Quest Journals Journal of Research in Business and Management Volume 9 ~ Issue 3 (2021) pp: 13-20 ISSN(Online):2347-3002 www.questjournals.org

**Research Paper** 



# The Gigantic Challenge Of Public Electricity Management In The Brazilian Amazon

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**ABSTRACT:** This study aims to analyze the relationship between public actions in the electric energy sector in Brazil and the socioeconomic development of the population of the State of Pará. The relationships between economy, society and the environment present intricacies that limit and enhance public actions in accordance with the interests of capital. The methodology was initially based on a review of the discussion of authors who interpret the construction of capitalist society, the development of rationality and the dilemmas that emerge with modernity. Then, this review sought to condition the reflection and the interpretation of the dilemmas of the current society, with regard to the understanding of the relations between society, economy and nature, with the environment of the electric sector in the State of Pará. The investigation found that the discourse of the development through hydroelectricity, recognizing the benefits verified with the socioeconomic profile of the region, is much more committed to a limited vision and in the short term of generation of Gross Domestic Product in the short term for the country, than to the human development of the State of Pará. **KEYWORDS**: Development. Modernity. Public Actions. Electric sector.

*Received 01 Mar, 2021; Revised: 12 Mar, 2021; Accepted 14 Mar, 2021* © *The author(s) 2021. Published with open access at www.questjournals.org* 

# I. INTRODUCTION

The electricity sector is developed based on public policies that aim to demonstrate that investments aim at economic growth and improving the population's quality of life. Socioeconomic development, in turn, is directly linked to the evolution of the electricity sector, as electricity is the basic input for the improvement of other essential factors such as health, education, food, water and sanitation. However, studies carried out in the Amazon, particularly in the State of Pará, since the 1980s have revealed that the improvements in the quality of life of the population of Pará have not proportionately reflected the large volume of investments in electricity, nor the significant growth in production and electricity consumption recorded in that state. The energy policy supported by the Brazilian federal government did not have a direct relationship between the expansion of the electricity sector and the socioeconomic development of the Amazon, and it also relegated matters of importance to broad national development to the background.

In this perspective, this article aims to analyze the relationship between public actions in the Brazilian electric energy sector and the development of the population of the State of Pará. To this end, it sought to develop a review of the discussion of authors who interpret the construction of capitalist society, the development of rationality, thinking and the dilemmas that emerge with modernity. Thus, the study conditioned a reflection and an interpretation of society's dilemmas, regarding the understanding of the relations between society, economy and nature. Within this scope of approach, the article intends to question theoretically: what are the relations between public actions in the electricity sector in Brazil and the development of the Amazonian population, in particular, the population of the state of Pará?

The investigation started from the principle that if the role of the electricity sector in the socioeconomic development of a region or country is realized as it promotes fundamental changes in the population's standard of living, these changes will only fully develop when the understanding of the operating dynamics between the effects of investments in electricity and the socioeconomic development process of a region or country.

#### **II. PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRICITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

The basis of the debate on public management has raised several questions that are important for the analysis of the managers' ability to achieve qualitative results in the uses of public resources applied to the territory; among them, the influence of group ideologies that interfere with more decision-making power,

through correlations of forces along various branches, such as energy [15, 22, 8]. The public energy management environment is developed through public policies in the electricity sector, which generally aim to demonstrate that the investments aim at economic growth and the improvement of the population's living conditions. In this process, strategic aspects are verified, from the choice of sources of electricity generation to the reflexes of the use of this energy with the different sectors of the economy of a country [3,7].

