

Power Sector Reforms and Citizen-centered Social Policy in Nigeria

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Abstract

The Power sector reforms in Nigeria have evolved overtime. It aims to significantly revolutionize the electricity industry concomitant with various economic reform measures like privatization, liberalization, deregulation and regulatory changes. The maximization of social gain is the heartbeat of public policies. The core focus of these reforms is the need to create a loop of technicality, market-driven changes and citizen-centered social policy goals. The Electricity Act 2023 was a watershed in efforts to decentralize ownership, control, management and regulation to the sub-nationals. This was designed to sustainably promote renewable energy integration, and encouraging localized electricity markets. However, encumbrances surrounding political will, haphazard privatization, weak regulatory enforcement, gaps in infrastructural investments, and politicization of development drives continue to thwart progress, affect service provision and cost advantage for many Nigerians. Relying on a descriptive analysis of available secondary information, this study thematically reviews concepts that are related to power reform and social policy. With the use of systems theory, the power sector operates within an organically connected ecosystem where reform policies, operators, and citizen experiences create a continuum of feedback, mutually reinforcing one another. It was noted that effective reforms hinged on adequate political will must therefore institutionalize mechanisms for citizen involvement, autonomy for market actors, transparent tariff-setting and social protection to ensure equitable outcomes. To enhance the social impact of reforms policy, the study recommends strengthening operational independence and adequate regulatory schemes to enforce corporate social responsibilities and obligations of power sector investments to the citizenry.

Keywords:

Power sector reforms, citizen-centered social policy, regulatory governance, social equity, renewable energy solutions

Introduction

The Nigerian power sector has long been characterized by chronic inadequacies that have severely constrained the country's economic growth and social development. Despite Nigeria's abundant natural resources, including vast gas reserves critical for power generation, the sector has struggled with inadequate electricity supply, frequent outages, and poor infrastructure maintenance (Okoye, 2023). The legacy of a government-controlled monopoly with inefficient management led to systemic failures in generation, transmission, and distribution, resulting in unreliable power supply for the majority of Nigerians (Idowu, Ibietan, & Olukotun, 2019). This persistent electricity deficit has forced households and businesses to rely heavily on expensive and environmentally harmful alternatives such as diesel generators, which further exacerbate economic and environmental challenges (Okafor, Onodi, & Onyali, 2015).

Recognizing these challenges, the Nigerian government initiated a series of reforms starting in the late 1990s, culminating in the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005, which aimed to unbundle the vertically integrated utility, introduce private sector participation, and establish regulatory oversight through the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) (Okoye, 2023). These reforms sought to improve efficiency, attract investment, and expand access to electricity. However, despite significant investments and privatization efforts between 2010 and 2013, the sector continues to face serious challenges including incomplete privatization, underdeveloped gas infrastructure, and a weak regulatory framework that undermines operational performance and service delivery (Anaba, 2024; Okafor et al., 2015).

The significance of power sector reforms in Nigeria lies in their potential to transform the electricity industry into a more efficient, financially viable, and customer-focused sector capable of supporting national development goals. Reliable electricity supply is essential for industrialization, job creation, poverty reduction, and overall improvement in living standards (Idowu et al., 2019). Yet, the continuing failure to provide stable and affordable electricity highlights the need for reforms that go beyond technical and financial restructuring to include social dimensions such as equitable access, affordability, and consumer protection. Without addressing these social policy concerns, the reforms risk perpetuating inequalities and failing to deliver benefits to the broader population (Okoye, 2023).

Therefore, the context and significance of Nigeria's power sector reforms must be understood not only in terms of economic and technical challenges but also through the lens of citizen-centered social policy. Integrating social policy objectives into reform efforts is critical to ensuring that electricity access and affordability improve for all Nigerians, including vulnerable and underserved communities (Idowu et al., 2019; Okafor et al., 2015). This holistic approach is necessary to achieve sustainable development and to fulfill the social contract between the government, private sector, and citizens in the provision of essential public services such as electricity.

