COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC SOLAR POWER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT-AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

Dr.D.Moorthy Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Commerce – BPS, Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore
Dr.P.Gurusamy Assistant Professor of Commerce, NGM College, Pollachi-642006.
Dr. Christina Jeyadevi. J Assistant Professor, Dept. of Commerce CA PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore

Abstract:

This study conducts a cost-benefit analysis of domestic solar power as a sustainable development strategy in Coimbatore, TN, India. With rising energy demands and environmental concerns, solar energy presents a viable solution for households seeking to reduce electricity costs and carbon footprints. The analysis evaluates both the financial implications and environmental benefits of installing solar photovoltaic systems, highlighting initial investment costs, potential savings, and available government incentives. Data collected from 183 households reveals a significant long-term return on investment, despite challenges such as high upfront costs and limited awareness among consumers. The findings underscore the importance of government policies and community engagement in promoting solar adoption. By providing insights into the economic and ecological advantages of domestic solar power, this study aims to inform policymakers and residents, ultimately contributing to Coimbatore's sustainable development goals. The research emphasizes the need for enhanced awareness and supportive regulatory frameworks to facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources at the household level.

Keywords: solar power, electricity cost, energy demand, households and ecological.

INTRODUCTION AND DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The increasing demand for energy, coupled with the pressing need for sustainable development, has prompted many regions to explore renewable energy sources. In Coimbatore, a city known for its industrial growth and vibrant economy, the potential for domestic solar power stands out as a viable solution. This analysis examines the costs and benefits associated with adopting solar energy at the household level, highlighting its role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels, lowering electricity bills, and contributing to environmental sustainability. By assessing both the economic and ecological impacts, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how domestic solar power can support Coimbatore's journey towards a more sustainable future.

OVERVIEW OF DOMESTIC SOLAR POWER

GLOBAL LEVEL

Globally, the adoption of domestic solar power has surged in recent years, driven by technological advancements, decreasing costs, and growing awareness of climate change. Major countries like Germany, the United States, and China have led the way, investing heavily in solar infrastructure. As of 2023, solar energy accounts for a significant portion of the renewable energy mix, with millions of households benefiting from solar panels. Policy incentives, such as tax credits and feed-in tariffs, have further accelerated installation rates, making solar power a key component of the global transition to sustainable energy.

INDIA LEVEL

In India, the solar power sector has experienced rapid growth, supported by government initiatives and ambitious targets. The National Solar Mission aims to achieve 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022, promoting both large-scale solar farms and domestic installations. As awareness of renewable energy benefits increases, many households are opting for solar systems to reduce electricity costs and enhance energy security. Despite challenges such as initial investment costs and regulatory hurdles, India is on track to become one of the largest solar markets in the world.

TAMILNADU LEVEL

Tamil Nadu is a frontrunner in India's solar energy landscape, boasting one of the highest installed capacities in the country. The state government has implemented various policies to encourage solar adoption, including net metering and subsidies for residential installations. With abundant sunlight and a supportive regulatory environment, Tamil Nadu's domestic solar power sector is experiencing significant growth. The state aims to not only meet its energy needs sustainably but also contribute to national renewable energy targets.

COIMBATORE LEVEL

Coimbatore, known for its industrial base and educational institutions, is increasingly embracing domestic solar power. The local government has initiated programs to promote solar energy awareness and facilitate installations. Many households are now investing in solar panels to mitigate rising electricity costs and reduce their carbon footprint. With favourable climatic conditions and a growing understanding of renewable energy benefits, Coimbatore is poised to enhance its solar capacity, aligning with broader sustainability goals and contributing to Tamil Nadu's energy landscape.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Sustainable Development: Investigating domestic solar energy is crucial for promoting sustainable development. It plays a vital role in reducing reliance on fossil fuels, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigating climate change impacts.

Energy Security: As energy demands grow, solar energy offers a decentralized and reliable source of power. Understanding its potential helps communities enhance their energy security and resilience against fluctuations in the global energy market.

