

A Review on Microgrids for Remote Areas Electrification- Technical and Economical Perspective

Erona Khatun ^{a,1}, Md. Momin Hossain ^{b,2}, Md. Sumon Ali ^{a,3}, Md. Abdul Halim ^{a,4}

^a Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Prime University, Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

^b Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, World University of Bangladesh, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh

¹ erona044@gmail.com; ² hmomin89@gmail.com; ³ marinersumon803@gmail.com; ⁴ halimabdul552@gmail.com

* Corresponding Author

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received April 01, 2023

Revised July 30, 2023

Accepted September 10, 2023

Keywords

Microgrids;
Renewable Energy Sources;
Technical Analysis;
Economic Analysis;
Microgrid Planning;
Challenges

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to review microgrids from both a technical and financial standpoint in order to electrify rural places. Making a microgrid in rural area is challenging due to its technical and economical perspective. Technical and Economic analysis could investigate power quality and system stability for a local community in a nation. The technical and economic aspects of microgrid design and operation are covered, along with a number of other parts such power sources, energy storage, and control systems. Installation and maintenance cost has been discussed with respect to technological and economical view point in this paper. The report ends with a review of the prospects and problems for implementing microgrids in remote locations. Various challenges of microgrid and prospective solutions have also been discussed for the betterment of microgrid technically and economically. Microgrid planning has also been explained in this paper in rural regions entails the process of creating, developing, and deploying microgrid systems to provide dependable and sustainable power. Some influential factors such as technological factors, economic factors, socio-political factors and environmental factors on which microgrid depends have been discussed in this paper. The study offers a thorough discussion of microgrids as a potential method for electrifying rural areas. The study shows that microgrid is economically more beneficial to be developed in any rural area, as well as complying the minimum technical requirement of local grid code. Therefore, it can be said that any locality of a nation is a more viable and economic location to implement microgrid for the development. This review will assist the decision-makers in adopting microgrids for the electrification of rural areas and hold establishing regulations that are helpful and clear for the operation and integration of microgrids. System effectiveness, energy storage, and grid management breakthroughs may result from research and development of microgrid technology.

This is an open-access article under the [CC-BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.



1. Introduction

A microgrid [1] is a small-scale network of electrical generators and consumers that typically runs in synchrony and connection with the conventional, centralized power grid but has the flexibility to decouple and run independently when necessary due to environmental or practical

considerations. In remote locations where it can be challenging or expensive to connect to a conventional centralized power system [2], microgrids might be extremely helpful. Microgrids can be used to power tiny towns, commercial buildings, or individual residences in isolated places [3]. Depending on the available resources and the unique demands of the community, the microgrid can be configured to use a range of energy sources, including solar panels, wind turbines, diesel engines, and battery storage [4]. Remote places can gain from microgrids in a number of ways, including increased energy independence, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, lower energy prices, and improved energy reliability. They can also help underserved communities have better access to energy. Since they offer a consistent and sustainable source of energy that can be customized to the particular requirements of the community, microgrids can be a useful tool for supplying power to isolated places.

For many nations, especially those in developing regions, bringing electricity to rural places is a significant task. The national grid expansion to distant regions are constrained by a number of factors [5], including high construction costs, challenging upkeep requirements, and practical problems. Microgrids have become a viable substitute for grid extensions in recent years, offering a long-term answer for electrifying rural regions. Microgrids are localized, small-scale electricity networks that can run either separately or concurrently with the main grid [6]. They can reduce carbon emissions [7] and improve energy security [8] while also supplying off-grid areas with dependable and affordable electricity. Many nations, especially those in emerging regions, face significant difficulties in electrifying rural areas. Bangladesh's national grid extension to outlying regions is constrained by a number of variables, including expensive capital costs, challenging upkeep requirements, and operational problems. Given that 30% of the population lacks access to a grid for energy, rural electrification remains a top concern for the nation. Microgrids have recently gained popularity as a promising substitute for grid extensions, offering a long-term solution to electrifying rural areas. Microgrids are localized, small-scale electricity networks that can run either separately or concurrently with the main grid. They can reduce carbon emissions and improve energy security while also supplying off-grid areas with dependable and affordable electricity. Microgrids have already been put into place in Bangladesh in a number of locations, including isolated islands, hilly areas, and shoreline regions. These microgrids have proven their technological and financial feasibility in supplying power to these regions by utilizing a variety of green energy sources, including solar PV, wind, and hybrid systems. The article begins with a succinct analysis of Bangladesh's present level of electrification, emphasizing the difficulties and possibilities for rural electrification [9].

The idea of microgrids, their technological construction and operation, and the various kinds of microgrids that have been used in Bangladesh are then covered in this article [10]. The fiscal viability of microgrids in Bangladesh is also examined in the research, along with the advantages and disadvantages of various funding methods and tariff structures. A basic prerequisite for the advancement of society and the economy is access to energy. Bangladesh has made significant strides toward electrification, but many isolated areas are still without grid electricity. Due to a number of variables, including the high capital expense, maintenance problems, and operational challenges, grid extension to these regions is tough. Microgrids have become a viable option for Bangladesh's electrification of rural regions as a response to this problem. Microgrids are localized, small-scale electricity networks that can run in parallel or autonomously of the main grid [11]. They can lessen carbon emissions and improve energy security while supplying off-grid areas with dependable and affordable electricity. Bangladesh has advanced significantly in recent years in encouraging microgrid growth.

In various regions of the nation, different kinds of microgrid have been put into operation using a variety of sustainable energy sources, including solar PV, wind, biomass, and hybrid systems [12]. To build up the growth of microgrids in the nation, numerous obstacles still need to be overcome. The expenses and advantages of various pay-as-you-go, community-owned, and public-private collaboration microgrid financing methods and tariff structures are examined in this study. The research also outlines the obstacles to scaling up microgrid development in Bangladesh as well as its

possibilities, including financing sources, technological capability, and policy and regulatory frameworks. The research makes suggestions for accelerating microgrid development in Bangladesh and attaining sustainable rural electrification by looking at various microgrid types, funding schemes, and policy frameworks. Policymakers, energy managers, and other parties engaged in rural electricity in Bangladesh and other developing countries experiencing comparable difficulties can benefit from the results of this review article.

