**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 11th May 2021

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s): XXXX

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| **INT:** | **Okay, so like I was saying, this is a study that Friends of Ghana is undertaking in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University in the UK. And also Leeds Beckett University, also in the UK. So as I was explaining earlier, primarily this study is focused on understanding equitable energy access. The distribution of energy access between the various stake-holders, between various population groups, but more specifically bringing it down to women’s level of access. And then also taking into account the - how beneficial energy access is to women. And the levels of participation when it comes to decision making.**  **So we’re trying to get into the details of all of these issues to understand how we can best mainstream gender equity into our energy access policies here in Ghana.**  **So briefly that’s what the study is focused on. So in the context of Ghana we - it’s actually original study, so it has been in Africa, there are two countries that are participating, that is Ghana and Nigeria. So in Ghana we are interacting - or we are interviewing about twenty key experts in the energy sector. And likewise the same has been done in Nigeria and the other countries that are involved. So briefly that’s about the study.**  **So we will start with, if you could start – or before we go into it, I don’t know if you would need any further clarification or if you have any questions to ask before we -** |
| RES: | No we’re talking. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. All right. So we’ll start with a brief introduction of yourself, if you could tell us a bit about your background, any energy projects that you’ve worked on before. And any experiences that you’ve had over the years.** |
| RES: | Okay. Well my name is XXXX. |
| **INT:** | **XXXX?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **XXXX?** |
| RES: | Yes |
| **INT:** | **Oh okay, that’s a nice name.** |
| RES: | Yes, I’m a level 3 electrical engineer. |
| **INT:** | **Oh okay, electrical engineering?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, that’s nice.** |
| RES: | Yes. And I’m also [s/l 00:02:58] an installer for solar systems. |
| **INT:** | **Solar Systems?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Oh okay.** |
| RES: | But seriously I’m now working in a Solar company. Yes. I’m working with the xxxx on their electrical engineering site. We are in charge of the power house and maintaining the electrical systems. Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. I see. Is it a public hospital or private?** |
| RES: | It’s a public hospital. |
| **INT:** | **It’s a public hospital. Okay, that’s great.**  **Okay, so you specialise in solar systems?** |
| RES: | Actually I’m more specialised in the xxxx. |
| **INT:** | **Control systems, okay.** |
| RES: | Yeah, I’m really with control systems. But I also did a course on Solar power, so I could get the Solar to work on site. So better for our power systems. And we are all electrical - so anyway I guess [unclear 00:04:07] |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So how did you get into all of this? Is that from your - if you could tell us a bit about your Academic background?** |
| RES: | Okay, I did the xxx. From there - I was supposed to do nature science in there, but I didn’t get electrical engineering, but they gave me a different course, I wasn’t all called in, so I didn’t go. But I went to xxxx to do electrical engineering, and whilst I was doing the electrical engineering, I was also doing the Solar programme. So I did the xxxx, then I completed the xxxx too. And currently I’m now doing the [unclear 00:05:00] course at the xxxx University. |
| **INT:** | **xxxx University?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **XXXX University. So the course is for Solar systems or for electrical?** |
| RES: | That’s just for electronic, yeah.. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. That’s great, wow. That’s a very strong background, yes.**  **So with that background, what can you tell us about equitable energy access? What does it mean to you?** |
| RES: | Energy access? |
| **INT:** | **Yes.** |
| RES: | Is that for domestic or commercial or a mix? |
| **INT:** | **In general, how would you define it?** |
| RES: | Energy access? |
| **INT:** | **Yes, or you can decide to give us the domestic aspect, and after that also the commercial aspect.** |
| RES: | Okay, we all need energy. Because you need energy, you try to get it from the natural resource, that’s where we need to get our energy from. Whether hydro, whether solar, whether biofuel. These are sources of getting the energy. So I think it’s good, the resources are reliable, and make the energy economic. |
| **INT:** | **But in terms of, with all of these sources currently in Ghana, would you say there is equity, in terms of their distribution, access - peoples’ access to energy? Is there a level of equity?** |
| RES: | No. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, could you explain that a little bit more?** |
| RES: | Yeah. Ghana, we are using hydro, mainly they’re using hydro to power most of the arcades, even the ECG is using hydro. It’s - I used to hear gas, gas, but now I didn’t thing the hydro to the gas is equal. And also the citizens, they are also having the - they are aware of using their solar system to get their energy. They are trying to get out of the National grid because of climate issues. So the citizens are also getting their supply by natural sources through our assistance. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, that’s great insight. Okay, so let’s bring in the gender aspect. So how would you describe gender equity?** |