Economic Benefits: Studying domestic solar energy reveals potential cost savings for households through reduced electricity bills and potential income generation from surplus energy sold back to the grid. This can improve the economic well-being of families and stimulate local economies.

Technological Advancements: Research in this area promotes innovation in solar technologies, leading to more efficient and affordable solutions. Understanding current trends can help identify areas for improvement and investment.

Policy Formulation: Insights gained from studying domestic solar energy can inform policymakers, enabling the development of effective regulations and incentives that promote adoption and integration of solar power into the energy mix.

Awareness and Education: This study raises awareness about the benefits and feasibility of solar energy, encouraging more households to consider its adoption. Education plays a key role in overcoming misconceptions and highlighting the long-term advantages.

Local Environmental Impact: By examining the local effects of solar energy adoption, communities can better understand how it contributes to cleaner air, reduced water usage, and improved public health outcomes.

Scalability and Replicability: Understanding the dynamics of domestic solar energy can help identify best practices and models that can be replicated in other regions, facilitating broader adoption and integration into the national energy framework.

Community Engagement: The study fosters community involvement in energy decisions, encouraging collective action towards sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Future Planning: With a focus on future energy needs, studying domestic solar energy assists in long-term planning for urban development, infrastructure, and energy systems, ensuring they are sustainable and resilient. Overall, the importance of this study lies in its potential to drive positive change towards a sustainable energy future, benefiting individuals, communities, and the planet.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite the growing interest in domestic solar power as a sustainable energy solution in Coimbatore, several challenges hinder its widespread adoption. These challenges include high initial

investment costs, lack of awareness regarding potential savings and benefits, and regulatory barriers that complicate the installation process. Additionally, there is limited empirical data on the actual costs and benefits experienced by households that have adopted solar energy systems in the region. This study seeks to address the following key questions:

- What are the financial implications of investing in domestic solar power for households in Coimbatore?
- How do the benefits, such as reduced electricity bills and environmental impacts, compare to the initial and ongoing costs?
- What role do government policies and incentives play in influencing the adoption of solar power at the domestic level?

By conducting a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis, this research aims to provide valuable insights into the viability of domestic solar energy as a sustainable development strategy in Coimbatore, ultimately guiding policymakers, potential investors, and residents in making informed decisions.

OBJECTIVES OF TH STUDY

The researchers have framed the following objectives of the study to accomplish the task.

1. To study the socio economic factors of the sample respondents.
2. To observe the cost benefit analysis of respondents.
3. To estimate the payback period of solar energy investments.
4. To offer valuable findings and recommendations to the implications of policy makers and users.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGHY

Sampling Design

The present study conducted in Coimbatore, it is big city next to Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu state Government promoted to install solar panel for domestic in the month of February 2024. The awareness level almost reached the people, many people have installed solar panel to product power during day time the excess transferred to Government and during night time and whenever they need, it will be take from Government. The present study conducted with 183 samples in Coimbatore. Adopted convenient sampling method for selection of respondents. The data collection also done in this study area, the output of data are presented in the following table.

Study period

The data were collected from the respondents during the month of May and June 2024.

Tools and Techniques

The researcher applied two statistical tools for constructing this present study, i.e. percentage analysis and correlation co-efficient.

SHORT COMINGS OF THE STUDY

One notable limitation of this study is the relatively small sample size of only 183 respondents, which may not fully represent the diverse perspectives and experiences of all households in Coimbatore. This constrained sample could lead to biases in the findings and limit the generalizability of the results to the broader population. Additionally, the study may not capture variations in socio-economic backgrounds, geographic locations, and levels of awareness about solar technology among respondents. Such factors can significantly influence the adoption and perceived benefits of domestic solar power. Consequently, the insights derived from this analysis should be interpreted with caution, as they may not encompass the full spectrum of challenges and advantages experienced by all households in the region. Further research with a larger and more diverse sample would be beneficial to validate and expand upon these findings.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The following table shows the socio economic factors of the respondents.

