International Journal of Spectrum Research in Environmental & Energy Studies (IJSREES)
1(2), April-June, 2025, Pages 15-30

ISSN: 3092-9555

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15750343

Impact of Renewable Energy Adoption on the Economy: A Case Study of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

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ABSTRACT

This seminar explores the impact of renewable energy adoption on the economy, with a specific focus on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. As Nigeria seeks sustainable solutions to its energy challenges, the transition to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind has gained significant attention. This study aims to analyze how these energy sources can influence economic growth, job creation, and investment in Abuja. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, the research examines key economic indicators, including GDP contribution, employment rates, and energy costs, to assess the overall economic implications of renewable energy adoption. Additionally, stakeholder perspectives from government agencies, local businesses, and community members are incorporated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the local context. The findings indicate that renewable energy adoption has the potential to stimulate economic growth in Abuja, create new employment opportunities, and reduce energy costs in the long term. However, challenges such as infrastructure deficits and financing obstacles must be addressed to fully realize these benefits.

Keywords: *Renewable energy, economic growth, job creation, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, sustainable energy transition*

INTRODUCTION

The global transition toward renewable energy has become increasingly vital due to the urgency of climate change and the harmful effects of fossil fuel dependency. As nations strive to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass have emerged as viable alternatives offering both environmental and economic benefits. This shift is particularly important in developing countries, where energy poverty remains a barrier to growth (Agbadagbe, Musa & Ismail, 2024). The International Energy Agency (IEA, 2020) reports that around 789 million people globally still lack access to electricity, a problem most severe in sub-Saharan Africa. In Nigeria, energy challenges persist due to overreliance on fossil fuels, leading to high costs, power instability, and environmental degradation.

Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, presents a valuable case study for examining the economic impact of renewable energy adoption. Since its designation as the capital in 1991, Abuja has experienced rapid urbanization and economic growth, but it continues to suffer from irregular electricity supply. The city's energy crisis underscores the need for alternative sources like solar power, given the region's high solar irradiance. Transitioning to renewable energy in Abuja could address power shortages while promoting economic growth and sustainability (Magaji, Musa & Ismail, 2025). This is particularly relevant as Nigeria aims to meet its environmental obligations under the Paris Agreement and align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Renewable energy adoption has the potential to generate significant economic benefits for Abuja. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2021) emphasizes that renewable energy projects stimulate job creation in sectors such as installation, manufacturing, and maintenance. Additionally, both local and international investments can be attracted through renewable energy initiatives, enhancing the capital's economic profile. These projects contribute not only to environmental sustainability but also to improved livelihoods and community development (Musa, Ismail & Magaji, 2024). Despite existing policies like the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP), challenges such as infrastructure deficits, limited financing, and regulatory bottlenecks hinder the full-scale implementation of renewable solutions.

The Nigerian government has shown commitment to renewable energy through policy reforms and regulatory support aimed at encouraging private sector participation (Magaji, Ismail & Musa, 2025). In Abuja, several initiatives, including solar power projects and mini-grid systems, are being implemented to improve electricity access, especially in underserved areas (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2021). These projects align with global trends, as renewable energy capacity worldwide reached 2,799 gigawatts in 2020, driven by investments in solar and wind power (IRENA, 2021). This progress reflects not only environmental motivations but also the sector's capacity to stimulate economic transformation and energy security (Magaji, Musa, Enejere & Ismail 2025).

Ultimately, renewable energy adoption in Abuja is both an environmental necessity and an economic opportunity. As the city aspires to become a model of sustainable urban development, integrating renewable energy into its infrastructure will bolster resilience and prosperity. The sector offers avenues for job creation, improved energy access, and cost reductions that can attract further investment. As noted by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018), the renewable energy industry could generate 24 million jobs globally by 2030, with many opportunities in developing countries like Nigeria. Therefore, Abuja's energy transition serves as a crucial step toward a more sustainable and inclusive economic future.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Renewable energy refers to energy sources that are replenished naturally and can be harnessed repeatedly without depleting the Earth's resources. Primary sources of renewable energy include solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biomass. These energy forms stand in contrast to fossil fuels, which are finite and contribute significantly to global warming and environmental degradation.

The History of Energy in Nigeria

The history of energy in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. From the colonial era to the present day, the country's energy sector has undergone significant transformations (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, 2020). Today, Nigeria is one of the largest producers of oil in Africa, and the country is also making significant strides in the development of renewable energy sources (International Energy Agency, 2020). Nigeria is richly endowed with various energy resources, including fossil fuels, renewable energy sources, and nuclear energy (International Energy Agency, 2020). The country's energy sector has a long and complex history, spanning over a century (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, 2020). This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the history of energy in Nigeria, from the colonial era to the present day.