The electrification of isolated places that are not connected to the main power grid can be greatly aided by microgrids. The following are some technological and financial contributions made by microgrids. Microgrids are helpful for the rural area economically and technologically. Microgrid provides Reliable Power Supply, Integrates of Renewable Energy, Performs Load Management, and maintains Voltage and Frequency Control with respect to technological contribution of rural area. On the other hand, for the economic contribution to the remote area microgrids perform Cost-Effective energy supply, Independence Energy supply, Job Creation for local people, Scalable design for community people. In general, microgrids are a viable option for electrifying rural areas, delivering dependable and sustainable energy, and enhancing economic development in local community. It's crucial to remember that microgrid design and installation can be challenging and require careful management to be successful.

Bangladesh is a South Asian nation with a large rural population that is densely inhabited, and rural electrification is essential to the country's economic and social development. A number of factors point to the importance of rural electrification for Bangladesh's growth. The expansion of industry, small companies, and economic activity is facilitated in rural areas by access to electricity. Bangladesh's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, and electrification of rural areas has a direct effect on agricultural practices. Rural electrification can help diversify energy sources, improve energy security, and lessen the nation's dependency on imported fossil fuels. Rural electrification that prioritizes renewable energy sources can help promote sustainable development by lowering greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact. For Bangladesh's economic and social growth, rural electricity is of utmost importance. It could help communities escape poverty, increase employment prospects, improve healthcare and educational offerings, and promote economic development in rural sections of the nation.

The main contribution of this paper is technical and financial analysis of microgrids for remote area electrification. This paper provides important insights into the possible advantages and difficulties of putting such systems in place. The research offers an evaluation of various remote-area-friendly microgrid technologies, including hybrid, solar, wind, and hydro systems. It evaluates their functionality, expandability, and applicability for various geographical regions. In order to encourage the deployment of microgrids in remote areas, the paper highlights the necessary policy implications. Energy subsidies, enabling legislation, and financial inducements for the private sector can all fall under this category.

2. Microgrid

A microgrid is a small-scale network of electrical generators and consumers that functions as a single unit and often has a control system to regulate the energy flow. Microgrids can function as an off-grid system [13] or be linked to a bigger power grid. Usually, they are created to support a small neighborhood or a single building, like a hospital, academic campus, or military installation [14].

Solar panels, wind turbines, diesel generators, and battery storage systems are just a few of the energy sources that may be incorporated into microgrids. These energy sources can all be regulated in real-time to maximize efficiency and dependability. These may be built to offer backup power in the event of a main grid failure, enhancing system resilience. Microgrids are viewed as a solution to boost the usage of renewable energy sources while enhancing the power grid's dependability and resilience. Although microgrids have many advantages, there are also a number of difficulties and restrictions that must be overcome if they are to be widely used and successfully implemented. Incorporating renewable energy sources and energy storage devices might increase the initial

expenditure needed to construct a microgrid. Particularly in areas with a lack of economic opportunity, this expense may be a major obstacle. There are many intricate technical concerns involved in designing, integrating, and operating a microgrid. Advanced engineering knowledge is needed to coordinate various energy sources, energy storage systems, and control mechanisms. Technical problems with synchronization and grid stability might arise when integrating microgrids with the main grid.

Microgrids must have energy storage technology in order to balance supply and demand, especially when using intermittent renewable energy sources. Energy storage options' affordability and accessibility, however, can be constraints. The creation and use of microgrids may be hampered in some areas by out-of-date laws or practices. Regulations that are unclear or onerous can obstruct development and investment in microgrid systems. It might be difficult to find sufficient finance for microgrid projects, particularly in distant or financially limited places. The implementation of microgrid technology can be slowed down by limited access to financial sources. Even while microgrids powered by renewable energy sources are better for the environment, poor planning and placement can still have negative effects, such as destroying habitat or obstructing views. Despite these difficulties and restrictions, continued research, technological developments, and encouraging laws and regulations can help remove obstacles and promote the widespread use of microgrids. Microgrid architecture can be seen in Fig. 1 [15].

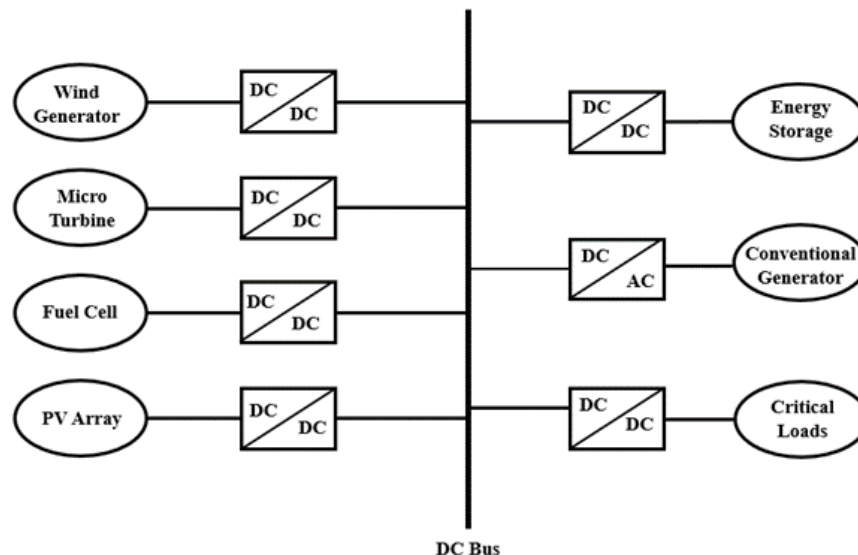


Fig. 1. Architecture of a Microgrid

3. Methodology

A systematic and structured approach is used in the methodology for reviewing microgrids for distant area electricity from technical and economic aspects. The goals of the evaluation, including its scope and focal areas, were precisely stated. Outlined the main research issues that needed to be investigated, including the technical features of microgrid technologies, their economic viability, and their effects on the electrification of rural places. Conducted a thorough literature search to find pertinent reports, conference proceedings, research publications, and academic papers about remote region microgrids.

The technical elements of microgrids in remote locations were studied, including the types of microgrid, energy storage options, control and management systems, grid integration strategies, and performance evaluations. For a better understanding of the practical applications, difficulties encountered, and lessons learned from actual projects, reviewed case studies and success stories of microgrid implementations in remote places.

For better understanding about the technical and economical perspective a comparison has been studied in this review. Planning for microgrid implementation in a rural area is important which has been thoroughly reviewed in this paper. Technical, economical and socio economic factors have been shown in this paper for the implementation of microgrid in a rural area. By using this methodology, the evaluation of microgrids for distant area electrification can offer insightful information about the technical and financial aspects of microgrid technologies, advancing knowledge and the creation of sustainable energy solutions for underserved areas.

