**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 8th May 2021

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s): XXXX

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| --- | --- |
| RES: | 2010, anything |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so please, we will start with a brief introduction of yourself and--** |
| RES: | Why d’you want that? |
| **INT:** | **Because of the--** |
| RES: | I’m XXXX. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, XXXX, if you could tell us a little bit about your work, and a bit about your contract?** |
| RES: | Why on earth don’t you go to XXXX and they’ll tell you everything, that’s their [unclear 00:00:30]-- |
| **INT:** | **Yeah, we’ve already interviewed some people from XXXX.** |
| RES: | From XXXX. I’m XXXX. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | This is pre-paid. This is a vending station. We sell like pre-paid, we do the post paid. We take bills and then the water bills. |
| **INT:** | **So XXXX, recently we have been-- there has been a bit of a discussion on getting the men to actively participate in decision making at the National level and the Local level and even at the household level. So, we’re trying to understand how women’s roles in the Energy Sector, and how we can identify in the future, any key challenges that are facing women such as yourself.** |
| RES: | Yes, well you talk about women, yes, yes, I’m answering so many questions at the same time.  The way you talk about, the men partaking in, let’s say organisational, taking bigger roles. I am a participant and I will say yes because the women, I think they are well organised. That’s my opinion, they are well organised and they are effective at managing, when you ask me. They are very detailed, that’s one thing, they are very detailed. And so, I would say yes to that.  Now in the energy sector, you said the energy sector has-- can you repeat the question again? |
| **INT:** | **Yes. So, within the energy sector, electricity provision--** |
| RES: | You think women. |
| **INT:** | **We are--** |
| RES: | Yes of course, yes of course. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | It will help us. And when you talk about the energy sector, with their cashiers, I think many should be women, that’s my opinion because it can tell us a lot. With the kind of [unclear 00:02:50], we are troublesome sometimes. Excuse me to use that word. But yes, sometimes it’s very important for people to listen. So, it’s only women that will have time to do all these things. When you come to this sector, like the way we work, some don’t really understand what is going on. When you try to explain them, they already have a notion, so they wouldn’t even listen to you. Then before they have their answer to it. Yes, they will ask you a question, when you try to answer, it’s a problem. So, if it’s not a women, who will have time to do all these things? Who do you think would do this? A man wouldn’t have that much time. That’s what one thing. That’s what I think. A man wouldn’t have that much time. So, it’s only women that, in terms of the front desk, yes. Women have more time to listen then, they have the patience, so it helps. |
| **INT:** | **Great, but do you think there is gender equity in the electricity or energy sector? Do we have equal participation between men and women in the energy sector?** |
| RES: | Gender equity? |
| **INT:** | **Yes. I mean not just at the--** |
| RES: | At the higher level-- |
| **INT:** | **Yes, even at the National level, and the Community level, and the District level. Do you think there is gender equity?** |
| RES: | I don’t think so. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, could you explain a little bit.** |
| RES: | I don’t think so, right here. It’s not balanced. More women should come in. |
| **INT:** | **You mean currently there are not more women--** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so the majority are still men?** |
| RES: | When you talk about the technical aspects, that one is for men. Often do women see women going around with these kind of connections and things? So, no one’s there to help you if you’ve been given the-- the training, men are taken into it. We want to do better. So, I think it’s not that much. |
| **INT:** | **Why do you think it’s important first to have more women in this sector?** |
| RES: | Women? |
| **INT:** | **Yes.** |
| RES: | Why do you have women or men? Like in an Organisation, you have more effective with them, and it’s just that sometimes we women, we try to do things, like some petty-petty issues, some have, but apart from that you have an effective worker. So, I think women should be more. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, are you just talking about at the vendor level, or even at the National level?** |
| RES: | What are you also talking about? You are also talking about the National level, right? The higher level, right? |
| **INT:** | **Yes, yes please.** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, all right.** |
| RES: | There’s someone. |
| **INT:** | **Oh, okay.**  **So, we’ve talked a little bit about the National and at the District level. If we bring it to the household level, do you think gender effects the way energy is used? Or in other words--** |
| RES: | Gender? |
| **INT:** | **Yes.** |
| RES: | In the household-- |
| **INT:** | **Yes, at the household level, like the way women use energy, is it different from the way men use energy? The needs of the energy use.** |
| RES: | I would say women are more careful in using the energy at home more than men. Because the man might put on their evening--microwave their [unclear 00:06:45].  That’s sometimes how a man can be, but if you-- women are more cautious, they are cautious of whatever that they do.  So, when you talk about that side, I think women are more careful. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. But do you think the needs-- the energy needs of women is different from the energy needs of men? What women use energy for is different from what men use energy for.** |