During the colonial era, Nigeria's energy sector was largely dominated by the British colonial authorities (Falola & Heaton, 2008). The first commercial discovery of oil in Nigeria was made in 1956 by Shell-BP, a joint venture between the Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum (Shell, 2020). After Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, the country's energy sector began to take shape (Adebayo, 2017). The government established the Nigerian National Oil Corporation (NNOC) in 1963 to oversee the development of the oil industry (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, 2020).

The 1970s saw a significant increase in oil production in Nigeria, which led to a period of rapid economic growth (Bevan et al., 1999). The country's oil exports increased from 170,000 barrels per day in 1970 to over 2 million barrels per day in 1980 (International Energy Agency, 2020).

Despite the significant progress made in the energy sector in Nigeria, the country still faces several challenges, including a lack of access to electricity and a reliance on fossil fuels (International Renewable Energy Agency, 2020). The country's energy sector is also characterized by inefficiencies, corruption, and a lack of investment in infrastructure (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, 2020). To address the challenges facing the energy sector in Nigeria, the government and other stakeholders must work together to develop a comprehensive energy policy that prioritizes renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Some specific recommendations include:

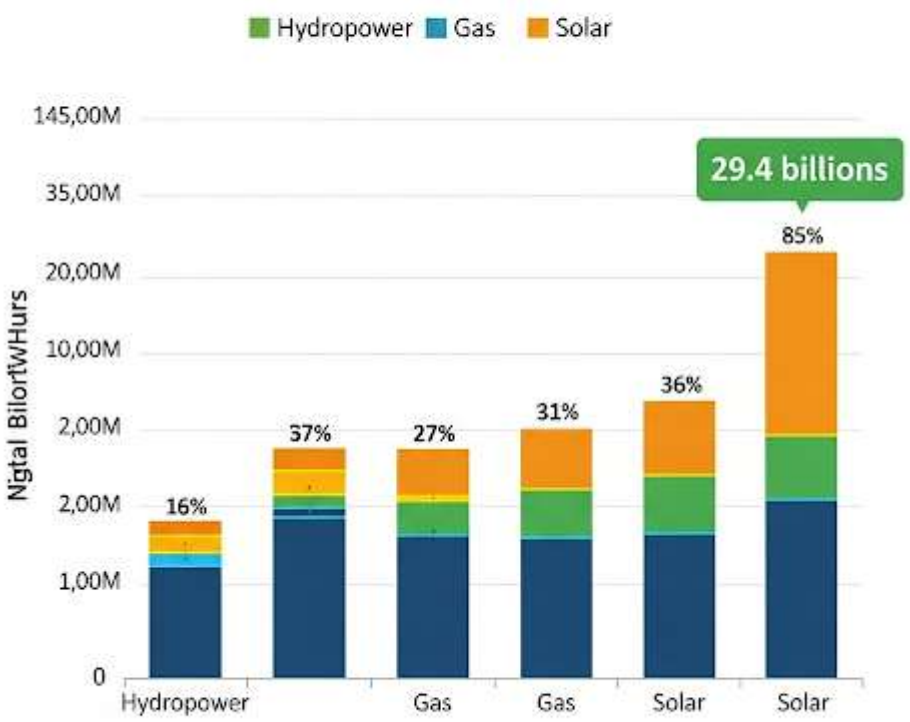
1. Increasing investment in renewable energy sources: Nigeria has significant potential for renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, and hydro power. Increasing investment in these sources can help reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change.
2. Improving energy efficiency: Nigeria's energy sector is characterized by inefficiencies, including high transmission losses and inefficient energy use. Improving energy efficiency can help reduce energy waste and promote sustainable energy use.
3. Developing a comprehensive energy policy: Nigeria needs a comprehensive energy policy that prioritizes renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Such a policy can help guide the development of the energy sector and ensure that it is aligned with national development goals.
4. Promoting public-private partnerships: Public-private partnerships can play a crucial role in developing Nigeria's energy sector. Such partnerships can help mobilize investment, technology, and expertise to support the development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.
5. Building capacity and expertise: Nigeria needs to build capacity and expertise in the energy sector to support the development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. This can be achieved through training and capacity-building programs for energy professionals.

