

Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion in the Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Clean Cooking

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Gender Specific Barriers

Energy access and transition have a significant impact on people's lives, but this impact is not always equal. In Zimbabwe, like many developing countries, women and men often experience energy challenges differently.



The Current Energy Landscape in Zimbabwe

- Limited electricity access: Only about 40% of Zimbabwe's population has access to grid electricity, with rural areas facing even lower rates.
- Reliance on traditional biomass: The majority of households, particularly in rural areas, rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking, heating, and lighting.
- Deforestation and health risks: Dependence on traditional biomass contributes to deforestation and indoor air pollution, which disproportionately affects women and children.

Gendered Challenges of Traditional Biomass Use

Time burden: Women often spend hours collecting firewood and charcoal, taking away time from income-generating activities, education, and childcare.

Health risks: Indoor air pollution from cooking with traditional fuels is a leading cause of respiratory illnesses, particularly affecting women and children who spend more time indoors.

Deforestation and safety concerns: Collecting firewood lead to deforestation and expose women to safety risks, especially when traveling long distances.





Example of marginalized groups.

Opportunities for Women in the Energy Transition

Access to clean energy: Clean energy solutions like biogas can reduce the time spent collecting firewood and improve indoor air quality, benefiting women's health and well-being.

Economic empowerment: Women can be trained and employed in the installation, maintenance, and distribution of clean energy technologies, creating new income opportunities.

Decision-making roles: Increased participation of women in energy decision-making processes ensures their needs and perspectives are considered in energy transition plans.



Case Studies: Women Leading the Way



Recommendations for a Gender-Inclusive Energy Transition

Integrate gender perspectives into energy policies and planning processes.

Invest in capacity building for women in the clean energy sector through training and skills development.

Develop innovative financing models that are accessible to women, particularly for clean energy technologies and micro-enterprises.

Promote awareness campaigns that educate women about the benefits of clean energy and empower them to participate in the energy transition.

Encourage public-private partnerships to create employment opportunities





THE END

