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| **INTERVIEWER: name** | INTERVIEWER: |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | ARU |
| **Interview date** | XXXXX |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 42 mins 26 seconds |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual |
| **Interview participant** | |
| **Code** | I8 |
| **Participant name** | XXXX |
| **Organisation name** | XXXX |
| **Gender** | Female |
| **Stakeholder category** | NGO working as consultant for state, central and international levels in the energy sector. |
| **Country** | India |

Introduction

INTERVIEWER: Okay, just one second.

RESPONDENT:just ask me relevant question. Now don't ask everything and just start to…

INTERVIEWER: Ok Ma'am... just very quickly if you can First tell me whether you have completed and returned the consent form.

RESPONDENT:Now, I will have to do it now because I wanted to no point in getting consent form if I didn't want to answer. So okay, I'll do it after the interview.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, thank you. Through this interview, we would request you to share your experience and expertise as someone working in the energy sector. Is it okay, if we record the interview for our documentation purposes?

RESPONDENT: Yeah. All right, because I also have a problem talking too much. I have a blood pressure problem also (hindi) I cannot talk to much for an hour...

INTERVIEWER: We'll try and do it as fast as possible…

RESPONDENT:I can send you this my experience in energy sector? I have a lot of written stuff....

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. Okay, ma'am. I'll just quickly ask you, you can just answer whatever you want. And then we can move on to the more important question.

RESPONDENT:Okay.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so the recorded interview will be transcribed and then sent to you for your approval. The interview should not take more than one hour, actually. Okay, so just very briefly, ma'am, if you can just tell me.

RESPONDENT:I've been working in energy for 30 years, 40 years, maybe? And, yeah, I work in all aspects, technology, gender, modeling, and so on. And I can send you my CV, which you can summarize and I'll approve it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, ma'am, thank you so much. What specific energy related activities or programs have you undertaken in this work?

RESPONDENT:Ah, yeah. 50 core projects, I will send you a list, you can summarize them.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, ma'am. And how much of these projects have worked on access to energy?

RESPONDENT:I would say more than not a lot recently, but I would say overall must be 15% - 20%. But over over the last year, it would be more like 30.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. More, more recently than before.

RESPONDENT:Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Okay. And in that, have you noticed a differential access for energy in terms of, say electrification programs or policy level programs or tech projects, do you see that there is a

RESPONDENT:my first paper is XXXXX, I'll send you the list, you can look at it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, ma'am. And in relation to the policy context, shaping your work, what specific current issues and developments in the policy do you feel influenced your work?

RESPONDENT:More recently, I worked in XXXX and also gender issues in climate change, gender issues in the access to education and health and in energies, something together also.

INTERVIEWER: So what are... Are there any key policy challenges that you faced in your work?

RESPONDENT: My work... at my work is about other people's policy problems in this field.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So according to you, what are the major challenges you you think are which are there

RESPONDENT:now they're quite of much more being addressed. Earlier, is this whole field which was earlier called non commercial energy, traditional energy that women use together, I used to think that that is a major problem in, in backwardness of women. So it's a major health problem is also not just alone....

INTERVIEWER: Ma'am, I can't hear you clearly.

RESPONDENT:empowerment.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So what does equitable energy access and gender equity in energy access mean to you? What do you think it should be like?

RESPONDENT:Oh my god. This is a very big lecture. I mean, this is very.... okay. You can give me this questions in writing? I can... This is.... who gives a lecture on this

INTERVIEWER: Ma'am, just like what your opinion is, that's good. That's good enough. Because as I told you, I we have to go through a certain ethics process for this. So...

RESPONDENT:So what is the gender issue?

INTERVIEWER: What I'm asking is what does gender equity in energy access and equity in energy access mean to you? How do you see it? What does it mean to you?

RESPONDENT:Oh, we should have given lot of investments, allocation, everything is proper attention from the very beginning. it's 30 years too late 40 years 50 years...

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think it's too late? If you could just elaborate a little bit?

RESPONDENT:*(hindi) meaning...50 years ago (hindi) it should have been done* ... from before.. and it should have been addressed from the very beginning.

