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Micro-Hydro's Role in Rural Livelihoods: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Renewable Energy Projects in Malawi

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Abstract

This study examines the role of micro-hydro projects in enhancing rural livelihoods in Malawi by analysing their economic and social impacts. No empirical data were collected; instead, this study employs a qualitative approach to review existing literature and expert opinions on micro-hydro projects' impact on rural livelihoods in Malawi. While micro-hydro projects offer promising benefits for rural livelihoods, they require tailored strategies to overcome current challenges and ensure long-term viability. Government policies should prioritise the development of supportive frameworks that encourage private sector investment in micro-hydro systems. Additionally, community-based initiatives are essential for sustainable project implementation.

Keywords: *African geography, rural development, renewable energy, micro-hydro systems, cost-benefit analysis, sustainable livelihoods, indigenous knowledge systems*

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