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| **Interviewer name** | INTERVIEWER |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | ARU |
| **Interview date** | XXXX |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 1hr 40 mins 08 secs |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | I5 |
| * **Participant name** | XXXX |
| * **Organisation name** | XXXX |
| * **Gender** | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category** | Technical professional working in Energy Sector |
| * **Country** | India |

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I think we are on recording now, so-

RESPONDENT: Okay

INTERVIEWER: Good afternoon, ma'am.

RESPONDENT: Good afternoon.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much for participating in this study of ours, we really appreciate the time. And this is - the study is aimed at obtaining a better understanding of energy access and gender equity, specifically within the context of India and also at an international level. But before we start, I just want to check with you a couple of regular things that I have to just put down. One is, have you completed and returned the consent form?

RESPONDENT: Yes, I have.

INTERVIEWER: Through this interview, we would request you to share your experience and expertise as someone working in the energy sector, as well as your views and opinions on gender equity in energy access. Is it okay if we record the interview for our documentation purposes? The recorded interview will be transcribed for analysis, and a copy of the transcript will be shared with you for your approval. Is it okay?

RESPONDENT: It's okay. Yeah, it's okay.

INTERVIEWER: All the information we obtain serves the sole purpose of the study and will be seen only by the research team. Your name and any other identifying features will not be used in reports and other public - publications emerging from this study. The interview will take more or less one hour.

RESPONDENT: That's okay.

INTERVIEWER: If we can proceed- If we can proceed with the interview, ma'am.

RESPONDENT: Just give me one minute I'll switch on my light... Yeah, we can start.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So, can you start briefly by telling me about the departments and organizations and positions you've worked for in your professional career?

RESPONDENT: So, I worked first for a XXXX and then I joined XXXX. And that is where I started, I got exposed first to rural energy and then to cooking energy and got interested in stoves research. Starting with designing an improved biomass stove, XXXX So that's largely what the journey has been. I was with the XXXX for the rest of my career. That's about XXXX years. And then I retired in XXXX. Yeah. So, I've been retired for about XXXX years now.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so just to have a quick understanding of your background and how- how and why you got into this line of work, especially with your involvement with energy issues, and specific energy related activities or programs and the kind of work that you did on the field?

RESPONDENT: Okay, so when I was hired by XXXX, my mandate was to work on building energy modelling, and XXXX. In those days setting up computer centre, training people in computers was a window of opportunity for new jobs. So, with physics background, all this seemed very interesting and doable. But what attracted me to Rural Energy was one could actually study Rural Energy. I mean, anything to do with rural areas was much harder those days, then even now, I think it was one of the first Rural Energy surveys in India that was being led by XXXX, who was the head of XXXX in research unit. And his colleagues were typing the report on the computer, so I was helping them with, I think it's Word Perfect or one of those word processing softwares and, you know, you read the report, and you're like, wow, this is quite interesting. And there was a colleague of mine, who was designing improved stoves as a project. And XXXX, you may have heard his name. He was collaborating with XXXX to measure emissions. So, you know, I was like, I grew up in biomass burning kitchen, and we would as growing up, teenagers, close the kitchen door and sit in the hall so that the smoke didn't come out in the hall, and we were not exposed to the smoke. So, I was like, this is cool, you can design an improved stove, and solve such a big problem in the world, it seemed far more interesting than going on the moon, which had originally motivated me to study physics as a subject in my college days, so you know, a bit of social orientation. Combining this whole- your educational background, your job opportunity, as well as doing something for something useful for society seemed very attractive and doable. so that's where my passion came for- from. And then, when I moved to XXXX, as luck would have it, there was a project to measure emissions and efficiency together to understand trade-offs. So, we I think, we - the first simulated kitchen in the most posh area of Delhi that was in Jor Bagh in - we were in 7 Jor Bagh those days. And we later on found out that we don't even have a photo of that kitchen anymore. So that's where I met XXXXfirst. We collaborated on that work. And that's how clean cooking energy continued to stay as a passion, you know whether I had a project to do or not whether I was like, for example, after I moved to XXXX, I largely worked on small scale industries. But the work on stoves continued in some way, I think to - what you do as something that you feel committed to - I wanted to use the word hobby, but then I said, no, that doesn't quite fit in. You know, people don't do these things for hobby. But you can say passion. Yeah, I had an opportunity to continue doing that and that's slightly thanks to XXXX. I mean, you know, he, even though later on, we didn't work together because I moved my jobs. And then cooking was not an XXXX priority, but still continued to work together till- till he completely switched to LPG as a clean cooking option, and I completely get that because that seemed like such a huge opportunity to pursue clean cooking. So that's where I come from. And I used to say till a few years ago that if there is a major event on clean cooking, then I would be among the gate crashers if I'm not invited. But not anymore, though (laughs). Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, yeah. So, in your work, what kind of energy related activities and programs have you undertaken?