4. Classification of Microgrid

Microgrids can be categorized according to a number of criteria, such as how they are connected to the larger grid, the kind of energy they utilize, and the function they perform. These are some typical categories for microgrids:

- i. Grid-connected vs. islanded microgrids: Grid-connected microgrids are connected to the main power grid and have the ability to export or import power as required. Islanded microgrids are created to supply electricity to a particular neighborhood or building and run independently of the main grid [16].
- ii. AC vs. DC microgrids: A microgrid can run on either direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC) power. Because to their greater efficiency for specific types of loads, DC microgrids are growing in popularity, particularly in sectors like data centers and telecoms [17].
- iii. Renewable vs. non-renewable microgrids: A wide range of energy sources, such as solar panels, wind turbines, diesel generators, and battery storage devices, can be incorporated into microgrids. Renewable microgrids are those that rely largely on renewable energy sources [18], whereas non-renewable microgrids are those that rely on non-renewable sources.
- iv. Residential vs. commercial/industrial microgrids: Residential dwellings, business structures, and industrial facilities are just a few of the many uses for which microgrids can be made. Each type of application's particular requirements will have an impact on the microgrid's design and operation.
- v. Purpose-built vs. retrofit microgrids: Microgrids can be retrofitted into existing infrastructure or they can be purpose-built, which means they are created from the ground up to address certain needs. Retrofit microgrids can be a cost-effective solution to modify existing infrastructure to be more resilient and efficient, while they are frequently more difficult to design and implement.

5. Technical Perspective of Microgrid

A microgrid for the electrification of a region typically consists of a number of parts that work together to produce, store, and distribute power in order to fulfill the demands of the neighborhood or facility. Some of the main technological parts of a microgrid include the following:

- i. Power generation: A number of power production technologies, such as solar cells, wind turbines, biomass systems, and diesel generators, can be incorporated into microgrids [19]. The location, energy requirements, and local resource availability are only a few examples of the variables that will affect the choice of power producing options.
- ii. Energy storage: The excess energy produced by the power sources is often stored in microgrids using energy storage equipment like batteries or flywheels for usage when demand exceeds supply [20].
- iii. Power inverters: Microgrids employ power inverters to convert DC energy from solar panels or batteries to AC energy for usage in the immediate vicinity [21]. The transfer of power between the microgrid and the main grid can also be controlled using inverters.

- iv. Control system: A vital part of the microgrid that regulates the flow of energy is the control system. Power generation, storage, and demand can all be tracked in real-time, and modifications can be made to raise system reliability and efficiency [22].
- v. Distribution system: To provide electricity to the neighborhood, microgrids often have their own distribution system, which may include power lines and transformers. The distribution network is made to be resilient and capable of functioning without the assistance of the main grid if required.
- vi. Backup power: Microgrids can offer small communities backup power in the event of a main grid failure. Energy storage devices or standby generators can provide backup power [23].
- vii. Monitoring and upkeep: To make sure microgrids are running effectively and dependably, they need to be regularly inspected and maintained. Regular testing of the power generation, energy storage, and control systems might be a part of this.

Consequently, the location, energy requirements, and resource availability will all have an impact on the technical design of a microgrid for the electrification of a local region. A well-planned microgrid may boost energy security, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and offer dependable and clean energy to nearby communities.

6. Economical Perspective of Microgrid

Microgrids can assist local businesses, industries, and communities in a number of ways from an economic standpoint. Following are a few of the main financial advantages of microgrids:

- i. Reduced energy expenses: Microgrids can provide energy costs that are less than those of conventional grid-tied systems [24]. Microgrids can minimize or do away with the need for pricey fossil fuel-based energy sources by utilizing locally produced energy sources like solar, wind, or biomass.
- ii. Increased energy efficiency: Microgrids can be created to use energy more efficiently, waste less, and be more effective. This can save energy expenses and boost the neighborhood's overall economic viability.
- iii. Enhanced energy security: By minimizing reliance on the primary power grid, which may be subject to outages or other interruptions, microgrids can enhance energy security. Microgrids can continue to supply electricity to nearby towns and companies in the event of a power outage, enhancing their resilience and lowering financial losses.
- iv. Scalability: Microgrids are made to be scalable, which allows for expansion as localized energy demands increase. This could boost regional economic development and prosperity.
- v. Job creation: Jobs can be created by microgrids in the system's installation, maintenance, and operation. This could encourage local economic expansion and development and open up new job opportunities for local citizens.
- vi. Environmental advantages: Microgrids can lower greenhouse gas emissions and promote local sustainable development. Microgrids can support a more sustainable future by utilizing renewable energy sources and lowering dependency on fossil fuels, which can assist to lessen the effects of climate change.

In general, microgrids can provide major economic advantages to nearby businesses, industries, and communities. Microgrids can contribute to an increase in the general economic viability of the neighborhood by lowering energy prices, enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth and development, and encouraging sustainability.

Each local control's primary goal for its control method is to improve the performance of the microgrid as a whole, not to increase financial gain. The estimated load, environmental characteristics, potential energy, and economic parameters are all already present at each LC. Using

a multi-agent system is one way to exert control over this system (MAS). A distributed control system with the ability to control big, complicated things is known as MAS. MAS is a development of traditional distributed control systems. The capacity to include intelligence components in each local control is the key characteristic of MAS (LC). A microgrid's MAS system configuration has been shown in Fig. 2.

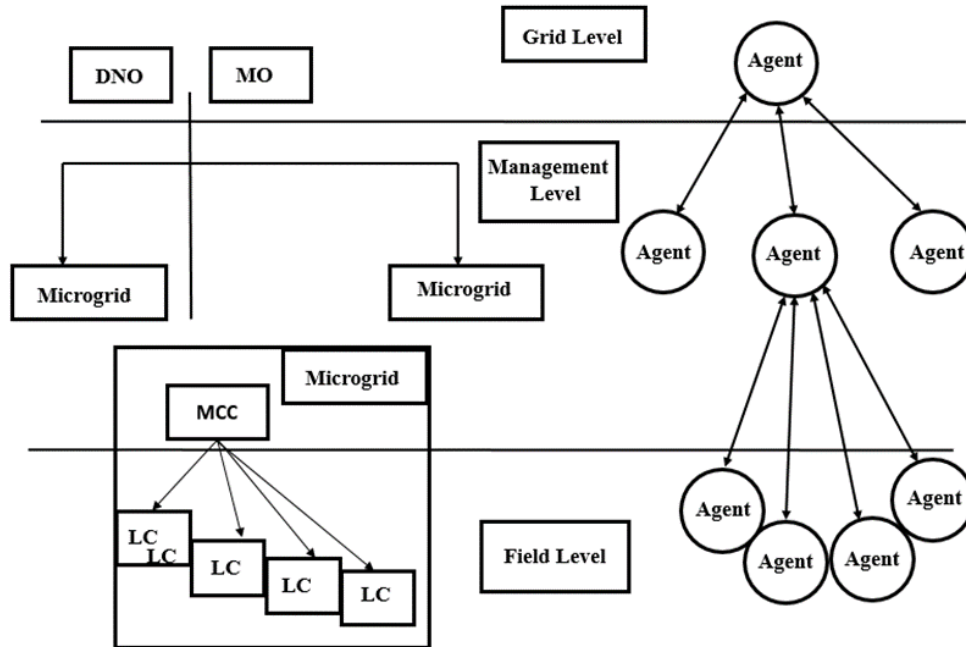


Fig. 2. Multi Agent System configuration on microgrid [25]

