
MOBILE LEGAL JUSTICE: BUCKLE UP FOR A ROCKY AND SMOOTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

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Abstract: This analysis explores the dynamics of the justice system, highlighting its systemic challenges and recent advancements. It aims to examine the justice system's dualistic nature, focusing on structural barriers alongside progressive inventions. The rationale is to enhance an understanding and contribute optimally to legal processes by investigating the interplay among various components of justice delivery. The study explores the divergent experiences within this framework, where some individuals steer significant obstacles reminiscent of traversing perilous terrain while others benefit from more explicit pathways. The discourse emphasises the critical need for equitable justice across different demographics by analysing the influence of technological developments and mobile applications in improving accessibility and transparency. These narrative challenges prompt legal professionals and policymakers to rigorously assess continuous systemic disparities while cultivating a concerted effort toward a more equitable legal framework. Generally, this contribution posits that envisioning a future in which justice is accessible and fundamentally fair is achievable through the strategic deployment of ingenious tools and advocacy efforts.

Keywords: Access; Courts; Justice System; Legal; Mobile Justice.

1. Introduction

Bakker (2024) wrote that in an era characterised by rapid technological developments, the convergence of mobile technologies with the legal system presents significant opportunities and formidable challenges. There is a substantial potential for these technologies to reform access to justice as society increasingly relies on mobile devices for a myriad of daily activities, from communication to online banking. This reform is particularly crucial within a legal framework that

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frequently perpetuates existing disparities, leaving disadvantaged communities with inadequate resources to steer the complexities of the justice system. For instance, the implementation of mobile courts serves as a notable illustration of mobile justice. As defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a mobile court operates as an official judiciary body that conducts legal proceedings beyond its established jurisdiction, frequently in underserved or remote areas (Ripple, 2022). This author asserts that this mechanism is especially pertinent within criminal law, where mobile courts are deployed to regions affected by criminal activities to adjudicate complex cases due to the geographic separation from traditional court facilities. Section 4 of the Bangladesh Mobile Court Act, 2009, outlines the concept of a "Mobile Court" as a judicial body specifically instituted to address law enforcement and crime deterrence in situ. This court has the authority to take immediate cognisance of designated offences and possesses a constrained jurisdiction to enact punitive measures on-site.

Abyta et al. (2022) state that in Indonesia, Regulation of the Supreme Court Number 1 of 2014 establishes comprehensive guidelines for providing legal services to support underprivileged individuals within the judiciary. These scholars posit that key provisions of this regulation include the waiver of court fees, the implementation of mobile courts or alternative out-of-court hearings, and the establishment of legal aid posts (Posbakum). They argue that the overarching objective is to enhance access to legal resources and judicial processes for all community segments to facilitate equitable participation in the legal system. In Malawi, the Malawian Mobile Court Policy stipulates that all trials are generally open to the public, barring specific legal exemptions. One notable exception is outlined in section 71A of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code, which permits in-camera hearings for cases involving sexual offences to prioritise the privacy and sensitivity of the victims involved (Abyta et al., 2022).

The central research question guiding this contribution is: How can mobile technology augment access to justice while concurrently addressing systemic disparities within the legal framework? I aim to reveal how mobile applications, platforms, and digital tools can bridge deficiencies in legal services, enhance the efficiency of legal processes, and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to assert their rights by exploring this question. Ripple (2022) examines the complexities of legal systems across nearly two-thirds of Africa's 54 nations, where dualistic legal frameworks comprising formal and customary law are prevalent in dispute resolution. He claims this bifurcation is particularly evident in family law and land disputes, resulting in inconsistencies in the rule of law and unequal access to justice.

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His article emphasises that a singular reliance on either legal system is insufficient, given that formal courts are predominantly situated in urban centres, imposing barriers to accessibility for populations in remote regions. According to Ripple, many individuals in these areas prefer customary legal forums, influenced by greater familiarity with indigenous practices and a higher degree of trust in the adjudicative roles of tribal chiefs or elders compared to formal judiciary structures. However, Ripple argues that even within these customary frameworks, access to justice remains inequitable, particularly for women, minority tribes, and other disadvantaged groups. He further contends that this inequity is hugely shaped by entrenched patriarchal norms that dictate the operation and interpretation of customary law, highlighting the need for a slight approach to legal reform that addresses these systemic biases.

Notwithstanding, current obstacles to accessing justice, including exorbitant costs of legal representation (Gras, 2021), procedural complexities, and insufficient information (Lillo, 2024), can be significantly alleviated through the strategic implementation of mobile solutions. For example, mobile applications are designed to deliver legal information, facilitate real-time communication with legal professionals, and provide self-help resources as critical tools for individuals unable to afford traditional legal services. In this respect, the eCourts Services Mobile App, as outlined by the Indian Ministry of Law and Justice (MoLJ, 2025), serves as a comprehensive platform for litigants, legal practitioners, and various stakeholders in the judicial system. According to the Ministry, it uses technology to enhance access to justice by delivering real-time case status updates, hearing schedules, and digital case records, among other functionalities. Further, this initiative facilitates case management processes and improves the efficiency of legal proceedings, cultivating a more transparent and user-centric judicial experience. Conversely, in *LexisNexis South Africa (Pty) Ltd v Minister of Justice and Correctional Services*, South African legislation has historically struggled to keep up with technological advancements. A notable example is the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 16 of 1963 ("the Act"), which mandates that oaths be administered to deponents in the physical presence of a commissioner of oaths.

Despite the challenges inherent in the judicial system, deploying mobile technologies such as mobile justice applications simplifies legal processes. This approach facilitates greater participation and addresses the logistical hurdles often faced by individuals pursuing legal remedies. Stakeholders can enhance accessibility and efficiency within legal frameworks by utilising mobile platforms. From my perspective, mobile justice refers to providing equitable legal resources and opportunities for disadvantaged communities, particularly those hindered by socioeconomic barriers and geographic isolation. This initiative seeks to mitigate the

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challenges faced by individuals who may inadvertently miss court appearances because their residences are significantly far from judicial venues.

Consequently, I contend that mobile justice upholds their legal rights and ensures their voices are acknowledged and heard within the judicial framework by enhancing access to justice for these underserved populations. As such, this contribution strives to ascribe how mobile technology can function as a transformative agent for a more just legal system, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, are equipped with the necessary resources to guide legal challenges effectively. I aim to highlight a more accessible and equitable justice domain for all by addressing the technological advancements and the entrenched inequalities within the legal framework.

2. Research Gap

As mentioned, this article thoroughly analyses the current topography of mobile justice technologies, emphasising the convoluted duality within the justice experience to address the significant challenges and the noteworthy advancements in the sector. It investigates the transformative impact of mobile applications and digital tools on the interaction between individuals and legal processes. These technologies dismantle longstanding barriers that have impeded equitable participation within the legal system by simplifying access to justice and enhancing user-friendliness. However, this examination also reveals persistent inconsistencies and disparities in the justice framework. In terms of the state of the art in this research, this contribution examines the latest innovations, the effectiveness of various tools, and the implications of their widespread adoption in providing a more just and inclusive environment for all.