While power sector reforms in Nigeria have focused primarily on structural and market-oriented changes, there remains a significant gap in integrating citizen-centered social policy within these reforms. The reforms have largely emphasized privatization, market liberalization, and financial viability, often neglecting the social dimensions of electricity access such as equity, affordability, and inclusiveness for marginalized populations (Onyekwena et al., 2017). Consequently, many citizens—especially those in rural and low-income urban areas—continue to experience limited or no access to electricity, undermining the social welfare objectives that should accompany infrastructural reforms (Akinola & Ojo, 2020).

Moreover, tariff increases implemented to improve cost recovery have often outpaced improvements in service delivery, leading to public dissatisfaction and protests (NERC, 2023). The lack of effective mechanisms for citizen participation and accountability in the reform process has further alienated consumers, reducing trust in both private operators and regulatory bodies (Ogaji, 2018). This disconnect highlights a critical research problem: the failure to embed citizen-centered social policies that prioritize equitable access, affordability, and responsiveness within the ongoing power sector reforms. Addressing this gap is essential to ensure that reforms translate into tangible benefits for all Nigerians, not just financially viable market actors.

This paper aims to theoretically analyze the intersection between power sector reforms and citizen-centered social policy in Nigeria. Specifically, it seeks to explore how the current reform

framework accommodates or neglects social policy principles such as inclusiveness, equity, and accountability in electricity service delivery. By applying political economy, systems theory, and social policy frameworks, the study will critically examine the institutional and socio-political dynamics that shape reform outcomes and their implications for citizens' welfare (Akinola & Ojo, 2020; Onyekwena et al., 2017).

The objective is to provide a conceptual understanding of how power sector reforms can be realigned to better serve the social needs of Nigerian citizens, especially vulnerable groups. This includes analyzing regulatory governance mechanisms and market structures to identify opportunities for integrating social policy goals such as affordable tariffs, expanded rural electrification, and enhanced consumer participation. Ultimately, the paper intends to contribute to the academic discourse by proposing a theoretical foundation for citizen-centered reforms that balance economic efficiency with social equity in Nigeria's power sector.

Theoretical Framework

Social Policy Theory

Social policy theory, particularly the citizen-centered approach, emphasizes inclusiveness, equity, and responsiveness in public service delivery by positioning citizens as active participants rather than passive recipients of services (Parliament of Australia Department of Parliamentary Services, 2010). This approach advocates that public services should be designed to meet the diverse needs of all population groups, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities, ensuring equitable access and fair outcomes. In the context of energy access and affordability, citizen-centered social policy highlights the need for reforms that prioritize universal access, affordable tariffs, and mechanisms for consumer feedback and accountability, thereby addressing social inequities and promoting social welfare (World Bank, 2018).

The theoretical foundation of citizen-centered social policy stems from a shift away from traditional bureaucratic models toward participatory governance frameworks that encourage collaboration between governments, citizens, and other stakeholders (El Fakid & El Moujaddidi, 2022; Parliament of Australia Department of Parliamentary Services, 2010). This theory aligns with democratic principles that emphasize the centrality of citizens' voices in policymaking and service delivery. It also resonates with global development agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, which call for inclusive, accountable, and transparent institutions. By fostering citizen engagement, the theory aims to improve the legitimacy, efficiency, and responsiveness of public services, making it especially relevant to sectors like energy where access and affordability are critical social issues (IDS, 2018).

Despite its strengths, citizen-centered social policy faces challenges related to political will, institutional capacity, and the risk of superficial participation that fails to influence decision-making meaningfully (Parliament of Australia Department of Parliamentary Services, 2010; IDS, 2018). Marginalized populations may also lack the resources or skills to engage effectively, necessitating deliberate empowerment efforts. Nonetheless, this theory is highly suitable for analyzing power sector reforms in Nigeria, where persistent electricity access and affordability problems demand socially inclusive and responsive policy frameworks. Incorporating citizen-centered principles can enhance the social legitimacy and sustainability of reforms by ensuring that the needs and voices of all Nigerians are considered in the transformation of the power sector (Sangiorgi, Pirinen, & Gascó, 2025; World Bank, 2018).

