

## Abstract

**OBJECTIVE:** This research is aimed on exploring what roles community and their engagement practices can play their part in strengthening a technology innovation system laid down by a newly introduced technology. The author reported the observations from an off-grid rural electrification project carried out professionally at district Umerkot, Sindh and to make it sustainable, community engagement practices such as (Operations & Maintenance Committee (O&M), Village Electrification Meetup's and Social Return over Investment (SROI) Analysis) were employed to see what role exactly have been played in making it lasting to sustain on its own without any external dependencies. This particularly was set as a main success criterion.

**METHODOLOGY:** Following the relevant literature review, both quantitative and qualitative approach was adopted. This study was conducted in one rural community of district Umerkot, Sindh, Pakistan, comprising of a community with 180+ people from different age groups and with different earning levels. The author conducted semi-structured interviews so to analyze findings and pursue recruiting results as per success criterion.

**OUTCOME:** This research resulted in an outcome that the role of community involvement employs practices within communities that have a technology introduced and implemented to and for them. To make it sustain its existence, an emphasis was also put to develop and maintain one of its own kinds 'Operational and Maintenance Committee O&M to continue igniting the community passion towards its sustenance.

**KEYWORDS:** Technology Innovation System (TIS); Community Engagement; Social Return over Investment (SROI), Off-grid solar PV electrification.