Moreover, this contribution addresses critical gaps in the literature surrounding digital justice initiatives. It investigates the disparity in access to these technologies among different demographics, shedding light on systemic inequities that often go unexamined. Additionally, the research critiques previous studies for not adequately addressing the potential for both positive and negative repercussions of mobile justice tools, thus paving the way for a comprehensive understanding of their implications. The article aims to provide pragmatic approaches and cultivate a more advanced discourse regarding mobile justice technologies to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive justice environment by exploring this understudied dimension. In essence, this study is key in providing a thorough framework that acknowledges both the positive impacts and the potential pitfalls of mobile justice applications, closing critical gaps in research and offering practical perspectives for future policy and practice.

3. Methodology

In this contribution, the methodology comprises three primary strands: a review of peer-reviewed early research articles, the use of secondary data, and the exploration of credible internet sources. Figure 1 below illustrates the various strands of the research methodology employed in this study.

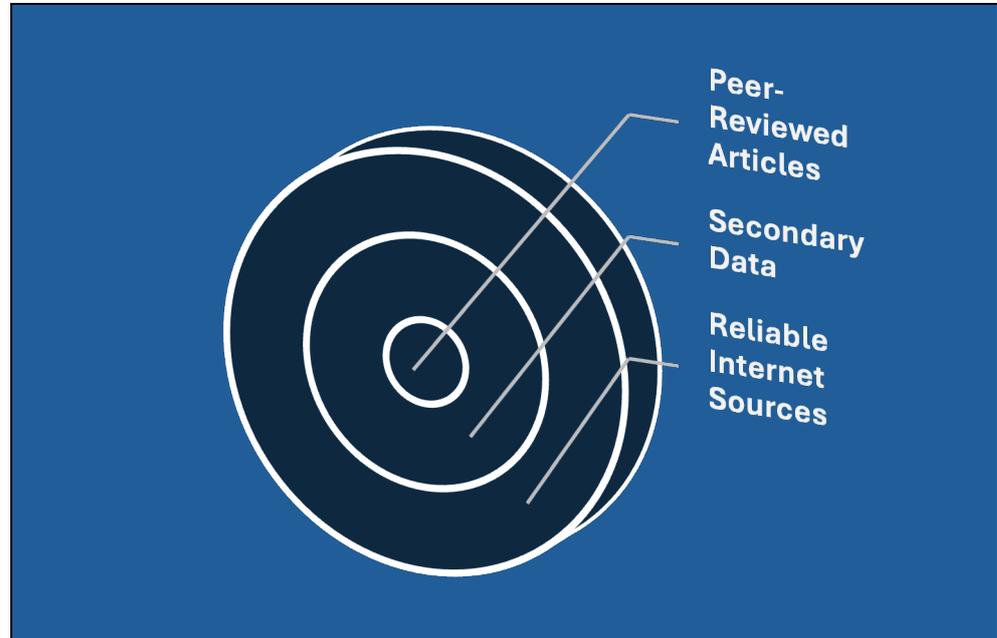


Figure 1: Study Research Method Strands

Source: Author

I initiated a systematic literature review to identify and analyse early research articles published in reputable legal and criminal justice journals. These articles provided essential discernment into the development of mobile justice technologies, including mobile applications designed for reporting crimes, accessing legal resources, and facilitating communication between law enforcement and citizens. I contextualised this research within established findings and theoretical frameworks by focusing on studies regarding the efficacy, accessibility, and societal impacts of these technologies.

In addition to primary research articles, I collected and analysed secondary data from various institutional reports, governmental publications, and relevant United Nations (UN) reports dedicated to justice reform. This data provided quantitative and

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qualitative perspectives on the current state of the justice system concerning mobile justice initiatives. This approach enabled me to draw more comprehensive conclusions regarding mobile justice implementation effectiveness and potential challenges.

Finally, I examined credible online resources, such as white papers, case studies, legal cases, and articles authored by recognised legal experts, policy think tanks and academic institutions. These sources offered current perspicuity into ongoing mobile justice projects, community feedback, and practical applications of technology within the justice sector. I sought to identify best practices and areas needing enhancement by evaluating case studies from jurisdictions that have successfully implemented mobile justice solutions.

This research aims to thoroughly understand the intersection between mobile technology and the justice system, paving the way for informed recommendations and future research directions by synthesising findings from these three categories. In addition, innovative approaches such as mobile legal clinics, which bring legal services to underserved communities, have proven effective in bridging gaps in legal access. These measures ensure that individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, can exercise their rights and participate fully in the legal system.

4. Literature Review

4.1. The Smooth Path: Mobile Justice Benefits

The mobile legal justice paradigm capitalises on technology to enhance the accessibility and efficiency of legal services, particularly for individuals facing barriers within traditional legal frameworks. This inclusive approach enables the delivery of legal assistance through mobile units, effectively mitigating geographic and socioeconomic obstacles. Key benefits of mobile legal justice include its capacity to serve individuals in rural regions or those with mobility impairments who might otherwise encounter significant challenges in accessing legal resources. Additionally, mobile platforms facilitate the provision of critical resources, such as legal advice, court-related information, and automated form generation, thus empowering users to navigate the legal landscape with greater autonomy.

4.1.1. Improved Accessibility

de Moraes et al. (2024) wrote that technological incorporation within judicial services presents substantial opportunities for optimising case management by adopting digital formats. They claim that this digital transformation has the potential to significantly enhance judicial system performance, enabling expedited resolutions and expanding access to justice for a broader demographic. Regardless, the authors caution the importance of aligning technological inventions, especially in mobile justice systems, with existing procedural statutes and the principles of equitable

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adjudication. They stress the need to ensure that such technologies uphold the integrity of the legal process and protect the rights of all parties involved. Their arguments imply that as we integrate technological advancements, it is imperative to uphold a rigorous commitment to fairness, transparency, and the rule of law to cultivate a justice system that is efficient and just for all stakeholders.

Zago (2016) proposed an ingenious initiative called the "Access to Justice Bus," a mobile legal outreach programme designed to enhance access to legal services for underserved communities. She foresees the programme assembling a diverse team of professionals, including state and academic law librarians operating from a specially equipped mobile facility. Therefore, I assert that this bus will travel to various locations, bringing essential legal resources and services directly to individuals who may face barriers in accessing traditional legal assistance. It would feature a comfortable and welcoming environment where community members can receive guidance on legal matters, attend workshops on their rights, and access legal information and resources they might not know exist. I argue that this initiative seeks to bridge the gap between vulnerable populations and the legal support they urgently need by effectively reaching disadvantaged groups living in rural areas, low-income families, or those facing language barriers.

