

INSTITUTIONAL & GENDER DIMENSIONS OF ENERGY SERVICE PROVISION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF THE RURAL POOR IN UGANDA

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Background

- Energy policy (2000) recognised the need for mainstreaming gender
- National gender policy (1997)
- Power sector reform
- Rural electrification strategies
- Poverty reduction action plan
- Decentralised district governance structure

Strategy for the study

- FROM POLICY (energy policy and gender policy etc)
- THROUGH INSTITUTIONS (companies, village banks, Households , small enterprises
- TO WOMEN AND MEN who have different needs, use of time, use of space

Key concerns & the problem issue

- ACCESS TO ENERGY SERVICES
(availability and utilisation)
- DECISION MAKING
- BENEFITS
- DEMAND FOR SERVICES IN RELATION TO WOMEN & MEN'S NEEDS

Focus of the problem issue cont'd

- Case study examines how energy service interventions by private & public energy service providers can most effectively:
- **a) Contribute to the process of empowerment of women**
- **b) Take into consideration differences in needs for women & men in ways that enable them to (i) improve on their incomes (ii) be able to engage into new roles (iii) as well as influencing decision-making on having access to energy services within the households and at the level of small-scale enterprises.**

Analytical framework

1. Feminist political ecology perspective (Rocheleau et al 1996)
 - emphasises the need to analyse gender while paying attention to the political dynamics that involve material & knowledge (or information) related struggles that women undertake in different ways from those done by men.

- The perspective guides the analysis to reflect on:

-**Unequal power relations** exercised by women in similar or different ways from those of men

-**Implications: subordination & vulnerability** that poor women & men face.

-**Institutional issues** that influence energy service provision

-Access to knowledge

-**Gendered rights & responsibilities.**

2. Micro-meso-micro linkages (Elsou 1995)

Considering the gender concern at:

- The policy level,
- Institutional level and
- The level of the individual woman or man

objectives

1. To examine how energy service interventions by energy service providers can most effectively contribute to the process of economic empowerment of women & fulfilment of the differentiated needs of women and men.
2. To analyse the prospects & challenges that private sector institutions face in ensuring gender responsive energy service provision & strategies for poverty reduction.
3. To provide policy & programme based recommendations that illustrate how attention to gender can be an effective change agent in energy service interventions in ways that :
 - contribute to economic empowerment of women
 - as well as addressing the inequalities between women & men within households & the enterprises found in such structures.

Research questions

- *Energy as a change agent:*
What effect do the energy interventions undertaken by energy service providers have on gender relations and incomes within households and enterprise development
- *Attention to gender as a change agent:*
How do different institutions apply gender in their work?
How do the benefits that are achieved from such interventions transform or contribute to changes in social status, changing roles and any other forms of economic empowerment, for women as well as poor men (*to use before and after assessment*)?
- *Policy and institutional linkages:*
What are the successes and challenges of addressing gender through the reforms in energy service provision as an element of energy policy, especially the shift to private sector provision and recognition of enterprise development in addition to the household alone.

Methodology (approach, methods & tools)

1. Case study approach:

- The Photovoltaic pilot project (solar energy technologies) through solar credit
- The replication of this project in the Lake Victoria Island

2. Methods: literature search; his & her stories; interview, focus group discussions

3. Tools : checklists and questionnaires

Respondents

- 5 key informants from ministries, institutions working on rural electrification, village bank
- 14 solar companies were selected out of the 24 who had participated in the UPPPRE project
- The solar company and village bank list was used to select 32 (thirty two) of the clients who had obtained solar credit and solar panels at least two years before this study.
- The selection process in Bufumira Island only dealt with respondents who had participated in the replication of the solar project in this island. Fourteen (14) participants out of twenty-eight (28) were selected. Those selected were easily accessible and had continued to make use of solar power.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of male and female respondents

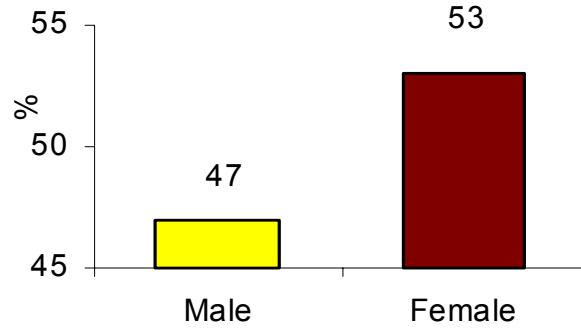
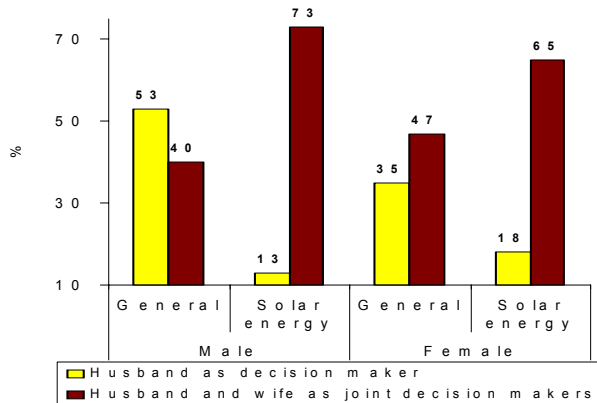


Figure 3.2: General household decision making in comparison with decision to install solar energy