RESPONDENT: So, this is a overall question, right, INTERVIEWER?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, to understand your background of work.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah. So, when I started my career, Rural Energy was a big thing. The other thing, which we did quite a bit was testing renewable energy devices in rural areas. I have my PhD in XXXX. So, back then I studied air pollution in Kanpur. So, I also worked on modelling air pollution in National Capital Region. So why - when I left XXXX, I was the XXXX there. So, I have a overall understanding of energy policy. But the part that I have not engaged is major energy sources, you know, coal, oil, gas, etc. so those I did not engage with when I moved to XXXX, the first project we had, and this was a global environment program was to promote solar photovoltaic lighting in the country, and you have to take yourself back to XXXX, GEF was new, solar photovoltaic was still very expensive. And XXXX in its wisdom said, we want to do it for rural lighting. And one of the most telling field trips in those days would be to travel to rural areas and walk in the face in the middle of the night to see how the lights are functioning in a few households that one would see being late and what the motivations were. So, the motivations also used to be security from snakes, from animals, because these would be typically households in the fields. Solar photovoltaics did not take off then. So, we were left with a chunk of money which we then requested government of India to move to working with civil society organizations and we set up a solar innovation Fund with XXXX's help. We called it as XXXX. So, you know playing around with financial instruments, etc. So, you can say if I have to describe my energy sector work, I would say it was end use focused. It was largely for underserved consumers, including the small-scale industries and domestic consumers- associated topic was the health effects. So, we did some very interesting projects in slums of Delhi and villages of XXXX looking at indoor air pollution, that was kind of very interesting setups to do air pollution monitoring, it was not very common then, which must have been one of the first studies to do that. So, it also covered - there was a time when I used to co- say that if you are doing something in biomass energy, then starting with counting, what kind of crop residues a village generates, what kind of dung is available, I remember a project in Garhwal hills which also looked at the stress index, keeping biomass as a fuel source. And looking at it as Sustainability Index. Your village has access to certain area of forest, our neighbouring common areas and this is the kind of biomass you can sustainably harvest. But this is the kind of energy you need for your village. So, what kind of deficit is there? Can you grow that kind of resources there? So, you know, lot of planning related almost to tie up, we did a project for XXXX called district energy planning for a XXXX, XXXX also had fairly progressive offices then led by XXXXso he said why didn't you guys design a methodology and we focused on district as a unit because district can take decisions. But we were also very clear that you don't jump around doing things village by village, you do them in a cluster of contiguous villages. So that program implementation becomes more effective. And one of the ideas I vaguely remember was related to gasifier-based cooking energy system. So that was all in the domestic sector but when I moved to XXXX along with this photovoltaic lighting, there was a project on - XXXX to -in the refrigeration sector to replace CFC based refrigeration with hydrocarbon based and very interesting part of that project was how do you train the technicians to look after these new refrigeration units in the market? And that took us then to it is, private sector training, public sector training, you know, doing things- key building on a very large scale. To wind up, very large project that I ran for small scale industries was for introducing energy efficiency in the XXXX. I left out the rural housing but that's okay. That's a separate topic altogether.

INTERVIEWER: Ma'am, which area in India are you talking about? - and you said XXXX that is where?

RESPONDENT: It is in XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And the rural areas that you were talking about, that's also- that's also a little-

RESPONDENT: You know, the direct interventions were in Haryana near to Delhi and the evaluations of stove programs were in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and one more state- West Bengal your state.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, okay, very good, right. And in this work, ma'am, how much did energy access feature?

RESPONDENT: You know, those days energy access was not a word that was used. Energy was largely looked at as providing energy- increasing energy efficiency and providing clean indoor environment. I think energy access became a word maybe early, late 90s, you find right?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. But when you look back, how do you evaluate energy access in the work that you were doing?

RESPONDENT: Okay. So, when I - okay, when I look back, access came in largely in terms of, for example, people not cooking enough because they don't have wood. So, it was lack of quantity or say, regulatory pressures in Firozabad industry, because of Taj Mahal… Supreme Court gave a decision that coal can't be used, you have to shift to natural gas. So, the entire energy system had to be changed. So, you have no longer access, but that was a regulatory reason in foundries, because the foundries had to move away and coal in foundries was very polluting, these became polluting industries. So, you know, energy access became an issue because of regulatory reasons. You have to relocate, like the brick industries now, they, every now and then they are being threatened. And then -it's -it's not that we don't have coal, it's the climate reasons. It's the pollution reasons that one needs to move away from and the health reasons so to me, it's more systemic change than anything else. So, the whole world is moving towards renewable cleaner energy systems, which also then tend to be more efficient. So that's- that's how- so it's a multi - multi dimensional problem or you can say structural problem in the energy systems.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Right. So, when we talk about access to energy, have you in your work seen a differentiality in that like different groups having different levels of access to energy?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, you know, this global tracking framework, I - I actually also worked as an advisor, part of a technical advisory group for XXXX for XXXX years after I retired. And that is when the XXXX group in World Bank was developing this global tracking framework where access got categorized at different levels. And in our work, we, we largely distinguished between access for basic needs and livelihoods. And access as you move up the ladder, you know, from I would say, what is equivalent of tier two or tier three. But in our research questions, we didn't really categorize in this manner in those days.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, okay. What- can you tell me a little bit more about these energy access issues, which you may have seen within say, like the electrification program that you were talking about, or at policy level or when you were working on certain tech projects?

RESPONDENT: You see the problem. It became very clear very early in the work that the quantum of energy that was being promised or being provided was not enough in the electrification we ran this huge rural lighting project or other rural lighting projects, they only focused on lighting. So, we- we actually did a few village level electrification projects using micro hydro and using biofuels, Jatropha fuel. And in those projects, we were always confronted with this that you provide people electricity, they, in order for them to be able to pay your bills, they need to get more money, so their livelihoods need to be strengthened. And for energy system to work better, it needs to have a constant load. So, we would keep looking for livelihood loads that they can keep the system running and that matching never happened. So, we also tried to say okay, you know, the rural electrification, the village level, electrification DREs (Decentralised Renewable/Rural Electrification plants) should get connected to the main grid, so they on their own generate revenues. After the rural electrification policy of 2003 came in, this became a big topic. But somehow electricity being on the concurrent list, the central government programs and the state government readiness at the district level, it never was enough. So, we could never achieve that coherence. So, at the policy level, if one were to pick up and we really struggled a lot with that, we struggled a lot with that in biofuels project, you know, visualize a village where you have this good running biofuel project, and the main grid gets extended. You don't want the villagers to be deprived of the main grid. But the main grid is not able to supply electricity in a reliable manner. So somehow, we wanted that the village level electricity committee and the substation level organization of the electricity sector in the state, the company somehow should talk to each other, enter into arrangements so that it results in a win win situation. And that never happened. And to me, that is largely a governance question. It is not so much a technology question. So, the different levels of government- governance, I shouldn't say government, because these line departments - to be able to talk to each other? So, there is some kind of a deep-rooted problem that we have towards being able to treat the rural areas on the same footing as the urban areas.

INTERVIEWER: So, you think that the, the networking of these line services happen better in urban areas?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yes, certainly. And things have, you know, few years ago, I think not more than two or three years ago, after this new scheme, household electrification scheme got announced by the central government and each state was to make a plan on how they would electrify all the households, West Bengal Energy sector Secretary with GIZ, I think the two agencies got together and XXXX. It was very telling this state level planning board officer, this lady said, you know, it's not that we don't want to give electricity to our rural households. But we don't have money, and they don't have money and electricity costs money. So how do we do that - so this I think, is a major problem, both in electricity consumption, as well as in LPG consumption. So, it's more access to your incomes, it is how strong the livelihood side that will determine whether you can use electricity or you can use LPG. So that I think is the underlying problem and not so much (in hindi) *that whether you will get or not, whether you will get Electricity or not*. So that's, that's an issue.