Generally, the Access to Justice Bus represents a transformative approach to improving accessibility to justice, ensuring that legal assistance is not just a privilege for some but a right for all. This programme will empower individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to access the legal system confidently by bringing professionals directly into communities. Waza et al. (2024) reinforce that recent technological advancements have markedly improved public accessibility to justice. They specifically highlight how the advent of online portals and intuitive mobile applications has optimised the legal assistance-seeking process. The scholars emphasise that digital tools simplify the acquisition of pertinent legal information and empower users to file complaints and track case progress in real time efficiently. Thus, I analyse that this paradigm shift toward digitalisation has equipped citizens with essential tools for proactive engagement in their pursuit of justice. Moreover, the heightened transparency afforded by these creations enhances users' comprehension of the justice system's mechanics to facilitate complex legal processes. Collectively, these enhancements in mobile justice accessibility signify a substantial leap toward making justice more attainable, understandable, and participatory for individuals. Waza et al. (2024) further contend that justice is deeply intertwined with the fundamental principle of the rule of law. In a society that prioritises justice within its administrative decision-making processes, there is a corresponding promotion of a legal framework where laws are applied with uniformity and consistency across all individuals, regardless of their background or status, they stated. These legal scholars argue that this practice boosts the legal and

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administrative systems' ethical integrity. It reinforces the idea that all citizens are held to the same legal standards and statutes, nurturing a sense of equality under the law.

Based on this premise, I reason that the implications of this framework extend to the realm of mobile justice, where accessibility becomes a crucial factor. Improved accessibility through mobile platforms allows individuals to engage with legal processes more freely and efficiently, breaking down traditional barriers that may have hindered their participation. As technology increasingly integrates into the justice system, it empowers disadvantaged communities by offering them enhanced opportunities to seek legal recourse, report injustices, and access critical legal information. This democratisation of legal resources promotes a more inclusive environment, ensuring that the ideals of justice and the rule of law become a lived reality for everyone, ultimately reinforcing public trust in the justice system.

4.1.2. Reaching Underserved Communities

Djuraev et al. (2025) assert that diverse nations are not insulated from the pervasive digital transformation sweeping across the planet. They contend that many of these countries are actively engaged and propelled by this formidable force, particularly in an age where key global events are amplified by the ever-increasing influence of technology across multiple sectors. The authors emphasise that conflicting perspectives on technology's role in development are starkly highlighted in contemporary reports that provide comprehensive analyses of the extensive and impactful effects of digitisation on the legal frameworks of various developing nations. Meanwhile, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) announced the deployment of judicial personnel, including judges, prosecutors, and investigators, to Leer County as part of a mobile court initiative to deliver formal justice. Situated within the Unity State of the Greater Upper Nile region, Leer County has experienced significant conflict and has lacked access to formal judicial mechanisms for over a decade (Xinhua, 2025).

This initiative represents a collaborative effort involving the Judiciary of South Sudan, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and the local government of Unity State. Guang Cong, the deputy special representative of the Secretary-General (Political) for South Sudan and deputy head of UNMISS, emphasised the importance of mobile courts in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. He articulated that while mobile courts do not replace established formal justice systems, they are crucial in enhancing public confidence in the rule of law architecture in South Sudan (Xinhua, 2025).

In this respect, I analyse that particularly noteworthy is the potential impact on underserved communities. The transition towards digitalisation promises to dismantle long-standing barriers that disadvantaged groups encounter when

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accessing legal resources and services. Advanced online platforms equip these communities with critical information about their rights and available legal support, such as mobile justice, to empower individuals and promote heightened civic participation. Moreover, implementing technological advancements, such as mobile court proceedings and online dispute resolution systems, can significantly reduce the necessity for physical presence, alleviating logistical hurdles encountered by individuals with mobility constraints or limited resources. Resultantly, utilising technology within the justice sector can potentially close critical gaps and facilitate equitable access to legal support for all citizens, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

In her article, Gibbs (2022) highlights a remarkable initiative by the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, which has successfully provided free legal assistance to nearly 50 individuals across the United States (US). Central to this initiative is the Tennessee Justice Bus, an inventive mobile law office designed to bridge the gap in legal services for rural and underserved communities. This specially outfitted passenger van is equipped with various technological tools, including computers, tablets, a high-quality printer, reliable internet access, and large video displays, all supported by a robust Wi-Fi network and essential office supplies. Gibbs emphasises that this mobile unit brings legal resources directly to those in need and transforms how legal aid is delivered. According to Gibbs, lawyers and trained volunteers aboard the Justice Bus can offer immediate, on-the-spot legal consultations and assistance, effectively meeting Tennesseans in their environments. Thus, this approach enhances accessibility to legal help and cultivates a sense of community by ensuring that crucial legal services reach those who might otherwise be unable to access them.

Djuraev et al. (2025) documented that mobile integration significantly enhances access to legal services for individuals in remote and rural areas, effectively enabling them to engage with legal professionals and resources without the logistical burdens of travelling to urban centres. In this regard, I contend that this development has profound implications for underserved communities, as it addresses the disparities caused by geographical isolation. Individuals in these locales can obtain critical legal support and guidance, equipping them to overcome the complexities of legal systems that may otherwise seem impenetrable by capitalising on mobile technology. As a result, this increased accessibility can facilitate greater legal awareness, advocacy, and a strengthened framework for protecting rights, contributing to a more equitable legal sector for historically disadvantaged populations.

For instance, countries such as Kenya, with its Huduma Centres, and Rwanda, utilising the Irembo Platform, exemplify creative approaches to merging mobile technology with e-government services to enhance access to legal resources, especially in underserved rural communities. These case studies shed light on the

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effectiveness of contextually tailored solutions that effectively tackle infrastructure challenges and promote service delivery in areas with limited access (Djuraev et al., 2025).

4.1.3. Eliminating Geographical Barriers

Lillo (2024) claims that in Chile, multiple significant barriers inhibit access to justice, including insufficient information on legal rights and procedures, inconvenient courthouse locations, rigid procedural frameworks that allow limited flexibility, protracted judicial delays, and the inherent requirement for legal representation. His research suggests that these challenges lead many individuals to abandon the pursuit of civil justice as they assess their situations through a cost-benefit lens. This analytical approach frequently culminates in decisions to forgo formal legal recourse.

Therefore, I argue that there is an urgent need for ingenious solutions to improve accessibility by tackling geographical barriers through mobile justice initiatives. I assert that mobile justice could encompass providing online legal resources, deploying mobile legal clinics to underserved regions, and integrating user-friendly technology to simplify legal procedures. I also contend that implementing such strategies could alleviate the impact of physical distance and the logistical complexities outlined above. This endeavour will advance a climate where individuals are encouraged to seek legal assistance without the encumbrance of extensive travel or prohibitive costs, promoting justice for all.