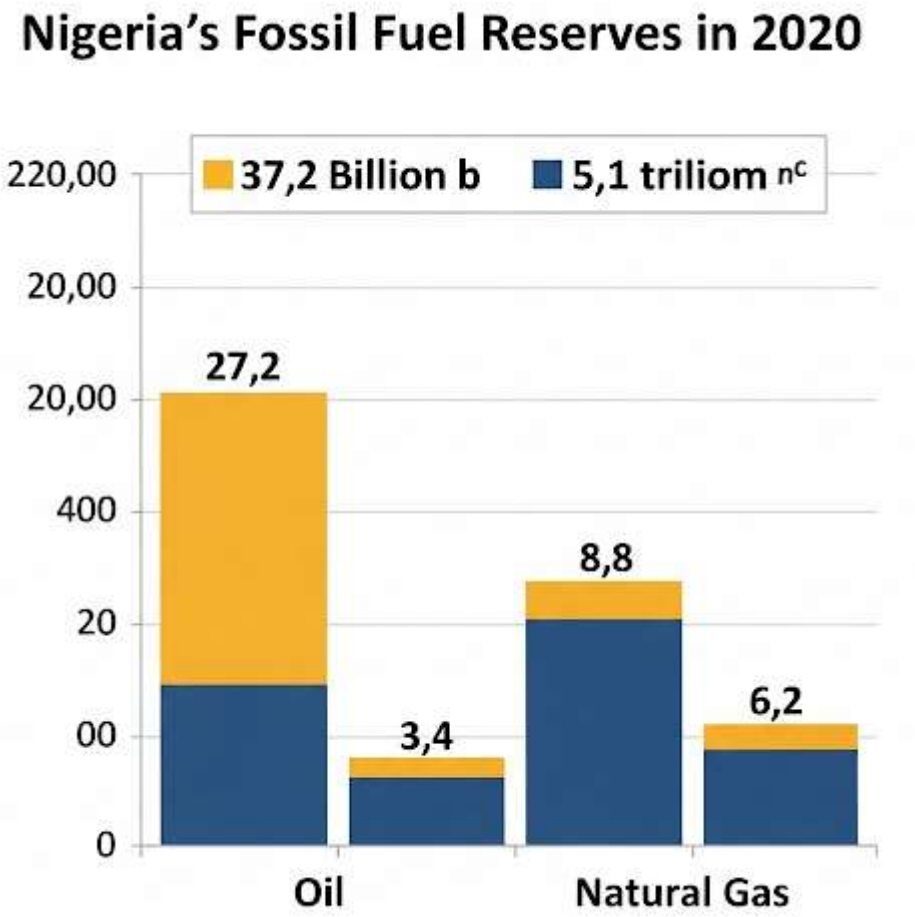
Some key energy statistics for Nigeria:

i. Total energy consumption: 134.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent (2019)
ii. Electricity generation: 29.4 billion kilowatt-hours (2019)
iii. Renewable energy capacity: 200 megawatts (2020)

iv. Fossil fuel reserves: 37.2 billion barrels of oil, 5.1 trillion cubic meters of natural gas (2020).

Nigeria's Energy Consumption in 2019: 134.4 Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent





The Global Shift Toward Renewable Energy

The urgency of addressing climate change has catalyzed a global shift towards renewable energy. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), renewable energy accounted for nearly 30% of global electricity generation in 2020, a figure projected to rise significantly in the coming years (IEA, 2021). This transition is driven by a combination of factors, including technological advancements, policy initiatives, and a growing recognition of the economic benefits associated with renewable energy sources.

Research highlights the economic benefits associated with renewable energy adoption, including job creation and contributions to economic growth. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018) asserts that the renewable energy sector has the potential to create millions of jobs worldwide, particularly in developing countries. Studies have shown that investments in renewable energy not only stimulate local economies but also enhance energy security by reducing dependence on fossil fuels. For instance, the diversification of energy sources contributes to greater resilience against market fluctuations and geopolitical tensions.

In the context of Nigeria, the energy landscape poses unique challenges and opportunities. The country faces significant energy access issues, with approximately 47% of its population lacking reliable electricity (World Bank, 2020). The Nigerian government has recognized the importance of renewable energy in addressing these challenges and has implemented various policies aimed at promoting its adoption. The Renewable Energy Policy established by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (2021) serves as a guiding framework to encourage investments in renewable technologies.However, barriers to renewable energy adoption persist in Nigeria. Financing remains a

critical challenge, as the initial capital required for renewable projects can be prohibitive. Infrastructure deficits and regulatory hurdles further complicate the landscape, hindering the widespread implementation of renewable technologies. Research indicates that addressing these barriers will be essential for unlocking the full potential of renewable energy in Nigeria.

Focusing specifically on Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, offers valuable insights into the local dynamics of renewable energy adoption. Various initiatives have emerged in Abuja, including solar energy projects and mini-grid systems aimed at improving energy access for underserved communities. Case studies reveal that these projects not only provide electricity but also stimulate local economies by creating jobs and reducing energy costs for consumers. Community engagement plays a crucial role in the success of renewable energy initiatives in Abuja. Research demonstrates that involving local communities in the planning and implementation of renewable projects fosters a sense of ownership and encourages greater acceptance of these technologies. The social and economic benefits derived from renewable energy projects can have far-reaching positive impacts on local communities, enhancing quality of life and driving economic development.