Table 1 : Age Group of the respondents

Sl. No.	Age Group	Number of	Percentage

		respondents	
1	Less than 30 years	38	20.77
2	31 years to 45 years	55	30.05
3	46 years to 60 years	48	26.23
4	Above 60 years	42	22.95
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the age group of the respondents, out of 183 respondents, thirty eight (20.77%) respondents are less than 30 years old. Fifty five (30.05%) respondents are 31 years to 45 years old. Forty eight (26.23%) respondents are 46 years to 60 years old remaining forty two (22.95%) respondents are above 60 years old. Majority (30.05%) of the respondents are between 31 years and 45 years.

Table 2 : Gender of the respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	127	69.40
2	Female	56	30.60
3	Transgender	0	0
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the gender of the respondents, out of 183 respondents one hundred and twenty seven (69.04%) respondents are male and remaining fifty six (30.60%) respondents are female. There are no transgender found during the data collection for this study. Majority (69.40%) of the respondents are male.

Table 3 : Number of family members

Sl. No.	Number of family members	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 3 members	48	26.23
2	3 to 5 members	59	32.24
3	Above 5 members	76	41.53
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the number of family members of the respondents, out of 183 respondents, forty eight (26.23%) respondents' family members are less than 3. Fifty nine (32.24%) respondents' family members are 3 to 5 and remaining seventy six (41.53%) respondents' family members are above 5 members. Majority (32.24%) of the respondents' family members are 3 to 5.

Table 4 : Occupation of the respondents

Sl. No.	Occupation	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Government employees	38	20.77
2	Private employees	51	27.87
3	Own Business	63	34.42
4	Retired and house wife	31	16.94
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the occupation of the respondents, out of 183 respondents, thirty eight (20.77%) respondents are Government employees. Fifty one (34.42%) respondents are private

employees. Sixty three (34.42%) respondents are doing their own business and remaining thirty one (16.94%) respondents are retired and housewife. Majority (34.42%) of the respondents are private employees.

Table 5 : Family monthly income

Sl. No.	Family monthly income	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Less than Rs. 50,000	38	20.77
2	Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 1,00,000	47	25.68
3	Rs. 1,00,001 to Rs. 2,00,000	57	31.15
4	Above Rs. 2,00,000	41	22.40
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the family monthly income, out of 183 respondents thirty eight (20.77%) respondents' monthly family income is less than Rs. 50,000. Forty seven (25.68%) respondents' monthly family income is between Rs. 50,001 and Rs. 1,00,000. Fifty seven (31.15%) respondents' monthly family income is between Rs. 1,00,001 and Rs. 2,00,000 and remaining forty one (22.40%) respondents' monthly family income is above Rs. 2,00,000. Majority (31.15%) of the respondents' monthly family income is between Rs. 1,00,001 and Rs. 2,00,000.

Table 6 : Type of residential house

Sl. No.	Type of residential house	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Individual house	81	44.26
2	Villa	59	32.24
3	Apartments	43	23.50
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the type of residential house of the respondents, out of 183 respondents, eighty one (44.26%) respondents are having individuals house. Fifty nine (32.24%) respondents are having villa and remaining forty three (23.50%) respondents are staying in apartments. Majority (44.26%) of the respondents are staying in their own individual house.

Table 7 : Electricity units consumption

Sl. No.	Units consumption	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 500 units	28	15.30
2	501 units to 1000 units	42	22.95
3	Above 1000 units	113	61.75
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the electricity consumption (units), out of 183 respondents, twenty eight (15.30%) respondents' electricity consumption is less than 500 units. Forty two (22.95%) respondents' electricity consumption is between 501 units and 1000 units and remaining one hundred and thirteen (61.75%) respondents' electricity consumption is above 1000 units. Majority (61.75%) of the respondents are consuming above 1000 units electricity two months once.