Sharma and Patel (2024) reported that inventive approaches, such as mobile legal clinics, are making meaningful advancements in the accessibility of legal services for historically disadvantaged communities. They wrote that these clinics, which operate from specially equipped vans or buses, traverse neighbourhoods with inadequate legal resources to ensure that individuals can access justice regardless of socioeconomic status. Thus, I contend that these initiatives are instrumental in empowering individuals who might encounter significant barriers in escaping the legal system's dilemmas due to financial constraints. Accordingly, mobile legal clinics significantly contribute to a more equitable legal ecosystem by democratising access to legal services and enabling individuals to comprehend and assert their rights. This initiative assists individuals in resolving their legal challenges and enhances community engagement and participation within the broader legal framework to reinforce the rule of law across all societal strata.

While mobile legal justice initiatives present distinct advantages, notably enhancing accessibility to legal services, critics may question their overall efficacy, particularly in regions with inadequate infrastructural support. For instance, in remote or under-resourced communities where essential utilities such as water and electricity are often unreliable, the deployment of mobile legal services encounters substantial

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challenges. Individuals residing in these areas may struggle to obtain timely and thorough legal assistance via mobile platforms due to inconsistent internet connectivity and the absence of designated venues for judicial proceedings and dispute resolution.

Moreover, this technological access gap raises equity and inclusiveness concerns within the legal system. Populations lacking reliable access to mobile legal resources may remain deprived of critical legal support, which ultimately undermines the potential advantages that mobile legal initiatives could offer to disadvantaged groups. As such, it is crucial to address these disparities to guarantee that the benefits of mobile legal services can be equitably distributed across diverse demographic segments.

4.2. Case Studies

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the concept of mobile justice has emerged as a vital resource for communities across the United States (US), from New York to California, that are affected by policing practices (ACLU, 2025). This perspective suggests that mobile justice platforms are catalysts for raising awareness about systemic issues within law enforcement to empower community members, particularly disadvantaged groups, to interact more effectively with police. This initiative enlightens the ACLU's commitment to civil liberties and its role as an advocate for social justice reform. The core value proposition lies in equipping individuals with comprehensive tools and knowledge to assert their rights confidently while enhancing their understanding of the various challenges their communities encounter concerning law enforcement.

Wang (2024) articulates that China's initiative to develop a comprehensive online litigation framework aims to unify the judicial processes across the nation through an integrated online court system. This legal scholar points out that the framework uses mobile communication technologies to establish Mobile Micro Courts, which enhance the efficiency of legal proceedings. He emphasises that in online litigation, courts can digitise various components of the judicial process, such as claim submissions, trial procedures, and judgment enforcement, by utilising advanced information technology. According to this author, this digitisation simplifies judicial workflows and significantly reduces litigation costs for all parties involved. However, he cautions that this model remains in its nascent stages, presenting several persistent challenges and considerations for its effective implementation and integration within the existing judicial ecosystem.

According to Gordienko et al. (2024), implementing the electronic court system enhances the mobility and accessibility of judicial services. This advancement is particularly crucial for citizens located in areas affected by armed conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine, such as Donetsk and Luhansk. The electronic court facilitates a smoother path to justice, allowing individuals in these conflict zones to

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engage with the legal system. These citizens do not need to physically traverse the demarcation line separating government-controlled territories from those that are not. This feature helps ensure that justice is within reach for those facing unique challenges due to the ongoing conflict. It also reduces the risks associated with crossing into potentially dangerous areas (Gordienko et al., 2024). Therefore, the mobile justice system embodies a progressive step towards safeguarding the rights of citizens in precarious situations. This practice promotes a more equitable and accessible avenue to justice in the face of adversity.

In his analysis, Shafayat (2025) examines the Mobile Court Act of 2009 in Bangladesh, which authorises executive magistrates to conduct mobile courts directly at the sites of alleged offenses. According to Shafayat, this framework enables magistrates to adjudicate cases rapidly, closely interacting with the specific context of the incidents. This author points out that the legal repercussions for offenders may include custodial sentences and monetary fines, frequently driven by their admissions during the proceedings. He suggests that the mobile court system is intended and strives to facilitate the judicial process, operating as a fast-track mechanism that resolves cases expeditiously.

This approach can mitigate the delays commonly associated with conventional court systems to simplify a more efficient pathway to justice for all parties involved. Mobile courts seek to enhance legal accountability and act as a deterrent against future infractions, ultimately aspiring to create a more accessible and effective justice framework in Bangladesh by enabling prompt judicial action at the crime scene. Asaduzzaman and Deepto (2021) report that from July 2015 to August 2020, the Bangladesh Department of the Environment undertook a rigorous initiative by initiating 8,756 cases via mobile courts to address environmental violations. These scholars claim that mobile courts expedite judicial mechanisms to address such infractions. They further assert that the imposed fines totalled approximately Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) 530 million, equating to roughly 4.82 million United States Dollars (USD), out of this aggregate, BDT 465.40 million USD, or approximately 4.24 million USD, was successfully collected.

These statistics shed light on the operational dynamics and efficacy of Bangladesh's environmental justice system. The substantial volume of cases indicates an assertive strategy toward enforcing regulatory compliance. However, the pronounced slight disparity between the total fines levied and the recovery amount raises critical concerns regarding the enforcement mechanisms. Such discrepancies may reflect underlying challenges within the judicial framework that impede the effective imposition of penalties. A comprehensive understanding of these factors is essential to evaluate the judicial system's efficacy in fulfilling its objectives related to environmental protection and upholding legal accountability. Despite this

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discrepancy, the difference is relatively minimal, which suggests that the Bangladesh Environmental Department is effectively executing its mandate and making significant progress in collecting fines.

In his article, Yin (2025) states that the primary role of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2020 has been to develop a unique judicial framework to address some of the country's most pressing conflicts. Central to this framework is the establishment of the Joint Special Mobile Court (JSMC), created in partnership with the South Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilisation, and Resilience. The JSMC addresses the persistent tensions and disputes between settled agricultural communities and semi-nomadic pastoralists. It also tackles conflicts that often escalate into violence and lead to significant loss of life and widespread community displacement (Yin, 2025).

He articulates that this forward-thinking mobile justice initiative seeks to synergise the strengths of both the traditional and formal legal systems operative in South Sudan. The traditional justice system, deeply embedded in local cultural practices and communal values, is integral to the nation's legal framework. The JSMC aspires to render justice that is more accessible and contextually relevant to the affected populations by merging these customary approaches with formal judicial processes. It is crucial to acknowledge, as Mr. Ahmed pointed out, that interventions conducted via mobile courts are inherently extraordinary and generally do not carry the usual legal backing (Yin, 2025).

