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AI-DRIVEN SMART GRID OPTIMIZATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION AND LOAD FORECASTING UNDER POWER SYSTEM INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract
Pakistan's power sector is facing persistent challenges related to energy shortages, system instability, and inefficient integration of renewable energy sources. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven smart grid optimization has emerged as a promising solution to enhance load forecasting accuracy, improve operational efficiency, and ensure stable renewable energy integration. This study investigated the role of AI-based smart grid systems in addressing power system instability and optimizing energy management in Pakistan. A quantitative explanatory research design was employed, and data were collected from 300 professionals working in the energy sector, including engineers, system operators, and policy experts. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analysis. The findings revealed that power system instability negatively affects renewable energy integration, while AI-based load forecasting and smart grid optimization significantly enhance grid efficiency and reliability. Among all predictors, smart grid optimization emerged as the strongest determinant of improved system performance. The results confirm that AI-driven technologies play a critical role in transforming traditional power systems into intelligent, adaptive, and efficient energy networks. The study contributes to the theoretical advancement of smart grid literature and provides practical insights for policymakers and energy authorities in developing countries.

INTRODUCTION

The global energy sector is experiencing a rapid paradigm shift driven by increasing electricity demand, environmental sustainability targets, and the accelerated integration of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. However, the inherent intermittency, stochastic behavior, and weather dependence of renewable energy generation pose significant challenges to conventional power system operations, particularly in maintaining grid stability, reliability, and efficient load balancing. These challenges are further amplified in developing economies where energy infrastructure is often constrained, transmission losses are high, and real-time grid monitoring systems remain underdeveloped (IPCC, 2022; Iyaniwura & Mayaki, 2025).

Smart grid systems have emerged as a transformative solution to modernize traditional power networks by integrating advanced communication technologies, real-time sensing, and intelligent control mechanisms. Unlike conventional grids, smart grids enable bidirectional energy flow and data-driven decision-making, allowing for improved coordination between energy supply and demand. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a critical enabling technology for enhancing smart grid performance through predictive analytics, automated optimization, and adaptive control strategies (Zhang, 2024; Alhamrouni et al., 2024).

A core application of AI in smart grids is load forecasting, which is essential for ensuring efficient energy dispatch, minimizing operational costs, and preventing system instability. Traditional statistical methods such as ARIMA and regression models are often inadequate for capturing nonlinear, dynamic, and high-dimensional patterns in electricity consumption. In contrast, machine learning and deep learning models—including Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Support Vector Regression (SVR), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks—have demonstrated superior accuracy in modeling complex temporal dependencies in energy demand (Arifin et al., 2025; Sarkar, 2025). Recent studies confirm that AI-based forecasting significantly enhances grid efficiency and supports renewable integration by improving predictive accuracy under uncertain conditions.

Renewable energy integration further complicates grid management due to variability in generation output. Solar irradiance and wind speed fluctuations create instability in power supply, requiring intelligent forecasting and real-time optimization systems. AI-driven models have been shown to effectively predict renewable energy generation and optimize dispatch strategies, thereby improving grid reliability and reducing curtailment of renewable resources. Moreover, reinforcement learning and hybrid AI frameworks are increasingly being applied to optimize energy distribution in real time, ensuring system balance even under high uncertainty conditions.

In Pakistan, the power sector faces persistent challenges including load shedding, transmission inefficiencies, and supply–demand imbalances. The increasing penetration of renewable energy sources has intensified the need for intelligent energy management systems capable of handling grid instability and forecasting uncertainties. Despite global advancements, the adoption of AI-driven smart grid technologies in Pakistan remains limited, with most existing studies focusing on isolated forecasting models rather than integrated optimization frameworks tailored to local energy dynamics (Ahmad et al., 2024; Rasool et al., 2024).

Given these challenges, there is a critical need for an AI-driven smart grid optimization framework that integrates load forecasting, renewable energy prediction, and real-time system control. Such a framework can enhance grid resilience, improve energy efficiency, and support sustainable energy transitions in Pakistan. This study therefore aims to develop and evaluate an AI-based smart grid optimization model capable of improving load forecasting accuracy and enabling efficient renewable energy integration under conditions of power system instability.

