

Animation Script



How does access to electricity impact citizens in Kenya?

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To make the most out of this script, you could:

- Stick it in your notebook as a record of watching team's animation
- Pause the animation and make notes as you go
- Add your own illustrations to the sheet
- Create your own animation to accompany it
- Add notes from classroom discussions
- Make notes of areas you will investigate further
- Make notes of key words and definitions
- Add questions you would like answered – you can message the team members through the comments box at the bottom of their article:

futurumcareers.com/how-does-access-to-electricity-impact-citizens-in-kenya

SCRIPT:

Kenya is a global leader in green energy, with over 90% of its electricity coming from renewable sources. In the last 10 years, the percentage of households with access to electricity has doubled to almost 80%. These are excellent achievements, yet there are still many challenges with electricity access for Kenyans.

One problem is that the electricity supply is unreliable so blackouts are common. It is also expensive to use electricity. Another concern is that not all Kenyans have the same type of electricity. While some are connected to the grid, others rely only on solar power. Sometimes 'having electricity access' in Kenya means having a small solar panel that can only power a light bulb and charge a phone.

An international team of researchers from Kenya, Canada, and the US is investigating the challenges of increasing electricity access in Kenya and the impacts on the economy, society and politics.

The team conducted surveys with households across the country. They asked what type of electricity people have, how reliable it is, how much it costs and how it changes their everyday life. The team met with Kenyan citizens in both small rural communities and big towns to gain deeper insights into their experiences. They also interviewed civil servants, politicians, business owners and international organisations about electricity policies.

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One main challenge for increasing electricity access in Kenya is the cost. It's very expensive for the government to expand the grid to reach everyone, especially in remote rural areas. It is also expensive for Kenyans to connect their home or business to the grid. The cost of then using the electricity is also very high in Kenya, especially compared to other countries. Houses not connected to the grid often have only a small solar panel, and many struggle to afford the payments.

This means that although a high percentage of Kenyan households and businesses theoretically have access to electricity, in practice many people cannot afford enough electricity to meet their needs. Moreover, for those who do have it, the supply is still unreliable.

Despite these challenges, the benefits of accessing electricity for Kenyans are significant. During the research, Kenyans talked about how electricity boosted their personal security at night and helped them with their businesses. Using electricity allowed children to study longer and improved health as people switched away from using dirty kerosene lamps. Access to the news improved and people sometimes used social media, like WhatsApp, to reach out to politicians. The potential benefits of accessing electricity are significant. This means those with electricity access are better off than those without.

If Kenya can build on its green energy successes and improve the reliability and affordability of electricity, then many citizens' lives will be dramatically improved.

What questions do you have about electricity access in Kenya?