This practice highlights the pressing urgency of the situation in South Sudan, where conventional judicial mechanisms are often insufficient to address localised conflicts promptly. A noteworthy exemplar is the JSMC for ingenious judicial solutions in complex and challenging environments, striving to reconcile formal legal structures with local customary practices. Meanwhile, Peter Mazen Chol Wol, with over twenty years of judicial experience, has been appointed to lead a mobile court initiative to reform the local justice system in Koch, South Sudan. Upon his arrival, he articulated a strong commitment to this mission, stating, "I'm honoured to play a part in restoring the rule of law to our people." This statement stresses the gravity of his role as he plans to spend the next 25 days in Koch [United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK), 2025].

During this intensive deployment, the mobile court was mandated to mitigate a significant backlog of legal cases. The court addressed a total of 45 criminal cases, which included appeals from individuals contesting prior rulings rooted in customary law. The verdicts delivered included nine convictions, notably highlighting two cases related to sexual and gender-based violence. These determinations emphasise the court's dedication to addressing serious offences and reflect a concerted effort to tackle pressing societal issues. An equally critical function of the mobile court was its review of prior incarcerations. This process resulted in exonerating 25 inmates

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who had been previously wrongfully imprisoned, reinforcing the essential values of justice and equity (UNPK, 2025).

According to the [United Nations (UN), 2025], this facet of the court's operations resonated deeply with the Koch community, serving as a tangible demonstration of the potential impact of legal reform in a region endeavouring to achieve a more balanced and equitable justice system. Similarly, mobile court hearings have been an institutionalised mechanism under the legal framework of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for over a decade to address judicial challenges in remote and underserved communities. This model brings judges, prosecutors, and defence attorneys into isolated villages, reinforcing the principle of legal accountability regardless of geographical barriers to crime (UN, 2025).

The UN further claims that between January 2023 and November 2024, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in Congo (UNJHRO) was critical in facilitating this initiative. It supported 13 joint investigation teams and organised 19 mobile court sessions throughout this period. As stipulated in the UN's article, this measure resulted in the prosecution of 1,010 individuals for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. This concerted effort culminated in 777 convictions, highlighting the national authorities' commitment to addressing justice in underserved regions (UN, 2025). The mobile court hearings have been met with significant approval from local communities, bolstering public trust in national legal institutions. Kalonga, a representative in this programme, remarked, "These hearings exemplify that justice can be administered even in the most remote locales. Defendants are prosecuted, and if the evidence warrants, held accountable for their actions" (UN, 2025).

This initiative marks a significant progression in the pursuit of equitable justice, ensuring access for all individuals irrespective of geographical constraints. It promotes inclusivity within the justice system by dismantling barriers that historically obstruct access to legal recourse. The focus on marginalised populations and residents of remote areas facilitates their ability to seek legal support and achieve fair treatment. Consequently, this endeavour contributes to establishing a more just society where all individuals can effectively exercise their rights in adherence to the rule of law.

In this section, I conduct a detailed examination of the underutilisation of mobile courts across various jurisdictions. Moreover, I note that mobile justice vehicles are particularly lacking in the context of labour disputes. My analysis reveals a significant lack of dedicated labour courts, appellate bodies for labour issues, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms capitalising on mobile justice vehicles to effectively reach and serve the workforce. This gap is particularly concerning, as marginalised workers face similar barriers to accessing justice as general community

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members who may be constrained by financial limitations and unable to travel to distant courts. Many workers may experience job loss or financial strains that impede their ability to seek legal recourse, thus undermining their access to justice and protecting their rights. In response to these challenges, the mobile justice framework presents a promising avenue for transformation to deliver legal assistance directly to those in need. We can effectively bridge the divide between the underserved workforce and their entitlements to justice by deploying mobile justice vehicles in strategically accessible locations.

Moreover, the advantages of mobile justice extend beyond individuals and communities to encompass governmental entities. For example, the Bangladesh Environmental Department has exemplified the efficacy of mobile courts, utilising them to simplify the collection of fines to reinforce state enforcement capabilities while promoting compliance among the populace. Consequently, I posit that a thoughtfully designed and implemented mobile justice framework, centred on accessibility and effectiveness, can yield significant benefits for all stakeholders involved: the state, the community, and especially the vulnerable workforce. This approach holds the potential to breed a more equitable justice system that is responsive to the diverse needs of individuals, ensuring that justice transcends theoretical ideals to become a tangible reality for all.

4.3. The rocky path: Challenges in mobile justice

Integrating mobile technology into the legal sector has emerged as a transformative approach to enhance access to justice, though it introduces a range of complexities. The paradigm of mobile legal justice encompasses various applications designed to deliver legal services through mobile platforms, particularly for individuals facing obstacles to accessing conventional legal resources. One of the foremost challenges is posed and fuelled by technological barriers that significantly impact the accessibility and efficacy of mobile legal justice systems. Issues such as inadequate internet connectivity are prevalent, especially in rural and underserved regions where reliable service is often scant.

Moreover, the digital divide presents a significant obstacle across socio-economic demographics. While mobile legal solutions are advantageous, disparities in internet access, particularly between urban and rural locales, hinder their equitable utilisation. Many potential users, especially in rural or marginalised urban areas and between developing and developed countries, may lack dependable internet access, thus rendering mobile platforms ineffective for intended beneficiaries. Data privacy and security issues are paramount in this realm, given the legal profession's adherence to stringent confidentiality standards. The mobile environment, often vulnerable to breaches, raises legitimate concerns. It is crucial to ensure that mobile applications comply with existing legal standards for data protection while safeguarding client confidentiality, which is an essential and complex task.

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Furthermore, the necessity to guide the diverse legal topography across various jurisdictions adds another layer of difficulty. Mobile legal services must adapt to the distinct regulatory frameworks governing legal practice in different areas, complicating the deployment of universal solutions. This requirement often entails tailoring platforms to align with local laws, which can be resource-intensive and time-consuming. Finally, sustaining funding and resources for mobile legal justice initiatives poses a significant challenge. While some nations and governmental bodies have initiated investments in this creative approach, a constant budget is critical to maintain and enhance services. This initiative will advance accessibility to legal services, empowering users with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of mobile justice service utilisation. Further, it will optimise the effectiveness of legal resources delivered through mobile platforms by improving user engagement and awareness.

While mobile legal justice presents substantial opportunities to democratise access to legal services, it is not without its challenges, including technological barriers, digital divide, privacy and security concerns, jurisdictional disparities, and the continuous necessity for funding and support.

4.3.1. Technological Barriers

Gaffer (2024) scrutinises the sluggish pace of digital transformation within regions like the European Union, attributing it to diverse pragmatic challenges. Key barriers include the considerable financial investments required for deploying new technologies and the disparate levels of infrastructure readiness across various locations. In contrast, Kovac et al. (2024) wrote that EU countries are frequently perceived as more digitally advanced; the Western Balkans region, including non-EU nations such as Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo, presents a distinct scenario. They assert that this region is an interesting case study for examining the nuances of digitalisation initiatives, with specific challenges it faces in its transition toward a more digitally integrated economy.