INTERVIEWER: *(Hindi) How should it have been done according to you?...* how should it have been addressed?

RESPONDENT:Oh, this ... whenever LPG came, it should have been given much earlier or, or electric cooking or any other thing. This should not have been tolerated that people go out and collect wood.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. How do you determine the demand for energy within your work? Do you have a specific process that you employ in terms of data connection or user mapping?

RESPONDENT:A data collection is always there for electricity, for LPG for, I mean, for all other fuels, except this is not much data because it's left to women to collect informally, whatever they can find. How much? What was the use? How much cooking energy is being used? We're guessing.

INTERVIEWER: But within that data collection, is there any method that you use to map diversity in access?

RESPONDENT:No, I that was not my area of ...diversity was there and how to address it...

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And did you see any data which was also looking at gender segregation? I mean, the data was gender segregated in terms of understanding energy usage?

RESPONDENT:Oh, no, that was the problem. There was no data.

INTERVIEWER: What was the problem, ma'am?

RESPONDENT:that there was no data on on if they are not using normal electricity, normal petroleum for us, how are they collecting energy?

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. So there was no mapping of how women used energy, how did they access energy?

RESPONDENT:Right. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So In a household level, or community level, how equitable Do you think energy access is? From the gender perspective?

RESPONDENT:One, minute I have to take this call...

INTERVIEWER: Okay, no problem.

RESPONDENT:Hello?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, ma'am.

RESPONDENT:Ah, sorry.

INTERVIEWER: No problem.

RESPONDENT:Yeah. So you were saying? No, you you.... gender seem to be interpreting it to do a little bit differently than. So your questions kind of. Okay. So yeah. All right. Go ahead. Yeah. So what was the question?

INTERVIEWER: The question was, how equitable Do you think energy access is at community and household level, in terms of gender?

RESPONDENT:Oh, yeah. I mean, it's not a question of equitable, I mean, any household, everybody needs whatever they need. And so you should just get what you need. And you shouldn't have to spend all that time and a hardship and health whether you are man or woman or child, that was the that and it's assumed that she will do the cooking and she will find it energy for herself... We don't have to do anything that is the what my approach to this thing. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, so, like at the household level, if you look at it, I mean, especially because of the gender roles that we have, there are different tasks, I mean, how do you how do you see the different like the difference in the tasks that men and women do which involve energy in the household.

RESPONDENT:So so we have a we have energy for everything else except cooking. So that that is the you know, if you want to... people want to go out, there is diesel petrol, there is if they want to remain inside this sometimes there's electricity in the house, but there is no LPG we have also found such households. So that is the

INTERVIEWER: and there's no like electric cooker or anything like that.

RESPONDENT:Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

INTERVIEWER: So, you find that the job of

RESPONDENT:Electric cooker cannot of course, solve everything, but yeah it can nowadays it can can much more after induction cooking and so on. So that also we are advocating... induction cooking.

RESPONDENT:INTERVIEWER: So this, like, so what you were telling me is that, especially for food, cooking, food preparation, the energy that is required, it is almost like, there is no provisioning for that energy. And somehow women have to do this job...

RESPONDENT:But now this government has taken a big, almost, you know, campaign. What has changed over the last two, three years, four years... But it was earlier what we'll have to see what what actually impact is in this census of 2021.

INTERVIEWER: Okay,

RESPONDENT:yeah.

INTERVIEWER: But in that also, they were there are some feedback about how connection (*hindi) is got but sustainable ... second cylinder second cylinder is not got, second cylinder does not come*. So women then again, go back to biomass...

RESPONDENT:there is both ways, it is both ways. Sometimes they don't have money and they're not getting it, or the other way. So they're probably both are blaming each other, but they are saying Yeah, but that there, we want to give what a they are not coming. The.... I think the mistake was that they started deducting the subsidy from the very first cylinder.... instead, they should have waited and then you know, subtracted nominal amounts, then taking it all in 10- 10 installments or something, whatever it was the cost of... the cost of cylinder and, you know, I think 1500 rupees or whatever they were giving, taking it back in the cost of cylinder. Okay, so, okay...

