The Potential of Solar Energy for Sustainable Water Resource Development and Averting National Social Burden in Rural Areas of Zambia

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Abstract:

About 50% of the Zambia's population in the rural areas does not have access to an improved source of water supply, thus relies on untreated water from shallow wells, streams and rivers for drinking and other activities. The lack of access to clean water is associated with water related illnesses and other negative social impacts. This paper aimed to propose use of solar energy in water pumping systems for water supply in rural areas of Zambia. The information used is from secondary sources. Use of the solar energy in water pumping system is not only an important part of providing household with clean drinking water alternative, but also important for access to an improved source of water supply for rural households and sustainable water resource development in Zambia. The paper further investigates the potential of using solar energy in water pumping system to avert the nation's disease burden and its sustainability using number of employment created as indicator. The analyzed results indicates that the use of solar energy in water pumping systems have the potential of reducing the Zambia's social cost burden by 30% which translate to about US$61million saving per year and can create employment of about 24,000 in Zambia.
Key words: PV water pumping system, solar energy, Photovoltaic, Water, Sustainable water development

1. Introduction

Zambia is located in the heart of Southern Africa between latitudes 8 and 18 degrees south of the equator. Over 98.77% of Zambia's surface is taken up by land leaving only 1.23% covered by surface water such as rivers, streams, lakes and other inland water (Source). It has no access to the sea or ocean. The country is surrounded by eight neighboring countries namely; Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) to the North, Angola to the West and Namibia to the South West; Botswana and Zimbabwe to the South; and Mozambique and Malawi to the east[1][2]. It has a population of approximately 14, 638,510 people (2014 estimates) of which 58% live in rural areas and 42% in urban areas [1][3][4]. According to UNICEF data, the level of access to improved source of water supply in Zambia for the whole population is about 64% and 50% for access to adequate sanitation [5]. However, only 55,3% of the rural populations have access to improved source of water supply and adequate sanitation [6]. The country has favorable climate with average sunshine of about 6-8hours per day throughout the country with monthly average of daily solar irradiation of 5.5kWh/m2/day throughout the year. Such irradiation is adequate for using solar energy technologies such as Photovoltaic water pumping systems [7]. The supply of clean and reliable water and reduction in distance to water supply source in rural areas is vital for the life of the community, livestock and agriculture. The use of solar energy in water pumping system is one of the best alternative solutions for rural areas that are located far from the electric grid since the solar energy resource is readily available in the communities,.

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The aim of the study is to assess the potential of solar energy in averting the water borne disease burden in the rural areas of Zambia, through improved access to safe clean water supply sources by using solar energy in water pumping systems. This desktop study involved collecting data from various literatures.

2. Water Situation in Zambia

2.1. Water Resources

The country has adequate water resources as compared to other countries in the region with water surface area of about 9,220km2. It is rich in lakes such as Lake Mweru, Bangweulu, and Tanganyika and manmade lakes of Kariba and Itezhi-Tezhi, and rivers like Zambezi, Kafue, Luapula, Chambeshi, and Luangwa as shown in figure 1[2]. Table 1 shows statistics on the river catchment areas of some rivers and lakes in Zambia [2]. However, despite rich in water resources the availability of water in the country, both surface water and groundwater is not evenly distributed as shown in figure 2, and the access to safe clean water by the rural population is low. The country has average annual rainfall ranging between 600 mm in the south and 1, 500 mm in the north [2,6].
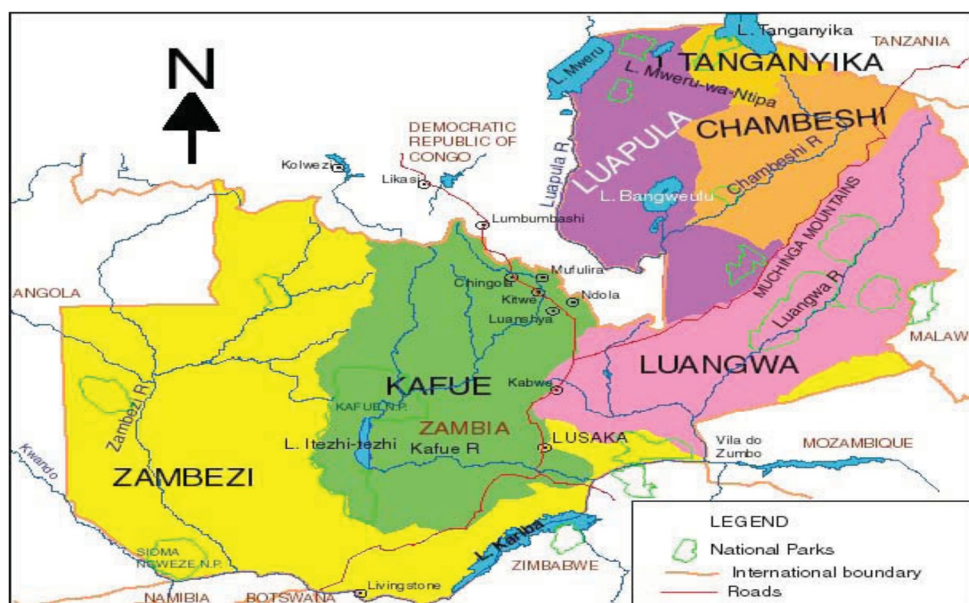