Problem Statement

Pakistan's power sector is currently facing persistent challenges related to energy shortages, load shedding, transmission losses, and increasing demand-supply imbalances. The integration of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind has been recognized as a strategic solution to address energy deficits and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. However, the intermittent and uncertain nature of renewable energy generation introduces significant instability into the national power grid, complicating real-time load balancing and system reliability.

Despite the deployment of smart grid initiatives, Pakistan's existing energy infrastructure lacks advanced predictive and optimization capabilities required to efficiently manage dynamic load variations and renewable energy fluctuations. Traditional load forecasting techniques, which are largely statistical or deterministic in nature, are insufficient to capture the nonlinear and complex patterns of modern energy systems influenced by climate variability, consumer behavior, and distributed energy resources.

Furthermore, the absence of AI-driven decision-support mechanisms limits the ability of grid operators to optimize energy distribution, predict demand accurately, and mitigate system instability. This gap results in inefficient energy utilization, increased operational costs, and reduced grid resilience. Therefore, there is a critical need to develop and evaluate AI-driven smart grid optimization frameworks that can enhance renewable energy integration, improve load forecasting accuracy, and ensure stability within Pakistan's evolving power system.

Research Questions

1. How does power system instability affect the integration of renewable energy sources in Pakistan's smart grid infrastructure?
2. To what extent can AI-based models improve load forecasting accuracy compared to traditional forecasting techniques?
3. What role do AI-driven optimization techniques play in enhancing smart grid efficiency and reliability?
4. How can renewable energy integration be optimized to reduce power losses and improve grid stability in Pakistan?
5. What are the key barriers to implementing AI-driven smart grid systems in Pakistan's energy sector?

Research Objectives

General Objective

To investigate the role of AI-driven smart grid optimization in improving renewable energy integration and load forecasting accuracy under conditions of power system instability in Pakistan.

Specific Objectives

1. To examine the impact of power system instability on renewable energy integration within Pakistan's energy grid.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of AI-based load forecasting models in comparison to conventional forecasting methods.
3. To analyze the contribution of AI-driven optimization techniques in improving smart grid performance and operational efficiency.
4. To assess strategies for enhancing renewable energy utilization while maintaining grid stability.
5. To identify institutional, technical, and infrastructural challenges in adopting AI-enabled smart grid systems in Pakistan.

Significance of the Study

This study holds substantial significance in both theoretical and practical dimensions, particularly in the context of Pakistan's evolving energy landscape and the global transition toward intelligent and sustainable power systems.

From a theoretical perspective, the study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on artificial intelligence applications in smart grid systems by integrating AI-driven optimization and load forecasting models within the framework of renewable energy integration under unstable power system conditions. It extends existing energy management theories by incorporating advanced computational intelligence approaches, thereby enhancing understanding of how machine learning and predictive analytics can be leveraged to address nonlinear complexities in modern energy networks. Furthermore, the study provides empirical insights that may bridge the gap between traditional power system modeling and emerging AI-enabled energy governance frameworks.

From a practical perspective, the findings of this research are highly relevant for policymakers, energy regulators, and power distribution authorities in Pakistan. By demonstrating how AI-based smart grid optimization can improve forecasting accuracy, reduce transmission inefficiencies, and stabilize fluctuating renewable energy inputs, the study offers actionable strategies for improving national grid reliability. It can assist organizations such as the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and distribution companies in adopting data-driven decision-making tools for efficient load management and energy distribution.

Moreover, the study is significant for energy sustainability and climate policy, as enhanced integration of renewable energy sources directly contributes to reducing carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels. This aligns with Pakistan's national and international commitments toward sustainable development and climate resilience.

In addition, the research is valuable for industrial and technological advancement**,** as it promotes the adoption of AI and smart technologies in the energy sector, potentially stimulating innovation, attracting investment in smart infrastructure, and fostering digital transformation within Pakistan's power system.

Overall, this study is significant as it provides a comprehensive framework for improving energy efficiency, ensuring grid stability, and enabling sustainable renewable energy integration through AI-driven smart grid optimization.

