

Energy Trends in Rural South Africa: A Case Study of the Mnweni Rural Community in the Province of Kwazulu-Natal

Authors : Noel Chellan

Abstract : Energy is the life-blood of development. All human societies have been and still are dependent on energy - some societies more than others. With regard to energy in South Africa, previous policies of the apartheid regime neglected the energy needs of poor black communities in general - and rural communities in particular. Since South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 - whilst millions of South African households have received electricity from the national electricity grid, there are still many rural communities that are still experiencing challenges in relation to both electricity deprivation as well as provision. This paper looks at the energy-mix of the Mnweni rural community in South Africa and argues that understanding energy is key to understanding the nature and forms of development of any community or country, for that matter. The paper engages with the energy trends in the rural community of Mnweni from the days of apartheid until 2021. It also looks at agricultural practises from an energy perspective. Such an energy perspective will enable one to assess the pace and scale of development in rural Mnweni.

Keywords : rural, energy, development, apartheid

Conference Title : ICARD 2022 : International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development

Conference Location : Bali, Indonesia

Conference Dates : July 12-13, 2022