Systems Theory

Systems theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the Nigerian power sector as a complex, interdependent system comprising multiple actors and components including generation, transmission, distribution companies, government agencies, regulatory bodies, market participants, and citizens (Idowu, Ibietan, & Olukotun, 2019). This theory emphasizes that changes or reforms in one part of the system inevitably affect other parts due to their interconnectedness. For instance, improving generation capacity without corresponding upgrades in transmission infrastructure or distribution efficiency may not yield reliable electricity supply to end-users. Similarly, regulatory policies and market structures influence investment flows and operational behaviors across the system. Thus, reforms must be approached holistically, considering the dynamic interactions and feedback loops among all components to achieve sustainable improvements in electricity access and service quality (Idowu et al., 2019; Momodu, Oyeibisi, & Obilade, 2012).

Applying systems theory to Nigeria's power sector reform highlights the importance of coordinated interventions that address technical, institutional, economic, and social dimensions simultaneously. The sector's challenges—such as underinvestment, technical losses, politicization, and weak regulation—are symptoms of systemic dysfunction that cannot be resolved by isolated fixes (Idowu et al., 2019). Moreover, citizens as end-users form a critical subsystem whose needs and behaviors influence demand patterns and policy legitimacy. Effective reform requires integrating citizen-centered social policies to ensure affordability and equitable access, which in turn affect the system's stability and sustainability. This systemic perspective underscores the need for proactive regulatory agencies, comprehensive metering, sound economic management, and inclusive governance to align the interests of government, market actors, and citizens within a coherent power sector ecosystem (Idowu et al., 2019; Momodu et al., 2012).

Systems theory and citizen-centered social policy theory together offer a powerful framework for understanding and guiding power sector reforms in Nigeria. Systems theory highlights the power sector as a complex, interconnected system where changes in one part—such as generation, transmission, regulation, or market dynamics—affect other components, including citizens and government institutions. This perspective calls for holistic, coordinated reforms that address technical, institutional, and social factors simultaneously to improve overall system performance and service delivery. Complementing this, citizen-centered social policy theory emphasizes the importance of inclusiveness, equity, and responsiveness in public service delivery, ensuring that reforms prioritize the diverse needs of all citizens, especially marginalized groups. Integrating these theories underscores that sustainable power sector reform must embed social policy goals—such as affordable access, equitable service, and participatory governance—within systemic changes. This combined approach enhances reform legitimacy, social accountability, and ultimately, the effectiveness and sustainability of Nigeria's electricity sector transformation.

Overview of Power Sector Reforms in Nigeria

The Nigerian power sector reforms have evolved through several key milestones aimed at transforming the sector from a government-owned, vertically integrated monopoly into a competitive and efficient electricity market. The foundational legislative milestone was the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) of 2005, which legally unbundled the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) into separate generation, transmission, and distribution

companies. This Act also established the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) as an independent regulator responsible for licensing, tariff setting, and enforcing service standards (Rural Electrification Agency, 2017; NERC, 2023). The EPSRA aimed to attract private sector investment, improve operational efficiency, and create a competitive electricity market to increase generation capacity and expand access. Following the Act, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) was formed as a transitional entity comprising 18 successor companies—6 generation companies, 11 distribution companies, and a transmission company—to facilitate the sector's restructuring (NERC, 2023; AO2 Law, 2023).

Building on the 2005 Act, the government released the 2010 Roadmap for Power Sector Reform, which introduced institutional reforms such as the creation of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trader (NBET) to act as an intermediary between generators and distributors, and the Presidential Action Committee on Power to oversee reform implementation (Nairametrics, 2023). The roadmap sought to accelerate privatization and improve financial viability. In 2013, the government privatized the generation and distribution companies, transferring ownership to private investors while retaining control of the transmission company under government management (Nairametrics, 2023). These privatization efforts were intended to inject capital, improve efficiency, and enhance service delivery. However, challenges such as infrastructure deficits, regulatory capacity, and tariff controversies have persisted. Subsequent initiatives, including tariff reforms like the Multi-Year Tariff Order (MYTO) and the Power Sector Recovery Program, have aimed to stabilize the market and improve reliability, reflecting the ongoing evolution of Nigeria's power sector reform journey (NERC, 2023; AO2 Law, 2023).