The development refers both to the physical basis of the growth process, aiming at maintaining the stock of natural resources incorporating both productive activities and the carrying capacity of ecosystems. The relationship between the terms seems to be established through sustainability, where the development paradigm seeks to respond to the dilemmas established by current modernity. Studies on the processes of globalization seek to reinterpret contemporary globalization from the idea of the need to pay attention to the social, political and cultural dimensions, in addition to the economic, which has recognized importance [21]. A discussion on the issue of rationality that questions sociology's competences regarding this analysis comprises the focus of study. According to this research, which does not clearly work with the development category, the author seems to identify with the idea of development based on a rationality [13]. Studies claim that the recognition that speeches on sustainability have reached the center of international environmental policy, proposes a more detailed examination of the current political and intellectual agenda [19]. This logic supports the thought that the idea of sustainability is still useful, but that it should not be associated solely with external nature. He mentions modernity only when he uses Fairhead and Leach who claim that modernity has been progressively destroying the forest, by transforming cultures previously favorable to these forests. The author does not work with a concept of development itself, but constantly relates it to the term Sustainability, which he values for social, economic and environmental balance [19].

Studies address the economic and developmental assumptions that inform the notion of sustainable development, through a discussion of its consequences culminating in the question: who sustains the development of whom? [1]. These studies do not clearly address the category of modernity, however, it moves in the direction of defining development when it notes that sustainable development describes a process of economic growth that does not cause environmental destruction. simultaneously, maximize economic profits and environmental well-being. In view of this theoretical review of interpretations, it appears that the definitions and relations between modernity and development are far from being exhausted and limited, however, we can clearly understand consensus towards the idea that modernity would be characterized, in fact, because it is dominated by the idea of the history of thought as a progressive illumination, which develops based on the appropriation and the fuller reappropriation of the 'fundamentals', which are often also thought of as the origins, that the theoretical and practical revolutions of Western history are presented and legitimized most of the time as recoveries, rebirths, returns. It is from the notion of overcoming that modernity legitimizes development, which in turn represents a progressive enlightenment of thought, which reappropriates and builds its own foundation and origin again. This development, inclusive and broadening of well-being, would promote the transition to another social structure. Next, based on this review of the literature on modernity and development, an attempt is made to feed the debate through an approach to development as a process of structural transformation of society in an attempt to better understand the realities in public actions in the electricity sector in Brazil Amazon.

Development as a process of structural transformation of agrarian (traditional) societies into industrial (modern) societies represented the great theme of political economy. The theoretical discourse of the authors who study development analyzes the environment of the strategies, that is, measures to be adopted for a balanced and self-sustained economic growth in a given society. The discussion about development must be guided by the systematization of the production of knowledge of the founding themes of the current debate on the theme in order to contribute to the reflection and interpretation of society's dilemmas, as well as to better understand the strategies and political actions with which different social actors act and intervene in the solution of problems related to development. More specifically, it should seek, based on the main theoretical matrices in the environment of the social sciences and economics, to subsidize the understanding of the strategic participation of the electric energy sector in the process of socioeconomic development in the Amazon, and particularly in the State of Pará.

Studies in the 1960s analyzed the historical evolution of developed countries and identified five stages of development [20]: traditional society; prerequisites for grubbing up; yank; self-sustaining growth and age of mass consumption. Traditional society, in general, is predominantly agrarian, with little technology and low per capita income. In the second stage, the preconditions for the take-off are created, based on important economic and non-economic changes. There is an increase in the rate of capital accumulation, in relation to the rate of demographic growth, and an improvement in the degree of qualification of the skilled labor for specialized production on a large scale. The crucial period is the hitch. At this stage, the process of continuous growth is institutionalized in society. This is because, in the second stage, there is still some resistance, since society is still characterized by traditional productive attitudes and techniques. The fourth stage, that of the march to

maturity, takes about 40 years. In its course, modern technology extends from the leading sectors, which propelled the take-off, to other sectors [20]. The economy demonstrates that it has the technological and entrepreneurial ability to produce anything it decides to produce. Finally, the economy reaches the fifth stage, the era of high mass consumption, when the leading sectors turn to the production of high-tech consumer durables and services. In this phase, income rose to levels where the main consumption goals of workers are no longer basic food and housing, but cars, microcomputers, etc. There are some criticisms of the theory formulated by Rostow. It would be treated more of an empirical analysis, from the observation of what happened with the developed countries, than a scientific analysis. Many historians do not see a clear distinction between the second and the third stage. Still, Rostow seems to imply that industrial evolution can only happen after the improvement of agricultural productivity, and that they do not occur simultaneously. In any case, the essence of Rostow's so-called Step Theory illustrates the fact that economic development is a process that must advance in a certain sequence of clearly defined steps.