Figure 1: River Basins of Zambia [2]

Table 1: Percentage Contribution of Rivers and Lakes to Water Resource [2]

River/Lake	Total Area(km^2)	Contribution to Surface water Potential (%)	Annual Run-Off (km^3)
Zambezi	803,267	36,36	41,75
Luapula	268,235	26,25	30,14
Luangwa	144,358	19,44	22,32
Chambeshi	44,427	7,62	8,75
Kafue River	156,995	8,40	9,88
Tanganyika	15,856	1,73	1,99
Total for Zambia	803,267	99,8	114,83

(Source: Ministry of Energy and Water Development)

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2.2. Water Quality

The water quality in Zambia is generally good, however due to increase in population since independence this have resulted in increasing pressure on the water resource. As the results of human activities and ever increasing population in the country the water quality has generally reduced [2,6]. According to the World Health Organization 2013 report, water pollution of drinking water in most developing countries like Zambia are due to poor sewerage disposal, such as use of pit latrines for toilets in many rural and sub-urban areas and lack of access to clean water[8]. When pit latrines are used for toilets, the wastes are kept in the toilets holes because there is no sewerage system for disposing off the wastes far from the residential areas, thus during rain seasons, the polluted water from the toilets are gradually washed into the nearby groundwater or surface waters. This leads to affecting the environments and leads to water related diseases such as dysentery, cholera, diarrhea, and many other kind of illnesses related to drinking untreated water from shallow wells in many rural areas.

2.3. Access to Safe Water

Zambia's total annual water consumption is just under 40 km^3 per year with hydropower generation taking the largest amount of water followed by agriculture, industry, drinking water and domestic water supply as shown in figure 3[2,6]. The government is facing with the challenge of satisfying 4,8 million people without access to safe water and 6,6 million people without access to adequate sanitation facilities [2,5]. This has been due to lack of investment in the water and sanitation infrastructure by the government and also because of the settlement patterns in the country [2,9]. As the result, there is low rate of access to water supply and sanitation especially in rural areas where the majority of the population lives as shown in table 3 below. Therefore, most people in these areas use untreated shallow water wells for their household water needs. However, the uses of these untreated water resources are mostly related to water borne related illness. Table 2 and table 4 below show the national outpatient and admission cases due to water borne related diseases due to lack of access to safe clean water and sanitation.

The government of Zambia stated a standard for access to domestic water supply which was set at 500 m and each water point is supposed to serve about 200 people [2,9]. These set standards can easily achieved by use of solar energy technologies in water pumping systems in rural communities far from the grid.