Comparative analyses of renewable energy adoption in different regions highlight valuable lessons for Abuja. Successful case studies from countries like Germany and Denmark illustrate best practices in policy formulation, community involvement, and technological innovation. These examples underscore the importance of creating an enabling environment for renewable energy investments, which can be adapted to Abuja's specific context. Future research should focus on addressing existing gaps in the literature, particularly concerning the long-term economic impacts of renewable energy adoption in Nigeria. Policymakers are encouraged to consider evidence-based recommendations that promote sustainable energy practices while fostering economic development. By prioritizing renewable energy, Nigeria can not only meet its energy demands but also pave the way for a more sustainable and inclusive

Conceptual Framework

The transition to renewable energy sources is increasingly recognized as crucial for sustainable economic development. In the context of Nigeria, particularly the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Abuja, the integration of renewable energy can significantly influence economic growth, job creation, and energy security. This conceptual framework explores the interconnections between renewable energy deployment and economic outcomes, guiding the study of their impacts in Abuja. This conceptual framework highlights the multifaceted relationship between renewable energy and economic outcomes in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. By exploring the independent, dependent, and mediating variables, this framework provides a structured approach to studying the economic impact of renewable energy, guiding future research and policy initiatives.

Key Concepts

1. Renewable Energy: Energy derived from natural processes that replenish at a higher rate than they are consumed, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass energy.
2. Economic Impact: Various dimensions, including GDP growth, employment generation, infrastructure investment, energy affordability, and environmental sustainability.
3. Sustainability: Meeting present energy needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity.

2.3.2 Theoretical Underpinnings

The framework draws on several economic theories and models:

Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC): Suggests that economic growth initially leads to environmental degradation, but improves after reaching a certain income level. The adoption of renewable energy can potentially shift the curve, showing that economic development can occur alongside environmental protection.

Innovation Diffusion Theory: Proposes that the adoption of new technologies, including renewable energy systems, follows a predictable pattern influenced by factors such as perceived benefits, compatibility, and complexity.
Sustainable Development Theory: Emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to economic growth that includes social and environmental dimensions, promoting the idea that renewable energy can drive sustainable economic progress.

Variables and Relationships

1. Independent Variables

Availability of Renewable Resources: Natural endowments in the FCT that influence the feasibility and attractiveness of renewable energy projects.
Government Policies and Incentives: Regulations, subsidies, and incentives that encourage investment in renewable energy technologies.
Technological Advancements: Innovations that reduce costs and increase the efficiency of renewable energy systems.

2. Dependent Variables

Economic Growth: Measured through increases in GDP and economic diversification.
Job Creation: The number of jobs generated in the renewable energy sector and related industries.
Energy Security: The ability to meet present and future energy needs reliably and sustainably.

3. Mediating Variables

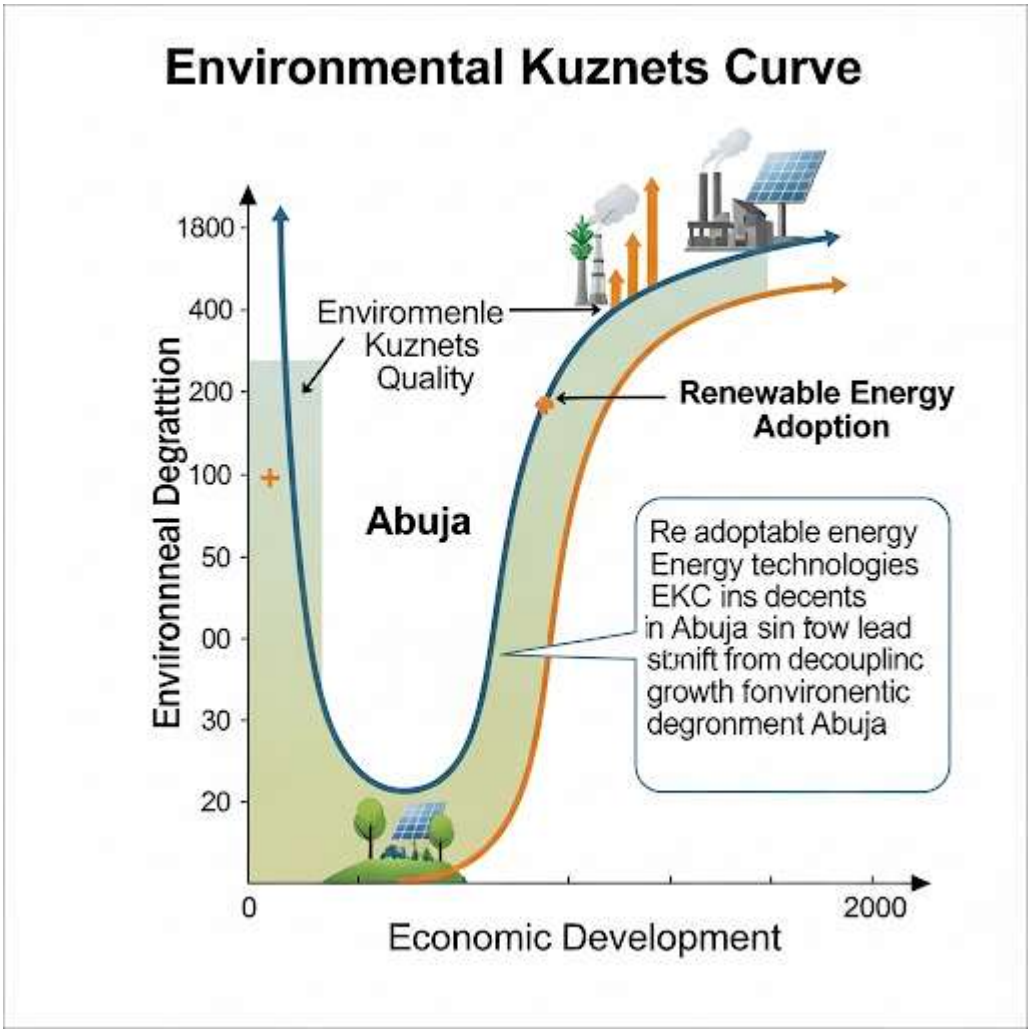
Public Awareness and Acceptance: The role of community engagement and public perception in adopting renewable energy technologies.
Investment Climate: Factors influencing private and public investment in renewable energy projects.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC)