Studies have indicated that societies change in different trends, moving from traditional to modern [17]; thus, these studies present a contribution to restructure the extension of evolutionary thinking in sociology. The author presents three stages of development: primitive, advanced primitive and modern. In the primitive, one finds technology, kinship, communication and religion as basic mechanisms. In the advanced primitive, Parsons cites stratification and legitimation. And finally, in the modern, there is the bureaucratic organization, money and the market, the universal legal system and the democratic association. It is observed that the conception of Evolutionary Universes, developed by Parsons, still provides valuable insight in the interpretation of the complexity and diversity of the historical evolution of many societies. The author was not convinced with evidence that social evolution follows an organic evolution.

When discussing the issue of development x underdevelopment as two sides of a single global process, studies seek to clarify some controversial points about the conditions, possibilities and forms of economic development in countries that maintain relations of dependency with the hegemonic poles of the capitalist system [5]. This research warns of the need to consider structural and historical specificities when talking about Latin America and presents three stages of the development process: in the first there is the substitution of imports, then the production of capital goods and in the third, the income redistribution. After the first two stages, in the 1960s, there was a period of relative stagnation in Brazil, thus evidencing that the impression that the interpretative scheme and the predictions formulated in the light of purely economic factors were not sufficient for the later course of events. It would not be enough, replacing the "economic" interpretation of development with a sociological analysis, but integrating them.

Research in the 1990s shows the need for an integrated analysis that provides elements to provide a broader and more diversified answer to general questions about the possibilities of development or stagnation in Latin American countries, and to answer decisive questions about its meaning and its political and social conditions [5]. As for underdevelopment, using structuralist reasoning, studies observe that it comprises an autonomous historical process, not constituting a necessary stage for the formation of capitalist economies [11]. According to these studies, the only visible trend is for underdeveloped countries to continue to be so. The development of the 20th century has led to an increasing concentration of world income, with a progressive widening of the gap between rich regions and underdeveloped countries. Underdevelopment is the manifestation of complex relationships of domination-dependency between peoples, tending to constant perpetuation under changing forms [11]. As for economic development as a dynamic of capitalist accumulation within divergent models after the 2nd world war, there is the strategy of industrialization through the substitution of imports and the previous modernization of agriculture considering the promotion of exports, imports and the previous modernization of agriculture considering the promotion of exports.

At the strategic moment of industrialization, studies present the Theory of economic development in the view of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the main aspects of what has been going on in Brazil between cephalans and opponents; these studies highlight Prebisch's thesis, which, in turn, criticizes the theory of comparative advantage of David Ricardo who values specialization in products with lower cost advantages, that is, Latin America should, according to the theory, specialize in matters press [23]. Prebisch argued a downward trend in agricultural prices relative to industrial prices, thus causing a deterioration in exchange relations. His proposal saw industrialization as the only form of development based on the substitution of exports. He also indicated that the compression of superfluous consumption, the incentive to the inflow of foreign capital, the agrarian reform to increase the supply of food and the greater participation of the state in fundraising were necessary. In general, underdevelopment is nothing more than the absence of capitalism and not its result [16]. However, ECLAC's ideas have been widely criticized. According to some authors, there is no empirical verification in which exchange relations would worsen against primary exporting countries. For others, poor countries with cheap labor and an abundance of natural resources would attract foreign investment, but would remain dependent on and tied to international imperialism.

