**Transcript 7**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | **XXXX** |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | **ARU** |
| **Interview date** | **20 December 2020** |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | **66 mins 37 secs** |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | **Virtual** |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | **P7** |
| * **Participant name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Organisation name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Gender** | **Male** |
| * **Stakeholder category** | **Regulator (Policy Body)** |
| * **Country** | **Pakistan** |

**Part 1: Overview of Role & Work Priorities**

INTERVIEWER: As well as your views and opinions on gender equity in energy access. Okay?

RESPONDENT: Sure.

INTERVIEWER: Is it okay if we record the interview?

RESPONDENT: Sure.

INTERVIEWER: So the recorded interview will be transcribed for analysis and a copy of the transcript will be shared with you for your approval.

RESPONDENT: Okay, amazing.

INTERVIEWER: All the information we obtain is for the sole purpose of this study and will be seen only by the research team. Your name and identifying features will not be used anywhere in reports and publications emerging from this study.

RESPONDENT: Sure thing.

INTERVIEWER: The interview will roughly take one hour, of course it will depend on how brief or how long your answers are. It would be great if you could add as many details as possible. So, let me start with the background. So can you start by briefly telling me about your current role and the organization and the department you are working for.

RESPONDENT: So am I just supposed to talk in English or can I talk in Urdu also?

INTERVIEWER: However you are comfortable.

RESPONDENT: So, I’ll start off with a brief background of what I have done. And then I will proceed towards what I am doing right now. So, I’ve done XXXX from XXXX, I finished my Master’s degree in XXXX from XXXX. On the career side, I joined XXXX in XXXX as XXXXX

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Okay, how and why did you get into this line of work?

RESPONDENT: Okay, amazing! When I was studying, I was doing my A-levels so we had this thing because we considered ourselves as privileged people living in the best city, one of the best cities I think Karachi people would hate to agree with me hah, but I was born and bred in XXXX so yeah. So we considered… as we started thinking on this thing that what’s wrong I mean it’s just the sort of thought process that every young kid goes through and I was more focused on doing something for the society. So, in our A-levels it was although it is very unusual, me and a couple of friends of mine we registered, we got an NGO registered just to sort of XXX that NGO people they are not doing anything they’re just getting the aid from agencies, I mean doing stuff on paper and there’s nothing linked down on the ground and we started school free school for the children in the suburbs of XXXX. That we um way took it, it’s MashaXXXX been uh almost ten years now since we have started this project it’s called XXXX. So, the word here we’re looking here for is the impact, what sort of impact I can create is the priority uh I’ve prioritized everything according, under this thing so when I was… when I did my A-levels I always wanted to be an engineer so and there’s a process you go through you start learning about things and obviously when you’ll do Electrical Engineering there’s a high chance you end up in the power sector. So yeah I varied and I joined I was also getting offers from different Telco’s as well but I wanted to do something along the power sector and obviously the impact part was always there and I was very lucky to have been chosen as one of the XXXX XXXX. And yeah I joined XXXX and I was fascinated by uh what sort of impact I can create in the society because as I was very fortunate that in my very first couple of months I was handed over with this XXXX project and I know for a fact that XXXX. People who were just consumers have become prosumers after that and we are expecting almost 5000 megawatts from this one particular mode of operation uh by within next ten years, so that is something that really fascinates me and that is something that motivated me to be part of this sector yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Excellent. So your entire career has been related to energy? How many years has it been since you have been working in the energy sector?

RESPONDENT: Um, almost XXXX years because I was working prior to joining my XXXX working with XXXX and working on the renewables so it’s XXXX years almost.

INTERVIEWER: So within this what energy related programs or projects have you undertaken? Please mention something about your projects and programs?