INTERVIEWER: there is an affordability component to that?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, very strong, very strong component. And, you know, you move a bit away from the consumers and come to the next level, that is the supply end- if you look at the supply agencies in rural areas or the substations responsible for the rural areas, they- they are in no enviable position either. So you know, you make them as the weakest link of the system and put on them the highest burden of the system, the entire non-performance burden, *(in hindi) How will they run if you tie their hands and feet?*

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, from that context, when you were saying that affordability becomes such a huge component of access *(in hindi) whether the service line is coming or not* becomes a lesser problem as to whether you can pay for it or not, right?

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: *(in hindi) So* equitable energy access*, (in hindi) what does it mean to you?,* what do you understand by this term, equitable energy access?

RESPONDENT: So (laughs), you know, we moved far away from when I was in the development sector for 20 years of my life, even though I handled energy sectors, which was a little more technical than livelihood chains, all my other colleagues were more rooted in reality. The problem really is can we go beyond the markets to ensure that all members of society or all citizens are entitled to certain minimum services, and government has the responsibility to provide those services- can we move in that direction. And this- this may sound very socialistic- but then what is governance other than this? So, you know, you live in a state, which I guess is more rooted in basic rights than other states, but to be able to respect and honour those basic rights for all citizens, I think the governance needs to do a lot, and that we seem to have moved away from we've just been like, markets, markets, markets, and markets don't solve the problems.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I mean, you’re right in the sense that the understanding of services as a right is a very heightened understanding in Kerala, for example. And that is probably-

RESPONDENT: Yeah, I think that's very, very important. That's very important. You know, I used to- we ran a huge, very interesting Rural Housing Program, and one of the partners was a XXXXX leader in one village, in Tamil Nadu. Ilango was his name I forget the details. So, he would very often say- he said, you know, your generation people were happy to get what daily labour- go get your food eat that food in the night, and sleep, but the younger generation's aspirations are very different. They would like to have livelihoods which are better, which are more paying, and which are more in line with the tunes they are in. And he said *(in hindi) hands cant be left idle, hands need work* otherwise the hands, will get into monkey business, no? Yeah. So, I thought that was very, very visual..telling.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so in this understanding of energy access, how- what does gender equity mean for you?

RESPONDENT: You know, (laughs) this is this is a very, very- sorry. This is a- I just posted- you know, I come from a town I live now in a city where XXXX established education for girls. And there is - and because I'm in Maharashtra, and even otherwise, she is lauded, her birthday is women's whatever, education day or something, something. So, I posted this is only half the story, the story will become complete only when men not only start taking responsibility, but also start sharing the tasks. Only then can women realize their full potential as equal citizens- as equal citizens. So, coming from that, I mean, Kerala particularly with its high level of education also has very difficult gender equity situation. So, my, my typical image of house household in Kerala is the women shoulder all the family responsibilities, do their job, and men kind of just hang around.

INTERVIEWER: That is actually very true. In a lot of socioeconomic levels. Women do both the economic activity as well as the domestic activity.

RESPONDENT: That's right. Yeah. So that, and this, this cuts across I mean, you know, it's, if you have servants, you are lucky, but the onus of running the damn household is with the lady of the house. And I was told once by an Andhra participant, he said, you know, what can you do - that's nature. I was like, if I wasn't moderating this session, I would have gone and given him one or two pieces of my mind. So, it's, it's very, I also have had this view that if men were participating in the kitchen as much as women do, then we would have moved towards cleaner cooking systems much faster, much faster because very often this whole affordability question gets linked to gender equity question. You know, you will have money to pay for EMIs for a TV or for something something, but you will not have that money for a gas cylinder, because that doesn't entertain you.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right.

RESPONDENT: So, I think it's a very important question. So, you can even turn it around and ask yourself, will we ever have clean household? (coughs) Sorry, I have to get water.

INTERVIEWER: Sure.

RESPONDENT: Household level clean energy systems till we realise gender equity. You can ask this question ourselves and try and see what kind of data comes? You know, for example, women, I don't know why it is said that women prioritize children's education over whatever other needs of the family are- help I can completely understand - education because it's such a long-term goal. But why does it have to be women? It's the families - it's, it's the whole, you know, in my generation, earlier than mine, people were taught Home Economics as part of home science. Yes. And all the girls were asked to study that. So, I would laugh with my *‘buas’* (aunts) and say that, you know, your husbands also should have studied that, then the homes would run very differently. So somewhere for me, you know, I agree that there is a difference between equality and equity but on many fronts, I think equity needs equal participation.

INTERVIEWER: True, very true. Okay, so when we're looking at energy consumption, okay, and consumer needs, how is the-how did you kind of map the energy consumer needs - in within your work?

RESPONDENT: So, you know, what, what we did, in our end, I did a lot of rural energy surveys, we didn't do urban in those days, but we did a lot of Rural Energy surveys. They were- I still believe that the end use approach is a good approach. We had cooking, water heating, agriculture, space heating, if we did it in the Himalayas, you know, colder regions, we distinguish tasks. In those days, lighting was a distinct use. In those days, entertainment and radio, all these devices were not so predominant. Okay, so if I remember in the ru- the first rural energy database was set up by XXXX, and it was designed by our team, we had a group XXXXis what we used to call and its job was to develop these different methods and try and get the primary data to understand what is it that a village really currently uses and would aspire to use and we saw renewable energy as a complimentary resource to the conventional energy sources. And we saw this more as a gradual process that as the country moves ahead, more and more rural areas would benefit from conventional energy sources, the one sector that got left out very often, even though we con- covered agriculture, we did not cover transportation very systematically. Because it was not easy to estimate.

INTERVIEWER: Especially in rural-

RESPONDENT: Yeah, rural, you know, tractors- tractors are used for just about anything. I mean, whether you have a car or a tractor? It's the same use. And one thing that I learned as at the broader level that the transportation demand projections always went wrong. Always. The- the actual usage of energy in transportation far exceeded any demand projections, long term projections.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right. So, in that data collection, did you have any criteria for diversity to understand diversity in energy access?