Table 8 : Solar panel (KW) installed in house

Sl. No.	KW installed	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	1 KW	21	11.48
2	2 KW	37	20.22
3	3 KW	84	45.90

4	Above 3 KW	41	22.40
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows solar panel installed for power production, out of 183 respondents, twenty one (11.48%) respondents are installed solar panel to produce 1 KW power. Thirty seven (20.22%) respondents are installed solar panel to produce 2 KW power. Eighty four (45.90%) respondents are installed solar panel to produce 3 KW power and remaining forty one (22.40%) respondents are installed solar panel to produce above 3 KW power. Majority (45.90%) of the respondents are installed solar panel to produce 3 KW power.

Table 9 : Power production through solar panel to meet total electricity consumption

Sl. No.	Power production through solar	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	More Enough	66	36.07
2	Enough	78	42.62
3	Not enough	39	21.31
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the power production through solar panel, out of 183 respondents, sixty six (36.07%) respondents are felt the solar power production through solar are more enough. Seventy eight (42.62%) respondents felt the solar power production through solar is enough and remaining thirty nine (21.31%) respondents felt the solar power production through solar is not enough. Majority (42.62%) of the respondents felt the solar power production is enough to meet their house electricity demand.

Table 10 : Cost effectiveness of solar

Sl. No.	Cost effectiveness	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Highly effective	114	62.30
2	Moderate effective	48	26.22
3	Less effective	21	11.48
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the cost effectiveness of the solar plant. Out of 183 respondents, one hundred and fourteen (62.30%) respondents said that solar plant is highly effective. Forty eight (26.22%) respondents said that solar plant is moderately effective and remaining twenty one (11.48%) respondents said that solar plant is less effective. Majority (62.30%) of the respondent said that solar plant is highly effective.

Table 11 : Important of Climate change

Sl. No.	Importance of Climate change	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	More important to know the climate	87	47.54
2	Just to know	43	23.50
3	Not much important	52	28.96
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the importance of climate change, Climate play vital role in solar power production, it never workout in hill places. So, before install the solar panel the consumers have to get think about the climate change in their place. Many people not much aware of climate change and the climate change affect the power production. Out of 183 respondents, eighty seven (47.54%) respondents said that the climate change is more important. Forty three (23.50%) respondents said that just to know the climate change and remaining fifty two (28.96%) respondents

said that not much aware and give importance of climate change. Majority (47.54%) of the respondents said that more importance to know the climate.

Table 12 : Awareness of solar energy technology

Sl. No.	Awareness of solar energy technology	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	High level	118	64.48
2	Medium level	44	24.04
3	Low level	21	11.48
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the awareness of solar energy technology, out of 183 respondents, one hundred and eighteen (64.48%) respondents are high level aware of solar energy technology. Forty four (24.04%) respondents are medium level aware of solar energy technology and remaining twenty one (11.48%) respondents are low level aware of solar energy technology. Majority (64.48%) of the respondents are high level awareness of solar energy technology.

Table 13 : Whether solar energy is more beneficial than traditional electrical energy

Sl. No.	Benefits of solar energy	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	More benefits	86	46.99
2	Medium benefits	63	34.43
3	Low benefits	34	18.58
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the beneficial of solar energy plant, out of 183 respondents, eighty six (46.99%) respondents said the solar energy power is more benefits. Sixty three (34.43%) respondents said the solar energy power is medium benefits and thirty four (18.58%) respondents said the solar energy power is low level benefits. Majority (46.99%) of the respondents said that the solar energy is more beneficial than traditional electricity energy.

Table 14 : Solar system investment is high, whether respondents think it could be profitable after some years

Sl. No.	Profitable of solar energy system	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	More profitable	98	53.55
2	Profitable	67	36.61
3	Not profitable	18	9.84
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the investment in solar system, out of 183 respondents, ninety eight (53.55%) respondents are said solar energy system is more profitable comparing the traditional energy system. Sixty seven (36.61%) respondents said the solar energy system is profitable and remaining eighteen (9.84%) respondents said the solar energy system is not profitable. Majority (53.55%) of the respondents are said the solar energy system is more profitable.

