Nepal island microgrids

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In April 2015, Nepal experienced a major earthquake that killed 8,669 people, injured 16,808 people, and destroyed approximately 288,793 buildings all over Nepal.Sindhupalchok was one of the most affected districts in Nepal with 3,660 reported deaths, out of which 12 people were from Dhapsung village. Almost all of the houses in Dhapsung that were made from mud-stone walls and slate roofs in the village were turned into ruins.

After learning about the village"s need for reliable electricity from local partners Gham Power and DBI in Nepal, GRID Alternatives launched a campaign called Power up Nepal to raise funds to bring a microgrid that would provide the entire village with reliable AC electricity to Dhapsung in 2016.

These initiatives and policies indicate that GoN and relevant stakeholders have realized the need to modernize and upgrade the power system. Still, progress is slow due to their complicated physical and socio-economic aspects. Therefore, the future trend is restructuring the Nepalese energy sector through smart grid technology to provide a high degree of energy security and reliability, which requires in-depth discussion and analysis concerning its massive potential and benefits and associated challenges.

Nepal"s gradually improving economy needs safe access to modern energy technologies to exploit/utilize its vast RESs for long-term growth and prosperity. Therefore, transformation to smart grid technology is required to make better use of current infrastructure and include new technologies in the future. The main driving forces that necessitate Nepal"s smart grid transition are addressed in the following sections.

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