| RES: | Oh I think it’s like, with the ladies, [unclear 00:08:10] |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. So are you talking about like the number of people who work in the sector, or -** |
| RES: | I mean in terms of the number of ladies who get enrolled into energy aspect. The energy aspect. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. That’s great.**  **Okay, so do you think gender, or people’s gender effects the way energy is used, either at the household level or at the industrial level?** |
| RES: | It’s complicated. Let’s say, for example, domestically, in the house. The woman is not having a fair idea of, let’s say, getting the energy accessible, learning how to manage it. But if the lady is [unclear 00:09:22] knowledgeable about how to get the energy and how to manage it, she will be able to maintain usage in the house so that it won’t be wasted. So that’s why, because they don’t know much about the energy system, they waste a lot of that. |
| **[00:10:00]** |  |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. That’s great.**  **Okay, so even within women, we are trying to understand because we realise there are different categories. If you take women, I mean we have rural women, we have urban women, we have women who have low income, and those who have high income. And then we also have the youth versus grown-ups. Do you think they are - these energy groups benefit from energy access differently? Does energy access benefit these groups differently?** |
| RES: | Yes. It’s a totally different thing. Because whenever the man’s away she will use the energy, it won’t be the same as the rural woman. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. Can you explain that a little bit more?** |
| RES: | Okay. But the rural women, she rarely uses a lot of gadgets, but the urban woman, because of time, she’ll be using a lot of her [s/l 00:11:01] plans. She can leave this on, using this, having a remote. The least she could do is turn off the light, the radio, the television. Leaving them on for long hours. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. How about, do you see a difference between the rich and the poor, like high-income women versus low-income women? Do you see any difference in their energy access?** |
| RES: | Yes. There is a difference. The low-income woman will try to manage things in such a way that she’s [unclear 00:11:50]. The high-income woman, because the money’s there all the time you are not so careful. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. But when, for instance energy infrastructure is provided, like you mentioned earlier there is the hydro, there is also the solar systems, there is - given household energy infrastructure, like you mentioned earlier the fridge, and all of those things. When these infrastructure are made available, whether at a household level or at a Community or even on a National level, do you think it benefits men and women equally? Or men benefit more than women, or women benefit more than men?** |
| RES: | [Laughter] Oh okay, it benefits both. Because we are all going to use it. |
| **INT:** | **So you don’t think there is any difference in terms of the benefits, like some people benefit more than others?** |
| RES: | Oh I think everybody gains to benefit from it. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, that’s great. So I think, we have actually addressed the next question I was about to ask, so I was going to go into - okay, yes, let’s talk a bit about participation, or decision making.**  **Do you think men and women have equal levels of participation when it comes to decision making?** |
| RES: | Men. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. Could you explain that a little bit more, at a household level, at a Community level, how are decisions made?** |
| RES: | Often the decision making, you have to bring the ideas, report together, if things work out, we’ve got to enjoy it. You should realise that [unclear 00:14:29] |
| **INT:** | **Okay, but do you see that level of equality in decision making at a Community level, at a District level?** |
| RES: | No. There isn’t that. Because of the old men. |
| **INT:** | **I’m sorry, I can’t hear you clearly.** |
| RES: | I said we are quite ordinary |
| **INT:** | **The old men** |
| RES: | Yeah, at the Community level. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. How about at a National level, say the Ministry of Energy, Energy Commission, do you see - How do you see women’s participation at that level?** |
| RES: | Oh, well [00:15:28] unlike men, women don’t do that. I think mostly it’s the men that do decide. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. Why do you think it is the men that have that upper hand?** |
| RES: | Because they take women - they don’t have the knowledge to decide on all these steps, yes. Because more men are involved in all this. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. But in actual fact there are some women who actually have these skills, like yourself, who have the knowledge.** |
| RES: | Yes, now not many. |
| **INT:** | **Not many.** |
| RES: | No. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. Okay, so just a few more questions. So at your Organisational level, or at your workplace do you factor, or do you take into consideration gender equity?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, could you explain a little bit more on that?** |
| RES: | Oh okay, let’s say we have a project [unclear 00:16:58], they don’t say, “You are a lady, you really should stay back”. Or you have ladies who just, go together, work together. They will come up and exchange ideas, “I think we should be with this”, or we should back down on both sides. My idea is [unclear 00:17:20], and they are also putting their ideas, I try and I must say. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, that’s great. But look, how effective has that been, has it been very helpful?** |
