



Methodological Evaluation of Power-Distribution Equipment Systems in South Africa Using Panel Data for Adoption Rate Measurement

Sipho Mncube¹, Nkosi Ntsaba², Mpho Khumalo³, Faniwe Zulu^{4,5}

¹ University of the Free State

² Department of Sustainable Systems, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

³ University of Fort Hare

⁴ Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

⁵ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Fort Hare

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Correspondence: smncube@outlook.com

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Author notes

Sipho Mncube is affiliated with University of the Free State and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.
Nkosi Ntsaba is affiliated with Department of Sustainable Systems, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.
Mpho Khumalo is affiliated with University of Fort Hare and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.
Faniwe Zulu is affiliated with Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.

Abstract

The adoption of power-distribution equipment systems is crucial for ensuring reliable electricity supply in urban areas, particularly in South Africa where infrastructure challenges are significant. A mixed-method approach was employed, integrating econometric techniques with field observations. Panel data from multiple cities were analysed to estimate adoption rates over a five-year period, accounting for both fixed effects (e.g., local electricity demand patterns) and random effects (e.g., varying economic conditions). The preliminary analysis indicated an adoption rate of approximately 35% across the sampled cities, with significant variation influenced by socioeconomic factors. This study provides a robust framework for understanding power-distribution equipment adoption patterns in South Africa, offering insights into effective policy interventions. Policy makers should prioritise urban areas with high socioeconomic vulnerability to maximise the impact of investment in these systems. The maintenance outcome was modelled as $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i + \varepsilon_i$, with robustness checked using heteroskedasticity-consistent errors.

Keywords: Sub-Saharan, African, Econometrics, Panel-Data, Qualitative-Methods, Regression-Analyses, Geographical-Empiricism

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