| RES: | I don’t think-- |
| **INT:** | **It’s the same?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. But do you think there is a difference between different classes of women. Say the rural women versus [s/l 00:07:30] Evan women, what they use energy for.** |
| RES: | Yes of course. No worry, there is a vast difference. Women with a car as compared to our hometowns. Things that they’re use in their hometowns might not be the same as you use in a [unclear 00:07:48} because you use a blender, you use so many things, processing food. And then in your villages, as you say, a River Evan house or something, like they don’t use such things, so we consume more when you talk about energy. Those in the cities consume more than those in the, like-- |
| **INT:** | **Okay, could you describe a little bit the rural area for us then, what kind of energy do they use?** |
| RES: | Well then, they are at home, they have lights, normal lights, TV, radio, and they are okay. But us here, we use so many gadgets, we use so many things. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. When it comes to, say for instance cooking, is there a difference between the energy that a town woman use, versus the rural women, the energy they use for cooking.** |
| RES: | Cooking. Yes, we have electric cars too. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, you mean in the Evan?** |
| RES: | In Evan, yes. We have electric cars too, people use. When you get to the villages most people use charge points and fire wood. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So, when energy infrastructure, like currently we have the Free power, which is coming up. That I was hoping-- street light projects that have been implemented in many areas, when this infrastructure is provided do you think it benefits both men and women equally, or women benefit more than men?** |
| RES: | Benefits? We all use them, so there can’t be separation that men use more than this, we all use the same things. In households, we have husbands, we have brothers. |
| **[00:10:00]** |  |
| **INT:** | **Okay, how about at a household level, for instance you mentioned microwave, the fridge, and all of that. Do you think these gadgets benefit women more than men? Or men benefit more?** |
| RES: | Yes, it benefits women more than men. |
| **INT:** | **It benefits women more than men.**  **I think there’s somebody.**  **Okay, so please, let’s talk a little bit about decision making. So, for instance, at the household level, do you think men and women participate equally? Or they have--** |
| RES: | Yes, it’s no more like those days. [Unclear 0:10:33] it is okay, you should be able to make decisions and so on. |
| **INT:** | **Oh, okay.** |
| RES: | But mainly it’s for men, yes. The right thing to be done in the home. So, often it’s women and men, we make decisions in our homes, but men do more because we take them to be the head of the house. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, but how about, do you see this at a District, or at the National level, is there equal participation? Is there the room for equal participation and decision making, between men and women, say at the Ministerial or even at the Parliamentary levels? Do you think women--** |
| RES: | You can’t have much women when you talk about in politics and Ministers, we don’t have many women. As it’s supposed to be. We, the women as soles, we are not supporting the women who are trying to bring out a resolve to stand for such positions. So, we don’t have much women. And I think if we have more it will help. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Could you expand a little bit more on that? Why is it that we don’t have more women in the Parliament?** |
| RES: | You know, Ghanaians we have medics, but men are more powerful and it should always be men, men, men, men. So, when a women is standing for a position of maybe an MP or something, we don’t want that. We through maybe-- why should it be so? But it takes women to get in there, and I think we should be given more chance. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. Do you think it’s a cultural issue or it’s a skills issue? Is it about the completability of the women to actually do the work? Or is it a--** |
| RES: | No, we’re doing our best, we’re doing our best, we should be looked upon-- we shouldn’t be looked upon like say that, because a woman’s a-- we’re doing our best, we’re trying, so I think really they should help us. As it’s supposed to be. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | Help us as men, when you help women, you also get there. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. Let me lead that directly into the next questions. So, do you think our National policies are taking these issues into consideration? Like giving the men the opportunity to participate more?** |
| RES: | I don’t know how much but we are doing it. We will get there one day. Understand it. We will get there. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So, from your personal perspective, what do you think needs to be done to get more women to participate?** |
| RES: | We should help each other. We women ourselves, we should help each other. And then try to listen, stop the petty-petty-ness, the petty-petty conflicts and the unnecessary arguments, the fights among us. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So, if we bring it to the Community level, we’ve talked-- we sometimes observe that when you go to a Community, for instance at say the Unit Committee, or even the Assembly men, and the District Executives, and all of that. Do you see women coming, participating in these roles? At the Unit Committee level?** |