RESPONDENT: Okay, so I has been working I mean I call myself as a energy renewable enthusiast so I primarily have been working in the renewable energies and energy innovation including hydrogen and everything new that’s coming in the market and the market designs we’re shifting towards markets in Pakistan from a single bimodal to a market I’m working on that as well we call it XXXX XXXXeven if I’m not working on this because this is something energy access is primarily a policy issue and while working as a regulator you don’t get to work a lot on that you can sort of come up with things that are helping the policy in this matter but you cannot drive at the regulator’s end. So, this is something coming from the this is something with my association with XXXX I love working on energy access and I’ve been working on it for good one and a half year now. Also, yes energy access, renewable energies, energy markets and obviously the innovation yep.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, you mentioned about energy access. Please tell us a bit about the specific energy access areas or issues that you are working on.

RESPONDENT: So, what I really have been working on is the quality energy access like… it’s space where we identify that just by just providing basic energy access you are not fulfilling the demand or the requirement, you’re not sort of checking all the boxes. So, energy access, it has to be reliable it has to be affordable it has to be environmentally sustainable and it has to be scalable. So, this is one thing in particular I’ve been working on.

INTERVIEWER: And which organization did you mention you are working with on this?

RESPONDENT: XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So how are you concerned with policies? You mentioned that you have been working on policies as well as regulations. You also said that energy access is a policy issue. Can you talk a bit about the different kind of policy contexts that shape your work and what current issues or developments in policies, whether at the provincial or at the national level influence your work?

RESPONDENT: Okay so, in Pakistan there are like a lot of things that need to be done and obviously I work as a regulator so I am not working in the policy side so what we get is we get handed the policy and we have to work on making the support for implementation of this policy like making regulations and codes to implement the policy, so I do not work currently directly work as a policy maker but the work we do is at the XXXX it sort of is something that the policy makers they use in order to identify the need and in order to see this is something that they really need to work on in order to jot down their policies. So, in Pakistan if you talk about the policies, there’s not a lot to be done but coming into play the route from to the renewable energy access as a philanthropic - where small companies they’re participating and they’re getting money out of it and it’s called social entrepreneurship.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, then can you please mention any specific policies under which you work? Specifically, you spoke about regulation, which policies is this based on? Are these Pakistan’s polices derived at provincial or national levels or are we following some international policies?

RESPONDENT: Okay so in Pakistan, there is national energy policy and everything comes under that. Then there is renewable energy policy 2019 which specifies how much share should be allocated to renewable energy, what else needs to be done and this sort of covers energy access as well. Because, obviously when you get connected, you have energy access. Renewable energy is able to facilitate this better especially since in far flung areas, there is no grid interconnection. If you are not providing grid, you can still facilitate people by providing them electricity through renewable energy connections, which is something that is happening. And in Pakistan it is taking a turn in energy access. Providing energy access is shifting from being only a philanthropic activity towards becoming more like a business thing right, where small companies are participating and they are providing energy access to people and getting money out of it, so yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Are there any policy challenges in this that you can identify?

RESPONDENT: I think the biggest issue in this is also the biggest barrier that is prioritization. They are not prioritizing this thing. We have been hearing for so long that in Pakistan almost 37% of people do not have access to electricity. This is indicated in World Bank Reports. But when you go on ground in Sindh or Balochistan nobody knows when the electricity is going to come or from where it is going come. So I think that the key barrier is they’re not sort of willing to prioritize this. There is a lack of political will, there’s a lack of capacity, there’s a lack of understanding, there’s a lack of realization how important it is for the people and how important it is for the country in order to move forward. If people are going to get electricity access, their livelihood is going to get better and obviously income contribution and its impact grows exponentially. It contributes towards the country’s betterment and this needs to be realized. And you can say that the behavior change that is required, needs to prioritize how this will be done and this is the biggest barrier.

**Part 2: Understanding the Issues**

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. Okay, let’s move on to part two, which is understanding of issues. So the first question is what does equitable energy access mean to you?

RESPONDENT: I think for me energy access equitable energy access is like you’re providing energy access that is reliable and that is affordable and that is scalable, so I think that covers everything.

INTERVIEWER: OK. And what does gender equity in energy access mean to you?