Literature Review

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in smart grid systems has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing the increasing complexity, uncertainty, and dynamism of modern power systems. Globally, the energy sector is undergoing a paradigm shift from conventional centralized grids toward decentralized, digitalized, and intelligent energy systems that enable real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and adaptive control (International Energy Agency [IEA], 2023). This transition is particularly significant in countries facing energy shortages and infrastructure constraints, such as Pakistan.

Smart Grids and Power System Modernization

Smart grids are defined as advanced electricity networks that utilize digital communication technologies to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of electricity services. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA, 2023), smart grids enable bidirectional communication between utilities and consumers, facilitating improved demand-side management and system flexibility. Studies have emphasized that smart grid implementation improves grid resilience, reduces transmission losses, and enhances operational efficiency through real-time data analytics and automation (Fang et al., 2021).

However, developing economies face significant barriers in smart grid adoption, including limited infrastructure, high investment costs, and insufficient technical expertise. In Pakistan, the power sector continues to rely heavily on conventional grid systems, which are vulnerable to load imbalances, power outages, and inefficiencies (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority [NEPRA], 2024). These limitations highlight the urgent need for intelligent optimization mechanisms.

Renewable Energy Integration and Grid Instability

The global shift toward renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power has introduced new challenges in maintaining grid stability due to their intermittent and variable nature. IPCC (2023) reports that while renewable energy significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it also introduces variability in power generation that must be effectively managed through advanced forecasting and control systems.

In Pakistan, the increasing adoption of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and wind energy projects has contributed to renewable penetration; however, the lack of efficient integration mechanisms has resulted in frequency fluctuations and voltage instability in the national grid (Ali et al., 2022). Researchers argue that without advanced predictive systems, renewable integration may exacerbate rather than resolve grid instability issues.

AI-Based Load Forecasting Techniques

Load forecasting is a critical component of power system planning and operation. Traditional statistical methods such as regression models and time-series analysis have been widely used; however, they are limited in capturing nonlinear and complex consumption patterns (Hong & Fan, 2020). In contrast, AI-based approaches, including artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machines (SVM), and deep learning models, have demonstrated superior accuracy and adaptability.

Recent studies indicate that machine learning models significantly improve short-term and medium-term load forecasting accuracy by incorporating large-scale datasets, weather conditions, and consumer behavior patterns

(Khan et al., 2023). Deep learning techniques, particularly Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, have shown strong performance in capturing temporal dependencies in energy demand data, making them highly suitable for smart grid applications.

AI-Driven Smart Grid Optimization

AI-driven optimization techniques are increasingly being applied to enhance energy dispatch, reduce losses, and improve grid reliability. According to Zhang et al. (2022), reinforcement learning and optimization algorithms enable real-time decision-making in energy distribution systems, improving efficiency under dynamic conditions. These systems can autonomously adjust power flows, predict demand fluctuations, and optimize renewable energy utilization.

In the context of smart grids, AI also facilitates predictive maintenance, fault detection, and demand-side management, thereby improving overall system resilience. However, the implementation of such technologies requires robust data infrastructure and institutional readiness, which remain limited in many developing countries.

Smart Grid Development in Pakistan

Pakistan's energy sector faces persistent challenges including circular debt, transmission inefficiencies, and frequent power shortages. Despite policy efforts to introduce renewable energy and smart metering systems, the adoption of AI-driven smart grid technologies remains at an early stage (Ministry of Energy, 2024). Studies highlight that lack of digital infrastructure, inadequate investment in research and development, and limited technical capacity are major barriers to smart grid modernization in the country (Ahmed & Zafar, 2023).

Recent initiatives, however, indicate a growing interest in digital transformation within the energy sector, particularly in integrating advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and pilot smart grid projects. Nevertheless, comprehensive AI-based optimization frameworks are still underdeveloped, creating a significant research gap.

The reviewed literature indicates that while substantial progress has been made globally in AI-driven smart grid optimization and load forecasting, there is limited empirical research focusing on developing countries like Pakistan. Specifically, there is a lack of integrated models that simultaneously address renewable energy integration, load forecasting accuracy, and system instability using AI-based approaches. This gap necessitates further research to develop context-specific frameworks that can enhance grid efficiency and sustainability in Pakistan's energy sector.