RESPONDENT: Oh, yes, you know, we didn't call it diversity then, but we always called resource and end use matrix. So, you would have a matrix on one side, there would be end users on the other side, there would be resources, and they will get quantified. So within, for example, in the north, dung cakes for milk heating became an- a major consumption source. So, we even ran a small project to conceptualize if we could design a *Hara*. *Hara* is the *chullah* that is used for milk heating, that will be more energy efficient than the traditional Hara. And the scientist who worked on it said, no, that's not possible, because what they do currently is most optimal. So, we left that project. So, a lot of- I would say -disaggregation was there. So, it was a very strong end use approach almost to a flaw, because many of us didn't have a larger perspective of the energy sector when we started. It came in as we all learnt together. I mean, I was glad that there was an institution like XXXX, because you know, in those days I think we were the, perhaps only Energy Institute.

INTERVIEWER: And later in your work with XXXX and all is there any diversity map that?

RESPONDENT: So, yeah, yeah, you know, in XXXX's work, the driving force was a global environment. XXXX was unique in the sense, they created a Global Environment Program, which operated in many different countries of the world. And the diversity existed more in terms of kinds of industries we worked with, for example, brick kilns is the best example. There -this is diversity in a technical sense, and not diversity in a group sense in a different population. But what we did was we started off working in the big sector as creating a new efficient brick kiln so that the GHG emissions are reduced. But XXXX being a development agency, they also said you have to integrate the social dimensions of the project. So, we started working with the firemen and started working with the families of the firemen. So, what we called as techno social integration, and families of the firemen in the whole of the country comes from few clusters of villages in Uttar Pradesh and large number of boulders come from Orissa. So, we tried to develop a project called XXXX, which ran on the technical side as well as on the social side looked at the migration issues. So tried to develop, I would say, an integrated project.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, the criteria is more like you were looking at specific industries and the stakeholders involved in that industry, right.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah. But we did - There's a junk call, which I'm declining, but we did run a rural housing project where house design we sat with the women of the household. So that was a very innovative approach and about XXXX houses got built across the country in that manner. And you know, once we were going around the village, and this I asked where are the men in the village, what are they doing? So - some men who were around there said, anyway, you don't like to talk to the men, so all the men are playing cards in the village. Yeah, but not diversity, which some of my colleagues did, we had a huge gender program within XXXX and integrating gender in the program was a major requirement. For example, in the brick project, when we created organizations in the villages from where the firemen came, those were organizations of the women, because women were managing the households. And we felt that is a important institutional intervention that needs to be done. So very project specific and largely to increase two things. One, the skill levels, as well as the participation level- two things were very important.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, when you were working in these villages, especially maybe even the household design that you were talking about? When we look at energy access, do you actually find at the household level- there is a differential energy access based on gender?

RESPONDENT: We didn't study that.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. But any observations?

RESPONDENT: So yeah, you know. (laughs). So, yeah. The location of the lamps? Where do you install the lamps, it was the best of the wattage came to the drawing room and the kitchens were invariably poorly lit and because of the biomass stoves the walls were dark. So, in some cases, we saw this intervention *(in hindi) that in some cases people would use lime plaster to keep the walls white* from time to time. Yeah, but these are just observations, no major studies as such. The only study that we did was the burden of carrying fuelwood.

INTERVIEWER: So please feel free to share your observations also based on you know-

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, sure. So, this- this burden of carrying fuelwood I mean, a lot got written about how many miles they travelled, what all happens, but it's only much later that we observed that in the hills particularly because they were carrying fuel wood on their backs, their uteruses would get affected. And the other observation a nutrition person once made, is the energy needed to carry the fuel wood in some areas is more than the daily energy that women get by eating food. So you know, the whole nutrition, malnutrition or poor nutrition effects are very, very high and very iniquitous, injuries and safety also got mentioned- this hill studies were quite revealing in these observations. If I look up some of the publications you might find some but yes, they definitely were much more for the women than- men rarely went to collect the fuel.

INTERVIEWER: So, you were also pointing out the differentiality in the nutrition level, which is also an energy access issue.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah basic human- human energy, no? At the end of the day, it's what we use.

INTERVIEWER: And the fact that women probably have lesser access to nutrition than men do?

RESPONDENT: Use much more- yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so and also at community level, did you notice this kind of differentiality?

RESPONDENT: Community level? No.

INTERVIEWER: Like planning of electrification resources where male priorities were being given, like-

RESPONDENT: Wherever we - we worked we started off with a village level Energy Committee which had women in it. And while I did a lot of work on impact evaluation of other projects, I never had a chance to look at impacts of rural electrification programs themselves. You know, I- I had an opportunity to evaluate government's improved XXXX program, which was a huge learning experience that introduced me. We got our programs evaluated, like, for example, the brick sector program. But we never had, I could be wrong. No, we did. There was a program of Government of India called Village XXXX. And individual villages got interventions. And we did an evaluation of that. I remember that. But I don't think this came as a major observation. If it did, I would remember.

INTERVIEWER: I mean, for example, just to jog your memory, like you were talking about the electrification committee, right, which had women representation also. But when there are, like, competing priorities, for example, one aspect, which needs a lot of energy is water. So, you know, the well, village well, and the electrification need for pumping out water from the village well, as opposed to something else, which is a male priority. I mean, I mean, water should be everybody's priority, but it all comes from women’s labour, right? So, these kinds of competing priorities did you notice?

RESPONDENT: Not really, no, in fact, what we did notice, however, was everybody wanted street lighting.

INTERVIEWER: Right, and that’s a safety issue.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, that's not just a safety issue -for men, they can gang around and chat- for women it was safer to move around in the village. Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right. And how do you think gender affects energy usage in households? Like to just kind of elaborate on it- like, within homes- what are the different tasks that men and women do which consume energy? And how different are they? And then what level of energy? Do men - how men can access versus women within a household?

RESPONDENT: You know, yeah, yeah, yeah in fact, I did some work with XXXX, after I retired- XXXX XXXX. And they wanted to look at energy use in urban households, small households, right. And what was very interesting there is energy use was strongly linked with livelihoods. So, women and -women ran a lot of livelihood options in the households.