The Environmental Kuznets Curve posits that as an economy develops, environmental degradation initially increases, but after reaching a certain level of income, the trend reverses, leading to improved environmental quality. This theory suggests that renewable energy adoption can play a crucial role in this transition by providing cleaner energy alternatives that mitigate environmental impacts while supporting economic growth. In the context of Abuja. the integration of renewable

energy sources could potentially shift the EKC, demonstrating that economic development can occur

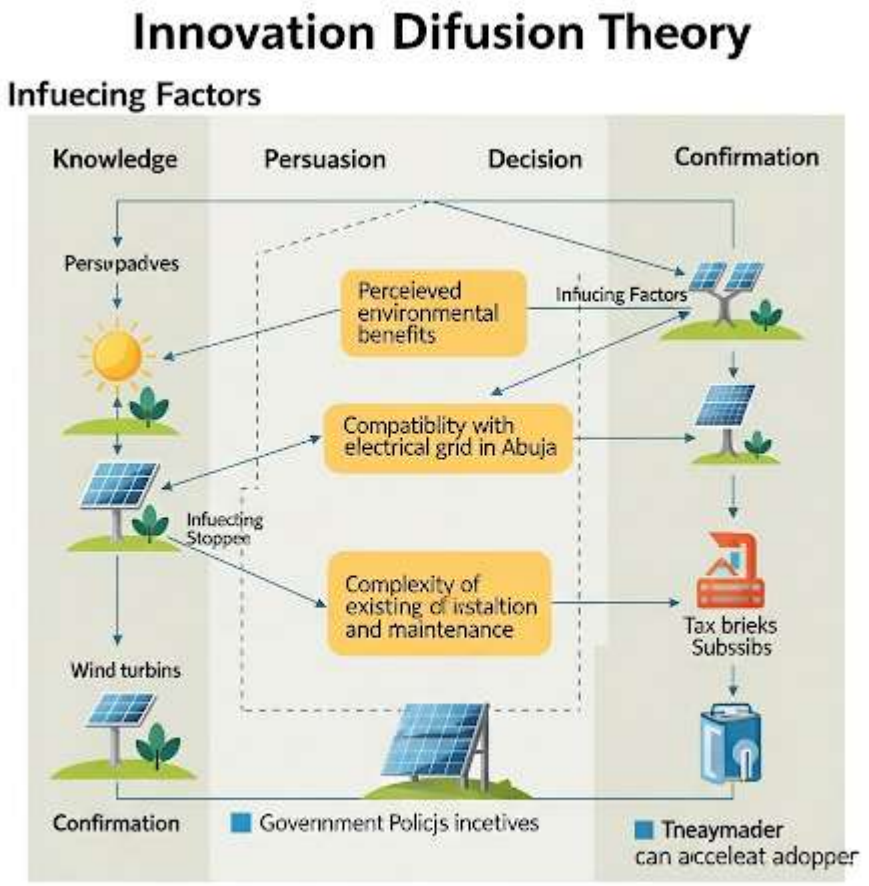


alongside environmental sustainability.

Innovation Diffusion Theory

Innovation Diffusion Theory explains how new technologies, including renewable energy systems, spread within a society. The adoption of renewable energy technologies in Abuja can be influenced by factors such as perceived benefits, compatibility with existing systems, and the

complexity of implementation. Understanding these dynamics is essential for policymakers to facilitate



the transition to renewable energy and maximize its economic benefits.

Previous Studies and Empirical Literature

The exploration of the impact of renewable energy on the economy has garnered significant attention in recent years, with numerous studies providing empirical evidence of its benefits. This section reviews key studies that have examined the relationship between renewable energy adoption and economic outcomes, particularly in the context of developing countries, including Nigeria.