In my view, this scenario poses significant implications for the paradigm of mobile justice, as uneven progress in digital resource availability may obstruct equitable access to mobile justice services. Specifically, users in areas with well-established infrastructure benefit from advanced mobile justice solutions, whereas populations in underdeveloped regions encounter substantial hurdles. Thus, the path toward achieving equitable mobile justice is complicated by economic and infrastructural disparities, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to bridge these gaps.

Chatziioannou and Giannakourou (2024) contend that Greece is at the bottom of the scale among European nations integrating technology into its judicial system, affecting court and prosecution services. These authors assert that this inadequacy is

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particularly evident in the lack of digital communication tools, which are increasingly essential for streamlined legal operations. They further highlight that Greece, together with Bulgaria, is notably the only country in Europe that lacks clear guidelines for integrating technology. In this regard, I argue that this case poses considerable challenges for advancing mobile justice. The slow adoption of technological inventions threatens to impede the modernisation of Greece's legal framework. The absence of effective technological solutions prolongs legal processes that benefit underprivileged communities. These barriers complicate the journey toward a more efficient judicial system that fully deploys mobile justice solutions.

In examining the African context, specifically Zimbabwe, Poshai and Vyas-Doorgapersad (2023) identify several critical barriers to technological advancement. A primary challenge identified is the resistance to change, where individuals and institutions exhibit reluctance to adopt new technologies, primarily stemming from apprehension about the unknown and scepticism regarding their effectiveness. The authors highlight significant technological resource constraints, as limited access to funding, infrastructure, and essential tools, which further exacerbate the situation. They highlight the lack of public awareness surrounding the advantages of technology as another impediment, with many citizens unaware of how these inventions can enhance their daily lives. The scholars further argue that this issue is compounded by a pervasive level of technological illiteracy, indicating that even when technology is accessible, a substantial portion of the population lacks the requisite skills to utilise it effectively (Poshai & Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2023). Moreover, these scholars claim that inadequate internet connectivity compounds these challenges, severely hindering users' abilities to engage with mobile justice initiatives. Considering this scenario, I argue that the path to achieving mobile justice in Zimbabwe is manifested and poses challenges. These barriers necessitate governmental systematic intervention to cultivate a more equitable and efficient technological integration to pursue regional mobile justice.

4.3.2. Division and Access Challenges and Privacy Issues

4.3.2.1. Digital Divides and Access Issues

Grandi (2025) wrote that videoconference court hearings in Italy face substantial challenges arising from the digital divide, which significantly impacts the accessibility and efficacy of remote judicial processes. In this respect, I argue that this divide occurs in rural and underserved regions, where inconsistent internet connectivity can lead to frequent disruptions during hearings. From my perspective, participants encounter audio and visual glitches that result in skipped testimonies or unclear communications, ultimately jeopardising the integrity of legal proceedings. Additionally, I postulate that this digital divide may pose broader challenges to mobile justice, particularly for disadvantaged citizens. Many vulnerable

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demographics may struggle to engage in legal processes due to the unavailability of reliable mobile justice initiatives. This scenario exacerbates existing digital divide disparities within the justice system and highlights the pressing need for targeted initiatives to bridge the technological gap. It is imperative to address these issues to ensure that mobile justice remains accessible, equitable, and effective for all citizens, regardless of their geographic location or socio-economic conditions.

An article by Appara (2025) discusses the transformative impact of legal technology on enhancing access to justice, a development that has garnered attention from international bodies like the UN. According to this article, in an address delivered in October 2023, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed articulated that the digitalisation of legal processes can significantly optimise the justice system functionality to facilitate greater access to legal assistance for diverse populations. However, she also highlighted a critical caveat: the realisation of equitable access rests on establishing reliable internet infrastructure, a significant obstacle in various regions (Appara, 2025).

The commitment of the Peruvian government was also spotlighted, with representatives from the Sixth Committee articulating plans to develop a vigorous legal and ethical framework designed to protect citizens' rights while capitalising on the potential of legal technology to enhance accessibility. The Peruvian delegate emphasised the crucial need to ensure that the digitalisation of legal services does not inadvertently leave behind those who do not have reliable access to technology (Appara, 2025). Based on the above premise, I argue that this raises fundamental challenges related to achieving mobile justice and prompts exploring strategies to bridge the digital divide. As previously mentioned, the rationale is to ensure all individuals, irrespective of their demographics, can benefit from legal technology advancements, particularly those in marginalised societies.

In his article, Omiat (2025) highlights the significant challenges facing litigants in Uganda who seek redress in courts outside their local jurisdictions. According to this author, the requirement to travel extensive distances, often exceeding 450 kilometres from Kampala to Kanungu District, to file court documents, present evidence, or await judgments renders the dispute resolution process burdensome, prohibitively expensive and time-consuming. In this case, I propose the implementation of mobile justice as a viable solution to address these inefficiencies. This approach is particularly crucial for underprivileged communities, where disparities in access to technology persist. While some members of these groups may possess internet access and computer literacy, many do not, creating a gap that mobile justice can effectively bridge.

States can support and enhance existing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. I strongly advocate for governments to consider and implement mobile

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technology solutions to bolster the ADR system and existing judicial technological frameworks. This initiative would significantly improve access to legal resources for underserved populations, ensuring support is readily available to those in need. Deploying mobile justice services must remain inclusive, allowing all users, regardless of their alternative options, to utilise these services as they see fit. Regardless, governments may consider endorsing the expansion of mobile justice initiatives specifically tailored to serve underserved populations, ensuring equitable access to justice for all.

4.3.2.2. Privacy Issues

According to Hawamdeh (2025), the enactment of global data privacy regulations, notably the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the EU and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) in the US, represents a key shift in the paradigm of data privacy on an international scale. This academic claim is that these legal frameworks impose stringent requirements for the collecting, processing, and storing of personally identifiable information (PII), reflecting a robust commitment to individual privacy in a domain characterised by swift technological change.

Introducing these regulations is enlightening and increasing the acknowledgement of the necessity to safeguard personal information in an interconnected digital ecosystem. They empower individuals with enhanced agency over their data while mandating organisations to implement more accountable and transparent data management practices. Consequently, compliance with such frameworks enhances and drives a paradigm shift towards responsible data stewardship in the legal sector. Section 14 of the South African Constitution articulates the fundamental right to privacy, a crucial legal safeguard for protecting personal information. This provision effectively prevents unauthorised intrusions into individuals' private lives to ensure citizens maintain a degree of solitude and confidentiality concerning their personal affairs. Meanwhile, Section 16 outlines the right to freedom of expression, which encompasses the liberty to articulate thoughts and opinions and engage in the unhindered pursuit, reception, and dissemination of information. This right emphasises the importance of a free flow of ideas without censorship or governmental interference. Collectively, these sections highlight the constitutional commitment to uphold individual dignity, nurture open discourse, and cultivate a dynamic democratic environment wherein citizens possess the agency to express themselves while simultaneously enjoying protection from infringements on their privacy.