As for the model of previous modernization of agriculture and the promotion of exports, it is characterized by the neoclassical / neoliberal ideas. Countries that have modernized their agriculture, such as Australia, have managed to develop from an agricultural base and sustained by the dynamism of exports. Through a Neocepalin approach, it appears that the consumer goods industries were installed on the periphery, but the capital goods industries remained at the center. This increased trade interdependence between the economies of the center and those of the periphery, but asymmetrically, since the exchange relations continued to be unfavorable for the latter. Due to the globalization process, where countries benefit from interdependence, the dependency theory has become out of fashion. International data indicate the wide differences in income between developing countries [23]. Average income levels in many of these countries, specifically in Latin America, are similar to the American income levels of the past century. But in other developing countries, in Asia and Africa, per capita incomes are even lower and resource exploitation is predatory. In addition, there are wide disparities in the income distribution of each country, with a small portion of the population living really well, and the majority with incomes well below the average income level. In this context, the need to consider the dimensions that are not only economic, but social and ecological presents a new normative reference, sustainable development.

Sustainable development would be a qualitative improvement that does not imply a quantitative increase greater than that acceptable for the carrying capacity, that is, the ability of the environment to regenerate raw material inputs and absorb residuais outputs [23]. In this previous context, studies deduce that the main challenge to be able to effectively implement sustainable development processes is the need to seek methods and ways capable of measuring and proposing changes to regulate material energy flows through economic systems [10]. However, it is observed that the concept of sustainable development has been interpreted in the most diverse ways, always depending on the specific interests of the user. It is at this point that the present article acquires practical connotation from the realities verified in the Amazon. The Hydroelectric potential, expressed in the expansion of the electric sector, is not proportionally translated into development, especially in sustainable development. Finally, reflecting on the interpretations of development and the environment of the energy sector, particularly the electricity sector, in the Amazon represents a timely challenge.

When analyzing the analogy and the construction of hypotheses, it is observed that in order to know how to build the object and to know the object that is constructed, it is necessary to be aware that every properly scientific object is consciously and methodically constructed, and it is necessary to know all of it to ask ourselves about the techniques of construction of the questions asked to the object [4]. It is at this moment that we notice the opportunity to understand the terms modernity and development, as well as their intrinsic relations to create reasonable conditions for analyzing the policies of the energy sector, a strategic segment for development. [10], when carrying out studies on policies, investments and the expansion of energy production in the Amazon and their ability to articulate development and an improvement in the living conditions of the population, they observe quite clearly that the electrification of the region was not capable of producing a socioeconomic development compatible with the huge investments made in the energy sector and with its expansion of electricity consumption. It is in this direction that all the effort built from the authors in this discussion, will serve as a basis for reflection to help understand the strategies and public actions with which different social actors act and interfere in the solution of problems pertinent to the development of the energy sector in the Amazon. Through a rich and thought-provoking discussion, studies claim that in order to properly understand the nature of modernity we must analyze what are the sources of its dynamics. Therefore, the characteristics of modern institutions considered together may, by virtue of their dynamics, provide the basis for analyzing the planning and operationalization of the geopolitical and socioeconomic strategies of the energy sector in the Amazon. Discontinuities may, when identified, represent elements that influence the performance of policies in the region [12].

Research seeks to draw conclusions from what is happening today. Investigations based on historical foundations, but failing to make predictions of possible consequences resulting from the transformation in which we live [6]. However, the research is so rich that it can serve as a basis for studies that aim to interpret what is to come. In this way, inspired by values of responsible social participation, networks can channel the "power of flows" mentioned by the author for the implementation of regional public policies and the strengthening of democracy. This is the challenge that opens up for the energy sector, which will be able to look to the networks for a more effective instrument to promote Amazonian development.

When considering that the social contract can create a society as oppressive as Leviathan and the Enlightenment only criticizes traditional society without clarifying the mechanisms of functioning of a new society, studies collaborate expressively to the critical formation of the idea that modernity is defined by the growing separation between rationalization and subjectivation [25]. As the author defends the idea that modernity is defined by the growing separation between rationalization between rationalization and subjectification, it is observed that in the energy sector, a specific universe of my research work, the inevitable construction of absolute power is

faced and repressive through its public policies, in order to lose in the adventure its internal rationality, when in the world of social actors, deprived of their identity in the name of their universal mission.