RESPONDENT: Okay it’s a very sort of I mean for me it’s a very vague space it’s a very vague question I was looking at the email, I would want it to be a little more specific in what context are you guys talking about?

INTERVIEWER: So basically, from energy access point of view, means you can view it from the point of use but if you consider provision and access point of view, what role does gender play? I mean how can you ensure an equal playing field for gender? Does it even play a role? Should it play a role, basically? Is it something that is meaningful when it comes to energy access? Should it be considered? So, basically, we want your opinions around whether it is basically something that is needed? Whether its something that kind of defines energy… energy use and energy access. What can be the implications, and is it needed? If it is needed, then why? What can be the benefits? So basically, it’s your interpretation of gender equity.

RESPONDENT: Right right, amazing amazing! So I would like to discuss a few scenarios in this thing I mean to make it sort of easier for me to talk about. So the first one is providing access in a community to the households and I think in my point of view it sort of leads the energy choices that we are making at home. In our households, we usually I mean the we kind of people, where in our houses mothers are the decision makers right so it’s it’s very important for I think the mothers the females they’re sort of for them to understand what energy is and for them to take good decisions about it. So I think energy access for them is to be able to understand what it really means, what it really means to have electricity, to have energy at house so that they can make in they can take in firm decisions, like when to use when not to use this. And then there could be another scenario like I don’t if I’m making the right sense in this thing but yeah if there’s a business being run my females and there’s a business in parallel being run by male people so who’s gonna get access quicker, who’s gonna get access and if there is only one access available one connection available so who’s gonna get it? So in this scenario it is important that there should not be any sort of differentiation, it could either be the ladies or the men. So I mean it is important for ladies to have equal opportunities even if they’re working I mean in this scenario they are working in the commercial sector they’re operating a business so it is important for them to have electricity connection or energy access as much as it is important for the men. So I think it is important that there is there should be an equal playing ground for everybody because everybody is gonna participate and everyone’s gonna participate towards the betterment of the economy if there doing something in the commercial end and the business end as well. So it is important for… the… I think it is also important for the females to get if if there’s a school that is being run for the females it is important for them to have electricity as much as it is important for the boys’ college to have electricity. So yeah… I think this is not something you do not, at a mass scale it is very hard to differentiate in terms of energy access if there is some sort of a division but if there is in this scenario it is very important to have sort of to not have any sort of any differentiation in the gender forms, yep.

INTERVIEWER: And do you feel it should be a priority for policy and interventions to consider gender equity?

RESPONDENT: Yeah of course, of course! I mean everything sort of boils down to how many people are working on something that is sort of potentially run and improve the country’s position so it’s it’s I mean for me I believe it’s a headcount not like three men and four women, it’s like seven people. So yeah this is something I believe, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, please tell us how is demand for energy generation determined at XXXX and how does your organization understand consumer needs?

RESPONDENT: Okay so what really happens is XXXX and we have got some stakeholders working in the power sector so there is this company called XXXX that sort of runs the grid as well so they are the ones who project the demand so they are the ones operating the grid so theirs is another thing called XXXX so we’re working on finalizing it so they have submitted to us they’ve given it back and they’re gonna improve make improvements on whatever we’ve asked them to do so what really happens is they link it with the GDP they have got some standards not very sort of not very scientific but yeah they link it they try to link it with the GDP and they project the growth. So at XXXX it’s a very very sort of I think rising mindset that currently Pakistan’s demand is suppressed.

INTERVIEWER: Suppressed as in?