Table 2: Water Borne Related Disease Cases

Disease Description	Year					
	2010		2011		2012	
	Outpatient	Admission	Outpatient	Admission	Outpatient	Admission
Typhoid Cases	977	37	2,657	101	2,433	93
Severe Diarrheal (with Dehydration) Cases	1,546	59	25,742	982	29,948	1,143
Cholera Cases	8,893	339	796	30	483	18
Dysentery Cases	60,327	2,302	64,525	2,463	56,902	2,172
Diarrheal Non-Blood Cases	1,038,596	39,640	1,127,520	43,033	1,148,832	43,847
Total Cases	1,110,338	42,378	1,221,239	46,610	1,238,598	47,273
Total Population	13,460,310		13,881,340		13,817,480	
Percentage (%)	8,25	0,31	8,80	0,34	8,96	0,34

(Source: Ministry of Health, Planning and Policy Department [9,10])

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Table 3: Summary of Access to Safe Water Supply and Sanitation in Zambia (Source: 2013,2014, NWASCO reports[4,5,9,11])

	2012			2013			2014		
	Population	Coverage (%)		Population	Coverage (%)		Population	Coverage (%)	
		SW	S		SW	S		SWS	S
Zambia	13,817,480	68,5	41,9	14,222,230	72,3	47,8	14,638,510	67,2	54,9
Urban	5,760,541	81,8	57,3	5,965,575	83,9	58,7	6,122,284	83,8	60,7
Rural	8,056,939	59,0	31,0	8,256,655	64,0	40,0	8,516,226	55,3	50,8

*SW-Safe Water Supply, S-Sanitation (Source: 2013,2014, NWASCO reports[4,5,9,11])

3. PV Water Pumping System

A photovoltaic water pumping system is a water pumping system that uses solar energy as the primary energy source for pumping water. In these systems, the photovoltaic cells are used to convert solar energy into electrical energy, which is then used by the motor-pump unit for pumping water. This system offers best alternative solution for rural areas far from electric grid for pumping and supplying clean and improved water to the communities. In these systems water is usually pumped during the day and kept in water tanks for treatment and use during day time, night or under cloud cover [12].

Access to water supply in rural areas in many developing countries such as Zambia (for household, livestock and irrigation use) is very difficult and time consuming [13]. This is because people have to walk for long distances to draw water from rivers, streams, shallow wells, or boreholes that are usually located far from the communities [14]. Thus, water pumping systems that use solar energy are the best alternative solutions for rural areas for improved access to clean water supply source [14,15]. Typical Stand-alone solar water pumping systems generally consist of PV array, power conditioning unit, motor-pump unit, and water tank. The use of PV water pumping system in rural areas can greatly contribute to the development of the rural areas as it has potential for not only pumping and supplying water to the communities but also creating employment and reducing the use of untreated shallow water sources. Thus, reducing the water borne related diseases such as mentioned in table 2 and 4.

3.1. Math formulae and Analytical Approach

A. Amount of Water Required

The amount of water required V_t to be supplied at each serving point per day, has ben determined in terms of water required per person per day V_p and the number of people at the serving point N_p. Therefore, the volume of water V (m^3) in a tank that is required to supply each serving point for any number of autonomy days has been determined by [14,17].

$$V_t = N_P \cdot V_P T_D \qquad [1]$$

Where Vt is total amount of water required to be pumped per day (m^3), Np is total number of people at serving point, Vp is total amount of water per person per day (m^3), and T_D is number of autonomy days (3 days in this case study).

The pumping rate which is also called water flow rate has been estimated using the average number of peak sunlight hours and the total amount of water required to be pumped per day using the equation given below[14,18].

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$$Q = v \cdot A = \frac{V_t}{t_T}$$

[2]

Where Q is pumping rate (m3 /s) or (m3/hr), t_T is number of sunlight hours or the total pumping time (hr), v is velocity of water (m/s), A is cross-section area of the pipe (m^2), and Vt is total amount of water required per day per serving point (m^3).

B. Pumping Head

The total dynamic head TDH is the sum of suction head H_{SH}, discharge head H_{DH} and total frictional head losses H_{HL}[18]. Assuming only 5% friction head losses should be allowed in the system the total dynamic head has been determined using eq. 3 [18,19]

$$H_{TDH} = 1{,}05(H_{SH} + H_{DH})$$

[3]

Where H_{TDH} is total dynamic head (m), H_{SH} is suction head (m), and H_{DH} is discharge head (m).