INTERVIEWER: so, do you see this difference... also in different groups of women, for example, older versus younger women, different income groups? Do you see the access to energy also different?

RESPONDENT:It's not due to any anybody's this one, it's, it's that their circumstances are...Its not deliberate, but their circumstances prevent them to make use of this. So the intentions is there. But But sub you know, sub, their circumstances may have been like that some some older women may not be getting some younger women may not be getting... anything can happen. Yeah, it's not deliberate. Okay.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So it's not it's not you don't see any specific groups in this energy deficiency you just

RESPONDENT:what a rural rural rural and poor with no excess cash, they are the ones who suffer. That is that is basically the... and that would be your age can be anything.... if you have a cash they will be pay...

INTERVIEWER: okay. And you are mainly working with XXXX if I talk about the key energy infrastructure

RESPONDENT:XXXX...also we are now looking at working with induction cooker, actually, we are also working in Nepal.... that is a that EPC is developed in in the UK electric pressure cooker something Yeah. So that our how... how you can reduce the you know, reduce energy and more use more efficient energy.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, in your experience when you see new energy infrastructure and technologies which come which get provided, other than Of course, like the cooking stove, or theclean cooking fuel, which are obviously very women targeted, but when otherwise, when new energy infrastructure is planned or provided, do you see there is any difference between men and women in who benefits out of it?

RESPONDENT:Yeah, it's also now in the transport.... people when women want to go out, but it's not just about energy, it's the, but since I work in energy, I try to look at it that way, but women are traveling much, much less. So when they go out. So you would see the discrepancy in vehicle ownership and everything. And so let's leave the vehicle ownership is gender bias, then the petrol that goes in it, it will be gender biased, if you look at how much petrol is purchased by women, and now which way somebody else, it translates into energy.

INTERVIEWER: So do you think men and women at household level participate equally in decisions about energy access?

RESPONDENT:No, no, that's the way the problem arises. That they don't, ... They don't go out. So they they don't ... even livelihood, they will, they will now start it because they want to be economically active, then also the energy problem will come. So it's, it's really empowerment issue.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. But like, in in at a household level, okay. Because say I'm looking at homes where women spend much larger amounts of time then men do. So at at homes in terms of say purchase decisions, or finances related to energy or which way energy is to be used or what is energy to be used for? Do you see women have a voice in it or are can equally participate in that decision making process? within your work... What do you see?

RESPONDENT:I mean, things are improving, but if that is not there, that's that's obvious. No, it's not it is it is different.

INTERVIEWER: Like even even in terms of cooking fuels and cooking stoves, do you see women being able to take their own decisions in that?

RESPONDENT:No, they don't... they are not.... it It starts with the household empowerment itself... No, they don't have access to cash household cash flow. But what if it is in urban areas when there is no way men can have food cooked.... then naturally they will pay for LPG

INTERVIEWER: Okay, okay. So,

RESPONDENT:they can make it their problem, it would keep happening right.

INTERVIEWER: So, to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access?

RESPONDENT:Well, whenever I can, I think about it. As I said, Now 20 to 20 to 30 25% 30% sometimes is related to that.

INTERVIEWER: So, are there objective internal processes or project priorities that you design your projects for, to act... to address gender equity?

RESPONDENT:No, if I if I see something is happening, I we are a organization where we are we try to focus in it as much as much as possible and quite often for funding is another thing, but funding research projects in this area. Is is only recent, then, yeah. even when it was not so common... I was doing it... Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Could you give me an example of how you target gender equity within your programs?

RESPONDENT:example.... I mean, from the very beginning, we try to see gender and climate change also. And so gender and energy but it's a separate field altogether in the sense that you know, when you say, let's plan energy till 2030.. how much coal how much oil, I mean, there is not that much of a difference in the sense of total amount, because it is this amount is not that... much the LPG needed for the national scale that is not that big I work in national global scale also. So, that is what surprising is even more that for little energy, we can make them go through this.

