

Abstract

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) promises quality healthcare available to all people in a population without suffering financial hardship. However, the problem of unequitable access to health, including UHC, in the wake of digital health, continues to plague the entire endeavour. This study addresses the gap in sustainable and efficient digital health tools and technologies that promote equitable access to health, particularly in developing economies like Kenya. The specific objectives of the study are: to analyse internet access influence on equitable access to UHC in Kenya; to explore availability of internet influence on equitable access to UHC in Kenya; to investigate smart device availability influence on equitable access to UHC in Kenya; and to establish device access influence on equitable access to UHC in Kenya. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in Makueni County, from June to August 2024, with the research questionnaire targeting 348 respondents. The logistic regression analysis value of the variability in equitable access to UHC as explained by the combined effect of the predictors (device access to digital health, availability of internet, smart device availability, internet access), was 71.95 %, suggesting that the predictors were collectively useful in explaining the variation in equitable access to UHC. The implementation of health solutions to benefit all stakeholders, including the target population, health professionals and government, required that training, awareness campaigns, support and guidance on available tools and technologies, was provided to foster equitable access and use.