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**Business Models for Hybrid Microgrids as a
Rural Electrification Solution for Remote
Regions of the Emerging 'BRICS' Nations**



Abstract

The overriding purpose of this study is to examine the limitations of current business model approaches for remote rural electrification within the association of emerging BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), and to explore hybrid remote microgrids as a promising solution for the estimated 344 million people, located in primarily poor remote rural regions of these countries, who lack access to electricity. As applied, there is extremely limited research on these microgrid business model solutions. Yet, the establishment of viable business models is critical to the near- and long-term success of the technology as a primary remote rural electrification solution. In that regard, this study provides valuable contributions to a demonstrable knowledge gap for researchers and offers an innovative new business paradigm for consideration by practitioners. This qualitative study employs a constructivist research paradigm in its design. Additionally, it utilizes a multiple case studies approach, through which it examines the BRICS nations' remote rural electrification challenges in context of a single bounded system. The analysis, conclusions, and recommendations of this study could potentially influence wider-spread application of 21st-century rural electrification solutions to a serious long-standing global dilemma. At the same time, it could potentially build a new bridge between advanced microgrid theory and practical application.