| RES: | Yes. Well it was, I’ve worked with these women before going there so some of the things, it was like I’ve seen them before so I try and say, “Oh, I’ve seen you before, we have to do this, we have to do that”. But when I said that my teacher would say, “Oh okay, let’s see if they will do it.”  Yes, so I’m like, You will be in no doubt, but then he’s thinking like, “Oh okay, it’s true, it’s true, they will do it”. And so they had to admit it, that they could do it. So they started singing, so the [unclear 00:18:30] that tried to do it, was all red. Then he said, “Oh, ah, it’s true, it’s true; they can do it”. And when I said that, I [unclear 00:18:44] |
| **INT:** | **[laughing].**  **Okay, I see. And these are usually men, or women also do the same?** |
| RES: | No men. |
| **INT:** | **Usually men**  **Yeah. Okay, I see. That’s very interesting.**  **Okay, so let’s talk a little bit about policies. So how do you see Ghana’s energy policies? Do you think our energy policies are gender sensitive?** |
| RES: | No. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, could you explain a little bit more?** |
| RES: | Let’s say they recreate the system. |
| **INT:** | **Yes.** |
| RES: | Well if a man was to, let’s say, {unclear 00:19:46]. I went down to service a [unclear 00:19:54]. I started this. On the way, somehow, the man said, I had to wait for a second man. And I was like, they don’t want to do it. So I stopped then. I contacted a friend, he said contractors, they have issue, if they in front of represent, they [s/l 00:20:34] keep their hair. So we went there. Then they entered this room, they will enter this room. So I think I think they were not fair to me. When I went into the room, there was what they did to me, immediately I left. So sometimes they don’t give us, the woman to, in terms of energy. If they are aware the woman will talk, and when the man comes, then they’re “We do this for you”.  So it’s not fair. |
| **INT:** | **Oh so you mean, in your case, when you went alone they were not willing to do what they are supposed to do? But then when -** |
| RES: | But then when the man wasn’t sure, I was just - no, I don’t really know what they were thinking. I always saw the man as, that they should be. So sometimes they don’t help us, to women, to [unclear 00:21:55].  No they have issue, I tried to find that why they are like that, but they’re, this one is not to; they’re no [unclear 00:22:11] about how a man tries to ask question, then there will be an explanation to the man. So, yes. It’s exhausting for the woman. |
| **INT:** | **Yes, that’s very interesting. Do you think that is, is it a cultural issue or is it, how do you see it? Is it -** |
| RES: | It’s a cultural issue because the worlds are not the same. That’s why things are going this way. They are. |
| **INT:** | **Are, that’s interesting. Okay, so are there - okay, so you mentioned that cultural issue, but are there any other challenges that you think women face, any other gaps that you can high-light, you think women face in the energy sector?** |
| RES: | The women, a lot of them, most of them [unclear 00:23:27] so that is I think is a big problem. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. But in terms of the energy needs of women, do you think our Free Power energy policies are specifically addressing the energy needs of women?** |
| RES: | It depends on how they use it. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so you think their needs are general?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. So would a situation that you mentioned, the mentality, the cultural issue, how do you suggest we would be able to, what recommendations do you think, how do you feel we can address those issues so that women can have the same or equal opportunities to access energy just like men?** |
| RES: | Well I think it starts from the top. So it starts from the top. |
| **INT:** | **From the President.** |
| RES: | Yes. Yes the, what do you call it, there will be a train, and [00:24:59] push to open up to women who are interested in male-dominated ways. People when they have an interest in male-dominated ways. Someone will find a way to discourage the pest. Yes, so that’s what, there should be a National awareness that they should stop, let’s say not teaches or allows the men to employ their [00:25:31]. |
| **INT:** | **Oh okay, so, sorry I didn’t** |
| RES: | I said it should be a general issue. |
| **INT:** | **It should be a general thing, okay, I see. So you mentioned about three or four things, so you talk about training, awareness, creation, announcement. Can you properly elaborate on a little bit, at the National level who do you think should be doing this? Is it the District?** |
| RES: | I don’t think so, this is an energy, the Energy Sector to address. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so we’re talking about the Ministry of Energy?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. But do that the District Assemblies or the local Government has a role to play in these?** |
| RES: | Yes. So from the Energy Sector it should be coming down to the Communities and the Districts. Yes I want this to be coming from them. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. I see. How about say at the household level? Do you thing anything can be done at the household level to change the mentality, the culture of the way men behave, yes, or how men perceive women?** |
