

# Open Research Online

---

The Open University's repository of research publications and other research outputs

## Can Space Technologies Aid Social Justice?

### Other

#### How to cite:

Gajjar, Devyani (2021). Can Space Technologies Aid Social Justice? Postgraduate Research Poster Competition, The Open University.

For guidance on citations see [FAQs](#).

© 2021 Devyani Gajjar



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Version: Poster

---

Copyright and Moral Rights for the articles on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. For more information on Open Research Online's [data policy](#) on reuse of materials please consult the policies page.

---

[oro.open.ac.uk](https://oro.open.ac.uk)

# Can Space Technologies Aid Social Justice?

Devyani Gajjar, ([devyani.gajjar@open.ac.uk](mailto:devyani.gajjar@open.ac.uk)), @devyanigajjar. Supervisors: Prof. Shonil Bhagwat, Dr Alessandra Marino, Dr Susanne P. Schwenzer

**1. Space technologies** are increasingly being used in international aid space projects for sustainable development, e.g. satellites and drones to prevent malaria epidemics in the Global South.

**2. Social justice** means equal control over resources, particularly for groups whose needs have historically been marginalised. Social justice is vital if we want to live in a fairer world.

**3. Research Aim:** To evaluate whether the design of **space projects** funded by UK aid budgets could support **social justice** for marginalised groups.

**4. Initial findings** from documents and interviews with project members reveal challenges and opportunities to **space projects** aiding **social justice**:

## 4.1 Challenges

- a. The requirements of those funding **space projects** could misalign with beneficiaries needs. As a result, the design of **space projects** may not meet beneficiaries' needs.
- b. The UK government has abruptly cut aid budgets for **space projects**, showing how they have the power to change beneficiaries' lives negatively and resources available at a whim.

## 4.2 Opportunities

- c. **Space projects** could prioritise using **space technologies** in ways that are accessible and useful to beneficiaries.
- d. Effective communications between project members and beneficiaries can assist with understanding accessibility and usefulness.
- e. Finding alternative funding sources could reduce the impact of budget cuts.



**5. Implications:** This research will provide insights into how **space projects** can be designed to bring greater equality and beneficial outcomes for marginalised groups.

**6. Conclusion:** Initial results suggest **space projects** can't currently aid **social justice** due to government budget cuts increasing inequalities. Finding alternative funding and focusing on using **space technologies** to meet the needs of marginalised groups could help support **social justice**.