In *Botha v Smuts and Another*, this case constitutes an application for leave to appeal the judgment and order issued by the Supreme Court of Appeal. The Supreme Court's ruling overturned the High Court's ruling, which mandated that the first respondent, Mr. Boudewyn Homburg de Vries "Bool" Smuts, eliminate all mentions of the applicant, Mr. Herman Botha, and his business affiliations and familial

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references from a specific post on the Facebook page associated with the second respondent, the Landmark Leopard and Predator Project. Additionally, the High Court imposed an injunction prohibiting Mr Smuts from making any further Facebook posts containing such references. This case examines the complex interplay between privacy rights, particularly regarding public domain information, and the right to freedom of expression. These considerations unfold within the broader framework of the rise of social media and the continued digitisation of information.

The court ruled that Mr Botha's claim of privacy infringement was not included in the foundational affidavit he submitted to the High Court. Consequently, he was barred from advancing this claim in the Supreme Court of Appeal and could not pursue it in the current court. Notably, the sole issue Mr. Botha sought to appeal in this court, contingent on the granting of leave to appeal, was the alleged violation of his right to privacy. As such, the applicant was deemed to have no reasonable prospects of success on appeal. Additionally, there were no compelling public interest factors that would justify granting leave to appeal. Therefore, the request for leave to appeal was denied, with costs levied against the applicant.

This case offers significant perspectives on mobile justice and privacy issues. It stresses the critical need for litigants to articulate and substantiate claims of privacy violations rigorously within their legal documentation. The ruling emphasises the significance of establishing a solid foundation for claims in lower courts to safeguard the right to appeal on such bases. Moreover, it indicates that raising privacy concerns, devoid of substantial legal arguments or supporting evidence, may result in adverse outcomes for the applicant. This case serves as a cautionary note for future cases related to mobile technology and privacy, highlighting the necessity for practitioners to engage with these issues with precision and a thorough understanding of the prevailing legal framework governing privacy rights.

4.4. Jurisdiction and Funding

4.4.1. Jurisdictional Disparities

Aleke and Trigui (2025) establish that the coexistence of disparate legal frameworks across jurisdictions poses substantial challenges in implementing mobile justice initiatives. The scholars posit that this variation in legal standards and regulations often leads to significant inconsistencies; actions permissible in one jurisdiction may be outright illegal in another. Such discrepancies create a complex legal realm for individuals attempting to access justice through mobile platforms, complicating the enforcement of rights and the safeguarding of users' interests. As mobile justice projects aim to harness technology to deliver accessible legal resources and services, they are required to navigate this intricate web of varying legal norms. This situation

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raises the risk of confusion among users who may lack awareness of the legal ramifications of their activities across different jurisdictions.

Moreover, developers and organisations engaged in mobile justice must maintain a proactive approach to ensure compliance with these varied legal frameworks, mitigate liabilities, and effectively advocate for equitable access to justice across heterogeneous legal environments. Consequently, the intersection of technology and law in mobile justice highlights the pressing need for a more coherent understanding of legal systems as we advance toward an increasingly interconnected digital geography. For instance, Mummalaneni and Challa (2024) wrote that in 2023, India ranked 131st out of 142 countries regarding civil justice accessibility and affordability, revealing significant barriers that hinder citizens' navigation of the legal system. Their research indicates that this dismal ranking highlights various systemic issues, including exorbitant legal fees, protracted court procedures, and a widespread lack of legal literacy among the general population. These factors place India at a significant disadvantage regarding mobile justice initiatives compared to other jurisdictions. Countries with more accessible and affordable legal systems tend to have better frameworks for integrating technology into legal processes, allowing citizens to access legal resources and services more efficiently. Consequently, the barriers in India hinder current efforts to improve access to justice through mobile platforms and highlight the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to empower citizens and enhance their legal navigability.

4.4.2. Lack of Funding and Resources

Mendonca and Iyamu (2024) posit that in Namibia, a large portion of the population lives in rural areas. These academics assert that this zone is where engaging with the justice system faces considerable challenges. Their research indicates that the primary impediments to obtaining legal counsel and protection are multifaceted, notably anchored in pervasive poverty that restricts individuals' financial capacities to seek legal recourse. Furthermore, the infrastructural deficiencies in these regions, marked by poorly maintained roadways and limited transportation networks, compound the difficulties in accessing courts and legal services (Mendonca & Iyamu, 2024).

According to their study, the justice system is often beset by resource constraints, including a shortage of personnel and inadequate funding, which compromises the effectiveness of mobile justice initiatives to connect rural populations with formal legal structures. This lack of resources frequently leads to protracted legal proceedings, creating a backlog and delaying access to justice. The interaction of these factors engenders significant challenges for deploying mobile justice solutions as they attempt to mitigate the disparities between rural communities and the justice system. Consequently, the operational efficacy of these mobile services is undermined substantially, complicating efforts to ensure equitable and timely access

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to legal rights and protections for all citizens, irrespective of their geographic location.

Conversely, Bjerke-Busch and Aspelund (2021) highlight the key role of the Norwegian Court Administration (NCA) in the governance and support of Norway's diverse judicial framework, which consists of 104 courts, including 63 district courts, 34 land consolidation courts, six (6) appellate courts, and the Supreme Court. These scholars postulate that the NCA's mandate transcends fundamental oversight; it encompasses critical functions such as fiscal stewardship, including budgeting and financial management, organisational development, and enhancing professional competencies among court personnel. Moreover, they posit that the NCA is instrumental in refining communication strategies and maintaining the requisite ICT infrastructure to ensure the operational efficiency of the judiciary.

With respect to mobile justice initiatives in Norway, the comprehensive infrastructure established by the NCA exemplifies a clear commitment to integrating technological inventions within judicial processes. The NCA's supportive stance suggests that the courts uphold traditional legal practices and are receptive to mobile solutions to improve access to legal resources and services. This adoption could significantly enhance accessibility for citizens, particularly in rural areas, to reinforce the overall efficiency and responsiveness of the justice system.

Given the challenges outlined above, I assert that infrastructure development is paramount for the success of mobile courts. Governments should allocate resources toward establishing necessary facilities, such as secure parking for mobile units, robust internet connectivity, and the provision of essential utilities at court locations. Moreover, there is a pressing need to expand the jurisdiction of mobile courts. These courts should be empowered to address a broader range of cases while ensuring that more complex legal issues are appropriately escalated to higher judicial tiers. Furthermore, funding allocation is a key driver for the establishment and sustainability of mobile courts. Governments need to earmark dedicated financial resources for the creation and ongoing operational costs of mobile court systems, recognising their integral role in advancing social justice and equity.