| RES: | As for that it depends on the woman. The way the woman puts things together, [unclear 00:27:10] unless the person gets interest or be willing to teach the person more. The lady is not ready to look at the range of energy into the house. Teach that if the person is interested, then you can give her the go-ahead.  Or you get the President to do it. |
| **INT:** | **So it has to start from the person himself, or the woman?** |
| RES: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | **I see. But do you think, at the household level men are giving women that sort of encouragement to get into, or to educate themselves or get interested in energy related issues?** |
| RES: | No, no, no, no. These are what the men say, Hey I should be afraid of power. So to encourage a woman to do it? Anyway if they see the woman be, then they will try to discourage the person. So I think the men, they don’t try. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see. So let’s just get into the last few questions. So if we take your Organisation for instance, what do you think your Organisation would be able to do to encourage or to ensure that women get more equal access to energy and equal participation?** |
| RES: | Maybe high-light the work of the women. If they high-light the work of the women, then suppose more get interested, they have the feeling to get into it. |
| **INT:** | Okay, I see. So let’s get a bit more into some of the issues that you mentioned **earlier, so you talked about hydro, wood fuels, petroleum, and current recently we have also been hearing about LPG, I mean gas. Do you think the Ghanaian Government is actually committed to ensuring that Ghana moves away from fossil fuels? Petroleum towards more renewable energy sources like Solar. Do you see that level of commitment from Government?** |
| **[00:30:00]** |  |
| RES: | Well I think that the new guys, they are starting their projects on Solar [unclear 00:30:03} health. As for this, it’s like just for show. So you can’t [unclear 00:30:17] it’s also sandwiched with the politics. For me I think the policies that the Energy Committee give out to their citizens are [unclear 00:30:29] people will rise into like [unclear 00:30:32], and then they give to crystalise the nation. If they give policies like that, the poor will get into renewable energy. But they did that for some time, it’s going all day. And now it’s time for the product to get the renewable energy power, even towards [00:30:38]. So people are not using renewable energy. The poor will not be interested in this, so the Government is forcing them with these packages, the poor will take it. While saving their [unclear 00:31:17], they will take it off. So the Government is able to provide some small packages that the citizens go for it. |
| **INT:** | **Sorry to take you back, you mentioned earlier that some time ago they were providing free Solar. Is that free Solar installation?** |
| RES: | Free installation. Find a way of introducing the renewable energy to directly effect cost. They will give you a percentage, like 50/50. So you will pay for the item, but pay the installation fee, then they will pay the rest, they will come and install it for you. That’s what we were doing but they stopped. |
| **INT:** | **What happened?** |
| RES: | I don’t know, the Government. It’s a Government issue. They changed the Government and they came and they would not continue with it. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. Was this being done for rural households or urban households or?** |
| RES: | Oh no, it was open to all. It was open to all. So people all over were doing it. I had a car so we could put Solar power in for people. |
| **INT:** | **I see, that’s great.** |
| RES: | There was something for - |
| **INT:** | **But then at a point they decided to stop?** |
| RES: | Yes, they stopped. And now you have to go and buy everything. And lots of people didn’t get it, there are people I know that are waiting for it. |
| **INT:** | **I think you have kind of, to some extent addressed the next question I was about to ask. I was about to ask whether you see at the household level whether people are moving more towards renewable energy sources or -** |
| RES: | Oh, so now on it’s only the rich people that are doing it. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, I see, but recently we also heard about this increase in LPG, gas with cylinder circulation and all of those things. How do you see that policy? Do you think it’s - first do you think it is benefitting women more than men? Or it’s general for everybody? And then secondly do you think it is a movement from, a sign of education that Ghanaians are moving from non-renewable or from dirty energy, fossil fuel dependence more towards sustainable energy sources?** |
| RES: | I think that the first one, it will benefit all of us. They may use the LPG, the women also use the LPG. The men use them for their car. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so in their cars?** |
| RES: | Yes, some car uses LPG. So the gas, it is for everyone. And the second question? |
| **INT:** | **Yes, the second question was related to sustainability. How do you see LPG -** |
| RES: | I suppose that if you went down to look at the power station, the sign says no-gas. So I think the natural ones, the wood, the charcoal, they will always be there. And in case, we use them both. You can’t just stop the usage. People are using the two. |
| **INT:** | **Which one is currently the dominant fuel for cooking for instance? In urban households, which one would you say -** |
| RES: | LPG. |
| **INT:** | **Is there LPG?** |
| RES: | Yes. There is LPG. But even the urban house would have the LPG, but they will still use a coal pot, they will use a coal pot to cook to their type of food. They will not use the LPG to do this. So they are using the two. |