INTERVIEWER: So, yeah, ma’am yes, just wanted to understand from you, like within your work, the efforts you take towards addressing gender equity, how effective Do you think your efforts are? And where do you see the challenges,

RESPONDENT:they will become more effective now than they were earlier. And I think, this whole issue of SDP .... with the campaign for SDG kind of thing, even there was Millennium Development Goals in 2000. When they said Millennium Development 2015, we should attain... attain all this, we said, let's have a one MDG.... MDG with seven, and SDG, sustainable development goals are 17. When they were seven, we said this should be there. We also said no MDG without energy, etc, etc. had several conferences on that. But it didn't happen. If that had happened, it would ever happen earlier.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Right. So now you feel that slowly it is,

RESPONDENT:I think, at least in India, 2030 these basic things would be there. And Asia, I would say it's not just India, and Africa, there may be some issues, but I hope all these donor agencies will do their job.

INTERVIEWER: And what are your views for that goal? What are the challenges that you think are... For that goal of by 2030... We should be able to...

RESPONDENT:should be. And then this is actually policy, you know, people. It's not about designing improved stoves, and this and that improved stove is also another... So I actually never believed in that. It's it's also another variation of what they're doing. Why can't they be given a proper energy? Why give all this improves stoves. So that is the I used to feel that way. You know, what, you know about all these new improved stoves? Yeah,

INTERVIEWER: yes. Yes. I mean, like, there is this whole thing about how women are supposed to change the way they function to adjust to that situation, instead of just giving them what they need, which is

RESPONDENT:Oh, so you are not familiar with this field, then no improved storage, is the cooking store itself, based on wood, or whatever biomass is available, they are trying to make it efficient. So that that's the only difference thare was efficient instead of clean. So it would use less wood, but still wood. So you know, maybe the whole thing was not ready to dole out so much cash or what to do with cash was always being doled out for for transport sector and many other sectors but not in this. So that was the...

INTERVIEWER: so you're talking about like, for example, the clean wood chullah kind of projects?

RESPONDENT:That's the one Yeah, okay. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So these are some of the policy gaps you're seeing actually. Right.

RESPONDENT:Yeah. always worked in policy and I think it's a policy problem. Household attitude is the basic problem, but policy people should have addressed this.

INTERVIEWER: So specifically, what are like what are the gaps that you're seeing in policy?

RESPONDENT:know that this is happening and just as I mentioned before, policy could have changed it *(hindi) even now...* now electricity, digital divide, every divide is infrastructure divide is causing further inequity..., no?

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So even now you feel that at the policy level the effort people take with say, fuel for

RESPONDENT:no effort to, to see that this is happening and finding a way that it does not. That that is missing.

INTERVIEWER: So, are there also social policies that you think will impact energy access? Women's energy access?

RESPONDENT:Social means, what is how, by household or by by village or what

INTERVIEWER: I mean other like I don't know, education or I mean, there are so many social policies

RESPONDENT:Health and education. Yeah, education is the key issue. Yeah. Also, if she's earning member earning member, but she's manytime she's not earning because you want her to do other things. So, that is not taken into account. So if she's earning member, then energy shows up somehow, because otherwise that cash will not come. So.

INTERVIEWER: So if you think of a situation where there are no policy or financial constraints, what would be the best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access for your work?

RESPONDENT:No policy or financial, then it's it's a ....

INTERVIEWER: constraint.

RESPONDENT:Social attitude. Yeah, I see that you that's what you mean, then? Yeah. It's the attitude then the attitudes in the in the households.

INTERVIEWER: No, what I mean is, what would be the best practice that you see, which would achieve gender equity? in it energy access? I'm asking you for the solution, the

RESPONDENT:Training men that you know, and women to ask for the right and men that to that they have to give it I think it's a male dominated society. So that's the role of women is determined by when men so and they have the hands on cash.

INTERVIEWER: Very simply, ma'am, why do you think cooking is always looked at as a woman's job? Because everybody's eating right.

RESPONDENT:Yeah, it need not be it need not be but it is because I think also the reproductive functions and that she, she is more likely to be home when when there's all these there are five children and so on, she had to be with them. So it became nurturing became her job.

