Digital Storytelling in Indigenous Communities: Tools, Challenges, and Ethical Considerations in the Shift from Tradition to Technology

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Abstract: This study investigates the transition from traditional to digital storytelling in indigenous communities focusing on opportunities, challenges, and the possibilities provided by the digital technologies. As the indigenous traditions are on the verge of extinction, and also are affected by globalization, digital technologies are used more and more for recording, sharing, and preserving oral traditions. In addition to providing new modes of expression and access, this research examines how digital storytelling may be a potent instrument for cultural continuity while posing significant ethical questions. In addition to that, the influence of digitization on community ownership, cultural integrity and adherence to traditional knowledge practices is critically examined in this paper. Through a qualitative, community engaged approach, it emphasises the ethical principles that must direct any preservation effort, such as respect for communal rights, informed consent, and the preservation of sacred knowledge. Moreover, particular focus is on the role of digital technology in fostering equitable environments where indigenous groups maintain control over their narratives. The findings suggest a community-centered, rights-based framework for digital storytelling that not only safeguards intangible cultural heritage but also makes it more accessible and relevant in the digital era. Moreover, this study contends that when implemented collaboratively and ethically digital storytelling can be a transformational medium for preserving indigenous knowledge systems, affirming cultural identity, and building cross cultural understanding in a fast-changing world.

Keywords: Oral Tradition, Digital Storytelling, Documentation, Digital Technology, Cultural Studies

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