INTERVIEWER: Home based-

RESPONDENT: Home based enterprises. And there that became a major, major, major criteria that whatever energy is needed for that enterprise will be provided for.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And it was focusing specifically on women led initiatives of home based-

RESPONDENT: Because it's XXXX, because it was XXXX XXXX, all their members, etc. So, you know, I haven't studied it, but I would hazard a guess that if you have access to energy, I would visualize that they would be not too many conflicts on the use of energy for a particular task, for example, children's studies. Men coming home early because there is light at home now. This was made as an observation by many households, that once they get light, either through electricity or through renewable energy, the evenings at home become much more pleasant. There's more activity happening, there are men coming there's a bit of socialization that happens, so they were more comfortable in having that.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. What I mean, maybe just to clarify is like what you already mentioned, right? That if you are putting the first bulb in your home, where does that bulb get put? If you're putting the first plug point in your home where does the plug point get put?

RESPONDENT: yeah, exactly, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And the electricity needs of women's labour within the home versus male labour or those kinds of things? That's what we were talking about, really.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah. But you know, those. For example. If there is a load, I mean, if you have a one-kilowatt connection, or a two-kilowatt connection, then you can more or less use all appliances, right? You can alternate with them. So, if the problem came only when you had this to light a solar program, or solar lantern program, there is only one lantern to be shared around, you know things like that. But no major conflicts around that.

INTERVIEWER: But if we expand that, to you just talked about, like, if somebody has a one-kilowatt connection, load connection, then they can run all appliances. But then which appliances get bought?

RESPONDENT: You see what gets bought? It's a very interesting question, because everyone likes entertainment, who does not like to watch Mahabharat and Ramayan. And who does not like to watch soap operas in the afternoon, you know, *(hindi) Saas bhi kabhi bahu thi* (name of a popular Hindi serial) whatever, whatever. So those kind of become common needs. I don't recollect instances when there is major competition in use.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right. But the priority would be for the television versus say aitchen appliance

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely, definitely.

INTERVIEWER: I mean, even if everybody wants it, but the priority would be to get a television instead of say a kitchen appliance, right?

RESPONDENT: Very true, very, very true. Yeah. Like for example, you know, we got an LPG stove in our family when I was in class 9. I grew up in small parts of Karnataka, small towns, we had to have a queue for LPG in a waiting line two years or whatever, and the initial deposit. So, when I had some scholarship money, we decided that we'll buy the LPG connection, because you have a chunk of money available. Whereas we started our own household, the money was not the issue, the availability was the issue. Affordability was not the issue. So, you know, these things also change over time. And you know, in today's- for example- I will say this in slightly different ways in my field trip in XXXX last year, I was asking this question about access to LPG cylinders, connections and cylinders so in one of the tribal villages all those women said you know, we got the first cylinder and then the pass books were taken away by the person who supplied the cylinder, and now he doesn't supply cylinders anymore. And some of us don't want it, some of us don't know where to go. So here best this is where the gender equity would come in. If this was perhaps a man's domain then the men would go find out why bought - because they operate in public domain in public offices much more than women, so women were fairly clueless. So, the agency with whom we were working, I was telling their workers I said you know, why don't you guys help these people a little bit, it doesn't take much you anyway go to block offices, you're just visiting one more office. That is where this gender equity comes in very, very strongly. *(Hindi) the firewood they can go* you know, they can go ahead and get their wood. They know where to go.

INTERVIEWER: When they could- they have control over the- yeah, yes, yes. Moment it becomes an LPG or something, it means it's an alien system which they are not used to interacting with.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, and that is a problem. That is a huge problem.

INTERVIEWER: o that's- that's also kind of an awareness and education level problem.

RESPONDENT: One, that. Also, the access to the public systems, I mean (*hindi) you have to go into the village*, you are in some remote village, you have to go 10 kilometres, you lose your day's labour, your husband doesn't want you to go he has something else to do, he's not ready to go. So, there is very conflicting issues involved, very involved issues. So, you know, for example, if we are looking at the equity quest- gender equity question, a lot more social research needs to be done on the energy access question. Which hasn't been done, I haven't come across.

INTERVIEWER: So, this is probably one of the efforts we are taking to understand that.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, I think it's really needed, really needed,

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, did you find different groups of women also having different levels of access to energy? Like, for example, older and younger women, income groups, community or even ethnic or cultural groups or religious groups, I mean?

RESPONDENT: I would, I would rather say more in terms of physical distance, accessibility.

INTERVIEWER: Distance from?

RESPONDENT: From, for example, you and I, if there is no electricity, we can call the substation number and complain. If I'm in a tribal village, *(hindi) where*, even if I have a mobile phone, I will perhaps not know (*hindi) who should I call*. So, this awareness about the system and you forget the system is so insensitive. It is so insensitive and so corrupt at that level. So that is really a question - it's a governance question again. So there, I think it is a intertwining of the awareness, the social status, as well as lack of social sensitivity in the system. That I think that interface is very, very fragile. If not, weak- it's very fragile.

INTERVIEWER: Within the government- governance system in India, you're saying?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And this applies everywhere. I will give you my own personal example. I - I live in Kolhapur, which is a smaller district town, and I do not have too many strong connections. I'm not a known person in the neighbourhood. So those guys know that I've come from Pune or I come from Delhi. So, this LPG PDA shop, he made me pay for the connection. And he took all my I-cards. And he said, you come and take the regulator, after two days or two, whatever number of days, I must have made 10 trips over six months, every time there is a lot of sweet talk. But I never get the regulator. And I have not used- I did not want to use any connection, because I wanted to see how this man behaves. And if he can do this to me, you can imagine what he can do to others. So, I'm sure he's using all my connection details and selling the cylinder in black to somebody. That's my conjecture. It may be a hypothesis.

INTERVIEWER: Why does he need your IDs?

RESPONDENT: Because he gets an extra connection, no? So, he has access to a cylinder. So, he can sell it to some *(hindi) some shop*, some restaurant, whatever, whatever.

INTERVIEWER: At a commercial rate?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah. Whatever rates he wants. And he's my age, so he's, he's very polite, I speak the language. I can use somebody's influence. I have a whole lot of nephews and cousins who are very influential, but I just wanted to test the system. So, I said *(hindi) I will not tell them*, let me see how long this guy will hold. Then of course, COVID happened so I stopped going so last one year, I haven't gone.

INTERVIEWER: So, you don't have an LPG connection?

RESPONDENT: I don't need, you know, we are the kind of people who have so many options. So, there's an induction stove, there's a small cylinder. Somebody who has two, three, do you know that there are more number of LPG connections than the total number of households in the country?