Source of knowledge about solar energy	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Radio/TV	9	60.0%	8	47.1%	17	53.1%
Muhame	8	53.3%	9	52.9%	17	53.1%
Women village groups			3	17.6%	3	9.4%
Female friend	1	6.7%	2	11.8%	3	9.4%
Male friend			3	17.6%	3	9.4%
Men local group	1	6.7%	2	11.8%	3	9.4%

Institutional issues & attention to gender as a change agent

Institutional issues and attention to gender as a change agent

- Solar energy training:

On average, thirty-four women and forty-eight men had ever been trained through village gathering. Five women had received training on solar usage from their husbands and four from their children

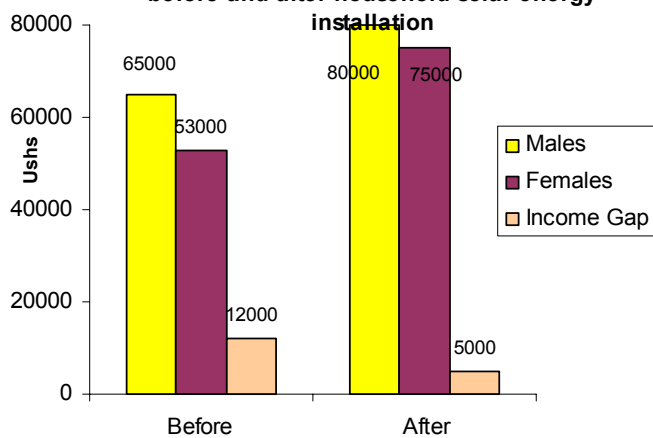
- Due to lack of technical training in the solar energy field, all the respondents in Bushenyi reported that in case of solar energy panel break down; they hired a technician from the solar company or village bank to repair it. Most of the solar energy technicians were men.
- In Bufumira, women were targeted for technical training & participated in simple panel repairs, battery charging etc.

Energy need	Men		Women	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Inside house lighting	32	100.0	32	100.0
Outside house lighting				
27	84.4	21	65.6	
Entertainment				
27	84.4	19	59.4	
Reading at night				
17	53.1	11	34.4	
Enable women cook in well-lighted kitchen				
9	28.1	26	81.3	
Day income generating activity				
17	53.1	17	53.1	
Night income generating activity				
8	25.0	6	18.8	

Contribution to women's empowerment & consideration of differentiated needs of women & men

- Increased house lighting and family relationship
- Better academic performance
- Setting up of Commercial enterprises
- Village bank benefited from increase in number of female and male clients
- Skills gained from solar training
- Income from Battery charging in the island
- Increased health
- Reduced fuel and cell expenditure
- Increased income from small enterprises
- Socio-Economic status and welfare

Figure 3.4: Average monthly Household income savings earnings by women compared to men before and after household solar energy installation



CONCLUSIONS, POLICY AND PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Gender is a key variable in energy service interventions

- ***i) Energy services provide benefit women if they are targeted as actors other than only being considered as users***

These benefits have been possible in cases where solar companies and the village bank took into consideration the gender concerns that were key within the household and small-scale enterprises that could be undertaken within this structure.

valuing women's labour lessens conflicts in utilisation of energy services

- Solar companies/ village bank took into consideration women's labour by providing awareness creation, information & technical assistance on maintenance of solar panels to women who do provide most of the labour within the household.
- Acquisition of such knowledge & skills enabled women to participate in the solar projects.
- However, few cases where the roles of women & men were in household related activities were considered during the period of purchase the solar panels as well as the installation process.
- This contributed to conflict existed between women & men in the same household.

Major programme based recommendation that such conclusions

- Effort should be made to formulate initiatives that encourage employment creation in ways that can support labour provision
 - *(can hire labour for farming, or doing household tasks) so that women can engage into income earning activities (rearing of chicken or zero grazing of cattle).*
 - *The pressure created in the household on use of time & labour for women & girl children, was sometimes leading to transfer of tasks to other household members, especially the boy children.*

2). Take into consideration time allocation & work done

- There is also need to take into consideration work intensity & time allocation of women & how this differs from that of men.

This would enable energy service programmes to realise the importance of time & effort that women save when they utilise services like:

- the lighting & warmth acquired & applied in the income earning activities;
- the information gained through powering of the radio and television, and many others.

3). Gendered differences in the right to obtain & utilise

There is need to recognise gendered differences in the right to have access to energy services. This contributes to improvement in the role of women as decision makers

- Bargaining was a key practice in the households.
- Solar panels provided ground for operation of cooperation as well as conflict between women & men.
- The case study has shown examples where some of the women negotiated with their husbands to purchase solar panels so that these men could spend more time at home watching television, listening to news.
 - have time to discuss household issues, especially the education of their children as well as how to spend and invest the available funds in the household.
 - one of the men indicated that the acquisition of solar panel enabled him to spend more time at home due to the lighted house, the information he could get via the radio and television.

4. Access to information; consideration of rights & responsibilities; institutional arrangements

- i) **Access to information and knowledge on energy service provision enables women to participate in decision making in similar ways as men**
- ii) **Consideration of gendered rights and responsibilities enables effective energy service provision by the institutions**
- iii) **There are cases when energy service provision aggravates gender inequalities due to imbalances between rights and responsibilities for women and men**
- v) **Institutional arrangements that use gender analysis in planning & implementing the provision of energy service, can contribute to women's empowerment**

Guidance needed

Please guide!

Thank you