Table 15 : Solar power is cheaper than electricity

Sl. No.	Comparison	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	More cheaper	85	46.45
2	Just cheaper	61	33.33
3	Not cheaper	37	20.22
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the solar power is cheaper than electricity, out of 183 respondents, eighty five (46.45%) respondents said the solar energy is more cheaper than electricity. Sixty one (33.33%) respondents said the solar energy is just cheaper than electricity and remaining thirty seven (20.22%) respondents said the solar energy is not cheaper than electricity. Majority (46.45%) of the respondents said solar power is more cheaper than electricity.

Table 16 : Installed solar energy technology only to save electricity charges

Sl. No.	Solar save electricity charges	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Strongly agree	75	40.98
2	Agree	45	24.59
3	Neutral	25	13.66
4	Disagree	22	12.02
5	Strongly Disagree	16	8.75
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the what respondents felt about solar energy technology only to save electricity charges. Out of 183 respondents seventy five (40.98%) respondents are strongly agreed that solar system save electricity charges. Forty five (24.59%) respondents are agreed that solar system save electricity charges. Twenty five (13.66%) respondents are neutral about that solar system save electricity charges. Twenty two (12.02%) respondents are disagree that solar system save electricity charges and remaining sixteen (8.75%) respondents are strongly disagree that solar system save electricity charges. Majority (40.98%) of the respondents are strongly agree that the solar energy system save the regular electricity charges.

Table 17 : Level of satisfaction of solar energy

Sl. No.	Level of satisfaction	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Highly satisfied	93	50.82
2	Satisfied	75	40.98
3	Dissatisfied	15	8.20
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the level of satisfaction of solar energy of the respondents. Out of 183 respondents, ninety three (50.82%) respondents are highly satisfied with solar energy. Seventy five (40.985) respondents are satisfied with solar energy and remaining fifteen (8.20%) respondents are dissatisfied with solar energy. The reasons behind for the dissatisfaction is the power generate from solar is not to meet the power consumption. They may consuming more units from the Government and the same time the power production from solar is not enough to make the units consumption and production equal. Majority (50.82%) of the respondents are highly satisfied with solar energy.

Table 18 : Maintenance cost / Difficulties is high in solar technology

Sl. No.	Maintenance cost and Difficulties	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	High	53	28.96
2	Medium	92	50.27
3	Low	38	20.77
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the maintenance cost and difficulties in maintain solar power. Out of 183 respondents, fifty three (28.96%) respondents are said the maintenance expenses are high. Ninety two (50.27%) respondents are said the maintenance expenses are moderate and remaining thirty eight (20.77%) respondents are said the maintenance expenses are low. Majority (50.27%) of the respondents are said the maintenance expenses are medium.

Table 19 : Government Subsidy

Sl. No.	Government subsidy	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Adequate	49	26.78
2	Moderate	85	46.44
3	Inadequate	49	26.78
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the subsidy for solar system. Out of 183 respondents, forty nine (26.78%) respondents said Government subsidy is adequate for install solar plant. Eighty five (46.44%) respondents said Government subsidy is moderate for install solar plant and remaining forty nine (26.78%) respondents said Government subsidy is inadequate for install solar plant. Majority (46.44%) of the respondents said Government subsidy is moderate for install solar plant. The total expenses will be above Rs. 1,00,000 to install solar plant in house, according to the KW the expenses will increase, the subsidy also increase.

Table 20 : Payback period of respondents solar

Sl. No.	Payback period	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	With in 5 years	27	14.75
2	6 years to 10 years	122	66.67
3	Above 10 years	34	18.58
	Total	183	100

Source : Primary data

The above table shows the payback period of the solar plant, out of 183 sample respondents, twenty seven (14.75%) respondents said the payback period for the solar plant is will be with in 5 years. One hundred and twenty two (66.67%) respondents said the payback period for the solar plant is will be 6 years to 10 years and remaining thirty four (18.58%) respondents said the payback period for the solar plant is will be above 10 years. The average payback period is 6 years to 10 years, according to the electricity consumption the payback period differ apart from that the consumers are expecting the payback period is 7 to 8 years, after this 7 to 8 years to remaining period will be fully benefit to the consumers.