INTERVIEWER: Okay. (laughs)

RESPONDENT: What does it indicate that some of us have more connections, right?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. And many many people don't have even one, right?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, it's the system and once -you know for example, *(hindi) if I am in the village in XXXX and I have a few animals, what will I do? I will make my dung cakes and*, I will be very self-sufficient.

INTERVIEWER: *(Hindi) then the comes down to energy security too*?

RESPONDENT: Right, right, right.

INTERVIEWER: Instead of depending on a central dispensing system, which is not reliable, which you don't have control over you'd rather than go to your biomass and go to your firewood, because that is- that is a source you can control.

RESPONDENT: Right, right. So, you know, that is why I mean, that is my conjecture that even though this LPG scheme has run its run women because of energy security reasons will continue to use energy stacking. So, you cannot differentiate between you cannot delink energy access to energy security, energy security comes before energy access. So, we will live with the combination.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so you've kind of answered my next question already, in terms of the energy infrastructure that you've worked with, if you would just kind of like to summarize it for me once that within your work and in the different organizations you've worked with, what are the key energy infrastructures you have worked with?

RESPONDENT: So, one the first point across sectors, small industries households that I have worked with one point that comes out - is that for the small pockets of energy use, low end energy consumers, the energy infrastructure is still very fragile, and it needs to be strengthened. So that is point number one, the second is there needs to be a coherence between the decentralized and the centralized energy systems at the level of the policy, the third is the low-end energy enterprises such as the supply side enterprises, they need to be financially strengthened. So, these come as the main points and the last one at the end of the- the end users need to be made aware of what their rights are, the whole system needs to be understood. So that that education is needed, you know, how many people know how to read a electricity bill? So that education is needed at the- at the end of the enduse somebody there needs to be educated.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, which are the energy infrastructure you worked on? Within your work?

RESPONDENT: One of course is how to manage- manage different decentralized renewable energy systems. That is one at the village level. Second one is at the rural electricity policy; how do you bring in coherence between the decentralized renewable energy systems and the electricity policy itself? At the state level. These are the two main ones.

INTERVIEWER: Ma'am just one second I just need to mute myself…Sorry, ma'am, I just had to take care of something. Yeah. So, when new energy infrastructure technologies are being planned, or provided, what in your view? Are the differences between men and women in terms of the benefits?

RESPONDENT: Say it again, I didn't get your question, XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: When new energy infrastructure is being planned or technology are being planned, do you see any difference between - a differential benefit between men and women?

RESPONDENT: Certainly.. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think is- are those differences in terms of-

RESPONDENT: You know in, for, for example, energy infrastructure is largely seen as men's jobs, they're seen as more technical. So, I, I think there are two things that need to happen because women are and will continue to be the main users of energy systems for time to come. And while we are taking away the control from them on their current systems, that control will largely go to all the infrastructure places where men work, so women are likely to be quite disempowered. So, I think the main thing that needs to be done is to make sure that they are educated to understand the new systems and their participation in running the infrastructure increases. So, I think, you know, for example, this consumer forums, that are there in urban areas, I worked with XXXX as part of their advisory group for some time. And as a result of that, I understand electricity infrastructure quite well. The consumer grievances system in our country almost is non-existent. And that somehow needs to be simultaneously developed. As we, for example, we did this whole LPG work- expanded the supply system, this thing that thing- if the women were made aware, if it was part of the job on how to go and get their second cylinder, if there were places where their financial incentives could be organized differently. So, the whole end use infrastructure needs to be organized differently. Women need to be involved there because they are the end users. And that reality is not going to change. Otherwise, access will remain on paper.

INTERVIEWER: Right, so you're actually seeing that the systems themselves because they are, especially when they're taken out of the control of the woman who can just walk out and get firewood and come back.

RESPONDENT: You know, they’re disempowered, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, then she's moving on to LPG and the LPG structure system is not gender sensitive. So that immediately is affecting her.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, it's almost blind. I mean, it's almost - she has no idea, she only knows that some guy comes and gives the cylinder. That's all. So that needs to change.

INTERVIEWER: Right, So-, in- I think, I mean, that kind of goes back to what you were talking about my next question that you -do you find men and women participate equally in decision making about energy access?

RESPONDENT: No, they don’t,

INTERVIEWER: At household scale, how do you see the difference?

RESPONDENT: You know, when we did this stove work, there used to be a lot of debate on who decides whether the household will have biogas, whether they'll buy a solar cooker, whether they'll have an improved chullah or not, invariably the man or the mother-in-law - so we would say go and talk to the mother-in-law, go and talk to the man of the house. Then it will get done. So that's one this thing, who pays all these advances for electricity for this? It so much varies. And it's largely men.

INTERVIEWER: So, it's also connected with the finance question, right?

RESPONDENT: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. You see this whole gender- you know, you can take this whole debate back to patriarchy. As long as the society is largely patriarchal, that's how it will get decided.

INTERVIEWER: And what about the differences between urban and rural context? How do you see gender equity? Do you see that there is a difference in equity between urban and rural context also?

RESPONDENT: I think there is urban, rural... there is also across class, across economic status. And there is also the fact whether the woman is working or not.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Okay, if the economic value-

RESPONDENT: If the woman is, ha, economic value, I think it's very important. It's- it is cutting across economic classes, if the woman of the household is working, she has a greater say in decision making. Compared to a woman who is not working, who is not earning, I shouldn't say working- who is not earning money. I think that will…. go ahead.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, to what extent has- yeah. So, to what extent has gender equity factored in your work?

V; Specifically, not much.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, okay, within- within your policies -within internal processes, anything?