Underpinning Theory: Cybernetic Systems Theory

The Cybernetic Systems Theory serves as a strong underpinning theoretical foundation for this study on AI-driven smart grid optimization for renewable energy integration and load forecasting under power system instability.

Cybernetics, originally developed by Norbert Wiener, focuses on the study of communication, control, and feedback mechanisms within complex systems. In the context of energy systems, this theory explains how smart grids operate as self-regulating systems that continuously monitor inputs (energy generation and demand), process information, and adjust outputs (power distribution) through feedback loops to maintain system stability and efficiency.

In modern smart grid environments, the power system is conceptualized as an intelligent adaptive network where sensors, smart meters, and communication technologies collect real-time data on energy consumption, load variation, and renewable energy generation. This data is processed using AI algorithms, which act as the decision-making core of the system. Based on predictive analytics and optimization models, the system automatically adjusts energy distribution to balance supply and demand, minimize losses, and prevent instability.

The relevance of Cybernetic Systems Theory to this study is particularly significant in the context of Pakistan's unstable power system and increasing integration of renewable energy sources. Renewable energy introduces variability and uncertainty into the grid, which requires continuous feedback-based correction mechanisms. AI-driven smart grid systems embody cybernetic principles by enabling dynamic adaptation through real-time monitoring, predictive control, and automated decision-making.

Thus, Cybernetic Systems Theory provides a comprehensive lens to understand how AI technologies enhance grid stability, improve load forecasting accuracy, and optimize renewable energy integration by transforming traditional static power systems into intelligent, self-regulating energy networks.

Hypotheses

H1: Power system instability has a significant negative impact on the effective integration of renewable energy sources in Pakistan's smart grid system.

H2: AI-based load forecasting models significantly improve forecasting accuracy compared to traditional forecasting methods.

H3: AI-driven smart grid optimization has a significant positive effect on grid efficiency and operational reliability.

H4: Effective renewable energy integration significantly reduces power losses and enhances grid stability.

H5: Institutional, technical, and infrastructural constraints significantly hinder the adoption of AI-driven smart grid systems in Pakistan.

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed a quantitative, explanatory research design to examine the impact of AI-driven smart grid optimization on renewable energy integration and load forecasting under conditions of power system instability in Pakistan. This design was selected because it enabled the testing of causal relationships among variables and supported hypothesis-driven empirical analysis using statistical techniques.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised energy sector professionals and organizations involved in power generation, transmission, and distribution in Pakistan, including personnel from distribution companies (DISCOs), the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC), the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), and private renewable energy firms engaged in solar and wind energy projects. These stakeholders were selected due to their direct involvement in smart grid operations and energy management systems.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample of **300** respondents was selected from the defined population. The sample included engineers, technical managers, system operators, and policy-level professionals working in the energy sector.

A stratified random sampling technique was employed to ensure proportional representation across different categories of energy organizations (public and private sector entities) as well as functional roles (technical, managerial, and policy-related positions). This approach enhanced the representativeness and reliability of the collected data.

Data Collection Procedure

Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire developed based on validated scales from previous studies on smart grids, AI-based forecasting, and energy optimization. The questionnaire was distributed both physically and electronically to ensure wider coverage and accessibility.

Data Analysis Technique

The collected data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Smart PLS (Structural Equation Modeling - SEM). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data, while inferential statistics, including regression analysis and path modeling, were applied to test the hypotheses and examine relationships among variables.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical standards were strictly followed throughout the study. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents. Confidentiality and anonymity of respondents were maintained, and data were used solely for academic research purposes.

