Gaps in Kenya's Digital Health System – Feminist Analysis

This presentation explores the evolving landscape of digital health and AI in Kenya, highlighting the need for equity and accountability to ensure these technologies benefit all.

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Kenya's Digital Health

Mobile Health

Kenya is leveraging technology in healthcare, with initiatives like M-TIBA for mobile health payments and NHIF e-registration for faster insurance.

Digital Divide

However, access remains a challenge, with 43% of Kenyans lacking regular internet access, hindering their ability to benefit from digital health tools.

Why Digital Health Can Be Risky
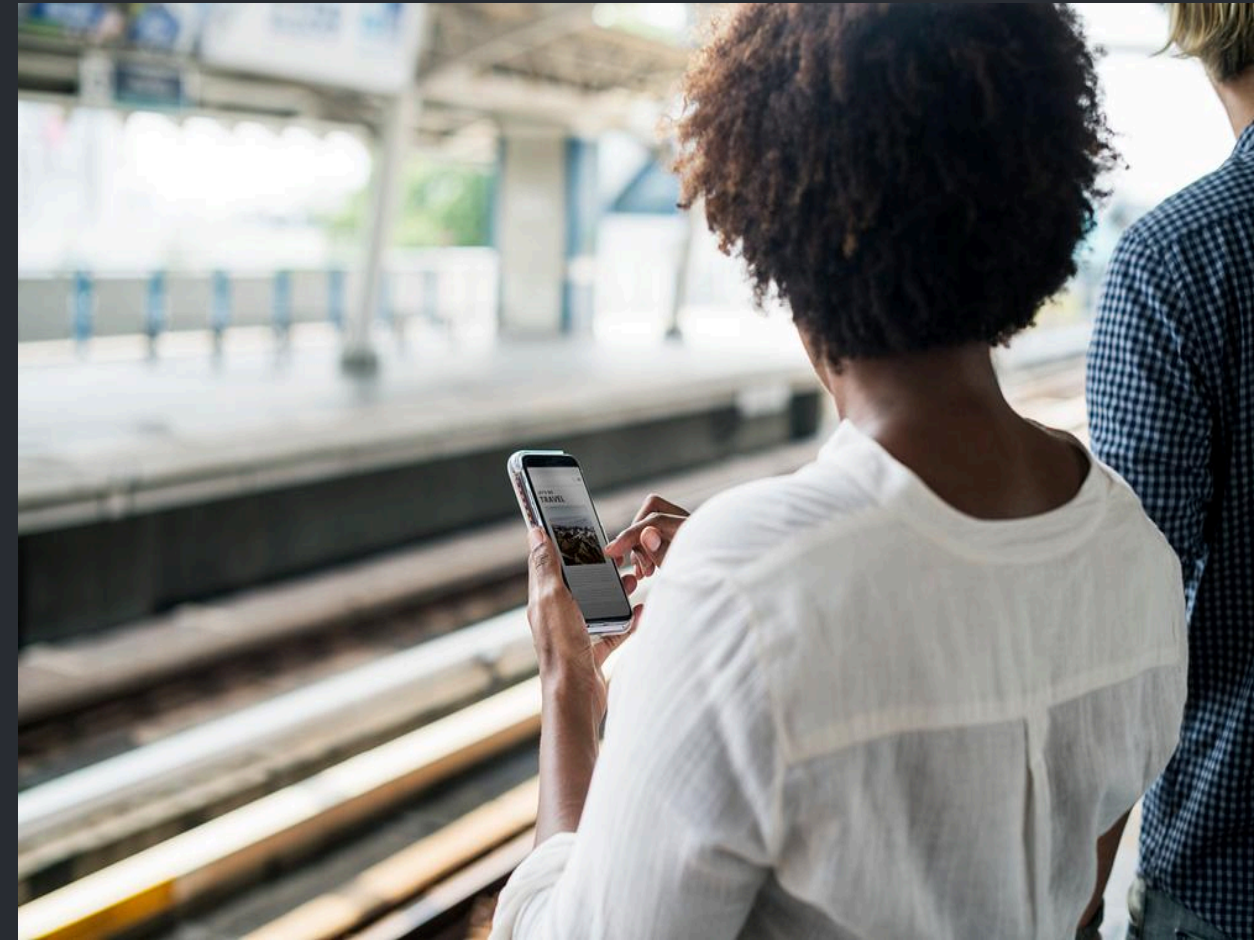
Data Privacy

Without strong data protection laws, sensitive health information can be misused, raising concerns about privacy and security.

Tech Bias

AI algorithms can exhibit biases, potentially favoring certain demographics, leading to unfair diagnoses or treatment recommendations.

Cost Issues

The cost of digital health tools can be prohibitive, excluding those who need them most, exacerbating existing health disparities.

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Why Feminists Care

Women's Needs

Digital health solutions often fail to address women's specific needs, such as access to contraception or maternal health services.

Lack of Inclusion

The underrepresentation of women in tech development leads to solutions that may not reflect women's realities and experiences.

Fairness and Understanding

Digital systems prioritize efficiency, but fairness and understanding people's challenges are equally important.

Gaps in Kenya's Digital Health System

Access

Many women lack access to smartphones or reliable internet connectivity, hindering their participation in digital health initiatives.

Awareness

Limited awareness of digital rights, including data protection, prevents individuals from fully benefiting from digital health services.

Relevance

Importing solutions from other countries without adapting them to Kenya's unique context can lead to ineffective and irrelevant interventions.

Local and Open Solutions

M-TIBA

1

Local innovations like M-TIBA, a mobile platform for healthcare savings, demonstrate the potential of tailored solutions.

Community Projects

2

Community-based initiatives using platforms like WhatsApp to share health information effectively reach and empower individuals.

Women in Tech

3

Increasing women's participation in tech development ensures solutions are inclusive and address the needs of all genders.

Holding People Accountable

Government

1

Protecting data and ensuring equitable access to digital health technologies for all citizens.

Tech Companies

2

Avoiding exploitation of health data for profit and prioritizing ethical practices in AI development.

Feminists

3

Advocating for fair and inclusive digital health systems and calling out injustices.

What Can You Do?

1

Advocate

Push for policies that protect women's digital rights and ensure equitable access to technology.

2

Support

Contribute to local women-led tech projects that address real-world health challenges.

3

Educate

Empower girls and young women to use and shape digital tools, fostering their participation in tech.