



ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AREA

Evaluating Gender in Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs in Asia

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Warning!!

- The field of gender and energy is still emerging
- Most focus has been on energy supply
- Very little attention paid to energy efficiency
- But many organizations are becoming more interested in the topic, such as:
 - OECD, World Bank, ADB, IUCN Global Gender Office, UNEP, UNFCCC, USAID, APEC, Global Gender and Climate Alliance, UN Women, Women's Environment and Development Organization, ENERGIA

Outline

1. Gender Perspectives
2. Gender and Energy Efficiency
3. Recommendations for Evaluators
4. Conclusions

1. Gender Perspectives

1. Gender and social equity perspective (distributional impacts)
2. Gender and social inclusion perspective (but need to account for intersection of gender with other social variables (race, ethnicity, caste))
3. Gender: Women and men (but can mean more)
4. North (Developed) / South (Developing) perspectives



1. Inequity Perspective

- It is a rare program or policy that benefits all people uniformly
 - There are winners and losers in most interventions
- Two key evaluation and program planning questions relating to equity:
 - How can interventions be planned to address inequities?
 - Are those who are intended to benefit from the intervention the ones who actually benefit?

Equity-focused Evaluation #1

- Focuses on **who** engages with the program
- Moves beyond a focus on outputs (how many households were served) towards a better understanding of **who** was served and where the program recipients belonged in the continuum of need
- The **theory of change** focused on inequities is different than the theory of change focused on effectiveness
 - Move from *average* impact/improvements to *distribution* of impacts/improvements

Equity-focused Evaluation #2

- Questions need to be raised about building evaluation capacities of programs, organizations and systems – long-term dynamic processes
- What types of evidence can an evaluation generate that can help with concrete actions toward inequities? => theory of influence.
- The role of evaluations in addressing equity has not been the basis of a systematic inquiry
 - What system-level **contexts** are necessary to reduce inequities
 - What **mechanisms** are in play in reducing inequities?
 - What kinds of evaluation **capacities** are needed for systems and individuals to evaluate inequities?

2. Gender and Energy Efficiency (EE)

- Interlinkages between gender and EE have not received as much attention as other elements of the energy sector in the past
- Currently, tendency for gender to remain invisible, unacknowledged or marginalized
 - Energy policies are regarded as gender neutral
 - May inadvertently be discriminatory to women and their needs

Gender and EE #2

- EE is not gender-neutral
 - Women and men are able to contribute and benefit in different manners from these interventions
- Key sectors:
 - Household energy management
 - Food processing
 - Agriculture

Household Energy Management

- Women bear the brunt of relying on inefficient energy sources and technologies
 - Use of biomass, charcoal or agricultural waste for cooking and heating
 - Use of kerosene for lighting
 - Health, safety & empowerment (land ownership) issues