Data Analysis

1. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive analysis was conducted to summarize respondents' perceptions regarding AI-driven smart grid optimization, renewable energy integration, load forecasting, and power system stability.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Study Variables (N = 300)

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Power System Instability	3.78	0.84	High
Renewable Energy Integration	3.62	0.79	Moderate-High
AI-Based Load Forecasting	3.85	0.81	High
Smart Grid Optimization	3.91	0.76	High
Grid Efficiency	3.74	0.82	Moderate-High

The results indicate that respondents perceived high levels of AI relevance in smart grid optimization (M = 3.91) and load forecasting (M = 3.85), suggesting strong acceptance of AI-driven solutions in Pakistan's energy sector. However, renewable energy integration scored comparatively lower (M = 3.62), indicating that integration is still developing and faces operational constraints. The relatively high mean of power system instability (M = 3.78) confirms persistent grid reliability issues in the country.

2. Reliability and Validity Analysis

Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess internal consistency.

Table 2: Reliability Statistics

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha
Power System Instability	0.81
Renewable Energy Integration	0.83
AI Load Forecasting	0.87
Smart Grid Optimization	0.89
Grid Efficiency	0.85

All constructs exceeded the acceptable threshold of **0.70**, confirming strong internal consistency and reliability of the measurement scale.

3. Correlation Analysis

Pearson correlation was used to examine relationships among variables.

Table 3: Correlation Matrix

Variables	PSI	REI	AI-LF	SGO	GE
Power System Instability (PSI)	1				
Renewable Energy Integration (REI)	-0.56**	1			
AI Load Forecasting (AI-LF)	-0.48**	0.61**	1		
Smart Grid Optimization (SGO)	-0.52**	0.66**	0.71**	1	

Variables	PSI	REI	AI-LF	SGO	GE
Grid Efficiency (GE)	-0.50**	0.69**	0.74**	0.78**	1

Note: $p < 0.01$

The correlation results show that power system instability is negatively associated with all key variables, indicating that instability reduces renewable integration and system efficiency. Conversely, AI load forecasting and smart grid optimization **exhibit** strong positive correlations with grid efficiency ($r = 0.74$ and $r = 0.78$ respectively), highlighting their critical role in improving system performance.

4. Regression Analysis

Multiple regression was conducted to test the hypotheses.

Table 4: Regression Results

Predictor	Beta (β)	t-value	p-value	Result
Power System Instability → Renewable Integration	-0.41	6.32	0.000	Supported
AI Load Forecasting → Grid Efficiency	0.38	5.87	0.000	Supported
Smart Grid Optimization → Grid Efficiency	0.52	7.94	0.000	Supported
Renewable Integration → Grid Efficiency	0.44	6.21	0.000	Supported

The regression results confirm that all hypothesized relationships are statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). Power system instability has a strong negative effect on renewable energy integration ($\beta = -0.41$), indicating that instability remains a major barrier in Pakistan's energy system. AI-based load forecasting ($\beta = 0.38$) and smart grid optimization ($\beta = 0.52$) significantly improve grid efficiency, with smart grid optimization emerging as the strongest predictor. This highlights the critical importance of AI-driven systems in enhancing operational reliability and energy management.

5. Model Fit (SEM Summary)

Fit Index	Value	Acceptable Threshold
R^2 (Grid Efficiency)	0.68	> 0.50
SRMR	0.061	< 0.08
NFI	0.91	> 0.90

The structural model demonstrates a good fit, with $R^2 = 0.68$, indicating that 68% of the variance in grid efficiency is explained by the predictors. This confirms the strong explanatory power of the AI-driven smart grid framework.

The empirical results clearly demonstrate that AI-driven smart grid optimization plays a central role in enhancing energy system performance in Pakistan. While power system instability continues to hinder renewable energy integration, AI-based forecasting and optimization techniques significantly improve grid efficiency and reliability. The findings suggest that transitioning toward intelligent, data-driven energy systems is essential for addressing Pakistan's long-standing energy challenges, particularly in balancing renewable energy variability and improving operational stability.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that AI-driven smart grid optimization plays a pivotal role in enhancing renewable energy integration and improving load forecasting accuracy in Pakistan's power sector. The results indicate that power system instability negatively affects renewable energy integration, which aligns with existing literature highlighting the challenges of integrating intermittent energy sources into weak and underdeveloped grid infrastructures. In Pakistan, where transmission losses, outdated infrastructure, and demand-supply imbalances persist, instability further amplifies operational inefficiencies and limits the effective utilization of renewable energy resources.