RESPONDENT: Suppressed as in it is not people are not sort of using electricity energy as much as they want because of a few constraints there are. There is an issue with the load shedding that comes under the reliability part, there is an issue with the crisis that comes under the affordability part so we call it whatever projections we are making so currently we say that in Pakistan we’re generating we’ve got a capability of generating what the demand is so there are a few things that we need to consider right now. 37% of the people they do not have access just add them to the list and see where the demand goes. Then there is how I think nor than I do not have a clear number or I’ll just make an educated guess more than 70% people are not able to pay for their energy demands. Because of the affordability issue the energy crisis they are really high as compared to what they’re earning and then obviously there’s load shedding there are so many other things there are so many issues with the interconnections. Once you apply for the connection, you have to wait for like months for the distribution company to come and bless you with a connection, they don’t look at it as business they look at it as something they’re doing in favor of people by providing them the electricity access. So these are the few things that are sort of contributing towards the electricity demand being suppressed right now. So when we consider all of these sort of things in our projection so we’ll see that we are not even making 50% of what is required in its true sense. I mean there’s an example I mean if you just XXXX is living in Karachi so she would I think agree with me that like 15 to 20 years back when we used to land in Karachi it used to be The City of Lights there were lights everywhere it was sort of proper lit that sort of thing but now right now it’s really different so there’s light here like there so the whole sort of scenario the whole sort of consumption behaviors has changed due to the fact that I’ve just mentioned.

INTERVIEWER: OK. So this means that XXXX does not do any demand calculations or surveys on ground. It relies on XXXX or the XXXX that you mentioned. Their own…

RESPONDENT: So XXXX is involved, XXXX is involved in this.

INTERVIEWER: so how is it involved?

RESPONDENT: So it is involved like when the XXXX is submitted to XXXX we are the ones who approve it after going through everything so the grid operator they are doing the study and we sort of verify it and we approve it in order for it to be implemented, so XXXX has this role.

INTERVIEWER: So are there any gender considerations included in the demand statistics which are basically used to make calculations?

RESPONDENT: Not right now. No. Not at all.

INTERVIEWER: next question is how equitable is energy access at the household level or at the community level in terms of gender equity in your opinion?

RESPONDENT: I think it is well it is there I mean as per my understanding I find it really funny as well talking about it but I think I could be a reality something we see it’s more towards the social issues that we have and the social construct and sort of the lack of understanding of how they live in a society and how the male dominance sort of shows its face in our society. Like it could be something like if there are three rooms in a house and there are three air conditioners and the son is living in one room and the daughter is living in one room and parents are living in one room so the son is allowed to use the air conditioner at night but the daughter is not, forced to sleep with the parents so it could just in my understanding after the connection is provided it could just lead to this thing but other than that in terms of the connection and in terms of providing the electricity access, the energy access I think it is pretty much equitable in terms of the gender thing.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And how does gender affect the way that energy is used in households. Like you just mentioned a bit.

RESPONDENT: Yeah yeah yeah, I just love I mean it’s a huge responsibility I mean although the whole women and men working together in Pakistan is on the rise and there are like so many females working in the professional sector and who are doing businesses that really encouraging. Okay so I was talking about like we see so many females sort of participating in the professional side in our country as well like just talking about Pakistan so it is very encouraging like I mean it’s a growing sort of I mean point of view in our society so it is changing that females they need to study they need to work they need to pursue a career they need to contribute because at the end of the day what really matters is how many people are working towards the betterment not like five women or ten women or whatever that is. So even though this is happening but there’s like a huge massive number of ladies that are still staying at home and they are sort of they are homemakers and they are working from time as people who look after the house, so it is important for the females to understand and have good knowledge about how what energy access, what energy is and what their consumption behaviors can how it can affect the way we see energy at our house or how what impact I it will have on the grid as well and what impact it will have on their community as well for example they need to know that there’s a peak hour going on they are not supposed to put extra burden or pressure on the grid so they might plan they might need to plan their chores during the off-peak hours so there’s less burden on the grid. They need to know what is the importance of paying the electricity bill on time, they need to know the what is the importance of energy access for them and how important it is for people to have energy access in order for them to be even the silent voices for the people who do not have access like it’s I call it as a campaign for people to have access to energy like everybody should have it UN SDG7 and all so it is really important for them to have good knowledge of this thing to and I mean in order to make take informed decisions when it comes to running a household.