Community engagement also plays a critical role in the successful implementation of mobile courts. The involvement of community stakeholders in the planning and execution stages of mobile court initiatives is essential to ensure alignment with local needs and to enhance the relevance of the services provided. Lastly, regular assessment and adaptation cannot be neglected. Governments should implement continuous evaluation mechanisms to assess the performance of mobile courts and remain open to adjusting their operational strategies based on feedback from users and legal practitioners. This iterative approach is crucial for the continuous service delivery improvement in the mobile justice framework.

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5. Conclusions

This contribution highlights the limited global prevalence of mobile courts, emphasising a significant access-to-justice gap for marginalised populations. The evidence indicates that mobile justice systems can substantially benefit disadvantaged communities by facilitating easier access to legal proceedings. Such initiatives play a critical role in optimising the justice process, enhancing efficiency, and responding more effectively to the needs of individuals who previously faced barriers in conventional court systems.

However, the findings enlighten several essential challenges that countries must address when contemplating implementing mobile justice initiatives. To ensure these systems genuinely meet the requirements of disadvantaged demographics, it is imperative to tackle current obstacles hindering the effectiveness of mobile courts. For instance, establishing adequate parking facilities for mobile court vehicles is crucial to guarantee seamless operations during legal proceedings. Additionally, reliable internet access for these mobile units necessitates proximity to telecommunications towers with robust coverage. Such connectivity is essential for the uninterrupted operation of court sessions, which include accessing electronic case files and communicating with other legal entities.

Moreover, the infrastructure for mobile courts must incorporate well-maintained all-weather roads leading to court venues, alongside access to essential utilities such as water and electricity. These components are crucial for nurturing a conducive environment for legal practitioners and court officials to enhance the efficient functionality of mobile courts. The research further indicates that mobile courts address a limited spectrum of cases, as seen in practices within countries like Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). From these findings, it can be argued that mobile courts should be empowered to extend their jurisdiction to cover various cases. Specifically, while higher courts, such as the supreme and constitutional courts, maintain specific jurisdictions, all other categories of cases should ideally be adjudicated within mobile court frameworks. This expansion should also encompass labour disputes, enabling labour courts to provide mobile services to communities to ensure workers can access justice without extensive travel.

Implementing such an expansive mobile court framework will require considerable financial investment. Governments must allocate adequate funding to support these initiatives, acknowledging the long-term benefits they can yield in terms of equitable access to legal representation and justice for all citizens. Essentially, mobile legal justice systems present a compelling opportunity to enhance accessibility and efficiency within the justice process, particularly for underrepresented groups. As nations evaluate the advancement of mobile justice initiatives, it is crucial to address infrastructure necessities, broaden the range of cases managed, and secure the

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requisite funding for effective implementation. In conclusion, mobile courts can bridge existing gaps in the justice system, particularly for marginalised populations. Governments must adopt a proactive stance to address these barriers and overcome them efficiently. Crucially, it is essential to ensure the quality of services delivered by mobile courts; this initiative should transcend mere compliance and instead strive for substantive efficacy and excellence in judicial processes.

In addressing the research question of how mobile technology can augment access to justice while concurrently tackling systemic disparities within the legal framework, this analysis presents several perspectives. Mobile technology possesses the transformative potential to democratise access to legal services, particularly for marginalised populations that frequently encounter substantial barriers to justice. Users can obtain direct access to critical legal resources to enhance their understanding of rights and available options by utilising mobile justice platforms. This approach is particularly advantageous for individuals residing in rural or low-income urban settings, where legal services may be limited or prohibitively expensive due to travel constraints.

Moreover, mobile technology can enhance communication channels between underserved communities and courts to alleviate impediments associated with traditional legal access points. Technological advancements can effectively bridge the gap between these communities and the legal system, streamlining the process of obtaining legal support. In addition to enhancing access, mobile technology can address underlying systemic disparities within the legal framework. Legal systems often exhibit biases that adversely impact individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, racial groups, and ethnicities. Mobile justice initiatives can employ data analytics to identify and elucidate these disparities, fostering heightened awareness and promoting reform efforts. For instance, analysing patterns in legal outcomes stratified by demographics allows stakeholders to advocate for policy changes that enhance equity and fairness within the justice process.

Furthermore, mobile technology can empower these communities by promoting civic engagement and enhancing education regarding legal rights and responsibilities. Initiatives incorporating educational resources and community outreach through mobile platforms can effectively inform individuals about their legal rights, the mechanics of the justice system, and navigation strategies within it. Such empowerment cultivates informed participation in the legal process and engenders opportunities for systemic change. In summary, mobile technology offers a distinctive avenue to improve access to justice for disadvantaged communities while simultaneously addressing systemic inequities within the legal framework. Stakeholders can work towards creating a more equitable legal landscape that

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benefits all individuals, irrespective of their background or circumstances, by strategically using these technological tools.

For future research, several potential avenues could be explored:

1. Future research could explore the concept of Mobile Justice in workplace settings, examining its implications for employee rights, accessibility to legal resources, and the overall impact on workplace dynamics.
2. Impact Assessment of Mobile Legal Services, investigating the effectiveness of mobile legal aid services in improving access to justice for underserved populations, particularly in rural and remote areas.
3. User Experience and Satisfaction Studies, conducting qualitative research to gather views from individuals who have utilized mobile legal services, evaluating their experiences and satisfaction levels to identify areas for improvement.
4. Comparative Analysis of Traditional vs. Mobile Legal Approaches, exploring the differences in outcomes between traditional legal services and mobile legal initiatives, particularly in terms of case resolution times and client satisfaction.
5. Technology Integration in Legal Services, examining the role of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, in enhancing the efficiency and transparency of mobile legal services.
6. Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Access to Mobile Legal Justice, analysing how various socioeconomic factors, including income, education, and geographic location, impact individuals' access to mobile legal resources.
7. Policy Implications and Advocacy, investigating the legal and policy frameworks that support or hinder the deployment of mobile legal services, and recommending changes to enhance their effectiveness.

These avenues of research could significantly contribute to the understanding and improvement of mobile legal justice initiatives, ensuring they fulfil their potential to provide equitable access to legal support for all individuals.

Table 1. Legislation Table

California Consumer Privacy Act
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996
Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 16 of 1963
Mobile Court Act 2009
Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016

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Regulation of the Supreme Court Number 1 of 2014

Table 2. Authorities Table

Botha v Smuts and Another (CCT 40/22) [2024] ZACC 22; 2024 (12) BCLR 1477 (CC); 2025 (1) SA 581 (CC) (9 October 2024)
LexisNexis South Africa (Pty) Ltd v Minister of Justice and Correctional Services (2023-010096) [2024] ZAGPPHC 446 (29 April 2024)

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Hlalele Matebese is the sole author of this study. Therefore, all aspects of the research, including writing, literature review, data collection, analysis, and the resulting conclusions, have been undertaken and conducted solely by them.

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