C. Pump Hydraulic Power

The energy required by the motor-pump set depends on the efficiency of both the motor and the pump. However, the efficiency of subsystem depends on the efficiencies of motor-pump set, cables, other electronic components and inverter-MPPT system, these efficiencies translate into the total subsystem efficiency used to determine the total energy required per day. The power delivered by the pump to the fluid called hydraulic power which is required per day to supply volume of water Vt (m^3) at total dynamic head H_{TDH} has been determined using eq. 4 [12,18,20].

$$P_{hyd} = \frac{\rho g Q H_{TDH}}{1000}$$

[4]

Where P_{hyd} is Hydraulic power delivered by the pump to water (kW), ρ is water density (1000 kg/m3), g is acceleration due to gravity (9.81 m/s^2), H_{TDH} is total dynamic head (m), and Q is water flow rate (m^3/s). The subsystem efficiency is given as:

$$\eta_{subsyst} = \eta_{mp} \eta_c \eta_{pcu}$$

[5]

Where $\eta_{subsystem}$ is efficiency of the subsystem, η_{pcu} is efficiency of power condition Units and other electronics, η_c is efficiency of Cables, and η_{mp} is efficiency of Motor-Pump set.

The total energy E_T (kWh) that has to be supplied to the subsystem for the specific period of time t_T called specific pumping time has been determined using eq.6.

$$E_T = \frac{P_{hyd} t_T}{\eta_{subsyst}}$$

[6]

D. PV Generator Sizing

In order to determine the size of the PV generator and the number of PV panels required for the system. Firstly, it is important to determine the required PV area A_{PV} (m^2) from the worst case minimum monthly average of daily solar radiation, H (kWh/m^2-day), the PV module laboratory efficiency $\eta_{PV,u}$ and the operating efficiency of the PV module, and has been estimated using the eqs.7,8,9,10 and 11 given below [14, 22, 23]. PV module laboratory efficiency $\eta_{PV,u}$ has been determined using eq. 7.

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$$\eta_{PV\"ou} = \frac{V_{MPP} \, I_{MPP}}{1000 \quad A_{PV\"ou}}$$

[7]

Where V_{MPP} is PV module Voltage (V), I_{MPP} is PV module current (A), and $A_{PV,u}$ is PV module area (m^2). The PV module operating efficiency has been calculated using eq.8.

$$\eta_{PV} = \eta_{PV,u} \cdot \eta_o$$

[8]

Where $\eta_{PV,U}$ is array efficiency at 1000 (W/m2) and 25 ^{0}C and η_O is array efficiency due to other losses in PV (shading, dirty, Temperature, etc, 10% losses due to other losses has been considered in this study.) The total active area that is required for the PV generator A_{PV} has been calculated using eq. 9 given as:

$$A_{PV} = \frac{E_{subsyst}}{H \, \eta_{PV}}$$

[9]

The Total PV generator Power PV_{MPP} and the number of panels N_{PV} that is required to supply the energy to the pumping subsystem has been determined using eq. 10 and 11 given below.

$$PV_{MPP} = 1000 \cdot \frac{\rho g Q H_{TDH} \eta_{PV,u}}{\eta_{PV} \eta_{subsyst} H_{OPT}} \quad \text{or} \quad PV_{MPP} = 1000 \eta_{PV,u} A_{PV}$$

[10]

$$N_{PV} = \frac{PV_{MPP}}{P_{MPP}} = \frac{PV_{MPP}}{V_{MPP} I_{MPP}}$$

[11]

4. Results and Discussion

This section shows the summary of the data considered for the investigation, the results and brief discussion of the results. In the study polycrystalline PV module has been considered with the following specifications; PV power 250WP, Voltage VMPP 30.3V, operating current IMPP 8.25 and PV module area of 1.64m2[24]. The monthly averages of daily solar irradiation for the study area have been extract from the NASA Surface Meteorology and Solar Energy. Table 3 contains the input parameters used for sizing a PV water pumping system for each serving point using the above equations above. In this study only the direct employment at each serving point has been considered. Furthermore, in calculation of saving on social burden cost, the assumption was access to safe clean water reduces the water related diseases by 30% which was according to the study carried out by Esrey, S.A. The data used to estimate the cost of social burden was according to the study carried out in Zambia by Lumbwe Chola. The results are as summarized in table 11.

