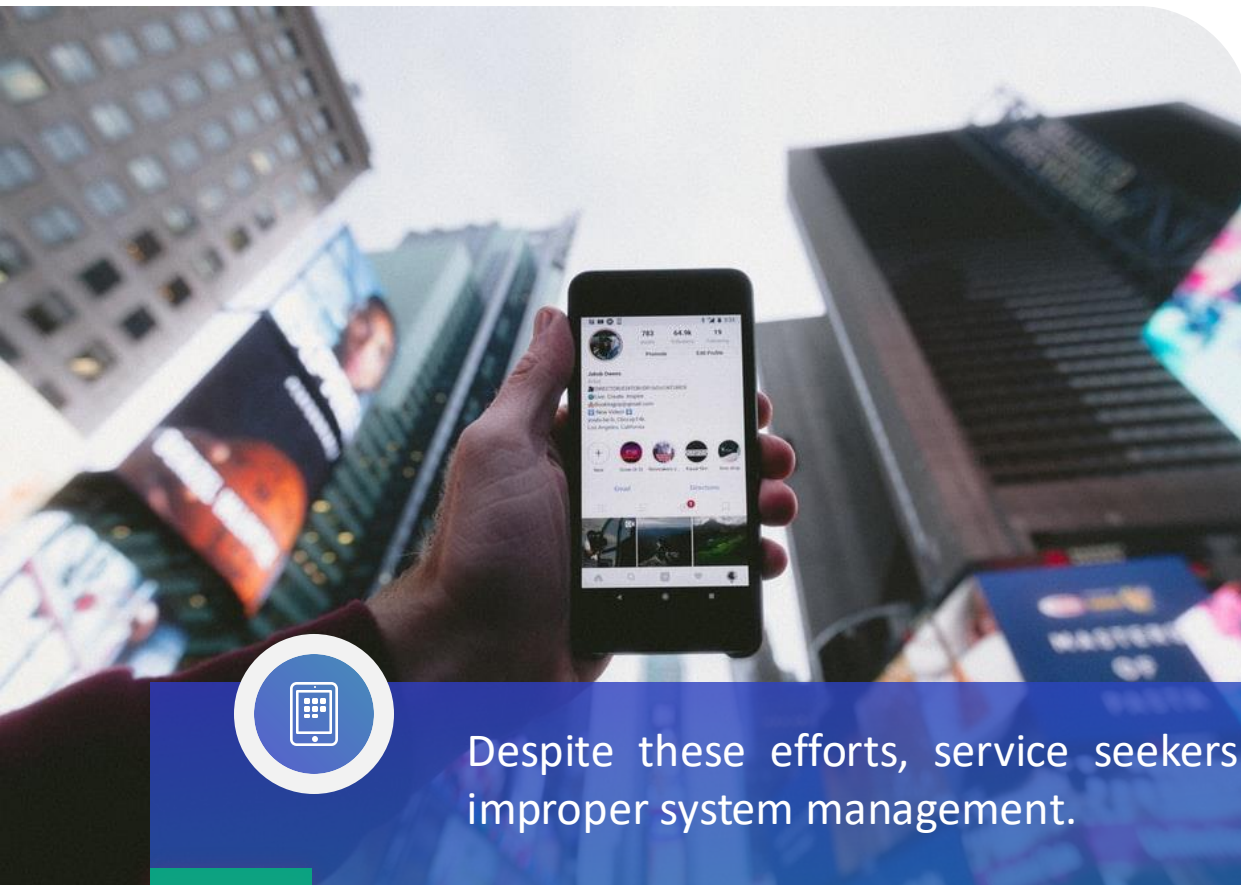
The volume of telephone service stands at 13.75 percent while broadband penetration has reached 91.55 percent.

Of the total 753 local levels in the country, 679 local levels have a broadband connection. Similarly, 5,554 ward offices, 5,032 community schools, and 4,027 health posts have access to broadband internet.

Internet users over time



Challenges



Despite progress in internet penetration, Nepal still faces challenges with affordability, the digital divide, and digital illiteracy in many areas.

In digital governance, the government has initiated several projects:

- Digitization of data from land revenue offices.
- Introduction of the Nagarik App.
- Launch of the Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) system.
- Opening of the National ID card program.

Despite these efforts, service seekers face issues due to limited technology capacity and improper system management.



Recommendations

- Involve stakeholders from public, corporate sectors, and civil society in shaping digital policy.
- Promote inclusive digital policies in collaboration with government entities.
- Establish a working group on internet affordability with private sector, civic society, ISPs, and regulators.
- Foster private sector partnerships to develop a digital economy benefiting all Nepalis.
- Focus on enhancing transactional efficiency, security, transparency, traceability, and financial inclusion.
- Collaborate with universities and technical schools to address cybersecurity workforce and R&D needs.
- Support IT curriculum reform in higher education and initiate apprenticeship or internship programs with the private sector.
- Back the ICT initiatives of the Ministry of Education to improve the digital talent pool's skills, better meet IT-sector employer demands, and enhance Nepal's global IT labor market competitiveness.

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Thank you!



Does anyone have any questions?

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