

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN ENERGY

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**ENERGIA Regional Consultation to establish a
national gender & energy network in India**

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ⇒ Why is the gender issue important in the context of energy?
- ⇒ What does 'meaningful participation' of women in energy initiatives mean?
- ⇒ What are the constraints in achieving meaningful participation?
- ⇒ Possible roles for ENERGIA in India

RURAL ENERGY CHARACTERISTICS

⇒ More than 70% of India's population lives in the rural areas (580,000 villages)

⇒ Subsistence-nature energy use

⇒ Largely met from biomass sources
(> 75%)

200 million tonnes of firewood, 100 million tonnes of dung cakes and 100 million tonnes of crop-residues every year

⇒ Domestic cooking is the largest energy end-use sector

⇒ Poor penetration of commercial fuels

1.34% rural households use kerosene

1.22% rural households use LPG

85% of the villages electrified, ONLY 30% of the households actually connected

⇒ Kerosene used mainly for lighting

7% of the rural energy consumption

WOMEN'S PLACE IN THE RURAL ENERGY CONTEXT

- ⇒ Manage the cooking energy systems
- ⇒ Responsible for the procurement of the biomass resources used for fuel
- ⇒ Process fuel into a form readily amenable to domestic cooking tasks
- ⇒ Design and build stoves

Activity matrix in cooking energy management

Task/fuel	Fuelwood	Dung cakes	Crop residues
Production	Natural resource	By-product of cattle rearing	By product of farming (M,W)
Procurement	Collection (W,C)	Daily collection (W)	Collection and transportation to home (M,W)
Processing	Chopping (W)	Making dung cakes (W)	Chopping (W)
Use	Cooking food (W)	Cooking food (W)	Cooking food (W)

M: Men W: Women C: Children

IMPLICATIONS OF RURAL ENERGY CRISIS FOR WOMEN

- ⇒ Increased effort and time spent in gathering fuel and water
- ⇒ Young children, especially girls, enlisted to aid in fuel gathering
- ⇒ Switch to inferior fuels

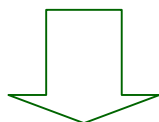
Incomplete combustion

Serious health related problems, such as respiratory illness and eye infections

Take longer to collect and increase cooking time

- ⇒ Altering cooking habits and/or the types of food consumed

Increased labour burden and negative health and nutritional impacts



Significant quality of life and social issues for rural women

RURAL ENERGY INTERVENTIONS

- ⇒ Grid electrification (for lighting, use of electrical appliances and irrigation in the rural areas)
- ⇒ Distribution of domestic cooking fuels at subsidized prices
- ⇒ Renewable energy technologies

Role of women

'Beneficiaries' and information providers
Rarely co-partners in development



Programmes lack women's perspective to
the entire issue

Miss out on the repository of knowledge that
women possess



Inconsistent performance

CONSTRAINTS IN INVOLVING WOMEN IN ENERGY PROGRAMMES

- ⇒ Traditional decision-making roles in the society
- ⇒ Control and sharing of household income
- ⇒ Social constraints on mobility
- ⇒ Workload and time constraints
- ⇒ Educational constraints
- ⇒ Exclusion from regular information channels

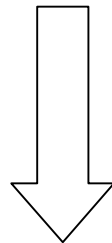
PROGRAMME LEVEL BARRIERS

- ⇒ Sectoral approach of interventions
- ⇒ Gap between extension services and women
- ⇒ Inadequate mechanisms to facilitate women's involvement in project planning

Summarize from ENERGIA.....

Why Women and Energy?

- ⇒ Women and men have different roles in the energy system
- ⇒ Women bear the burden of the human energy crisis
- ⇒ Women have less access than men to the credit, extension, land and training
- ⇒ Women and men have different kinds of knowledge and experience about energy



Women may need different energy policies than men to help them escape energy poverty

LESSONS FROM PAST INTERVENTIONS

- ⇒ Women use energy differently than men
- ⇒ Energy service is NOT equivalent to electricity provision
 - Electricity provision does not address rural cooking needs*
- ⇒ New technologies/ interventions can have unintended negative consequences for women
- ⇒ Biomass likely to remain the commonly used cooking fuel
- ⇒ Cooking is a very large share of household energy consumption

Imperative to address *cooking energy needs*

LESSONS FROM PAST INTERVENTIONS

- ⇒ Technologies must be
*easy to adopt and use and
socially acceptable*
- ⇒ Training services must recognize the economic constraints and cultural barriers faced by women clients
- ⇒ Women need credit
Women receive less than 10% of credit from formal institutions
Women use additional income for food, school fees, clothes for the household
Women have an excellent repayment record (90-100% in micro-credit programmes)

INVOLVING WOMEN IN PROJECT FORMULATION: KEY QUESTIONS

- ⇒ Who benefits from the intervention?
- ⇒ What is the impact of the intervention on women's social and economic status?
- ⇒ What is the impact on women's time and workload?
- ⇒ Is women's knowledge, especially on ecosystems and biological diversity taken into account?
- ⇒ How far have individuals and women's NGOs with knowledge and experience of gender mainstreaming participated in project identification, formulation and appraisal?

INDICATORS OF 'MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION' OF WOMEN IN ENERGY:

Improvement in women's position in energy context

- ⇒ Increased acceptance by women and men of women as community decision-makers
- ⇒ Enhancement of women's access to and control of resources
- ⇒ Increased women's involvement in personal, family or community development
- ⇒ New, more visible, and more effective women's organizations
- ⇒ More women in education and training programs
- ⇒ Support for women to enter non-traditional spaces and gain legitimacy in new roles
- ⇒ Improved health of women and children

WHAT CAN A NETWORK ON GENDER AND ENERGY DO?

- ⇒ **Recording:** Record the experiences, opinions, view-points and perspectives of its members as well as the activities of the network
- ⇒ **Dissemination:** Disseminate information, experiences, viewpoints, perspectives
- ⇒ **Exchange:** Facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences
- ⇒ **Advocacy:** Advocate the needs and concerns of the member institutions to regional, national and international policy makers
- ⇒ **Innovations:** Provide a forum for innovations and development for methodologies.

RESEARCH AREAS FOR ENERGIA IN INDIA

Past research on women and energy

- ⇒ Collectors and users of traditional biomass fuels
- ⇒ Quantification of problem: time spent in fuel and water collection
- ⇒ Women's subsistence activities

Unexplored Areas

- ⇒ Caste and class dimensions of rural energy programmes
- ⇒ Coping strategies for resource depletion
- ⇒ Impact of energy transition on women's incomes and workloads
- ⇒ Experiences of involving women as active participants in energy development
- ⇒ Assessment of the real impact of interventions

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- ⇒ Rural energy: Limitations as a stand-alone intervention
- ⇒ Diversity in partners: Risks in standardizing
- ⇒ Members' contribution to the network: A two way process
- ⇒ Network functionaries: Balancing the dual role
- ⇒ Role of co-ordinators: Control/ co-ordination/ value addition
- ⇒ Realistic expectation of members