The primary objectives of power sector reforms in Nigeria have centered on transforming the electricity industry to provide affordable, reliable, and sustainable power that supports economic growth and social development. A key goal has been privatization, which involves transferring ownership and management of generation and distribution companies from the government to private investors to improve efficiency, reduce political interference, and attract capital (Rural Electrification Agency, 2017; NERC, 2023). Alongside privatization, liberalization of the sector aims to create a competitive electricity market characterized by multiple independent producers and suppliers, regulated by an autonomous body to ensure transparency and fair pricing (NERC, 2023; Public Service International, 2020). These reforms are intended to dismantle the monopolistic structure of the former National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and foster a market-driven environment that incentivizes innovation and improved service delivery.

Another critical objective is to attract investment—both domestic and foreign—by establishing a credible regulatory framework and addressing financial risks such as tariff inadequacy and payment defaults (NERC, 2023; Public Service International, 2020). The creation of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Company (NBET) was a strategic intervention to enhance market bankability and facilitate power purchase agreements, thereby encouraging investor confidence (NERC, 2023). Additionally, reforms seek to improve operational efficiency across the value chain, reduce technical and commercial losses, and ensure cost-reflective tariffs that balance affordability with financial sustainability (Public Service International, 2020). Ultimately, these objectives converge on enhancing service delivery—providing Nigerians with more reliable electricity supply, expanding access especially to underserved populations, and supporting broader socio-economic development goals such as poverty alleviation and job creation (Public Service International, 2020; Rural Electrification Agency, 2017).

Nigeria's power sector reforms have faced persistent challenges that continue to hinder the achievement of their full potential. One major unresolved issue is incomplete privatization, particularly concerning the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), which remains under government control despite calls for full unbundling. The recent Electricity Act 2023 has empowered the government to split TCN into the Transmission Service Provider and the Nigerian Independent System Operator (NISO), aiming to improve operational clarity and efficiency; however, full implementation is still ongoing (Ofikhenua, 2025). Additionally, weak regulatory enforcement has undermined market discipline and service quality, with distribution companies (DisCos) struggling with poor revenue collection, high technical and commercial losses, and limited incentives to improve performance (BusinessDay, 2025; Cardinal Stone, 2025). Although the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has introduced tariff increases and decentralized regulatory authority to some states, regulatory capacity gaps and political pressures continue to affect consistent policy application (Ofikhenua, 2025).

Infrastructure deficits remain a critical bottleneck, with aging transmission and distribution networks unable to support increased generation capacity, leading to frequent grid collapses and unreliable supply (ESI Africa, 2025; Environews Nigeria, 2025). Vandalism of pipelines and electricity infrastructure further exacerbates supply disruptions and increases operational costs. Moreover, political interference and governance challenges have slowed reform progress, with conflicting interests among federal, state, and local governments complicating decision-making and implementation (The Nation, 2025; Environews Nigeria, 2025). The sector also grapples with liquidity constraints, as DisCos face mounting debts owed by consumers and government agencies, limiting their ability to invest in infrastructure and service improvements (Bloomfield Report, 2025). These intertwined challenges highlight the need for sustained political will, strengthened regulatory frameworks, infrastructure investment, and innovative approaches such as digitalization and renewable energy integration to realize the reform goals fully.

Citizen-Centered Social Policy in the Context of Power Sector Reforms

Citizen-centered social policy is an approach to public policy and service delivery that prioritizes the needs, rights, and active participation of citizens, particularly emphasizing inclusiveness, equity, and responsiveness (Parliament of Australia Department of Parliamentary Services, 2010; World Bank, 2018). It seeks to ensure that all individuals, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, have equitable access to essential services and resources necessary for a dignified life. In the context of energy, this means designing policies and reforms that guarantee affordable, reliable, and quality electricity supply to all citizens, recognizing energy access as a fundamental social right and a key driver of socio-economic development (Revised Draft National Social Protection Policy, 2016). By embedding citizen-centered principles, social policies in the energy sector aim to reduce disparities in access, protect consumers from exploitative pricing, and promote accountability and participation in decision-making processes, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness and sustainability of power sector reforms in Nigeria.

Power sector reforms in Nigeria, particularly under the Electricity Act 2023, have had profound social implications, notably improved electricity access and fostering inclusivity for rural and underserved communities (Energy & Utilities, 2024). Since the 1990s, access to electricity has more than doubled, reaching approximately 60.5% of the population by 2022, a significant milestone compared to 27.3% in 1990. These reforms have empowered localized control over electricity, attracting investments and enhancing critical sectors such as health and retail.