Based on a deep political concern, studies develop a simultaneous analysis of the dimensions of globalization based on a more realistic dynamic of this interpretation, which contributes significantly to the creation of conditions for a more coherent understanding [21]. The analysis of the dimensions: economic, social, cultural and political are related to the points of evaluation of the evolution of the sustainability of the energy sector and its commitment to the proportional development. Investigations deal with energy along with dimensions, employment, equity, efficiency [2], among others that are interrelated to the dimensions cited as a measure of regional development [21].

After discussing issues related to modernity and development, there is a need for proximity to what is called rationality. Investigations seek to discuss rationality as a support for the considerations of studies analyzed in previous texts [13]. The highlight of the competence of sociology in the universe of this challenge represents one of his greatest observations; creates a new paradigm for sociological discussion in which it combines the lived world with the systemic conception, which constitutes a fertile field of reflection when we work on the realities of the energy sector in the Amazon and its systemic character through the energy chain, which comprises the generation, transformation, transmission, storage, distribution and consumption [13]. This understanding provides subsidies for analyzing the context of rationality with this follow-up.

Relevant research notes that the links between the environment, social justice and governance have become increasingly vague in some sustainability discourses, and that the structural relationships between power, conscience and the environment have been gradually obscured [19]. Energy merchandise, in this context, can be identified as an element to ensure a standard of quality of life, however energy comprises a field of commodity exchange relations with a view to the accumulation of capital, implying a vigorous process of exclusion. Hence the opportunity for analysis from Redclift to examine in more detail the dynamics of sustainability and to address the issue of energy sustainability in the Amazon, more specifically [19].

The issue of development through dimensions that interfere with any more careful assessment of the notion of development, is what addresses studies that find that current development patterns, said to be sustainable, break the relations between social systems and ecosystems, instead of ensuring that the use of natural resources by communities meets their needs at a level of comfort assessed as satisfactory for these communities, the author demonstrates that he has a rich and coherent analysis of the theme [1]. Understanding the concept of sustainable development, as well as discussing the implications of this concept with contemporary analyzes of biodiversity, biotechnology and intellectual property rights naturally stimulate the formulation of sustainable development that I relate to water resources, which promote energy through hydroelectricity, through the possibility of better articulating the strategies developed by the public policies of the energy sector in the Amazon from the capitalist notions of managerial efficiency.

#### **III. MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The investigation is classified in terms of approaching the problem as a qualitative research and in terms of its gender as a theoretical study. It is qualitative, since it seeks to provide a better vision and understanding [16] about the relationship between the relations between public actions in the electric energy sector in Brazil and the socioeconomic development of the population of the State of Pará. It is theoretical in that it proposes a review of the discussion of authors who interpret the construction of capitalist society, the development of rationality and the dilemmas that emerge with modernity. This type of research is directed at the intention of reconstructing theories, frames of reference, conditions that explain reality and pertinent discussions [9].

The methodological strategy was divided into three stages: data collection, data treatment and analysis. Data collection was carried out through the survey of books and periodicals that address the theme of development and modernity. The stage of data treatment, organized the data in such a way as to enable a relationship between public actions in the Brazilian electricity sector, especially aimed at the State of Pará, and the development verified in that state of the Brazilian federation. The data analysis stage, in turn, had the purpose of interpreting the construction of capitalist society, the development of rationality and the dilemmas that emerge with modernity in order to condition the reflection and interpretation of the dilemmas of today's society. This analysis approached the understanding of the relations between society, economy and nature, from the electric sector in the State of Pará and the process of development of the population of Pará.

# IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The opportunity to discuss the connections between electric energy and development is built from the impossibility of thinking about development in the State of Pará, disconnected from its energy potential and from the perfect use of its resources through the planning, execution and control of policy actions. public. The

importance of this article is based on three pillars: In the first, the relevance of the immense natural potential of the Amazon and the state of Pará is highlighted, which does not find proportionally translation into socioeconomic development for the region from the actions of public policies relevant to the health sector. energy; after all, it is known that the development of a region is closely linked to the potential of the energy sector.

The second pillar clarifies the importance of identifying and discussing the difficulties in operationalizing this development based on the public policy strategies used. This discussion gains relevance at the moment when subsidies are created with the potential to contribute to the formulation, implementation and control of policies for the energy sector, in order to represent proportionately and directly the benefits of the growth of that sector with the State of Pará.