The technical and economic aspects of microgrids are closely related since a microgrid's technical design can affect its potential to be profitable and provide advantages [26]. A well-planned microgrid can assist community sustainability, economic development, and growth by providing dependable, affordable, and clean electricity. A comparative table of the technical and economic perspectives of microgrids has been shown in Table 1.

Table 1. A comparative table of the technical and economic perspectives of microgrids

Technical Perspective	Economical Perspective
Incorporates power generation sources such as solar panels, wind turbines, biomass systems, and diesel generators	Offers lower energy costs compared to traditional grid-tied systems
Includes energy storage systems, such as batteries or flywheels, to store excess energy generated by the power sources for later use when demand exceeds supply	Improves energy efficiency and reduces waste, which can reduce energy costs and improve overall economic viability
Uses power inverters to convert DC power from solar panels or batteries to AC power for use in the local area, and to manage the flow of power between the microgrid and the main grid	Increases energy security by reducing reliance on the main power grid and supporting resilience in the case of power outages or other disruptions
The microgrid control system manages the flow of energy within the microgrid and monitors power generation, storage, and demand in real-time to optimize efficiency and reliability	Scalable design allows for expansion as the energy needs of the local area grow, supporting economic growth and development
Includes a distribution network, including power lines and transformers, to deliver electricity to the local area	Creates new employment opportunities for local residents and stimulates economic growth and development
Provides backup power in case of an outage on the main grid, which can come from energy storage systems or backup generators	Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports sustainable development by using renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels
Requires regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure efficient and reliable operation	Promotes sustainability and mitigates the impacts of climate change

7. Microgrid Planning

For isolated and rural towns that are not linked to the main power infrastructure, microgrid planning in rural regions entails the process of creating, developing, and deploying microgrid systems to provide dependable and sustainable power [27]. Usually, there are several stages involved in the planning procedure as shown in Fig. 3.

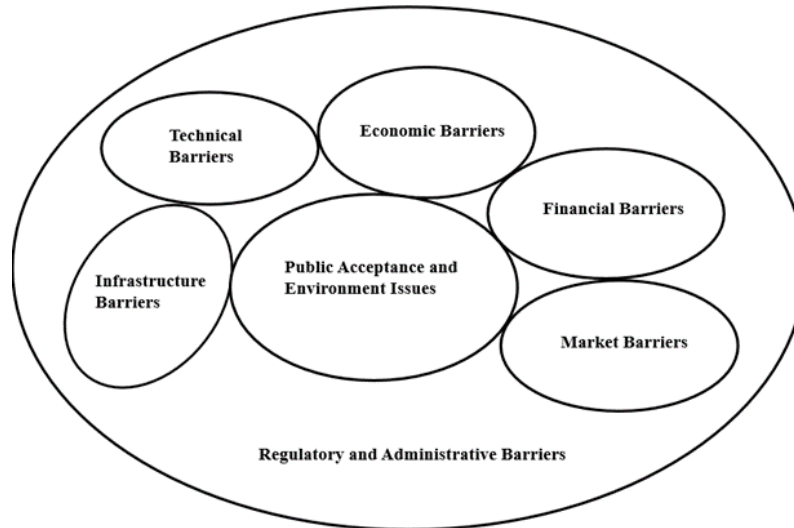


Fig. 3. Regulatory and Administrative Barriers of a Microgrid [27]

Microgrids must overcome a number of governmental and administrative obstacles in order to be implemented and run successfully. Grid interconnection, which is subject to intricate regulations and drawn-out clearance processes, is one of the major challenges. Technical requirements that are not well suited for microgrid integration may be encountered by microgrid operators, necessitating changes to grid codes to successfully integrate these systems. The ability of microgrid operators to enter the market and offer alternative energy solutions may be limited in areas where utilities have a monopoly on the distribution of electricity, limiting both competition and innovation.

Another challenge is the cost of energy, as it can be difficult to set prices that are comparable with those charged by traditional utilities because of restrictive regulatory frameworks. The lack of clear and precise laws designed for microgrids leaves parties, including project developers, investors, and stakeholders, in the dark. In order to create an environment that supports the deployment of microgrids and the transition to a more resilient and sustainable energy future, it is necessary to work collaboratively with policymakers, regulators, utilities, industry stakeholders, and local communities to overcome these regulatory and administrative barriers.

7.1. Assessing the Energy Needs of the Community

In this process, statistics on energy consumption trends are gathered, peak demand periods are identified, and the kinds of energy services needed by the community are taken into account [28]. Assessing energy requirements also entails looking for ways to increase energy economy and taking into account the possibility of future demand increases for energy. These elements can be taken into consideration when designing and putting into place microgrid systems so that the community's energy requirements are met sustainably and inexpensively. A thorough analysis of the community's energy requirements makes sure that the microgrid can satisfy that demand while a dependable, sustainable, and affordable energy supply delivering.

7.2. Selecting the Appropriate Energy Sources

These variables include the accessibility of resources, the need for energy, dependability, cost-effectiveness, and environmental influence. Determining the most appropriate energy sources for the microgrid requires evaluating the abundance of various energy resources, such as sun radiation,

wind speed, water accessibility, and biomass resources. To guarantee that the microgrid can satisfy the community's energy requirements, energy demand and accessible energy sources must also be matched. The dependability of energy sources is also a crucial factor because some, like solar and wind, can be erratic, while others, like gas engines, might be more dependable. Since green energy sources may have higher upfront costs but lower running costs and conventional energy sources may have lower upfront costs but higher operating costs, cost-effectiveness is another crucial element to take into account. The environmental impact of the energy sources is also an important factor to take into account [29], as traditional energy sources like diesel generators may have detrimental environmental impacts while green energy sources have negligible environmental impact. Microgrid managers can choose the best energy sources to satisfy the requirements of the community while supplying a dependable, sustainable, and cost-effective energy supply by carefully taking these factors into account.