However, despite these advances, many Nigerians continue to experience unreliable power supply and frequent outages, which disrupt daily life and economic activities, highlighting ongoing challenges in service reliability (Energy & Utilities, 2024; The Nation, 2025).

Power sector reforms in Nigeria have acknowledged the importance of equity and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable populations and residents of informal settlements, but significant challenges remain in fully addressing their needs. The Electricity Act 2023 includes provisions aimed at expanding access through rural electrification programs and promoting decentralized renewable energy solutions, which are critical for reaching underserved communities often excluded from the national grid (Galias, 2023; Ogeesinstitute, 2023). However, infrastructural limitations, high connection costs, and socio-economic barriers continue to hinder effective service delivery to these groups. Moreover, tariff increases following privatization have disproportionately impacted low-income households, exacerbated energy poverty and limiting affordability (KPMG Nigeria, 2023; Mbelede, 2024). While consumer protection mechanisms and targeted subsidies exist on paper, their implementation has been uneven, leaving many informal settlements with unreliable or no electricity access. Thus, despite policy recognition of inclusion, translating these commitments into tangible improvements for marginalized populations remains a critical challenge requiring sustained political will, innovative financing, and community engagement to ensure equitable energy access across Nigeria.

The Electricity Act 2023 introduces robust mechanisms to enhance citizen engagement and regulatory accountability in Nigeria's power sector reform process. It decentralizes regulatory authority by empowering states to establish their own Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), enabling localized oversight and fostering closer collaboration between state governments, distribution companies, and consumers (Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre [PLAC], 2023; PwC, 2024). This decentralization facilitates more responsive regulation tailored to local needs and encourages citizen participation through state-level engagement platforms. The Act also mandates transparent licensing, monitoring, and consumer protection frameworks, including streamlined complaint resolution processes and fair tariff-setting procedures that require public disclosure and stakeholder consultation (KPMG, 2023; Afriwise, 2023). Furthermore, the establishment of the Rural Electrification Agency under the Act ensures targeted efforts to extend electricity access to underserved communities, with mechanisms for involving local governments and citizens in planning and implementation (Afriwise, 2023). Collectively, these provisions promote accountability by creating multiple avenues for citizen input, enhancing regulatory transparency, and fostering collaborative governance between federal, state, and local actors to improve service delivery and consumer trust.

Theoretical Analysis of the Nexus between Power Sector Reforms and Citizen-Centered Social Policy

Political economy lens: Examine how political interests and institutional dynamics shape reform outcomes and citizen welfare. Political interests and institutional dynamics play a decisive role in shaping the outcomes of Nigeria's power sector reforms and their impact on citizen welfare. The Electricity Act 2023 reflects a significant political shift by decentralizing regulatory authority to states, enabling them to legislate, regulate, and operate electricity markets within their territories, which aligns with Nigeria's federal structure and aims to foster localized solutions (Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre [PLAC], 2023; Ekpo, 2023).

However, this decentralization has sparked political contestations, particularly regarding the balance of power between federal and state regulators, as well as concerns over potential regulatory fragmentation that could affect market coherence and investor confidence (PwC, 2024; Nairametrics, 2024). Political will and stability are critical, as attempts by the National Assembly to amend the Act have raised fears of policy reversals that could deter investment and stall reform momentum (Nairametrics, 2024). Institutional capacity disparities among states further complicate implementation, impacting the ability to deliver reliable and affordable electricity to citizens uniformly. Thus, political economy factors—including power struggles, governance quality, and institutional effectiveness—directly influence how reforms translate into improved service delivery and social welfare outcomes for Nigerians.

The Electricity Act 2023 represents a transformative milestone in Nigeria's power sector by liberalizing the electricity market and promoting renewable energy integration while decentralizing regulatory authority to the states. The Act empowers states to enact laws governing electricity generation, transmission, and distribution within their territories, including licensing private investors to operate mini-grids and independent distribution networks, thereby fostering localized electricity markets and increasing competition (UNCTAD, 2025; Ekpo, 2023). This decentralization aims to dismantle the previous single national electricity market, allowing states to tailor policies to local needs, improve rural electrification, and attract investments in generation and infrastructure. Additionally, the Act introduces clear guidelines for licensing, monitoring, and supervision to ensure fair competition and prevent anti-competitive practices, while also incentivizing renewable energy through obligations on generation licensees and mechanisms like feed-in tariffs and tax incentives (UNCTAD, 2025; KPMG Nigeria, 2023). By establishing a comprehensive legal framework that harmonizes federal and state roles, the Act seeks to enhance service reliability, affordability, and access, ultimately contributing to economic development and sustainable energy transition in Nigeria (PwC, 2024; Ekpo, 2023).

