

To identify the perceptions of citizens towards smart cities in the UK

By

Dr. Olivia Bennet

Abstract

In this research, awareness and attitude concerning smart cities among the citizens of the UK is discussed alongside the desired citizen engagement in planning for Smart Cities. A qualitative research design was adopted, and data was collected through structured interviews with participants selected from different society groups. Based on a thematic analysis, there are low levels of awareness about smart city initiatives with many gaps in certain groups' knowledge. All the participants identified the opportunities of smart city technologies focusing on enhancing urban services and sustainability. However, fear of digital privacy and technology failure and their impact on people's lives were expressed as concerns. Lastly, the study pointed to the importance of citizen participation towards smart city planning while revealing that they currently need more opportunities to participate. These results imply that open communication, building trust and involving the public in the planning process are critical factors in winning the hearts of the public and ensuring smart city projects benefit all people.

Keywords

Smart cities, UK citizens, citizen engagement, data privacy, urban planning, qualitative research