7.3. Designing the Microgrid System

The design of the microgrid system is a difficult procedure that needs to take a number of things into account in great detail [30]. One of the most important aspects is choosing the right energy sources, which must be based on the resources that are available and the community's energy needs. Both traditional energy sources, like diesel generators, and sustainable energy sources, like sun, wind, and hydropower, may be incorporated into the microgrid system. Additionally, surplus energy produced by green energy sources can be stored during times of low demand and released during times of high demand using storage systems like batteries and pumped hydro storage. To make sure that the system is properly scaled to satisfy the community's energy needs, the setup and sizing of the microgrid's components—including the energy sources, storage systems, inverters, controllers, and switchgear—must be carefully taken into account. An important part of the microgrid system that controls the energy transfer between energy sources, storage systems, and loads is the microgrid management system. The microgrid must be built to allow the integration of various energy sources while ensuring efficient and reliable operation. Last but not least, when designing the microgrid system, it is important to consider the grid interconnection needs, such as the need for electricity conditioning and safety devices.

7.4. Conducting a Feasibility Study

A feasibility study evaluates a microgrid project's technological, financial, and societal viability [31]. The accessibility of resources like clean energy sources, space, and water determines the project's technological viability. The technological specifications of the microgrid system, such as the configuration and size of the energy sources, storage systems, and other parts, should also be evaluated in the research. assessing possible hazards related to the microgrid initiative, such as resource access, equipment failure, and legislative changes. Microgrid planners can find possible problems and create plans to reduce or control risks with the aid of a risk evaluation.

7.5. Obtaining Necessary Permits and Approvals

Various licenses and approvals from governmental bodies and other pertinent organizations may be necessary, depending on the location and particulars of the microgrid initiative [32]. Assuring adherence to pertinent laws and standards is a crucial part of receiving licenses and clearances. This could include laws governing the climate, building rules, safety requirements, and other standards. To make sure that the microgrid system complies with all required standards and requirements, microgrid planners should maintain direct contact with regulatory organizations and other parties. Starting early and allowing enough time to finish the permitting and clearance procedure is crucial because it can be difficult and time-consuming. Early on in the planning process, microgrid planners should identify all required permits and approvals. They should also work closely with regulatory bodies and other pertinent organizations to make sure that all necessary permits and approvals are acquired on time. Microgrid planners can help guarantee a smooth and effective permitting and clearance process as well as the success of the microgrid project by being proactive and attentive to possible challenges.

7.6. Implementing the Microgrid

A microgrid's implementation entails making sure that all required hardware and facilities are set up properly and in accordance with guidelines. In order to make sure that all tools and materials are brought and put on schedule and in accordance with the plan, this may entail coordinating with contractors, suppliers, and other partners. It might also entail supervising the creation of structures and other equipment, including wind turbines, solar panels, and energy storage systems. Another crucial stage in the deployment of a microgrid is commissioning and testing [33]. When a microgrid system is being "commissioned," it is ensured that all of its parts are put, are working properly, and are prepared for testing. Testing entails assessing the microgrid system's efficacy under a range of circumstances, including various loads, electricity quality, and environmental conditions. To make sure that the system complies with all required standards and requirements, testing should be done in a controlled and methodical way and should include thorough performance testing and tracking.

7.7. Operation and Maintenance

Monitoring the microgrid system's performance, performing routine maintenance and fixes, and making sure the system complies with all applicable laws and standards are all examples of operation and maintenance tasks [34]. To make sure the microgrid is working as efficiently as possible and to spot any prospective issues or problems that may develop over time, regular performance tracking is crucial. This may entail keeping an eye on crucial performance indicators like power production, battery storing capability, and system effectiveness. To guarantee the microgrid system's long-term dependability, regular upkeep and fixes are also essential. This may entail carrying out routine checks and upkeep procedures on important parts of the system, including solar panels, battery storage systems, and management systems. To keep the system in good functioning order, it may also entail performing routine maintenance and updates on the infrastructure and equipment. The microgrid system continues to adhere to all applicable laws and standards. In addition to ongoing training and education to guarantee that all staff and stakeholders are knowledgeable about the most recent laws and requirements, this may entail routine reporting and compliance activities to regulatory agencies or other stakeholders.

7.8. Dependability and Adaptability

Dependability is the microgrid's capacity to deliver a steady and dependable flow of electricity to its users, while flexibility is the microgrid's capacity to adjust to shifting circumstances and demands. The system must be built to endure a variety of possible disruptions, including machine failures, natural catastrophes, and cyberattacks. In order to do this, it may be necessary to implement redundancy in crucial components like control systems, storage systems, and generators. It may also be necessary to set up sophisticated tracking and control systems to quickly identify and address disturbances [35]. The architecture of microgrids must be flexible because the energy landscape is continuously changing. The operation of the microgrid may be impacted by shifts in demand, weather patterns, and other variables, so microgrid operators must be able to move swiftly in these situations. To ensure that the microgrid can adjust to shifting circumstances, this may entail incorporating sophisticated forecasting and optimization algorithms, renewable energy sources, and energy storage systems.

7.9. Energy Competence

Localized energy systems called microgrids can run separately or in combination with a bigger grid. They can supply electricity to a range of clients, including domestic, business, and industrial, and can include a variety of distributed energy resources, including solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and generators. Understanding energy systems and the various technologies that can be used to produce and distribute electricity is crucial for successfully running a microgrid. This involves understanding energy storage technologies, renewable energy sources, and control systems that can be used to regulate the movement of energy inside a microgrid [36].

7.10. Environmental Responsibility

By employing renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, microgrids can encourage environmental accountability. Microgrids can lessen dependence on fossil fuels and assist in reducing the environmental effects of energy production by utilizing these renewable energy sources. Additionally, energy storage systems can frequently be incorporated into microgrid designs to further decrease dependency on nonrenewable energy sources and advance energy independence. Energy economy is a key component of microgrid environmental stewardship. Microgrids can aid in the conservation of energy resources and the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution by optimizing energy use and minimizing trash. This may entail designing the microgrid to accommodate energy-efficient HVAC, lighting, and appliance systems as well as installing energy management systems to track and control energy consumption.