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has demonstrated significant effectiveness in safeguarding citizen interests and promoting social equity through transparent, accountable, and responsive regulatory governance. As an independent regulator established by law, NERC oversees licensing, tariff setting, service standards, and consumer protection across Nigeria's electricity sector, ensuring market stability and fairness (NERC, 2023; KPMG Nigeria, 2023). In the first half of 2024, NERC ranked among the top five most efficient government agencies in complaint resolution, achieving full compliance with mandated timelines on the national public service complaint platform, which underscores its commitment to responsiveness and consumer engagement (NERC, 2024). Moreover, NERC possesses broad powers to intervene in poorly performing electricity companies, exemplified by its recent removal of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Plc's directors due to financial mismanagement, thereby protecting consumer interests and market integrity (NERC, 2023; Mondaq, 2023). While NERC maintains a degree of independence through statutory provisions that limit arbitrary dismissal of commissioners and ensure staggered terms, challenges remain in balancing government influence and regulatory autonomy (Africa Energy Portal, 2018). Nonetheless, NERC's proactive enforcement, transparency initiatives, and stakeholder consultations have strengthened regulatory accountability and contributed to advancing social equity in Nigeria's power sector.

To better align power sector reforms with citizen-centered social policy goals, reforms must prioritize inclusiveness, affordability, and responsiveness by embedding mechanisms that directly address the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations. The Electricity Act 2023

provides a strong foundation by empowering localized control through state-level regulatory authority and establishing the Rural Electrification Agency to focus on expanding access in rural and marginalized communities, thereby fostering social equity and participation (Energy & Utilities, 2024; Global Law Experts, 2025). Additionally, the creation of the Power Consumer Assistance Fund aims to subsidize electricity for underprivileged consumers, ensuring affordability while protecting vulnerable groups from tariff shocks (Global Law Experts, 2025). To fully realize citizen-centered goals, reforms should incorporate continuous stakeholder engagement, transparent tariff-setting processes, and social impact assessments that guide adaptive policy adjustments. Integrating renewable energy and off-grid solutions tailored to local contexts further enhances equitable access and sustainability. Ultimately, designing reforms with a strong social policy lens ensures that electricity provision not only drives economic growth but also improves quality of life and reduces inequality across Nigeria.

Conclusion

The transformation of Nigeria's power sector through ongoing reforms presents both significant opportunities and complex challenges that require a holistic, citizen-centered approach. Integrating systems theory with social policy principles highlights the importance of viewing the power sector as an interconnected ecosystem where technical, institutional, and social dimensions must be addressed simultaneously. Ensuring that reforms prioritize inclusiveness, affordability, and active citizen participation is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable electricity access. While legislative advancements like the Electricity Act 2023 provide a strong framework for decentralization and market liberalization, effective implementation depends on robust regulatory governance, political will, and continuous engagement with vulnerable populations. Ultimately, aligning power sector reforms with citizen-centered social policy not only enhances service delivery and social equity but also fosters trust and legitimacy, paving the way for a resilient and inclusive energy future in Nigeria.

Policy Recommendations

- i. To ensure effective oversight and consumer protection, it is essential to establish an autonomous and proactive regulatory body empowered to enforce social obligations within the power sector.
- ii. Recognizing the diverse needs of citizens, power sector reforms should explicitly embed social equity principles and actively involve citizens in decision-making processes to enhance legitimacy and responsiveness.
- iii. Given the affordability challenges faced by low-income households, implementing targeted tariff subsidies, lifeline tariffs, and support programs is critical to reducing their energy burden and promoting equitable access.
- iv. To address infrastructure deficits and reach marginalized communities, policies should promote the integration of renewable energy and decentralized generation systems, thereby expanding reliable and sustainable electricity access.

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