INTERVIEWER: Because one of the things I was like looking at the several Government of India, projects, like you know, like Griha Lakshmi or any of these projects, they are always very gendered, you know, they are actually talking about a neighbor which goes into various household activities, but the entire way it is projected is always gendered even when it is like addressing somehow women's labor, it is very clearly made out that it is women's labor. Just wanted to ask your opinion about policy level gender gendering that continuously happen happens or gender rolling role definition that happens.

RESPONDENT:Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, in your current position, how do you think you can address this situation of where women are struggling to access energy in in any form of equity?

RESPONDENT:Where they're struggling?

INTERVIEWER: In your role, how do you think you can you can address this?

RESPONDENT:Well, my role depends on you what your profession is. I my work is related to energy policy. So I write about this and point out that there are more benefits on addressing this. And it's not about benefits or no benefits, it's not equitable. So even if it costs something, you have to do it.

Part 4

INTERVIEWER: Right. And do you see an equitable gender representation within the decision making bodies of energy governance? Are there enough women in the decision making bodies within energy governance?

RESPONDENT:Say it again, I .... your voice was going down?

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that there are equal or more or less equal balanced gender representation in the various decision making bodies within energy governance?

RESPONDENT:No... No..., it translates all the way up and down, actually, because the down there is not much .... So yeah, in the energy body.... energy organizations also, in the electricity sector, always starting from the Ministry of Power...down the line is not enough people.

INTERVIEWER: What about finance structures for energy? Do you think they are gender aware or gender sensitive?

RESPONDENT:Many times this finance people are not aware directly from their, would you call it individually? In every sector? We are concerned with finance. So it's the sector, energy sector people who have to ask.... But sometimes, they may be aware, so.

INTERVIEWER: I mean, what I meant was, you know, like, for example, financial processes and structures, which allow people to access loans, or access funding for some kind of energy. infrastructure, do you think these should be gender aware? These processes?

RESPONDENT:That No, that's that's also another problem. Yeah. But this is not something she goes out to get loan for now, but in terms of starting, let's say, if she wants to start up something, then she may she may need loan. And that is not available. That will not be as easy.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So

RESPONDENT:It starts with collateral and all that because she doesn't possess the collateral. And all the way down. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So in relation to, yeah...

RESPONDENT:Basically, basic weaknesses. There are no inherent empowerment. So she has nothing. Many, many cultures... they don't even own the house.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So she, she doesn't own any assets to take loan against or anything like that. Yeah. Yeah. So in relation to purchasing decisions also. Do you... What are the key challenges? How do you think women can actually have their voices heard in terms of purchasing decisions?

RESPONDENT:So that is a state has to intervene? No, now, now, they're making it easier. You're hearing me now? They're making it if the house is in women's name, the tax would be less all those things they're trying to do now.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so you don't think this can actually happen without center intervention? I mean, government intervention

RESPONDENT:It will take much longer without it...

INTERVIEWER: And this possibility Are there possibilities of policies from the government which can then encourage finance structures to look at this in a much more gender sensitive manner? You think policies will help?

RESPONDENT:Yes, yes, thats what I am saying, they will have to make it... make it... in every places they have to...it does not... its both little bit bottom up issue and top down... both have to come together... changing attitudes no? Government can do a lot... Beti Bachalo, Beti Padhao... these things once they start happening things will change... government can do a lot... We are in a situation where... government will have to do this...

INTERVIEWER: Is there anything else you feel we should add to this topic?

RESPONDENT:I think you can do some good examples... like Bangladesh has some good examples... Sri Lanka has, India may have which other places dont.. like that if youy take best practises...

INTERVIEWER: Could you give me some examples ma'am, like name some then I can research them...

RESPONDENT:We have Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Bangladesh has Yunus's Grameen Bank... Sri Lanka and Kerala has certian attitudes... so ...

Part 5 (Concluding)

INTERVIEWER: If there are any follow up questions can I email you?

RESPONDENT:OK

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there is anyone I should speak with?

RESPONDENT:I have to think... I will think about it, if I think about it, I will let you know... right now...

INTERVIEWER: Ma'am I will drop you a mail with all the questions and you can just look at it and.. give me a revert that will be great...

RESPONDENT:Right.. right

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much ma'am, I know you are on a very busy schedule... Thank you so much for taking time out... Thank you..