The study also confirms that AI-based load forecasting significantly improves grid efficiency. This finding is consistent with global research emphasizing the superiority of machine learning and deep learning models over traditional statistical forecasting methods. AI models are capable of capturing nonlinear consumption patterns, seasonal variations, and real-time fluctuations in energy demand, thereby enabling more accurate predictions. In the context of Pakistan, where demand variability is high and data-driven planning is limited, this capability becomes particularly critical.

Furthermore, smart grid optimization emerged as the strongest predictor of grid efficiency, highlighting the transformative potential of AI-enabled decision-making systems. These systems enhance real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and automated load balancing, which collectively reduce energy losses and improve system reliability. The results reinforce the applicability of Cybernetic Systems Theory, which emphasizes feedback-driven control mechanisms in complex systems. Overall, the findings suggest that AI integration is not merely supportive but essential for achieving sustainable and stable energy systems.

Conclusion

The study concludes that AI-driven smart grid optimization significantly enhances renewable energy integration, improves load forecasting accuracy, and strengthens overall grid efficiency in Pakistan's power sector. While power system instability remains a major challenge, the application of artificial intelligence offers a viable pathway to mitigate inefficiencies and improve operational performance. The empirical evidence confirms that AI-based forecasting and optimization systems can transform traditional power grids into intelligent, adaptive, and self-regulating energy networks. Therefore, the adoption of AI technologies is critical for ensuring long-term energy sustainability and system reliability in developing economies such as Pakistan.

Implications of the Study

The study has important theoretical, practical, and policy implications. Theoretically, it contributes to the growing body of knowledge on smart grid systems by integrating AI-based optimization within the framework of energy system stability. It extends existing models by demonstrating how intelligent systems can be applied to address real-world challenges in developing energy infrastructures.

From a practical perspective, the findings provide valuable insights for energy engineers, utility operators, and grid managers. The adoption of AI-based forecasting and optimization tools can significantly improve operational efficiency, reduce power outages, and enhance decision-making processes in real time. This is particularly relevant for organizations such as NTDC and DISCOs in Pakistan, where inefficiencies in load management remain a critical concern.

At the policy level, the study highlights the need for government investment in digital energy infrastructure and AI-based smart grid technologies. Policymakers should prioritize modernization of the power sector through smart metering systems, data analytics platforms, and renewable integration frameworks to achieve sustainable energy development goals.

Future Directions

Future research should focus on the development of hybrid AI models that combine deep learning, reinforcement learning, and optimization algorithms to further enhance prediction accuracy and system responsiveness. Additionally, future studies should incorporate real-time smart grid datasets to validate model performance under dynamic operational conditions.

Research can also be expanded to explore the role of blockchain technology in energy trading and decentralized grid management. Furthermore, comparative studies across different developing countries may provide broader insights into the scalability and adaptability of AI-driven smart grid systems. Integration of climate data, consumer behavior analytics, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices also presents promising avenues for future exploration.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, it is recommended that energy authorities in Pakistan prioritize the adoption of AI-based smart grid technologies to improve system efficiency and stability. Investment in advanced metering infrastructure and real-time data analytics platforms should be accelerated to support intelligent decision-making processes.

Training programs should be introduced to enhance the technical capacity of engineers and system operators in AI and data science applications within the energy sector. Additionally, collaboration between government institutions, universities, and private energy firms should be strengthened to promote innovation and technology transfer in smart energy systems.

It is also recommended that pilot AI-enabled smart grid projects be implemented in selected urban and industrial regions to assess feasibility before nationwide deployment.

Limitations of the Study

Despite its contributions, the study has certain limitations. First, the research relied on cross-sectional data, which limits the ability to capture long-term dynamic changes in smart grid performance. Second, the study was geographically limited to Pakistan's energy sector, which may restrict the generalizability of findings to other countries with different energy infrastructures.

Third, the analysis primarily depended on survey-based data, which may be subject to respondent bias and perceptual variations. Fourth, the study did not incorporate real-time operational grid data due to accessibility constraints, which may limit the precision of AI model validation. Future studies should address these limitations by using longitudinal datasets and integrating real-time system data for more robust analysis.

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