Economic Growth and Renewable Energy

One pivotal study by Sarkodie and Strezov (2019) investigated the relationship between renewable energy consumption and economic growth in a panel of 113 countries. Their findings indicate a positive correlation between renewable energy adoption and economic growth, suggesting that countries investing in renewable energy not only enhance their energy security but also stimulate economic development. This study underscores the potential for Abuja to experience similar benefits by increasing its renewable energy capacity.

Employment Generation

A study by Aliyu et al. (2018) focused on the employment effects of renewable energy projects in Nigeria. The research highlighted that the shift towards renewable energy could generate substantial employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas where energy access is limited. The authors found that solar energy projects, in particular, have the potential to create jobs in installation,

maintenance, and manufacturing. This finding is critical for Abuja, where job creation is essential for economic stability.

Renewable Energy and Energy Security

In their research, Olatomiwa et al. (2016) examined the impact of renewable energy on energy security in Nigeria. The authors concluded that diversifying energy sources through renewable energy can significantly enhance energy security by reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Their findings suggest that for Abuja, investing in renewable energy could mitigate the challenges of energy shortages and reliability, thereby fostering a more stable economic environment.

Cost-Effectiveness of Renewable Energy

A study by Aydin (2019) assessed the economic feasibility of renewable energy technologies in developing countries. The research indicated that the decreasing costs of renewable technologies, particularly solar and wind, have made them increasingly competitive with traditional energy sources. Aydin's findings suggest that Abuja could benefit economically from investing in these technologies, as they can lead to lower energy costs and increased affordability for consumers.

Public Perception and Acceptance

Research by Raza and Lin (2022) explored public perception and acceptance of renewable energy in Nigeria. The study found that community engagement and awareness are crucial for the successful implementation of renewable energy projects. The authors emphasized that positive public perception can lead to greater acceptance and support for renewable initiatives, which is essential for maximizing their economic impact in Abuja.

Policy Implications

Isola et al. (2020) examined the role of government policies in promoting renewable energy adoption in Nigeria. Their findings indicated that supportive policies, such as subsidies and tax incentives, significantly influence investment in renewable energy. The study highlights the importance of policy frameworks in driving economic benefits from renewable energy, suggesting that Abuja's government should consider implementing tailored policies to enhance renewable energy investment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology

This research methodology provides a comprehensive framework for investigating the adoption of renewable energy and its economic impacts in Abuja, Nigeria. By utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods, the study aims to generate robust findings that can inform policy decisions and contribute to the sustainable development of renewable energy in the region.

Research Design

This study adopts a mixed-methods research design, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. This design allows for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena by capturing both statistical data and contextual insights.

Quantitative Component involve the collection and analysis of numerical data to answer research questions to test hypothesis, Creswel (2020)

Objective: To quantify the economic impacts of renewable energy adoption in Abuja.

- Research Questions:
  - What is the rate of renewable energy adoption in Abuja?
  - How does renewable energy adoption affect local employment and economic growth?

Hypothesis:

- H1: Increased adoption of renewable energy leads to higher employment rates in Abuja.

- H2: Renewable energy projects contribute positively to the economic growth of communities in Abuja.

Qualitative Component involve the collection and analysis of non-numerical data to gain a deeper understanding of a phenomenon, Denzin & Lincoln(2011)

Objective: To explore community perceptions and experiences regarding renewable energy adoption.

Research Questions:

What are the community attitudes toward renewable energy initiatives?

How do local stakeholders perceive the benefits and challenges of renewable energy projects?

Approach: The qualitative research will involve interviews and focus groups to gather in-depth insights from community members, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Data Collection Methods

Quantitative Data Collection

Survey Design: A structured questionnaire was developed to collect data from households and businesses in Abuja. The survey will include questions on:

- Energy sources used
- Economic benefits perceived from renewable energy
- Employment changes due to renewable energy initiatives

Sampling Method: A stratified random sampling technique will be used to ensure representation across different socio-economic groups in Abuja. The target sample size will be 400 respondents.

Data Collection Process: Surveys will be administered both online and in person, ensuring accessibility for respondents with varying levels of internet access.

Qualitative Data Collection

Interviews: Semi-structured interviews was conducted with key stakeholders, including:

- Local government officials
- Renewable energy project managers
- Community leaders

Focus Groups: Focus group discussions was organized with community members to gather diverse perspectives on renewable energy adoption.

Sampling for Qualitative Research: Purposive sampling was utilized to select participants who have relevant knowledge and experience related to renewable energy in Abuja.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Quantitative Data Analysis

Statistical Techniques: The quantitative data collected was analyzed using statistical software (e.g., SPSS or R). Key analyses will include:

Descriptive statistics to summarize demographic data and energy usage patterns.