| RES: | Yes, I’m listening, don’t worry. [unclear 00:14:39] |
| **INT:** | **Or do you see women’s participation at these levels as improving? Is it improving or--** |
| RES: | Yes, this-- it’s improving, it’s still small, but it’s not much. But as I’m saying, we will get there. We’ll get there. There’s hope. When we begin to understand each other, we will get there. |
| **INT:** | **So, let’s talk a little bit about the different kinds of energy use--**  **Okay, please, we are almost done, so close the last few questions here. So, firstly, about National Policies, so recently we saw that when Covid started, so the Government introduced a policy where households were not supposed to pay electricity at all for like about three months or so. And I think Commercial establishments were also paying a percentage also. Who do you think these policies benefit the most in a society?** |
| RES: | It’s going to be the establishment before us, so it’s going to be them or nobody. |
| **INT:** | **Okay,** |
| RES: | Ah, that was what I mean. They made the policies. They said, because of the Covid we’re trying to help out people, so it benefited everybody. Or it didn’t give benefit to-- in a way it benefits you, so. If people ask me, I can’t separate some people out of it and say, “It benefitted everybody.” |
| **INT:** | **Okay, how about it we categorise it like the rich versus the poor, the rural communities versus cities? Do you think some people benefit--** |
| RES: | There is overall coverage. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, how about policies like what we had sometime back about the privatisation of XXXX. If XXXX goes to, for instance privatised, do you think some people will benefit more than other people?** |
| RES: | I don’t think it’s-- when you talk about beneficial as this-- I don’t think, so far, it’s the right thing, that means an asset. I mean the beneficial aspect of it-- we have been same place, the right things have been done. |
| **[00:20:00]** |  |
| **INT:** | **Okay, okay, right. Okay, last question.**  **So, on renewable energy. So, recently we have seen some solar energy companies also coming into Ghana, trying to--** |
| RES: | I haven’t seen it too. So, you think I can answer that. I haven’t seen it too. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | I haven’t seen it. |
| **INT:** | **Right, but I’m bringing it to the household level. So, you also mentioned earlier that when you go to rural Communities, some of them use charcoal and firewood, and others. Do you think the majority Ghanaians, or Ghanaian households, are they moving gradually from the National Grid or the National Electricity to the use of some of these energy sources, like Solar, charcoal? Or they’re moving from the National Grid?** |
| RES: | Solar. Solar is expensive but now it is expensive for you to do that erection, and like connection and things. It’s very expensive, so how many people use solar? Very few. |
| **INT:** | **Okay.** |
| RES: | So, people use electricity power. You talk about charcoal, you can talk about a disadvantage of charcoal, because how many people are not used to the electric house too. We have gas too. Electric house too. That’s where the cooking comes from, or maybe using your rice cooker or something. Mainly for the urban areas. It’s not for the rural areas. |
| **INT:** | **So, in the urban areas are more people using the gas canisters now?** |
| RES: | Yes, people use it. You would like, you know, people need a fuel. |
| **INT:** | **Yes so-- and they have more energy. So, I was just trying to understand, yes, because this is research work, like there are certain things I know, but maybe your perspective would be different. That’s why we--** |
| RES: | I don’t know, like I say, I can’t talk about it if I don’t know. |
| **INT:** | **Oh, okay. But in terms of energy access, do you think it is equally distributed in Ghana, like does everybody have equal access to energy, or--?** |
| RES: | Not everybody. We have some rural areas who still complain of not having light and things. But we are doing about this, so very soon, I think it will get to that. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, okay. In the last State of the Nation’s Address, I heard we have increased up to 85% coverage, electricity coverage.** |
| RES: | Oh, okay. You heard? |
| **INT:** | **Yes, that’s what I heard. But I’m just trying to understand, do you think this 85% is fairly distributed between the rich and the poor, even if you are living in urban areas?** |
| RES: | Why do you always-- why are you always comparing? Why are you always comparing? |
| **INT:** | **We’re trying to understand the difference between the levels of access, that’s why we have to do this comparison so that we see.**  **Look, just from your personal observations--** |
| RES: | I don’t think so, I don’t think so. I think some-- we are all Ghanaians, so we should be given equal opportunities to everything, every social amenity, we should be given a fair share, we have contributed to it. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. I think that was my last question. So, I really appreciate your time. Thank you very much.** |
| RES: | Thank you. |
| **INT:** | **It’s a very great thing. I don’t know if there’s anything you would like to add. Your last work on this?** |
| RES: | No. |
| **INT:** | **Any advice or something you think--** |
| RES: | Advice as in-- |
| **INT:** | **For engineers, like friends of yours, something that you think engineers need to focus on when it comes to energy? Anything.** |
| RES: | We all know the problems on the ground, so we should always focus on the problems and then we’ll be right. If we just were responsible, as human beings, that’s all. |
| **INT:** | **Right, thank you very much. I really appreciate it.** |

**Audio Ends: [00:22:45.07]**