The possibility of evaluating and reflecting on the reality of regional development from the energy sector acts as a third pillar in that it serves as a cultural input so that institutions committed to the construction of scientific knowledge and to local realities can start from the results of this research, to be the link between the knowledge produced and its translation, through practical intervention measures that create conditions for the restructuring of public policies in order to contemplate the needs of the region, promoting solid and integrated development between culture, economy, society, politics and technology. The following is a brief analysis of the historical evolution of the electric energy sector, in order to understand its dynamics and its realities within the development process of the country, the Amazon and, above all, the State of Pará.

Energy policy in Brazil began with the presentation to the National Congress, in the late 1940s, of the Salte Plan - Health, Food, Transport and Energy. Thus, planning - whose acronyms belong to the areas to be developed by policies in priority by the Central Government of the time Gaspar Dutra - was the primary concern of the Vargas government, and it was from there that the State started to evolve in its system economic. However, it was really with Kubitschek with his Goals Plan that electric power got a big boost. This fact is due to the need to implement a policy capable of meeting the growing demand for energy, in view of the entry of foreign industries in Brazil, producers of household appliances.

From the 1950s onwards, Brazilian states started to create their own electricity companies, which gradually replaced private companies at the time. Subsequently, the Federal Government created Eletrobrás, in 1963. Since then, the installed capacity of electric generation has grown dramatically, reaching around 64.4 GW, in December 1999, excluding self-producers, with about 4.2 GW the Paraguayan part of Itaipu, almost all destined for the Brazilian market.

The energy policy in the Amazon and, specifically in the State of Pará, presented itself until the end of the 1960s, as extremely weak. Power generation was basically thermal, based on heavy oils in medium and large power plants; diesel oil in small plants in the interior; and firewood on locomotives. In December 1968, aiming to minimize the strangulation that slows down the harmonic development of the region, it was created through Decree n°. 63,952 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Coordinating Committee for Energy Studies in the Amazon / Eneram. This Committee would have the competence to supervise the studies and investigations of the hydroelectric use that would be carried out by Centrais Elétricas do Pará S.A. / Celpa [24]. In accordance with the assessment of the priorities of these studies, the electric power systems in Manaus, Amapá, Santarém and Belém were installed and expanded. According to relevant studies located in the Pará framework, in particular, an electrification plan composed basically of for the assembly of the Tapanã thermoelectric plant, aiming to provide the area polarized by Belém with energy potential, capable of meeting the requested demand, as well as the expansion of the interconnected system reaching the bragantina zone [10].

The concentration of installed power in the region, according to the Amazon Development Plan / PDA - 1967 to 1971, occurs in the capitals (85% for the States: Amazonas, Pará, Acre, Maranhão and the then Territories of Rondônia and Amapá) in which there are all Amazon plants with a nominal power greater than 1MW for public consumption. Absorbing approximately 78% of all energy produced for this public consumption, the consumption of residential and commercial energy reduces the availability of electricity, forcing some industrial enterprises to produce their own energy and making new industrial projects unfeasible.

According to the Pará Institute of Economic and Social Development (Idesp), there were originally three companies in the State of Pará that operated in the electricity sector at different times: The Pará Electric Railway Limited operated until 1946; due to the termination of the concession contract of this company, due to the precarious state of the services rendered to the population, the services took over to Força e Luz do Pará SA in 1952 at the initiative of the state government, aiming to implant a new system of production, transmission and distribution of electricity for the supply of Belém, Força e Luz operated until 1969, when the company was incorporated into Centrais Elétricas do Pará S.A. / Celpa, created on august 21, 1960. By Law N°. 72,548, of 30 july 1973, Eletronorte is created with the objective of continuing Eneram's studies and indications [14].