Inferential statistics (e.g., regression analysis) to examine the relationship between renewable energy adoption and economic indicators such as employment rates and income levels.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Thematic Analysis: Qualitative data from interviews and focus groups was transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis. This process involves:

- Coding the data to identify key themes and patterns.
- Interpreting the findings in relation to the research questions and existing literature.

Ethical Considerations

Informed Consent: Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and their consent will be obtained before participation.

Confidentiality: Data confidentiality will be maintained, and identifying information will be removed in reporting results.

Approval: The research seek approval from relevant ethical review boards to ensure compliance with ethical standards.

Discussions

In this section, I summarize the key findings from my research, emphasizing the relationship between renewable energy adoption and economic growth in Abuja. The significance of solar and wind energy projects in addressing local energy needs is particularly noteworthy.

Economic Impacts of Renewable Energy

Job Creation: One of the most compelling findings is the potential for job creation in the renewable sector. Specific projects have successfully generated employment, demonstrating the sector's capacity to contribute to local economies.

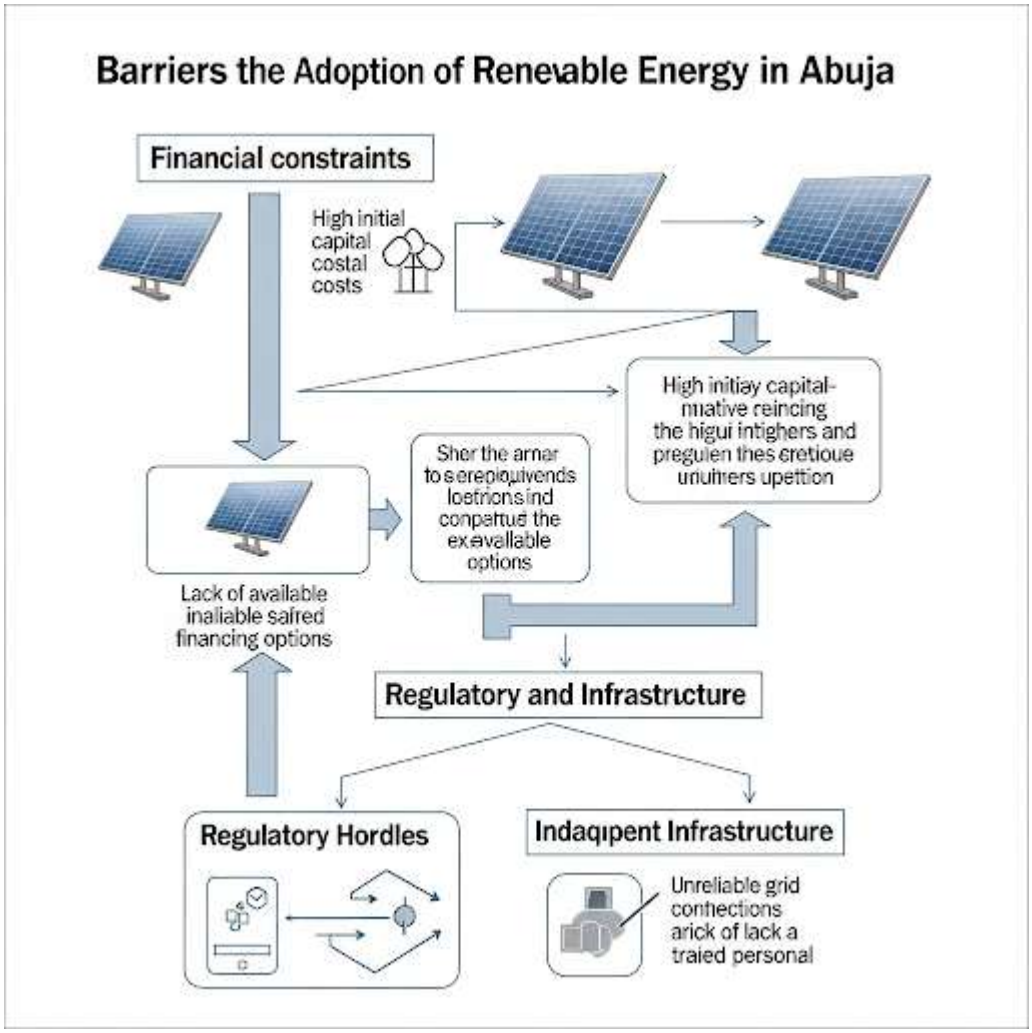
Local Economic Development: I analyze how renewable energy initiatives contribute to local economies by increasing energy access, reducing costs for businesses, and enhancing productivity.

Barriers to Adoption

Financial Constraints: Despite the positive impacts, I explore the challenges posed by the high initial capital costs of renewable energy projects and the lack of financing options available.

Regulatory and Infrastructure Challenges: The impact of regulatory hurdles and inadequate infrastructure on the implementation of renewable technologies is also significant and warrants further discussion.