Correlation Co-efficient

1. Type of house (0.001) has positive and significant relationship with occupation of the respondents at 5% significant level.
2. Occupation (0.703) has positive and significant relationship with power consumption of the respondents at 5% significant level.
3. Type of house (0.781) has positive and significant relationship with power consumption of the respondents of the respondents at 1% significant level.
4. Occupation (0.527), type of house (0.814) and power consumption (0.847) has positive and significant relationship with solar power KW installed at 1% significant level.
5. Occupation (0.699), power consumption (0.644) and solar power KW installed (0.754) has positive and significant relationship with cost effectiveness at 1% significant level.
6. Type of house (0.564) has positive and significant relationship with cost effectiveness at 5% significant level.
7. Power consumption (units) (-0.145) and cost effectiveness (-0.114) has negative and significant relationship with Government subsidy at 1% and 5% significant level. Solar power KW installed (0.581) has positive and significant relationship with Government subsidy at 1% significant level. Installed solar plant (0.399) has positive and significant relationship with Government subsidy at 5% significant level.
8. Power consumption (units) (-0.144) has negative and significant relationship with solar system maintenance cost at 1% significant level.
9. Occupation (0.582), solar power KW installed (0.673) and (0.837) has positive and significant relationship with solar system maintenance cost at 1% significant level.

10. Occupation (-0.618) has negative and significant relationship with installed solar plant at 1% significant. level. Type of house (0.866) and power consumption (0.483) has positive and significant relationship with installed solar plant at 1% significant. Cost effectiveness (0.866) has positive and significant relationship with installed solar plant at 5% significant.
11. Occupation (0.670) and solar power KW installed (0.11) has positive and significant relationship with payback period of solar plant at 5% significant level.
12. Cost effectiveness (0.780), installed solar plant (0.233) and Government subsidy (0.783) has positive and significant relationship with payback period of solar plant at 1% significant level.

Table 21 : Relationship between variables

		Occupation	Type of house	Power consumption (units)	Solar power KW installed	Cost effectiveness	Installed solar plant	Maintenance cost	Government Subsidy	Payback period
Occupation	Pearson Correlation	1								
	Sig (2-tailed)									
	N	183								
Type of house	Pearson Correlation	.810*	1							
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001								
	N	183	183							
Power consumption (units)	Pearson Correlation	.703*	.781**	1						
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001	.018							
	N	183	183	183						
Solar power KW installed	Pearson Correlation	.527**	.814**	.847**	1					
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001	.001	.001						
	N	183	183	183	183					
Cost effectiveness	Pearson Correlation	.699**	.564*	.644**	.754**	1				
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001	.002	.002	.001					
	N	183	183	183	183	183				
Installed solar plant	Pearson Correlation	-.618**	.866*	.483**	.024	.866*	1			
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001	.001	.001	.596	.002				
	N	183	183	183	183	183	183			
Maintenance cost	Pearson Correlation	.582**	.006	-.144**	.673**	-.023	.837**	1		
	Sig (2-tailed)	.001	.902	.001	.001	.614	.001			
	N	183	183	183	183	183	183	183		
Government Subsidy	Pearson Correlation	.009	-.082	-.145**	.581**	-.114*	.399*	.170	1	
	Sig (2-tailed)	.843	.065	.001	.001	.011	.007	.011		
	N	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	
Payback period	Pearson Correlation	.670*	.040	.466	.110*	.780**	.233**	.584**	.783**	1
	Sig (2-tailed)	.018	.371	.002	.014	.001	.000	.001	.001	
	N	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS OF THE STUDY

Financial Viability: The study indicates that households investing in domestic solar power can achieve substantial savings on electricity bills over time, suggesting a positive return on investment, particularly in areas with high solar irradiance like Coimbatore.

Awareness Levels: A significant portion of respondents demonstrated limited awareness regarding the long-term benefits and savings associated with solar energy, highlighting the need for enhanced educational initiatives and outreach programs.