A. Data for Zambia

In order to investigate the potential of using solar energy in water pumping system to avert the nation's disease burden and its sustainability, the number of employment created has been used as indicator at 100% access to safe and clean water. According to the Zambian standards the average family size is 5 [1] and the average amount of water required per person per day in this study has been assumed to be 40 liters per day. According to the government of Zambia, the standard access point to domestic water supply is set at 500 meters from the furthest house and each water point is suppose to serve about 200 people [2,9]. Furthermore, according to [26] the cost of water on average is $0.25/m^3 (0-6m^3) and the annual average of daily solar energy is 6,37kWh/m^2-day [7,25].

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Table 3: PV Water Pumping System Sizing Parameters

Parameter	Quantity
Average water required per person per day	0.04m3/day
Average Borehole Depth	30m
Tank Height from ground level	10m
Annual Monthly solar radiation	Maximum Radiation: 7.23 (kWh/m2/day)
	Average Radiation: 6.37(kWh/m2 /day)
	Minimum Radiation: 5.19 (kWh/m2/day)
Location	15057'40'' S, 26022'1''E
Optimal Inclination Angle	210
Number of people at each serve point	200 (40 house, 5 people per house on average)
Specific Pumping time (average sunshine time)	6hrs
Autonomy period	3Days

The components efficiency and factors considered in this study have been extracted from various literatures: Inverter MPPT set efficiency of 98% [24], Motor-Pump set efficiency of 42% [18, 23], cable losses 2% and PV other losses 10% [23].

B. Cost Treating Water Borne Related Diseases in Zambia

Calculating the cost of treating water borne related diseases was based on Lumbwe and Robberstad study on Kanyama Health Centre water borne disease treatment costs [9,10]. According to [9,10] the average costs of treating water borne related diseases in Zambia is as given in Table 4 below. As observed, the government spends almost 4 times more money when the patient is admitted than for the outpatient. Furthermore, it's worth noting the increase in the social burden cost per year, which is due to increase in population and increased lack of access to safe clean water. Thus, it can be stated that if nothing is done to combat the situation, the social burden cost will continue to increase, which will result into a serious negative effect on the government budget and country's economy. Therefore, there is agent need for an alternative solution in order to combat the situation. Thus, the use of solar energy in pumping systems seems to be one of the best alternatives.

Table 9: Cost of Treatment for Water Borne Related Diseases [9,10]

Cost Description		Amount ($/visit)	Amount ($/bed/day)	Number of visits (days)	Amount ($/a)
Outpatient Costs					
Treatment Cost	Treatment	26	26	4	104
	Outpatient	3	3	4	12
Transport Cost	Transport and incidentals	10	10	1	10
Productivity Cost	Productivity Losses	25	25	1	25
Total Cost for Outpatient					151
Admitted Patient Costs					
Treatment Cost	Admission cost	78	78	4	312
	Treatment	26	26	4	104
Transport Cost	Transport and incidentals	10	10	5	50
Productivity Cost	Productivity Losses	25	25	4	100
Total Cost for Admitted Patient Costs					566
Water Treatment Cost	$0.7/person/a		a-annual		
Maintenance Cost (Well, Boreholes, Taps, Pumps)	$2/person/a				
Cost of Installing PV Water Pump System (assumed)	$10/W				

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Assuming that lack of access to clean safe water is the main cause of all the water borne related diseases in Zambia, the estimation of the average total social burden cost of the diarrheal illnesses to the country's economy is summarized in table 5. Figure 2 illustrates the projection of the diarrheal illnesses and the social burden cost per year expected to be in the future, it is worth noting that both the social burden cost and diarrheal illnesses are expected to continue increasing yearly if a anything is not done to combat the situation.