7.11. Technological Factors

The incorporation of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), such as solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage devices, is one of the most important technical aspects of microgrids. Advanced management systems capable of managing electricity flows and maximizing the use of available resources are necessary for these components. Due to this, sophisticated Energy Management Systems (EMS) that can oversee and regulate the functioning of the microgrid must be developed. Power circuits, which are used to transform and regulate the movement of electrical energy, are also crucial for microgrids [37]. To transform DC power to AC power, adjust voltage and frequency, and handle power flows, devices like inverters, converters, and controllers are used. In order for various system components to communicate and coordinate their activities, communication networks are essential for microgrid operation. Sensors, management systems, and wired and cellular networks can all be a part of these systems.

7.12. Economic Factors

Due to their potential to offer dependable and affordable electricity to communities, companies, and other organizations, microgrids are growing in popularity [38]. The creation and application of microgrids are heavily influenced by a number of economic variables. Such as:

- **Cost of generation:** In the development and management of microgrids, the expense of generation plays a major economic role. Various sustainable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, can be integrated into microgrids, which over time lowers the cost of production. However, renewable energy sources can have a large starting investment expense.
- **Cost of transmission and distribution:** Since microgrids produce and share electricity locally, transmission and distribution costs can be reduced. This may lessen the need for costly transmission and delivery infrastructure improvements in the future.
- **Energy market regulation:** The fiscal viability of microgrids can be greatly impacted by the regulatory climate and energy market policies. Microgrid growth may benefit from policies that encourage the use of dispersed production and renewable energy sources. The ability to offer surplus electricity back to the grid may also be available to microgrid managers, which could be a source of income.
- **Maintenance and operation costs:** An essential economic element to take into account is the microgrids' maintenance and operation expenses. Microgrids can lower the cost of transmission and delivery, but they may also need more upkeep and practical expenses, like system improvements and battery replacements.

7.13. Socio-Political Factors

Government legislation and policy are sociopolitical variables. Microgrids' success or failure can be greatly influenced by the regulatory environment in which they operate. Governments have the power to encourage or control the implementation and use of microgrids [39], which may have an impact on both their economic sustainability and accessibility. Regulations like zoning laws and

utility monopolies can impede the development of microgrids, whereas policies like net metering, feed-in prices, and tax rebates can promote their acceptance. Microgrids work best when they are integrated into the neighborhood and cater to the particular requirements and beliefs of the locals. The approval and support of the community can be increased by involving them in the planning and execution of microgrids. Additionally, community-based ownership models, in which locals jointly control and own the microgrid, can boost its long-term viability and guarantee that the advantages are distributed fairly.

7.14.Environmental Factors

The abundance and dependability of green energy sources is known as microgrids [40]. In many cases, microgrids are built to run on sustainable energy sources like solar, wind, or hydroelectricity. The availability and output of these resources can be greatly impacted by the microgrid's position and environment. For example, solar cells might generate less energy in locations with frequent cloud cover, and wind generators might perform worse in locations with weak winds. Construction of new infrastructure, such as power lines or substations. The accessibility and availability of these resources can have a big influence on how feasible and affordable microgrid initiatives are. The design and implementation of the microgrid may also be impacted by the topography, as level or open regions may not require the same tools and technologies as mountainous or rugged terrain. Environmental factors like climate change can have a big effect on microgrids. Microgrids may struggle to keep reliable operation as global temps increase and weather patterns become more unpredictable. Droughts and heatwaves can affect the production of green energy sources, while storms, floods, and wildfires can harm microgrid infrastructure.

8. Discussion

The usage of microgrids for electrifying rural areas is thoroughly examined in this research. The report discusses the difficulties rural areas have in obtaining electricity as well as the benefits of employing microgrids to supply electricity in such places. The introduction of the study defines a microgrid and describes how it differs from a conventional grid. The benefits of deploying microgrids in remote places are then discussed, including their capacity to deliver dependable and affordable electricity. The authors also discuss the numerous technical and financial aspects that must be taken into account while constructing and putting in place microgrids in remote locations. For instance, they talk about how crucial it is to pick the appropriate generation technologies, storage solutions, and control methods for microgrids. The report also reviews a few case studies of microgrids that have been put in place in off-the-grid locations. The authors examine these microgrids' technical and financial viability and offer insights into how well they work. Finally, the article offers a thorough analysis of microgrids from both a technical and financial standpoint for electrifying rural places. The benefits of employing microgrids are highlighted, as well as the numerous aspects that must be taken into account while planning and putting them into use. The case studies discussed in the paper offer actual instances of successful microgrid installations, which may be helpful for stakeholders and policymakers that are interested in electrifying rural locations.

For a dependable and sustainable energy supply, rural microgrids frequently combine a number of generation technologies. The availability of renewable resources, the profile of the energy demand, and the project's budget all influence the choice of various generation methods. For rural microgrids, solar PV is one of the most well-liked and commonly used generation methods. It is especially suited for areas with plenty of sunlight because it uses sunlight to generate electricity. For rural microgrids, wind energy is still another practical option, particularly in regions with reliable wind resources. In addition to solar PV systems, small-scale wind turbines can be installed to produce electricity, ensuring a steady energy supply even when there is little sunlight. Multiple renewable energy sources are combined with potential energy storage in hybrid microgrid systems to create a more steady and dependable electricity supply. Energy generation and demand changes, for instance, can be balanced using a combination of solar PV, wind, and battery storage. In rural

microgrids, fuel cells can be deployed, especially in places where hydrogen or other fuel sources are easily accessible.

One of the most popular alternatives for rural microgrids is battery storage. During moments of peak production, BESS can store extra energy produced by renewable sources like solar and wind and release it when demand exceeds supply. Even when renewable energy production is minimal, they offer a reliable source of electricity. Flywheels have a rotor that spins quickly and stores energy that may be released when necessary. They have quick response speeds and can be helpful for balancing energy temporarily.

Demand side management and energy management system are the control methods for the electrification in rural areas. Enhancing energy reliability, maximizing energy use, and supporting the efficient integration of renewable energy sources are all made possible by integrating suitable storage options and control techniques into microgrids in rural regions.