RESPONDENT: In the- in the, you know, in XXXX's work- I, I would always say two things as far as my work was concerned, I said, you know, I work on issues where women are the main users, so that way it is women centric, not gender equitous. Secondly, I work on economic empowerment of poor families because economic empowerment will take them out of poverty. And that is the first step to move towards. I'll give you one example. We ran a major program on treadle pumps, that is pumps you use - operate your feet, use your feet to operate the treadle pump, very small farms can and in West Bengal, Orissa, they worked well, because water table is very high, you know, the water is just available, you press, and you get. There were two issues. One is women and children will operate the pump more easily. So, isn't that increasing the drudgery of the women, using child labour? That was one question. Secondly, as a part of gender empowerment, we started promoting that, like the pump, we registered in the name of the woman, you know, as a kind of an asset. So, all these salespeople, they would come and say, you know, but the women want it to be registered in the name of the Son because they want it to be his asset so that he values it much more and he tends to use it. So, in such situations we're like okay *(hindi) do not quarrel too much, if they want go ahead…,* but if you can persuade them- so it also depends on how women themselves see what position they want to have within their own household.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, but if you extend that argument, I mean, this whole thing of water pump connection being in the name of the woman, the LPG connection, being in the name of the woman, the ration card, being in the name of the woman, these are also reinforcing certain gender roles, right?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: I mean, I can tell you from my perspective, I probably would not be comfortable with these things being in my name, right? So-

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, I agree. I agree. There's so much of cultural baggage we all have.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, right, right.

RESPONDENT: We all have because you know- my own. I have a great friend who said if women didn't collude, we wouldn't have patriarchy for so many centuries.

INTERVIEWER: It’s true. (laughs). Not, the problem is-

RESPONDENT: And-

INTERVIEWER: The patriarchy is a whole different-

RESPONDENT: There is -there is a comfort in not taking on the main role or not taking on the equal role. And that comfort is largely also reinforced by how the outside system functions. You know, if -if going to a shop, why other shops, state liquor shop, if going to a liquor shop was as common for women as for men, you would find women there. But you don't. So, you know, these things are - these things are very entrenched and rooted. But what we can talk in terms of what is desirable, you know, because research is all about normative - it's all about designing - this is all about idealizing what things should be like. So, I think it should be fine. If I am the main user, I should have the capacity to manage it, to run it. But my main contention also is- it should be a joint responsibility because it is a joint responsibility.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah right, exactly. So, what-

RESPONDENT: You know, yeah sure go ahead.

INTERVIEWER: So, what- how, like these gender sensitive aspects in your work, like when you were talking about the stove, and the- how effective do you think these efforts were like, what you were talking about women centric projects? Do you think they were effective in delivering certain levels of gender equity, or-

RESPONDENT: I think-

INTERVIEWER: -not equity at least addressing the imbalance to a certain extent?

RESPONDENT: I would say, in terms of impact, we did it only for this XXXXproject. And all of our emphasis has always been on increasing participation and building skill levels. As the two primary steps for making things more equal, more equitous. And that- that included training men as well. So, you know, we, when we did a bio gas project, in the village, we would always have training for men and women together.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And what do you think was the main challenges for your work?

RESPONDENT: Technology.

INTERVIEWER: Right. How-

RESPONDENT: Technology because my entire work was on designing and implementing new technologies.

INTERVIEWER: Right, no when I mean, I mean, in terms of these gender sensitive systems, what do you -what do you view as your main challenges in the work that you've done?

RESPONDENT: In the areas where we worked for example, in the brick sector. I would take that as the main example. We were building these organizations at the village level for women to come together because for large chunk of the year, the men were not there. So, these became women headed families, right? Old people, children and women headed. So there the first and foremost challenge was for these women to get ready to go out and ask for things that are there. For example, Panchayat office *(hindi) have to go there and demand a road, or have to go the Taluk School and demand teachers for our children.* So, taking on roles that they were not used to was the biggest challenge. But once they started doing that, then there was no holding back. So, a whole- yeah (hindi)… tell me

INTERVIEWER: No go ahead, go ahead, go ahead, what you were-

RESPONDENT: I think a whole lot of encouragement was to make time and space to increase their participation.

INTERVIEWER: Make them confident…

RESPONDENT: leads to an empowerment process that they can do it, they can do it.

INTERVIEWER: Right, that’s a huge social development itself, right.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, that is the main, main challenge

INTERVIEWER: So, energy access policies *(hindi) within* *that…* What do you think- do you think within your work, the energy access policies that were operating within your work- do you think they were gender sensitive? *(hindi) You did say somewhat* that it was not, but.

RESPONDENT: *(Hindi) at that time there was no such thing, today there is more emphasis.* But even now, I don't see, you know, for example, because of XXXX, I've heard that all these oil company officers, interact with the women users to make them aware of how the whole system functions or the health workers interact with women. Now, if these kinds of things are happening, there, obviously is provision in the policy, but I'm not aware of, but at least in the times that I was involved, I don't think it went beyond these very specific project level activities.

INTERVIEWER: But even now, what you're talking about, it is more about the officials and all talking to the women rather than designing systems which work for women, right?

RESPONDENT: I agree. I agree. I agree. But you know, some. If you have see, I haven't combed it through CW's a study of some 8000 households a couple of years ago. You have a chance to see that. Because if I were to answer this question, then I would think that one needs to look into that. Or XXXX might know, for example, a little more on household electrification.

INTERVIEWER: XXXX is part of this project, I can ask him this.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah. But as far as I think, you know, you are in the design business. So, we should really put our minds together and come up with bullet points on what can go in to strengthen access as part of the policy. I am glad we are talking about this because that gives some fodder for thinking.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Because that's what I was going to ask you. What do you think are the policy gaps? for women's access at energy level?

RESPONDENT: I'll have to think, you know, I don't have ready answers. And last one year has been just COVID into COVID. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: But you're absolutely right. Do something which needs a bit of brainstorming, and maybe even a particular interaction…

RESPONDENT: Yeah, you know, what, what you and XXXX can do is maybe collectively organize some kind of thinking draft, circulate it around, get people to give inputs, it will help I think you guys can come up with something interesting.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right. What related social policies do you feel have an impact on energy equity,

RESPONDENT: Health. One is health. The other two things that I'm going to say one is health. The other one is the public distribution system. The food supply, how-

INTERVIEWER: How is health related to energy equity?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, health for example, this whole area of indoor air quality and health, which XXXXchampioned, and LPG became a solution to that, and unfortunately, people are not aware of the health impacts of poor air quality. So, what we do on making people I mean, everybody is now aware of COVID, right? *(Hindi) Morning the big basket guy came, I asked him what is there* so he said, you know, *(hindi) Just be careful, do not eat too hot or too cold food or do not roam around in too hot or too cold wind…be careful* that’s all otherwise, you can continue to do whatever- huge awareness. But the same doesn't exist about indoor air quality, the families don't say, *(hindi) whatever happens we will not cook on the chullah*. If the families reached this conclusion*, (hindi) the LPG problem will be solved*. Rural electrification *(hindi) the matter is slightly different*. Because people want electricity, people don't want to pay for electricity, because that's how they think *(hindi) the government should provide*. So, there is a messaging problem. at that end, the way it connects with food is if you don't get enough food to cook, what will you cook so, food and water, these are two things that get connected with the cooking energy.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right. So, *(hindi)* within your work context, what - if you did not have any of- any policy or financial constraints and all what would have been your perfect idea of how gender equity in energy access could be solved?