Table 10: Estimation of Social Burden Cost of Diarrheal illness

| Cost Description	Year		
	2010	2011	2012
Outpatient Cases	1,110,338	1,221,239	1,238,598
Outpatient Cost ($/Patient)	151	151	151
Total Outpatient Cost ($/a)	167,661,038	184,407,089	187,028,298
Patient Admission Cases	42,378	46,610	47,273
Admitted Patient Cost ($/Patient)	566	566	566
Total Admitted Patient Cost($/a)	23,985,948	26,381,260	26,756,518
Total Burden Cost ($/year)	191,646,986	210,788,349	213,784,816
Average Total Burden Cost($/yr)	205,406,717		
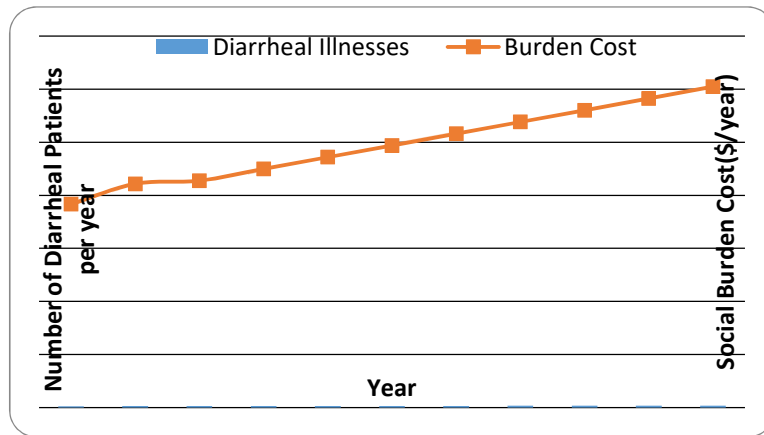
Figure 2: Projected Social Burden Cost and Diarrheal illness cases

There is a link between lack of access to adequate safe water supply source and diarrheal diseases. When communities do not have access to safe water sources they tend to use unclean and untreated water sources.   However, with the use of solar energy technologies in water pumping system in the rural areas means access to safe clean water supply source and reduction in time spend to collect water, since the use of solar energy in water pumping system can be used to pump the water into the storage tanks for treatment and supply to the consumers. Table 11 summarizes the findings of the study and shows the social burden cost saving and potential of solar energy in water pumping technology to provide clean and reliable water source for rural communities in Zambia. According to [28] the improvements in water supply system in most cases would reduce the water borne related diseases by 30%. Considering the 30% reduction in diarrheal case due to use of solar energy in water pumping systems for improved safe clean water supply to communities means saving 30% of the social burden cost. Therefore, by implementation of the solar energy technologies in water pumping systems in Zambia, the government would save approximately $61,6 million per year from the social burden cost and be able to create direct employment of about 24,000 by employing kiosk attendants. Furthermore, it can be noticed from the analyzed results, that if these systems are

used in the country a huge number of people will have access to clean safe water sources, and also both direct and indirect employment will be created which will result into boosting the economy of the communities. On the other hand, the system have short payback period of about 7years.

Table 11: Calculation of PV Water Pumping System Costs and Saving on Social Burden Cost of Diarrheal illness

Description	2014
Population to be Serviced	4.8million
No. of Water Serve Points	24,000
No. of PV Water Pump Systems	24,000
Total Water to be Pumped(m3/a)	264.09million
Total Water Sell Cost ($/a)	66million
Total Power to be Installed (MW)	36.0
Total Installation Cost ($)	360Million
Total Water Treatment Cost ($/a)	3,36Million
Total Maintenance Cost($/a)	9,6Million
Average Total Burden Cost($/a)	205.41Million
Saving on Social Burden Cost($/a)	61.62million
Payback Period (years)	7
Saving on Social Burden Cost ($) (7yrs Period)	431,354,105.7
Employment Created	24,000

5. Conclusions

In this paper the water situation and diseases related to water situation in Zambia were outlined. At the same time, the potential of solar energy to contribute to improving access to safe and clean water supply source and avert the nation's water borne related disease burden has been assessed. There is a saying that's goes like ''Prevention is better than cure''. It is vital to prevent water borne related disease transmission than to cure them. This can be achieved through increasing access to safe clean water supply sources and reduction in use of untreated water from shallow wells. The analyzed results show that through improved access to safe clean water supply, the government will be able to create employment of about 24,000 people and also reduce on the social burden cost related to water borne disease by 30% which is translated to about US$ 61million savings per year. This money can be used in other development activities such as rural electrification. Therefore, the use of solar energy for water pumping systems in Zambia can greatly benefit the nation in averting the social burden costs related to water borne disease and create employment for rural communities. Furthermore, through the use of solar energy in water systems gives the government the ability to achieve four (4) of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) of access to safe clean water supply source, creation of employment, and better health for the population of Zambia..

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