

RELEVANCE OF GENDER IN ENERGY PLANNING & ENERGY DECISION MAKING

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LEARNING & DISCUSSION OBJECTIVES

- To apply the **linkages between gender & energy to energy planning with reference to energy decision making**
- To discuss the importance of different types of energy technologies to the **work and lives** of females and males in different situations
- To provide explanations on why **gender roles, needs, relationships** are key elements in **energy planning in ways that contribute to gender responsive submissions for CDS 14**

Energy planning: macro & micro levels

To undertake energy decision making for increased access to energy services.

This is key to:

- **rural & urban development;**
- **achieving MDG goals for reducing hunger & poverty;**
- **enabling increased access to health care & educational opportunities in ways that address gender inequities;**
- **Increasing women's income earning opportunities**

National level efforts

- Energy policies recognise the need to mainstreaming gender in different components of policy but lack tools
- National gender policies (1995 to 2003); revisions & updates made in some countries
- Rural electrification strategies
- Poverty reduction action plan
- Decentralised district governance structures

THE GENDER-ENERGY LINKAGES

- THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENERGY SOURCES
- Traditional renewable sources such as wood, agro-waste, dung (add on)
- Fossil fuels (oil, gas)
- Metabolic fuels (food)
- New, renewable energy sources (sunlight, flowing water, wind)
- Modern biomass fuels (vegetable oils, ethanol, producer gas)

Linkage to work done & needs

- **Kinds of activities undertaken by women, men, girls, boys at household level: the care roles; roles related to income earning**
- **These require energy technologies that can provide a certain form of energy**
- **Women, men, girls and boys undertake different roles; have different needs; & sometimes use different physical space**

Linkage to livelihood, safety & movement

Enabling increased access to health care & educational opportunities in ways that address the needs of women, men & children:

- **Solar project in Uganda (UPPRE) developed a micro-finance system that enabled installation of 576 solar home systems & 42 institutional systems in clinics & schools in the first 2 years(2000-01).More have been installed by now but need information collection.**
- **Improved health service delivery in clinics; increased number of patients, especially women & children**
- **Increased number of children completing their home work (performance); improved & safe learning environment for children in boarding schools**

Planning for access to energy services

- ENERGY SERVICES such as lighting, cooking, space heating, mechanical power, Television, radio, pumped water, telephone
- Such energy technologies and services, involve DECISION MAKING ON CHOICES/OPTIONS AVAILABLE (who can make decisions within the household in cases where solar lighting is needed?)
- Challenges in appropriateness of the energy technology and services: cost of technology; availability of the technology, accessibility (others)

Energy & gender concerns in transporting water

1. Fetching water for domestic consumption:

In Zimbabwe family members engage the following time & energy to transport water:

Total weeks household time: 10.3hrs.

Female share of time: 9.3hrs.

Female contribution: 91%

Energy cost: 2, 495 calories

(ref. Mehretu & Mutambira (1992) in Gender & Energy tool kit, UNDP/ENERGIA (2004)

Collecting fuel wood

In Zimbabwe family members engage the following time & energy to transport fuel wood

Total weeks household time: 4.5hrs.

Female share of time: 4.1hrs.

Female contribution: 91%

Energy cost: 1,068 calories

(ref. Mehretu & Mutambira (1992) in Gender & Energy tool kit, UNDP/ENERGIA (2004))

Energy service for women's entrepreneurship

Post harvest energy technologies: solar dryers

- In Kayunga, Uganda, the introduction of the hybrid solar dryer enabled women to obtain employment in cutting & slicing of pineapples for drying;
- men dealt with collecting of pineapples from the fields, laying slices on the trays & dealing with technical maintenance of the solar dryers. Women increased their incomes by 30% while men increased by 60%.

Access to information



Energy services for market information

In Bufumira, Lake Victoria island, Uganda

- Installation of solar home systems enabled women to obtain lighting in the kitchens, accessing information through television & radio. Obtained market information on:
 - prices of fish at export & national level;
 - phyto-sanitary measures to take for EU regulations
 - diversifying their income earning activities other than only fish products
- Men started battery charging stations for mobile phones & batteries. There was a shift from relying on fishing as the only economic activity

Payphone Using Solar Charged Battery



Gender planning for Energy projects

ENERGY PROJECTS ARE GENERALLY AIMED AT:

- Increasing the accessibility
- reducing the cost of more convenient types of energy
- Increasing the supply of the original fuel
- Utilizing a source that has up to now are not being tapped
- They may make a source available
- Transforming the energy into a more convenient form
- Increasing the efficiency with which a certain type of fuel is used
- May introduce new types of technology which replace existing ones

ENERGY PLANNING & ENERGY SERVICES: CHALLENGES WITH GENDER NEEDS

Combining provision of an energy service with considering different needs of women, men & children

- Needs are not expressed in specific ways that can match the energy technologies with the energy services required (women request for lights & not a solar home system). Planners require information in a specific way.
- Increasing energy planning requires identification of what energy services people require & matching those needs with an appropriate energy technology.

Why have energy needs of women been neglected in energy planning?

- Gender & energy statistics
 - What type of statistics do we have on gender and energy? Who is involved in data collection? Who are the people targeted for data on energy information?
 - How can planners get to know about the different energy needs of women?
- Gender & energy decision making
 - Is it a deliberate exclusion of women as energy users, energy planners & decision makers, energy engineers

Challenges cont'd: Energy Financing

National budgets for gender & energy

Gender & energy audits in Botswana:

- Minimal annual allocation for gender related strategies & actions; minimal annual allocations in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework
- Specific allocation to electrification, biomass, rural, urban but women considered only as users not part of planning, participants in energy innovations, entrepreneurs just like other businesses etc

Micro-finance & private sector financing

-require specific product design: solar credit in Uganda through village banks, Women's finance bank & FINCA

Key Gender & energy issues for CSD 14

- 1. Increasing access to energy services that meet the basic needs as well as strategic needs of women** (not only practical but strategic needs that transform gender relations). Being able to use energy services to derive income & improved livelihood
- 2. Developing individual capabilities of women** to take advantage of energy services for productive-end use (for income earning activities; development of women as entrepreneurs; enabling increase in accessibility to health and education; improvement in education and health service provision; increasing accessibility to energy financing)
- 3. Developing capacity of energy planners and practitioners to mainstream gender** in energy policies, programs and projects (gender training should take these into consideration)
- 4. Increasing women's participation** in energy decision making, energy management

Gender, energy, CSD processes

- What challenges do we face at national & international level in making use of gender tools, gender focused language in energy planning?
- What more can be used to enable different categories of people to participate in influencing CSD processes to ensure inclusion of gender responsive actions: information dissemination on actual effects & positive outcomes from gender responsive actions; networking and sharing of best practices.....