9. Challenges and Future Scope

Many communities might not have the financial means to pay for microgrids because they can be costly to build and maintain. Microgrid also faces a number of operational difficulties, including power concerns with reliability, protection, quality, and unstable power systems [41]. One of the best microgrid protection strategies issue for the microgrid's dependable functioning. However, the price of microgrids is likely to drop as the technology and facilities required to create them become more widely available and reasonably priced. There are no set standards for the construction and management of microgrids, and various microgrid systems might not work together. The scale and compatibility of microgrids may be hampered as a result [42]. To boost their acceptance and connection with the primary power infrastructure, guidelines for microgrid design and operation are currently being developed. Some policies, such as utility monopolies, can hinder the development of microgrids, while others, such as tax incentives and net metering, can encourage their adoption. Governments must establish clear policies and regulations that support the development of microgrids as a sustainable energy solution. The incorporation of battery-based energy storage systems to boost the dependability and adaptability of microgrids. Incorporating smart grid technologies, such as sophisticated monitoring and control systems, to increase the effectiveness and administration of microgrids is another area of focus. Last but not least, the creation of microgrid-to-microgrid networks may improve the scale and stability of microgrids, enabling them to function more effectively and efficiently [43]. Blockchain technology could be used to improve the transparency and accountability of microgrid systems, allowing users to track the source and flow of energy in real-time. This could increase trust and confidence in microgrids, making them a more attractive and viable energy solution [44].

10. Conclusion

To create a dependable and robust power supply in a remote area, microgrids can be built to incorporate a variety of sustainable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and water, as well as energy storage systems. Furthermore, improvements in digital technologies and control systems have made it possible to watch and handle microgrid systems in real-time, guaranteeing their optimal effectiveness in local area. The use of pricey diesel generators and centralized power networks, which are frequently expensive and unreliable in isolated regions, can be lessened by the use of microgrids. Additionally, by facilitating the growth of small-scale companies and sectors that depend on a dependable source of energy, like agro-processing, microgrids can open up new economic possibilities. Microgrid development and implementation in a remote area still face obstacles, including a lack of knowledge and experience, care and upkeep needs, and governmental and societal acceptance. During the microgrid creation process, community involvement and engagement should be given priority, along with training and educational initiatives. The elimination of interoperability problems between various microgrid systems necessitates careful design, standardization, and stakeholder cooperation. Interoperability problems between various microgrid

systems could be resolved by establishing industry standards for microgrid components and embracing open-source platforms for microgrid control and administration. Net metering and energy access program could be the best policy and regulations for the implementation of microgrid in rural area.

Author Contribution: All authors contributed equally to the main contributor to this paper. All authors read and approved the final paper.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] X. Zhou, T. Guo, and Y. Ma, "An overview on microgrid technology," *2015 IEEE International Conference on Mechatronics and Automation (ICMA)*, pp. 76-81, 2015, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICMA.2015.7237460>.
- [2] J. S. Farkhani, M. Zareein, A. Najafi, R. Melicio, and E. M. G. Rodrigues, "The power system and microgrid protection—A Review," *Applied Sciences*, vol. 10, no. 22, p. 8271, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3390/app10228271>.
- [3] P. Wei and W. Chen, "Microgrid in China: A review in the perspective of application," *Energy Procedia*, vol. 158, pp. 6601-6606, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egypro.2019.01.059>.
- [4] M. Sadegheian, B. Fani, I. Sadeghkhan, G. Shahgholian, "A local power control scheme for electronically interfaced distributed generators in islanded microgrids," *Iran. Electr. Ind. J. Qual. Product.*, vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 47- 58, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.29252/iejqp.8.3.47>.
- [5] M. Child, C. Kemfert, D. Bogdanov, and C. Breyer, "Flexible electricity generation, grid exchange and storage for the transition to a 100% renewable energy system in Europe," *Renewable energy*, vol. 139, pp. 80-101, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2019.02.077>.
- [6] A. Hirsch, Y. Parag, and J. Guerrero, "Microgrids: A review of technologies, key drivers, and outstanding issues," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 90, pp. 402-411, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2018.03.040>.
- [7] C. Mu *et al.*, "A Decentralized Market Model for a Microgrid With Carbon Emission Rights," in *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 1388-1402, March 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1109/TSG.2022.3173520>.
- [8] V. V. S. N. Murty and A. Kumar, "Retracted Article: Multi-objective energy management in microgrids with hybrid energy sources and battery energy storage systems," *Protection and Control of Modern Power Systems*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 1-20, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41601-019-0147-z>.
- [9] A. Korkovelos, H. Zerriffi, M. Howells, M. Bazilian, H. H. Rogner, and F. F. Nerini, "A retrospective analysis of energy access with a focus on the role of mini-grids," *Sustainability*, vol. 12, no. 5, p. 1793, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12051793>.
- [10] M. R. H. Mojumder, M. Hasanuzzaman, and E. Cuce, "Prospects and challenges of renewable energy-based microgrid system in Bangladesh: a comprehensive review," *Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy*, vol. 24, no. 7, pp. 1987-2009, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10098-022-02301-5>.
- [11] M. Azimian *et al.*, "Planning and Financing Strategy for Clustered Multi-Carrier Microgrids," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 11, pp. 72050-72069, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3294482>.
- [12] S. P. Karthikeyan, "Introduction to Microgrids," in *Microgrids*, pp. 1-14, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1201/9780367815929-1>.
- [13] M. A. Halim, M. M. Hossain, and M. J. Nahar, "Development of a Nonlinear Harvesting Mechanism from Wide Band Vibrations," *International Journal of Robotics and Control Systems*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 467-476, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.31763/ijrcs.v2i3.524>.

