



SEforALL Global Tracking Framework: Asia-Pacific Results and Energy Access/Gender Metrics

Women's empowerment through electrification: Why & how we need to measure

Debajit Palit

Associate Director & Senior Fellow

The Energy and Resources Institute





Seacrester Consulting, Kenya



Exploring Factors that Enhance & restrict Women's Empowerment through 'Electrification' – EFEWEE

- How may electricity make a difference ?
 - Not only interested in measuring impacts of electricity but how and why this happens
 - Focus on conditions to explain why electricity produces a given set of gendered effects
- Comparing grid and decentralised systems
- ▶ 2015-18;
- India, Kenya & Nepal;





Seacrester Consulting, Kenya

Key Findings from Policy & Literature review

- Electrification has a gender impact
 - The explanations for electricity's effects remain unclear
 - Provision of electricity has 'enhanced' women's well being & social life
 - Whether the direct benefits translate into women's empowerment (economic – Yes; social & political – uncertain)
 - Little is known about electricity's effect on women's decision making power
- International initiatives & national electrification policies often are gender-blind in terms of anticipated benefits
 - Associated challenge is how to translate 'policy into practise'
- Energy Ministries are not collecting gender-disaggregated data
 - Hinders accumulation of knowledge for research & policymaking
 - Limits our understanding of the different needs of women & men, essential for designing of efficient and inclusive policies





Seacrester Consulting, Kenya

Key Findings from Policy & Literature review

- Most of the available knowledge on the electricity-gender nexus derives from singular case studies
 - Unclear definition of gender goals in energy interventions
 - Off-grid supply appears receiving more attention than on-grid
 - In case of grid systems, interventions have more focused on the institution level rather than on implementation processes
- Electricity alone, in the absence of other supporting factors, may not be an immediate game changer towards women's overall 'empowerment'
 - Wider legislation such as on land rights, inheritance rules, social rules, etc. affects women's degree of empowerment through electrification
- Lack of pressure from grassroots level also act as a barrier for realising gender goals



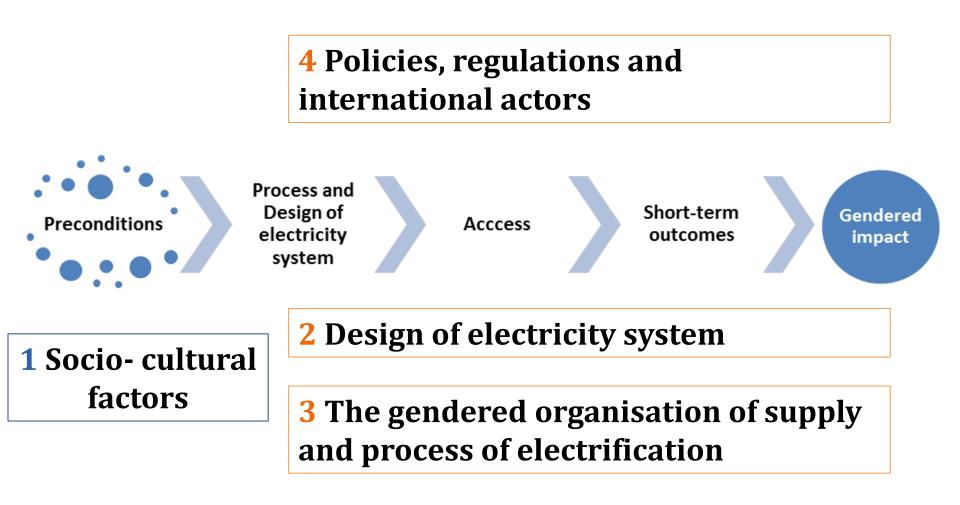


Seacrester Consulting, Kenya



4 conditional factors









Seacrester Consulting, Kenya

Dimension	Sub-dimensions	Conditional factors
Empowerment 1 Overarching issues	Women and men's rights	material and socio-cultural context technical design of the system of supply endered organization of supply and process of implementation olicies, regulations and international actors
	Gender ideologies and norms	
	Social positions	
Empowerment 2 <i>Resources</i>	Material short -term opportunities	
	Material long-term endowments	
	Social resources	
	Human resources	
Empowerment 3 Agency	Influence over life decisions	
	Influence over everyday decisions	
Negative events	Negative effects of intervention	The material cio-technica ne gendered process of policies, re
Agency in intervention (electricity access)	Influence over decisions, household electricity access	1 1 2 The so 3 Th 3 Th 4 The role o
	Influence over system of supply	



- ✓ Research: conceptual work needed for accumulating knowledge on Energy and Empowerment.
- ✓ Sustainable Energy for All initiative should, to the extent possible, make efforts to collect gender-disaggregated data during the Global Tracking Framework surveys.

This would

- Assist in changing the policy design paradigm from supplydriven to demand-driven
- Help the important endeavour of developing affirmative policies and actions for better and more gender equitable outcomes





Publications from EFEWEE Project



Exploring Factors that Enhance & restrict Women's Empowerment through Electrification http://www.energia.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RA1-Scoping-Report.pdf

Journal papers

1. Winther, T., M.N. Matinga, K. Ulsrud and K. Standal (in press) Women's empowerment through electricity access: Scoping study and proposal for a framework of analysis. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*. To be published in 2017.

2. Palit, D., Mini G, Malhotra S & Saini A. Is gender mainstreamed in electricity policies: Perspectives from India, Kenya and Nepal. Submitted to Energy for Sustainable Development (under review)

Blogs & articles in EFEWEE website

- Can electricity provision be game changer for women's empowerment?
- Why we need to measure how electricity empowers women'
- Going further, faster together, but fairly and justly!
- Strangely little is known about electricity's gendered impact!





research programme

Thank you!

Visit us at www.efewee.org