

Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Infrastructure Projects: An Analysis of Planning & Field Realities in ADB Operational Areas

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Govind Kelkar
UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office

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Key gender issues in energy in Asia

Complex inter-relationship between energy & socio-economic position of women

- Their large scale poverty (both income & non-income based), socio-cultural conditions of restricted mobility, secondary status, lack of effective economic rights & inadequate participation in local & national governance.
 - The socially assigned roles keep women away from educational opportunities, participation in governance and **limits their access** to new knowledge, energy infrastructure & technologies.
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Availability

- ❑ Commercial & non-commercial energy and motive power. Motive power often does not enter the discussions on policy;
 - ❑ Commercial energy for household (electricity, LPG, kerosene);
 - ❑ Non-commercial energy for household (firewood, biogas);
 - ❑ Motive power (engines), by human or non-human labour could have an effect on the extent and scale of production.
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Affordability and access to energy services

- There is a big difference between availability of energy and access to it. This is where women's unmediated income and gender factors come into play.
 - There may be commercial fuel available for cooking, but women with a low opportunity cost of their own labour, may not access commercial fuel.
 - There are three common factors that affect women's access to energy:
 1. Women's limited access to management & ownership to rights over productive resources, including energy;
 2. Control of or restriction on women's mobility;
 3. Domestic & social violence.
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Uses of energy services: women's capability

- The type of energy accessed does not determine the use of that energy;
 - Electricity has a number of uses: it could be used for children's study, entertainment, women's household production, agricultural production, energy businesses (LPG, generators, invertors), electricity for community services (health, clean water);
 - The end use energy accessed by a household is very much a matter of decision making structures within a household or community with gender relations (and age) playing key roles.
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Does gender matter in the delivery of clean energy?

- ❑ Sweat energy by women & girls in collecting wood fuels;
 - ❑ For example, in many parts of India on an average they spend 3 hours a day on such collection;
 - ❑ Deaths and respiratory diseases of women & infants due to indoor air pollution from cooking fires;
 - ❑ Gender is not a sub-set of poverty.
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Women's participation in energy policy & project planning

- ❑ Marginal or none at all in most cases; or
 - ❑ In the use of additional income from energy-intensive production; or
 - ❑ In buying and use of energy appliances; or
 - ❑ In use and maintenance of new assets, such as engines or pump sets;
 - ❑ Modern energy could reduce time spent in cooking and other domestic tasks, including washing clothes.
 - ❑ Lighting in the market and streets would increase not only business hours, thus income, but also reduce social violence against women.
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ADB strategy 2020 & the Paper Energy Policy (June, 2009)

- Importantly the strategy 2020 recognizes ADB's role **“to promote & support gender equity by designing inclusive projects and paying careful attention to gender issues across the full range of its operations that deliver specific outcomes such as improved access for females to education and health services, clean water, better sanitation and basic infrastructure”**

 - The strategy 2020 promises that ADB will:
 1. Promote energy efficiency through supply-side & demand-side measures;
 2. Support clean energy;
 3. Facilitate the removal of policy, technological constraints on promoting efficient energy use.
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The gender question in demand & supply of energy services

- ❑ The question of demand is closely related to supply objectives: to ensure the provision of adequate, cleaner & cost effective supply of energy for gender equitable & inclusive economic growth; and
 - ❑ Captures complex relationships of different sets of gender factors;
 - ❑ The demand-side of analysis of energy needs of poor people does not recognize women's roles in agriculture & livelihoods, despite the feminization of agriculture and of the informal sector;
 - ❑ The demand-side analysis has given no attention to gender distribution of productive assets such as energy technologies, credit, land & capacity for decision making.
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Supply oriented planning

- Overlooks the fact that rural poor women have traditionally supplied fuel wood for cooking and heating;

 - Women increasingly playing a role of modern energy suppliers & entrepreneurs, e.g.
 - DC lamps and charge controllers for solar home system in Char Montaj in Bangladesh;
 - Midu County, ACWF organized coal briquetting for energy efficiency and reducing pollution;
 - Owners of LPG distribution agency & patrol station operators in Delhi, India
 - Electricity connections & installing poles by SHGs in Andhra Pradesh, India.
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Policy Paper: Energy Policy 2009

- Has 3 pillars of policy implementation:
 1. Promoting energy efficiency & renewable energy;
 2. Maximizing access to energy for all, and
 3. Promoting sector energy reforms, capacity building & governance.

 - Another important fourth pillar can be about change in gendered exclusion of women;

 - In use of women's collectives for sustainable rural electrification.
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A review of ADB project portfolio

1. Proposed Multitranche Financing Facility People's Republic of China: Gansu Heihe Rural Hydropower Development Investment Program
 2. ADB Country Partnership Strategy: People's Republic of China, 2008-2010
 3. India: Himachal Clean Power Development (Facility Concept), 2008
 4. Proposed loan and Technical Assistance Grant Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: Renewable Energy Development and Network Expansion and Rehabilitation for Remote Communes Sector Project, 2008
 5. ADB Country Strategy and Program, Viet Nam, 2007-2010
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Engendering analysis of ADB project portfolio

- A common factor is the **energy planning distance** from change in gendered structures, a change which can be brought about by women's inclusion in energy project and capacity development;
 - The question of gender equity/ equality is addressed by describing social position of women in the country concerned.
 - **Two distinct but inter-related levels of distance:**
 - Profession value on women's time. Women's time is mainly used for non-monetized work such as collecting fuel, fetching water, cooking, caring and house work.
 - Development denial of individuality and autonomy to women in distribution of energy related productive assets and capabilities.
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A new deal for women in the energy sector

- **Going beyond the instrumentalist approach, a fundamental paradigm shift**
 - improve their individual capabilities such as energy management, health care, education/knowledge, new technological skills;
 - Unmediated (not through household or the head) control/ownership of assets and productive resources;
 - Address culture and socioeconomic system that discriminate, marginalized and in many countries physically eliminate them.
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Gender & energy strategy for consideration

- ❑ Inclusion of women & gender issues in technological/energy terms in project designs;
 - ❑ Use of select gender monitoring indicators in access, uses of energy services & delivery of clean energy;
 - ❑ Use of Gender Audits & Gender Budgets in country partnership strategies, and clean & renewable energy projects;
 - ❑ Employment of women in adequate numbers in energy projects, not only as workers but also in supervisory & managerial roles;
 - ❑ Capacity development in energy and new technologies with special attention to rural women.
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