Linked to the issue, the exploitation of the hydraulic resources of the Amazon region as a complementary basis to industrial development gains more and more space in the debates on energy. In the Amazon, almost 60% of the country's territorial area is found, comprising several natural and man-made

ecosystems of high biological and social diversity. Possessing the largest hydrographic network in the world, the Amazon applied for the position of greatest potential producer of Brazilian hydropower, and Pará, concentrating the largest number of waterfalls not yet explored, presents itself as the state with the greatest potential exporter of hydraulic energy in Brazil.

Important studies on policies, investments and the expansion of energy production in the Amazon and its capacity to articulate development and an improvement in the living conditions of the population, observe quite clearly that the electrification of the region has not been able to produce a development socioeconomic compatible with the huge investments made in the energy sector and with its expansion of electricity consumption [10].

In the State of Pará, in particular, the fact that both in industry and commerce, energy consumption by sector increases in higher proportions than employment rates and the number of establishments [18] stands out. This represents a significant fact, as it demonstrates that the increase in energy consumption in these two sectors is not accompanied by similar growth, and is not basically due to the huge growth in electrical and electronic equipment used in the establishments [10].

It can be said, therefore, that in general the evolution of the energy sector and the significant increase in the consumption of electricity in the Amazon are unable to bring about a socioeconomic development for this region that is approximately compatible with the huge volume of resources invested in the electrification of the Amazon. Next, the reference framework for the analysis of public policies in the electricity sector adopted in this article is addressed as a strategic element for directing resources in mitigating development problems.

# **V. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The challenge of this study was to analyze the relationship between public actions in the electric energy sector in Brazil and the socioeconomic development of the Amazonian population, especially in the State of Pará. They potentiate public actions according to the interests of capital and it was up to this article to report this panorama. The investigation found that the discourse of development through hydroelectricity, recognizing the benefits verified with the socioeconomic profile of the region, is much more committed to a limited vision and in the short term of generating Gross Domestic Product in the short term for the country, than with the human development of the State of Pará.

The debate about the development process based on the electric vector cannot run the risk of reducing reality to numbers, in a mere quantification of evidence. The energy issue also opens up a field for political debate when considering the procedures that structure and support the decision-making process. It is necessary to open an extremely current and timely discussion on the nature of the decisions of energy enterprises that are taken, and legitimized, by the criterion of the supposedly democratic majority decision, when the nature of the energy question must necessarily lead to consensus building. The challenge is also the transformation for a more just and sustainable Amazonian society. The ethics of justice, equity and cooperation must override the logic of the market. Hence the importance of systematically reviewing the main theoretical matrices of the intellectual debate on development in the world of social sciences and economics, in order to identify continuities and ruptures in the interpreted categories.

Modernity develops through discontinuous development processes, which, in turn, provide a fuller and more reflective understanding of itself. It is in this perspective that the interpretations of the construction of capitalist society, the development of rationality and the dilemmas that emerge with modernity contribute to a better understanding of the intricacies of public policies in the Amazonian energy sector through the operationalization and application of its geopolitical and socioeconomic strategies. The connections between public policy strategies in the electric power sector in the Amazon and the solution of problems related to socioeconomic development in this region do not have links that demonstrate strategic planning in the short, medium or long term, in favor of the quality of life of the population. The discourse of development through hydroelectricity, recognizing the benefits verified with the socioeconomic profile of the region, is much more committed to a limited vision and in the short term of generating in the short term for the country, than to the improvement of the quality of life.

The socioenvironmental issue also arouses severe concern in the Amazon Region. In the social aspect, the conditions of access to electricity are linked to the possibilities of satisfying the basic social demands of the population, which, when not met, tend to favor an exclusion process. The environmental aspect, in turn, can be the object of negative impacts as it implies significant changes in ecosystems. Therefore, the mission of the institutions that make up the Brazilian energy sector comprises a strategic role for the socioeconomic development of the Amazon.

Suggestions for further research are directed at Regulation Theory in the Brazilian Amazon Region, through the electric energy regulation agency (Aneel). This Theory gains importance in this sense as it aims to establish norms for the sectors of the delegated public services and to seek balance and harmony between the

State, users and delegates, valuing the compromise between the actions of public sectors, such as the electric sector, and the real needs of the populations.

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