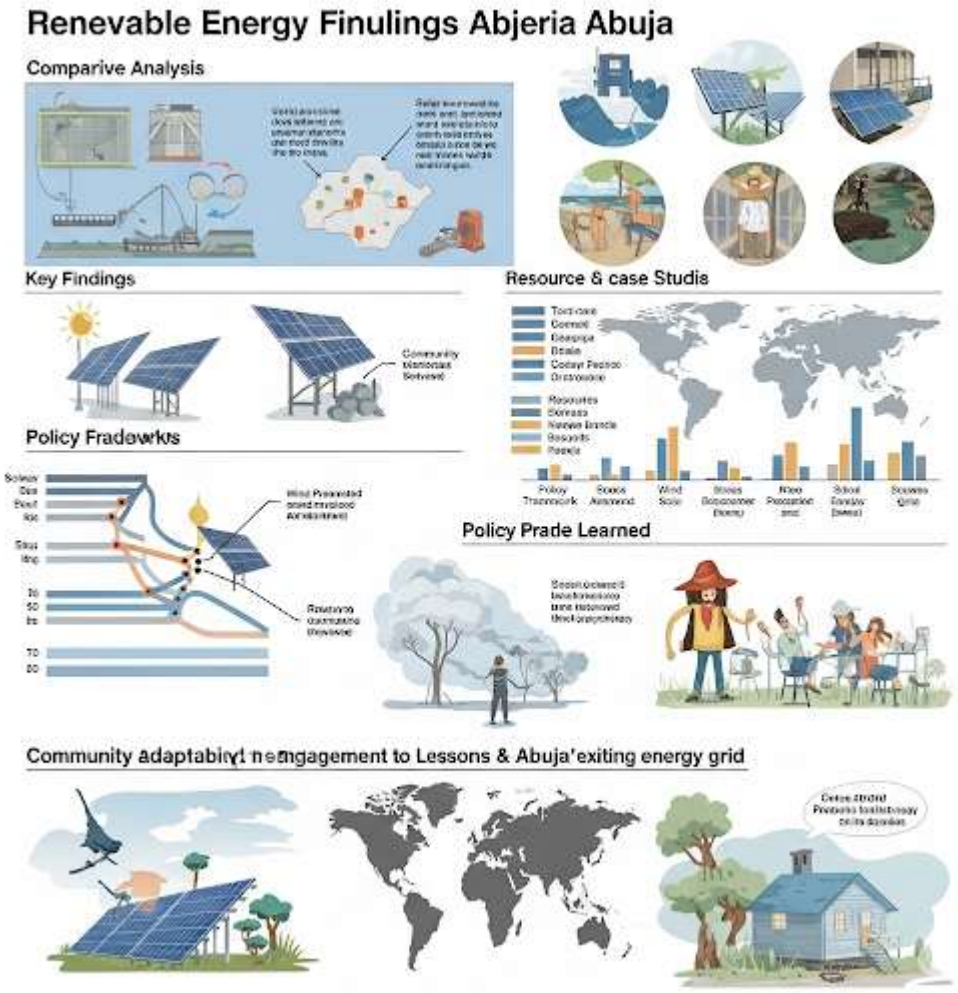
Community Engagement and Social Acceptance



Community involvement plays a crucial role in the success of renewable energy projects. I examine case studies that illustrate how local participation enhances project outcomes and fosters social acceptance.

Comparative Analysis

Comparing my findings from Abuja with case studies from other regions or countries that have successfully implemented renewable energy initiatives reveals valuable insights. I identify best practices and lessons learned that could be adapted to Abuja's context.



Policy Implications

The implications of my findings for policymakers at both the local and national levels are substantial. I recommend specific policy measures that could facilitate renewable energy adoption, such as incentives for investment, streamlined regulatory processes, and community-focused programs.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research underscores a strong link between renewable energy adoption and economic growth in Abuja. Solar and wind energy initiatives show significant promise in addressing persistent energy challenges while promoting sustainability. The study finds that renewable energy can spur economic benefits such as job creation, business growth, and reduced energy costs, making it a vital component of Abuja's development strategy. However, the research also identifies critical obstacles, including financial constraints, regulatory inefficiencies, and inadequate infrastructure, which must be overcome to fully realize these benefits. Additionally, insights from international case studies provide valuable guidance for shaping effective policies and encouraging stakeholder engagement in Abuja.

To support a successful transition, the study recommends several strategies. These include developing supportive policies and financial incentives to attract investment, improving infrastructure to support renewable deployment, and fostering strong community engagement through awareness programs and participatory planning. It also highlights the need for further research to explore long-

term socio-economic impacts and calls for the establishment of a robust monitoring framework to track progress. Ultimately, the study concludes that with the right combination of policy, investment, and public participation, Abuja can emerge as a leader in Nigeria's renewable energy transformation, promoting both economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

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