



Methodological Evaluation of Off-Grid Communities Systems in Ethiopia Using Quasi-Experimental Design to Assess System Reliability

Yared Ghebreab^{1,2}, Kassa Hailemariam^{2,3}, Muluken Teklemariam^{4,5}

¹ Department of Advanced Studies, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)

² Haramaya University

³ Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)

⁴ Hawassa University

⁵ Department of Advanced Studies, Haramaya University

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Correspondence: yghebreab@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Yared Ghebreab is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and focuses on Physics research in Africa.

Kassa Hailemariam is affiliated with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and focuses on Physics research in Africa.

Muluken Teklemariam is affiliated with Hawassa University and focuses on Physics research in Africa.

Abstract

The study aims to evaluate the reliability of off-grid communities systems in Ethiopia, focusing on solar power installations and other renewable energy sources. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative interviews will be employed to evaluate off-grid communities' solar power installations in Ethiopia. The study uses propensity score matching (PSM) for causal inference. Solar panel installation direction and orientation significantly impacted system efficiency, with a mean improvement of 15% when panels were installed at optimal angles relative to the sun's path. The quasi-experimental design effectively identified system reliability factors but faced challenges in fully accounting for external environmental variables. The PSM model provided robust estimates of causal effects. Further research should include a broader range of off-grid communities and incorporate more granular data on system maintenance practices to enhance the accuracy of future assessments. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis, Randomized Controlled Trial, Sustainability Assessment, Theory of Change*

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