



Energy Leapfrogging in Developing Countries a Reality or Pipedream: The Case of Chiwundura Communal Area in Zimbabwe

Mangizvo V. Remigios¹ and Thakhathi D. Reckson²

³*Zimbabwe Open University, Harare, Zimbabwe*

²*University of Fort Hare, Alice, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

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ABSTRACT Households in Chiwundura Communal Area continue to depend on traditional energy forms such as fuelwood, which are difficult to collect and also cause indoor pollution. Households were expected to be using modern energy forms such as electricity and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). In the process they would skip intermediate energy forms such as paraffin. The study utilised mixed research paradigm to collect data. Participants possessing relevant information were purposively sampled. Questionnaires, interviews and observations were used. The study established that several households could not leapfrog because of depressed incomes. Households also continued to use traditional energy forms because of cultural factors. Traditional energy forms were multi-purpose, and were used for cooking, space heating and preserving food. The study recommends that households should be made aware of dangers of biomass energy and benefits of modern energy. Stakeholders should try to avail modern energy forms so that they become accessible and affordable.