-
- [14] O. F. B. Agua, R. J. A. Basilio, M. E. D. Pabillan, M. T. Castro, P. Blechinger, and J. D. Ocon, "Decentralized versus clustered microgrids: an energy systems study for reliable off-grid electrification of small islands," *Energies*, vol. 13, no. 17, p. 4454, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13174454>.
- [15] D. Fioriti, S. Pintus, G. Lutzemberger, and D. Poli, "Economic multi-objective approach to design off-grid microgrids: A support for business decision making," *Renewable Energy*, p. 159, pp. 693-704, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2020.05.154>.
- [16] M. S. B. Arif and M. A. Hasan, "Microgrid architecture, control, and operation," in *Hybrid-Renewable Energy Systems in Microgrids*, pp. 23-37, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-102493-5.00002-9>.
- [17] M. A. Awal, H. Yu, H. Tu, S. M. Lukic, and I. Husain, "Hierarchical Control for Virtual Oscillator Based Grid-Connected and Islanded Microgrids," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 988-1001, Jan. 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1109/TPEL.2019.2912152>.
- [18] F. Nejabatkhah, Y. W. Li and H. Tian, "Power Quality Control of Smart Hybrid AC/DC Microgrids: An Overview," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 7, pp. 52295-52318, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2912376>.
- [19] A. Alzahrani, S. K. Ramu, G. Devarajan, I. Vairavasundaram, and S. Vairavasundaram, "A review on hydrogen-based hybrid microgrid system: Topologies for hydrogen energy storage, integration, and energy management with solar and wind energy," *Energies*, vol. 15, no. 21, p. 7979, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en15217979>.
- [20] M. H. Saeed, W. Fangzong, B. A. Kalwar, and S. Iqbal, "A review on microgrids' challenges & perspectives," *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 166502-166517, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3135083>.
- [21] G. Chaudhary, J. J. Lamb, O. S. Burheim, and B. Austbø, "Review of energy storage and energy management system control strategies in microgrids," *Energies*, vol. 14, no. 16, p. 4929, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14164929>.
- [22] M. Sandelic, S. Peyghami, A. Sangwongwanich, and F. Blaabjerg, "Reliability aspects in microgrid design and planning: Status and power electronics-induced challenges," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 159, p. 112127, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2022.112127>.
- [23] J. Faraji, M. Babaei, N. Bayati, and M. A. Hejazi, "A comparative study between traditional backup generator systems and renewable energy based microgrids for power resilience enhancement of a local clinic," *Electronics*, vol. 8, no. 12, p. 1485, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics8121485>.
- [24] M. M. Kinnon, G. Razeghi, and S. Samuelsen, "The role of fuel cells in port microgrids to support sustainable goods movement," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 147, p. 111226, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2021.111226>.
- [25] P. H. Trinh and I. Y. Chung, "Optimal control strategy for distributed energy resources in a DC microgrid for energy cost reduction and voltage regulation," *Energies*, vol. 14, no. 4, p. 992, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14040992>.
- [26] M. A. Hannan, M. Faisal, P. J. Ker, R. A. Begum, Z. Y. Dong, and C. Zhang, "Review of optimal methods and algorithms for sizing energy storage systems to achieve decarbonization in microgrid applications," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 131, p. 110022, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2020.110022>.
- [27] S. Shahzad, M. A. Abbasi, H. Ali, M. Iqbal, R. Munir, and H. Kilic, "Possibilities, Challenges, and Future Opportunities of Microgrids: A Review," *Sustainability*, vol. 15, no. 8, p. 6366, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15086366>.
- [28] V. Motjoadi, P. N. Bokoro, and M. O. Onibonoje, "A review of microgrid-based approach to rural electrification in South Africa: Architecture and policy framework," *Energies*, vol. 13, no. 9, p. 2193, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13092193>.
- [29] C. Avilés, S. Oliva, and D. Watts, "Single-dwelling and community renewable microgrids: Optimal sizing and energy management for new business models," *Applied Energy*, vol. 254, p. 113665, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2019.113665>.
- [30] M. K. H. Rabaia, "Environmental impacts of solar energy systems: A review," *Science of The Total Environment*, vol. 754, p. 141989, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.141989>.
-

-
- [31] S. Tan, Y. Wu, P. Xie, J. M. Guerrero, J. C. Vasquez, and A. Abusorrah, "New Challenges in the Design of Microgrid Systems: Communication Networks, Cyberattacks, and Resilience," in *IEEE Electrification Magazine*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 98-106, Dec. 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1109/MELE.2020.3026496>.
- [32] G. Veilleux *et al.*, "Techno-economic analysis of microgrid projects for rural electrification: A systematic approach to the redesign of Koh Jik off-grid case study," *Energy for Sustainable Development*, vol. 54, pp. 1-13, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esd.2019.09.007>.
- [33] R. K. Oueid, "Microgrid finance, revenue, and regulation considerations," *The Electricity Journal*, vol. 32, no. 5, pp. 2-9, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2019.05.006>.
- [34] J. Wang, A. Pratt, K. Prabakar, B. Miller, and M. Symko-Davies, "Development of an integrated platform for hardware-in-the-loop evaluation of microgrids prior to site commissioning," *Applied Energy*, vol. 290, p. 116755, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2021.116755>.
- [35] F. Fallahi, M. Yildirim, J. Lin, and C. Wang, "Predictive Multi-Microgrid Generation Maintenance: Formulation and Impact on Operations & Resilience," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 36, no. 6, pp. 4979-4991, Nov. 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1109/TPWRS.2021.3066462>.
- [36] X. Xu, J. Ye, Y. Wang, X. Xu, Z. Lai and X. Wei, "Design of a Reliable Bidirectional Solid-State Circuit Breaker for DC Microgrids," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics*, vol. 37, no. 6, pp. 7200-7208, June 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1109/TPEL.2021.3139110>.
- [37] P. Benalcazar, A. Suski, and J. Kamiński, "The effects of capital and energy subsidies on the optimal design of microgrid systems," *Energies*, vol. 13, no. 4, p. 955, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13040955>.
- [38] S. Vuddanti and S. R. Salkuti, "Review of energy management system approaches in microgrids," *Energies*, vol. 14, no. 17, p. 5459, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14175459>.
- [39] Y. Parag and M. Ainspan, "Sustainable microgrids: Economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of microgrid deployment," *Energy for Sustainable Development*, vol. 52, pp. 72-81, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esd.2019.07.003>.
- [40] M. Wolsink, "Distributed energy systems as common goods: Socio-political acceptance of renewables in intelligent microgrids," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 127, p. 109841, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2020.109841>.
- [41] M. J. Ghadi, A. Rajabi, S. Ghavidel, A. Azizivahed, L. Li, and J. Zhang, "From active distribution systems to decentralized microgrids: A review on regulations and planning approaches based on operational factors," *Applied Energy*, vol. 253, p. 113543, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2019.113543>.
- [42] M. W. Altaf, M. T. Arif, S. N. Islam, and M. E. Haque, "Microgrid Protection Challenges and Mitigation Approaches—A Comprehensive Review," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 10, pp. 38895-38922, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2022.3165011>.
- [43] J. Hu, Y. Shan, K. W. Cheng, and S. Islam, "Overview of Power Converter Control in Microgrids—Challenges, Advances, and Future Trends," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics*, vol. 37, no. 8, pp. 9907-9922, Aug. 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1109/TPEL.2022.3159828>.
- [44] Y. H. Yap, W. S. Tan, J. Wong, N. A. Ahmad, C. L. Wooi, Y. K. Wu, and A. E. Ariffin, "A two-stage multi microgrids p2p energy trading with motivational game-theory: A case study in malaysia," *IET Renewable Power Generation*, vol. 15, no. 12, pp. 2615-2628, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1049/rpg2.12205>.
-