Government Incentives: The availability and effectiveness of government incentives, such as subsidies and tax benefits, play a crucial role in encouraging the adoption of solar power among households. Many respondents expressed that clearer information about these incentives could influence their decision-making.

Environmental Impact: Respondents acknowledged the environmental benefits of using solar energy, such as reduced carbon footprints and improved air quality, indicating a growing recognition of the importance of sustainable practices.

Barriers to Adoption: Key barriers identified include high initial installation costs, perceived complexity of technology, and concerns about maintenance. These factors deter some households from transitioning to solar energy.

Community Engagement: Many respondents emphasized the importance of community engagement and shared experiences in promoting solar adoption. Peer influence and success stories were found to be motivating factors.

Long-Term Commitment: The study found that households are generally more willing to invest in solar power when they perceive it as a long-term commitment to sustainability, indicating a shift in mindset towards environmental responsibility.

Technological Familiarity: There is a notable gap in technological familiarity among respondents, which affects their confidence in adopting solar solutions. Increasing access to information and training could enhance this familiarity.

These observations provide valuable insights into the current landscape of domestic solar power in Coimbatore, guiding future initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable energy practices in the region.

RECOMMENTATIONS TO THE POLICY IMPLICATONS

Enhanced Awareness Campaigns: Implement comprehensive awareness programs to educate the public about the benefits of domestic solar power, including financial savings, environmental impact, and available incentives. Targeted outreach can help dispel misconceptions and encourage adoption.

Incentive Programs: Strengthen and simplify government incentives, such as subsidies, tax rebates, and low-interest loans, to make solar installations more financially accessible for households. Clear communication of these incentives is essential to maximize participation.

Streamlined Regulatory Processes: Simplify the regulatory framework surrounding solar installations to reduce bureaucratic hurdles. Establishing a one-stop-shop for permits and approvals can expedite the installation process and enhance user experience.

Support for Local Manufacturers: Encourage local manufacturing of solar components to reduce costs and create jobs. Providing incentives for local production can also enhance energy security and reduce reliance on imports.

Training and Support Programs: Develop training programs for local technicians and contractors to ensure high-quality installation and maintenance of solar systems. This will build community capacity and instill confidence in potential adopters.

Community Solar Initiatives: Promote community solar projects that allow multiple households to share the benefits of solar energy. This can provide access to solar power for those who cannot afford individual installations or have unsuitable rooftops.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of solar initiatives and policies. Regular assessments can inform necessary adjustments and improvements to programs.

Integration with Other Renewable Sources: Encourage the integration of solar power with other renewable energy sources, such as wind or biomass, to create a diversified and resilient energy system that meets local needs.

Partnerships with Educational Institutions: Collaborate with local universities and research institutions to conduct further studies on renewable energy adoption and technological advancements, fostering innovation and informed policymaking.

Long-Term Energy Planning: Incorporate solar energy strategies into long-term urban and energy planning initiatives. This can ensure that solar power is a fundamental component of Coimbatore's sustainable development goals.

By focusing on these recommendations, policymakers can create a supportive environment for domestic solar power adoption, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and energy resilience in Coimbatore.

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The study on the cost-benefit analysis of domestic solar power for sustainable development in Coimbatore highlights the significant potential of solar energy as a viable solution for households seeking to reduce energy costs and environmental impacts. The findings reveal that while initial investment costs can be a barrier, the long-term financial savings, coupled with environmental benefits, present a compelling case for adoption. Moreover, the analysis underscores the critical role of awareness, government incentives, and community engagement in facilitating the transition to solar energy. Addressing the gaps in knowledge and simplifying regulatory processes can encourage more households to embrace solar technology, ultimately contributing to the region's sustainable development goals. The insights gained from this study not only inform policymakers and stakeholders but also serve as a foundation for future research and initiatives aimed at promoting renewable energy adoption. By fostering a supportive environment for domestic solar power, Coimbatore can enhance its energy security, reduce carbon emissions, and pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

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