

Who's doing the cooking tonight?

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Important

- Electrification programme – all respondents had connections plus FBE 50 kWh per month
- The gender equality clause in the Constitution of 1994, entrenches equality and allows for gender machinery to follow-up

Gender Equality

More high-income earners knew about the gender clause than low-income (24 :19)

HI earners thought women earn less than men, LI earners thought women earned the same

HI earners professed to be positive towards GE, LI earners were less than positive

Most men helped with some chores

Survey results

- 250 households: 180 women 70 men
- Small h/hs: 52% less than 4; 72% 4
- Of 812 people 470 eligible for work, 303 reported working (64%)
- Fewer women in formal work and earning less than men
- Of 71 in informal 44 are`women and earning less than R2000 per month

Energy use

- Food and energy only categories in which all recorded expenditure
- 14% used only electricity
- 86% used paraffin and electricity
- 8% used LPG
- 73% used electricity to cook 'most of the time'
- Electricity is the service of choice except for heating

Appliance use

- 99% have electric lights
- 90% have iron, television, kettle
- 86% have electric stove

Growth in appliance ownership –grey area
Matley, washing machines were most
desired appliance also cell phones

65% negative to PLG

Time and help

- 30 minutes breakfast
- 60 minutes lunch
- 90 minutes supper
- 43% boys/men help with cooking
- 21% help with house cleaning
- 14% do the dishes
- Others do groceries, ironing, etc

Who cooks? Do they like cooking? Would they give it up?

- More than two thirds said they like cooking or there is some reciprocity
- Less than 20% expressed some dissatisfaction,
- 39% did not need help
- 31% received sufficient help
- 24% said they got too little help
- 49% did not want to give it up, 32% did

Reasons women like cooking

- It's my hobby
- My family likes my food
- I am a good mother

Reasons don't like cooking

- Not enough food
- No choice / the others are not good cooks/
they are lazy
- I am tired

Who uses /benefits most

- 76% said women use most electricity because they cook/iron/at home most/ watch television
- 59% say that women benefit most from electricity
- 24% 1111said men benefit most
- 17% said all benefit equally

Focus groups

- The willingness of men to participate – to express their dissatisfaction with changes
- Gender violence as way to ensure men's needs are taken care of
- The difference between rights and privileges
- No stereotypes in terms of age
- Women's control of income

The difference electricity has made to roles and responsibilities

- Improved quality of life for men and women, improved leisure, manifest in improvements to houses and family life –
- Women do most of the chores, but electricity makes it easier for men to make their own tea, eggs and toast, warm up their supper...
- Women can socialise without worrying about supper, but some have got cheeky since gender equality ...

Conclusions

- Attitudes to gender equality
- Gender violence; rights and privileges, income, the gender division of labour, access to control over resources, decision –making, health and safety
- Few men help with child care and other burdensome tasks
- Women like to control things – approval as an instrument of control

Conclusions cont

- Women have taken over paying for and buying the electricity but not electrical tasks
- So where are we? How can energy empower women?
- Does access to electricity empower women? Not of its own accord, but in conjunction with other social pressures it can facilitate changes in power relations.