| **INT:** | **I see. How about in the rural area?** |
| RES: | Rural areas, most of them use the fire wood, charcoal, there’s just fewer people who are using the LPG. Just a few, because some of them, the LPG power station, they are not common. They are quite scarce, so just a few people who are using it. |
| **INT:** | **I see, okay. So if, I mean from your personal observations, if you were to look at it in the next ten years, do you think Ghana will still be dependent on hydro and LPG and charcoal like was are dependent on now? Or you think there will be a change.** |
| RES: | They will still depend on it. They will still depend on it. But I guess the percentages will increase and decrease. But they will still have them in use. |
| **INT:** | **I see, but do you think this LPG and charcoal and firewood, does it have any effect on women?** |
| RES: | Yes, that firewood, it’s bad for them because of the smoke. |
| **INT:** | **So you would recommend that we need to move away from these sources of -** |
| RES: | For me, as a percentage change. Let’s say you use the LPG more than the firewood or the charcoal, because some of the cooking you need a lot of energy, let’s say fire. So when we are trying to encourage Solar and LPG, without incentive then it will finish. So sometimes with the charcoal, it’s use is cheaper than solar. That’s why people use LPG and most try not to use the charcoal. So the percentage, like let’s say you use the LPG 70% and the charcoal 30%. |
| **INT:** | **Well since Solar is your main specialisation, let me get a little bit more into that. Do you think households in Ghana are likely to be using Solar for heating, or for cooking purposes any time soon?** |
| RES: | No, no, no, no, no. Even the LPG they are using the charcoal a lot, so much more than electrical. No, no, no, no, no. |
| **INT:** | **Okay, so I think that was the last question for the study. But I would also like to, or let me also ask about, so in certain situations we may need data, gender and segregated data, for instance you talked about the usage of the various fuels, and also the number of women who are in the Energy Sector, do you think there is that data available for us to be able to use to make informed policy decisions?** |
| **[00:40:00]** |  |
| RES: | No, not as such. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. But you think it, would it be good to get such data, make the data available, would it be beneficial?** |
| RES: | To get the data on, unless you know the number of people in the Energy Sector, the men in the Energy Sector, I think that will not change any time. There, at the end of the day, when you see the data you try to convince more women to try at it. Yes, but now women are not having the interest. Then you can send to me. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So that was my last question. But I want to ask if there is anything that you would like to add. Any advice you have for us. Any particular issues that you think we need to focus on?** |
| RES: | [s/l 00:41:29] Concerning the ladies? |
| **INT:** | **Yes please.** |
| RES: | Okay, I mean, I think our energy is really good, everyone enjoys living, without energy things would not move on. So I think that is the basis of everybody uses it. They should try and make it available and we should all be doing it, all the Ghanaians we are together. We have to get this, it should be in the policy, it’s not working. What do you call it, because the [unclear 00:42:16] you can’t go in the  The Government should do something about energy. Everybody needs it. We depend on it. [unclear 00:42:28] So you have to imagine. Everyone needs energy. So I think the Government should do something about it. Last year the Energy Development, they were giving it to us for free. Then we are paying it. We are paying for it. Why did they do that? It’s not fair, because you made people understand that it’s free, but now we are paying to cover your debts. This is not fair. But at least if we feel, okay, I’m not giving it for you for free, but if you get it then I’ll give you 10%, or like bonus, then you say that is okay. But having it this way [unclear 00:43:29]. They are still taking their 10%. So it’s not fair. The Government should do something about the Energy Sector. But everybody needs it. The Government needs to realise is like, Why is everybody using it? It shouldn’t be our firewood for everyone. So that what I say. |
| **INT:** | **Okay. So thank you very much for your time.** |
| RES: | Okay. |
| **INT:** | **Thank you very much for sharing your insights with us. So we’ve taken notes of your recommendations that you have made, and so we are going to take that into our account in this research. But I would also like to mention that, so this is an on-going research, we are still interviewing a number of people, but we are planning to, when we finish with the interviews we are planning to do, or organise a National Workshop. So that we bring together a number of stakeholders to again deliberate, so an open forum for all the various stakeholders from the private sector, from the Government and from also Civil site Organisations, to share their views on how we can improve equitable energy access and also how we can mainstream gender equity into our energy policies. But we have not scheduled the exact time that this workshop would take place yet. We are still doing the interviews, so when it is done and we schedule the workshop I’ll let you know in case you are free and then you would like to participate. Then you can join us for the workshop.** |
| RES: | Okay. Thank you. |
| **INT:** | **Thank you very much XXXX.** |
| RES: | You’re welcome. |
| **INT:** | **All right, have a nice evening.** |
| RES: | Yes, and you. |
| **INT:** | **Bye.** |
| RES: | Bye. |

**Audio Ends: [00:45:59.6]**