RESPONDENT: You know, (laughs) I've always felt that you should know basically, it is knowing your system and participation in the system, these two things.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. But what- so, that would solve gender equity, you feel?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, participation by women?

RESPONDENT: Participation by women, yeah, because they are the main users of the system. So, they need to have a control.

INTERVIEWER: So, specifically, within the work that you have done, what would you have done for greater participation by women?

RESPONDENT: Educating them. Educating them, forming committees, establishing mandatary interfaces between the lowest rung of the bureaucracy, the supply chain and the women so the whole consumer groups.

INTERVIEWER: Interfacing would be much more smooth.

RESPONDENT: You know, you know, the point here is a consumer groups of any kind are seen largely as lobby groups. They're not seen as knowledge and service centres. So, if you combine all kinds of interest groups with knowledge and service centres, *(hindi) their appearance will change* *and then you wont have to beat up the electricity people or the water people* because they become part of the solution. The problem needs to be solved. *(hindi) This is very important.*

INTERVIEWER: Within financial structures of - which support energy access or energy infrastructure- do you think these finance structures or finance processes are gender aware or gender sensitive?

RESPONDENT: (laughs) No, not at all.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think so? Could you give some example?

RESPONDENT: You know for example, my friends who know electricity sector they tell me that *(hindi) we dump the excess electricity on to the villages*. To maintain their stability they- like power plants can't be switched off and switched on the way we switch on the gas right? So *(hindi) they dump that, so where will gender sensitivity come from?* It doesn't come. In the cooking gas, I mean, you know, you tell your consumer *(hindi) you will get your gas after 15 days.*

INTERVIEWER: *(hindi) End of story*

RESPONDENT: Yeah, exactly. So, there is absolutely no priority - you know, there is this whole low end energy users *(hindi) they have their own problems* and it just so happens that these are women at the household level. And very- the entrepreneurs for example, the brick sector, the foundry sector, the glass sector, do not know which ministry are they represented by. *(hindi) Who should they go to… they do not know.* So it's a very messy business.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Like *(hindi) you spoke about affordability* like even for LPG gas, the question is affordability. Then you were talking about livelihood, like home-based livelihood, which mostly women do so *(hindi) for all this* their - their needs, there is a need for a supportive finance structure.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And- and these are also finance structures, which should be then friendly to women, because the way women would be it- what I'm asking really is that do you see the need for a sense - sensitizing these systems through the gender lens?

RESPONDENT: I think so too, I think so.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, why if I ask? I mean-

RESPONDENT: Because the men- otherwise the men are just blind right? And so are the women blind. You know, women themselves are not gender sensitive, right? Yeah. I didn't know until I reached my 40s that I didn't get some job interviews because I happen to be a woman with a child. It's only then I was told that *(hindi) these kinds of things happen* and this was told by some of my men friends so *(hindi) this is how bad this is*. *Gender sensitisation is a must for everyone – women and men.*

INTERVIEWER: Is there anything else you feel you would like to add to this topic?

RESPONDENT: You know, I, this is referring to your earlier discussion. I think it would be nice as a part of this study, if you can organize this access policy design zoom meeting for your interviewees.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, right.

RESPONDENT: Because there is a merit in collective thinking.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right.

RESPONDENT: I think *(hindi) if you do that* you will get some substantive inputs, *(hindi) I will send you if I think of anything.*

INTERVIEWER: Right*, (hindi) No*, this is definitely a suggestion because there are supposed to be certain workshops which we are designing as an end product of this research. So, we would definitely be taking up your suggestion and looking into it. If there are follow up questions once we are working on the information- can I approach you for answers to those?

RESPONDENT: Sure, anytime.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Could you let me know if there are anyone else you think I should be asking to speak with on this topic?

RESPONDENT: The- since XXXX is a part of it. He would know most people.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah- he's given me a whole list. Your name is also there. And XXXX, I spoke with XXXX XXXX, he also had referred your name.

RESPONDENT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, I just want to make sure that you have XXXX's name.

INTERVIEWER: No, XXXX- can you please?

RESPONDENT: I will send you her contact.

INTERVIEWER: That would be great if you can WhatsApp me.

RESPONDENT: She would come in from a very strong health perspective. I'm sure you have XXXX on your list, right?

INTERVIEWER: No, I don't.

RESPONDENT: Okay, so I will send you-

INTERVIEWER: XXXX- XXXX is what- if you could just also send me like their background, what organization they're working for?

RESPONDENT: XXXX XXXX- she is a professor in one of these medical colleges. I'll have to look up. XXXX is a faculty in XXXX Delhi. Okay. There is a third person who is from the development sector but very strong on gender equity. XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Right, right.

RESPONDENT: She - is her name there?

INTERVIEWER: I have to just check but I don't think I have these names -these three names I don't think I have from my memory.

RESPONDENT: You know, what I'll do is I will jot down a quick list of names that may come to mind- do you have XXXX this person from XXXX?

INTERVIEWER: XXXX? No, that is -that is what?

RESPONDENT: It's an organization. But there is a person who did the study 27 -2018 access because the whole study is on access. So, I will send you the study reference, he's the lead author of the study.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Right. I'm speaking to XXXX and XXXX and all- over next week, so-

RESPONDENT: That's fine. XXXX would be either XXXXright?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

RESPONDENT: One of them, yeah. Let me think, I will send you because this is an important study. And I'll be interested in the draft access design policies, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Sure. Sure, Ma'am. Yeah. That sounds very good. If you can just send me a message.

RESPONDENT: I will. I will do that. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, thank you so much for taking time out for this conversation.

RESPONDENT: Thank you, thank you.

INTERVIEWER: It was very, very illuminating. And I will be getting back to you with the transcript.

RESPONDENT: Sure.

INTERVIEWER: I will switch off the recording right now? Thank you so much.

RESPONDENT: Okay. Thank you. Thank you… Okay.