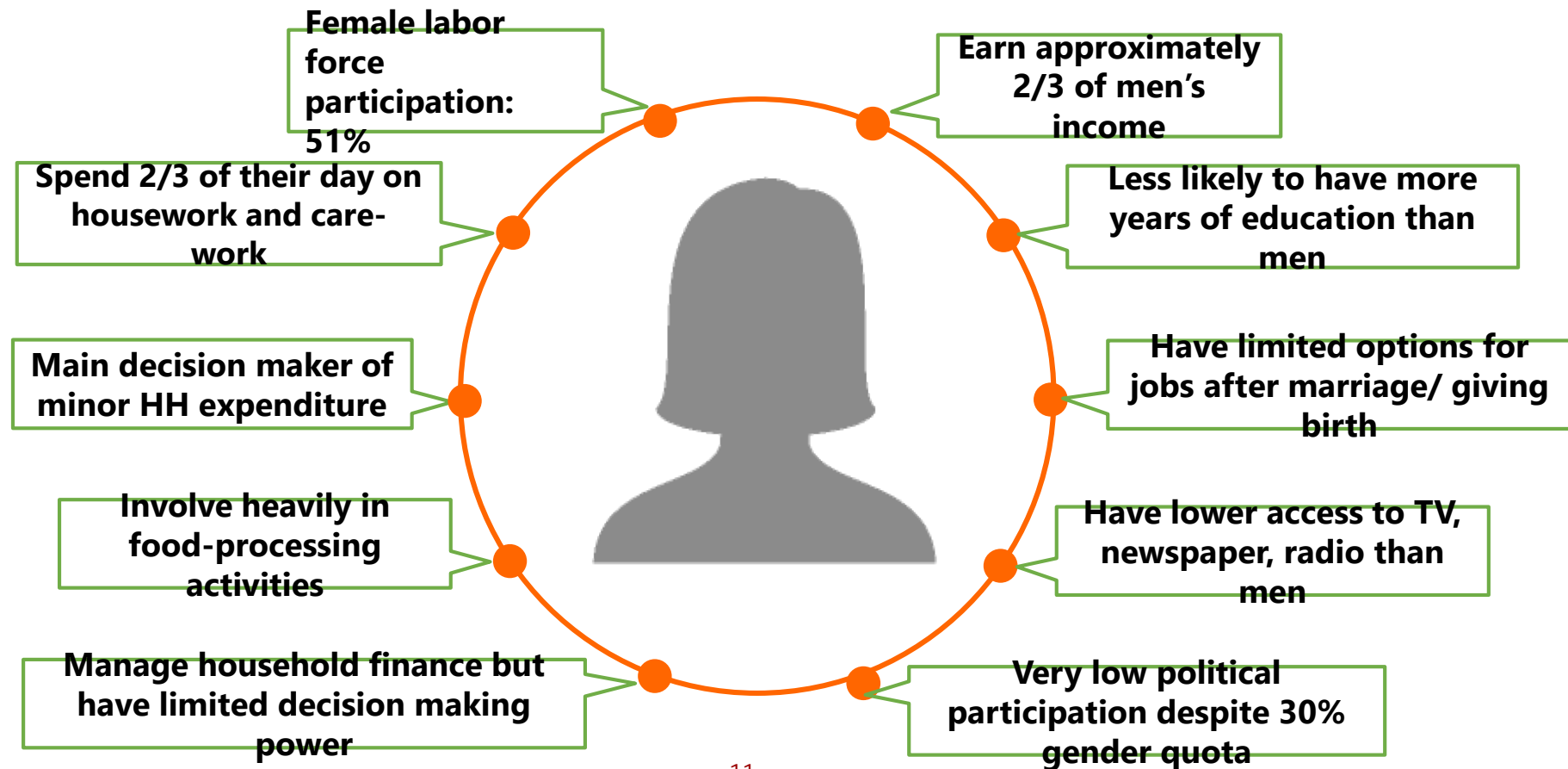


Household Energy Management #2

- Women play a key role in household energy use by making and influencing decisions about:
 - Use of appliances, including the choice of time of use (affecting peak use)
 - Purchases of goods and services (efficiency)
 - Education and shape of children's future energy consumption habits
 - Indoor thermal comfort (thermostat settings, indoor air)
- Women are more willing than men to make changes in how and what they consume (future targeting??)



- Largely patriarchal society undergo development which have facilitated changes in societal attitudes to gender roles
- Strong government commitments → laws and policies on gender equality and women empowerment: ratification of international conventions/protocols, gender aspects in development plans, institutional setting; but challenges remain



Kyrgyzstan #1

- UNDP/GEF project: “Improving Energy Efficiency in Buildings”
 - Conducted research on public awareness and attitudes towards EE in buildings
- Selected findings:
 - Children, elderly and women spent more time than others in poorly insulated and heated buildings constructed during the 1960s-1980s
 - 60% of women respondents never heard of EE buildings and renewable energy
 - Low level understanding of relationships between EE, savings in public budgets & household budgets, impact on health and education, and women’s employment
 - Women’s participation in EE-related decision-making was limited
 - Rural women’s vulnerability was aggravated by inefficient energy use and availability



Kyrgyzstan #2

- To address the identified gaps, minimize gender inequality and empower women, and to maximize the EE potential and socioeconomic benefits of EE initiatives, the project worked on:
 - Capacity development for women to be specialist technicians, construction workers and operators
 - Use of women's groups as knowledge transfer outreach
 - Development of a mandatory construction code on thermal insulation
 - Construction of new public buildings based on new code
 - Provision of EE refrigerators for medicine storage

Kyrgyzstan #3

- Selected impacts:
 - 40% of 156 specialists trained on EE technologies in design, construction and operation were women
 - 2 buildings constructed: 970 boys and girls and 30 teachers studied in warm, comfortable classrooms for the first time (comfortable gym for 120 children)

3. Recommendations for Evaluators #1

- Ensure that the Terms of Reference for the project evaluation team requires gender analysis
 - Team should have gender expertise, be gender balanced and engage with relevant project and other partners working on gender
- Partner with organizations with gender expertise for reviewing the evaluation process or reports
- Monitor and evaluate:
 - Changes in women's empowerment, work productivity, income, health, education, food security
 - Barriers to participation in project activities
 - Unexpected impacts on women

Recommendations for Evaluators #2

- Develop evaluation frameworks that examine ***participation*** in policy and program design and implementation by gender and that examine ***impacts*** of such programs and ***adoption*** of technologies by gender
- Close-up, qualitative methods are essential
 - Participant observation
 - Qualitative interviews
 - Life histories
 - Diaries

4. Conclusions

- Gendered aspects of energy and energy efficiency are understudied
 - Need for more rigorous empirical research – especially if we are to achieve ambitious energy savings and emissions reduction goals (adoption and use of EE technologies)
 - Need for gender balance in research teams
- Evaluators will need to evaluate the possible uneven distribution of burdens as a result of energy saving in households
 - Gender balance need in evaluation teams
- **Bottom Line:** If gender impacts are not evaluated, they are unlikely to be given any attention

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Time for Questions