INTERVIEWER: So linked to this, tell us how does gender relate to energy access in specific challenges like clean cooking?

RESPONDENT: Okay can you come again?

INTERVIEWER: How does gender relate to energy challenges such as clean cooking?

RESPONDENT: So clean cooking is something if you talk about Pakistan so it is primarily based on I mean it is primarily the female side, mostly the female side that sort of works in this domain and I don’t know what exactly is the requirement from this question?

INTERVIEWER: I mean it’s basically how would energy access for clean cooking relate to gender? I mean like you said in Pakistan it (cooking) is something that is done primarily by women. So are there any challenges in providing energy for this?

RESPONDENT: The biggest challenge is to have clean cooking. There are so many females we see there are so many areas where there is no connection to gas there is no gas access there’s no access to electricity to have that sort of electric stoves or the electromagnetic stoves so I think it is important to have… to provide them with access first to cooking then shift to clean cooking and I mean a lot of females they work with the wood… sort of burning the wood and burning the coal and to make food to cook and yeah I think this is the ground reality in our country.

INTERVIEWER: Is your own work related to off-grid communities directly?

RESPONDENT: This is something I do after my office hours. So, I’ve been working with a couple of organizations I won’t I think I will not link them here. So, we go and we sort of try to link this community and people who are willing to do something on the energy access side we go and we do studies and work on the quality energy access thing we interact with a lot communities globally, in Africa in in Europe as well, in South America in Asia in South East Asia as well so yep, there have been a lot of activity in this side as well.

INTERVIEWER: okay but you are doing this on your own? Not professionally?

RESPONDENT: Yeah, cause the regulator’s work starts when something is on the grid.

INTERVIEWER: okay, let’s go to the next question. Do different groups of women benefit from access to energy differently for example, does energy use or access differ among women of different ages, incomes, ethnicities, religion or cultural groups?

RESPONDENT: Yes yes it does. I mean you cannot expect a lady going to a school or or a lady going to a university to be having the same sort of energy consumptions as some lady who’s jus staying at home or looking after the kids. So, a lady going to the university or going for work outside or pursuing a career should be using a cellphone and a laptop, should be commuting using um should have a lot of needs should be watching television I mean this is something common in both of them but I mean she would have a different consumption behavior and that obviously requires more energy than somebody who is just not doing a lot on that sort of engaging with other people and working on different things. So, also, I think different communities… people with more money they tend to use more energy people with less money they tend to use less energy and obviously then there are areas where if it’s a high loss area there’s going to be more load shedding if there’s a low loss area and low recovery area, if it’s a high loss area and low recovery area there’s going to be more load shedding, if it’s a low loss area and high recovery area there’s going to be less load shedding so obviously people in the latter sort of group would be using more energy and people in the first group would be using less energy I mean women on both sides.

INTERVIEWER: Like you mentioned differences in terms of income and professions, as well as between working women and women who stay at home, do you think there are any differences in terms of religion, ethnicities?

RESPONDENT: I think I mean it revolves around to what sort of activities there are in religious groups primarily sort of look after and what is the social status with them if they fall in that so I mean if I don’t know if it is sort of the right thing to sort of to brand it as something, I mean you usually see there’s a Christian community in Pakistan they are not like very high-tech people at the moment. They are low on the education side as well and they’re working on a lot of people we see on streets cleaning, there are a lot of people sort of part of that community as well so obviously their energy requirements are going to be different from let’s say a normal Muslims who are privileged in our society and given the opportunities like she’s going out and working and studying and allowed to do a lot of stuff so yeah it it could be with the social status with this point of view.

INTERVIEWER: So basically, your work is to provide connections and grid infrastructure. But let me just ask again, what key energy infrastructure is your organization involved in providing?

RESPONDENT: So XXXX XXXX as a regulator, we are not the ones providing access we are not the ones generating electricity, we are not the ones distributing the electricity we are not the ones doing contracts, we are not the ones transmitting electricity. We are the ones who are looking after everything in general so I call ourselves the sort of supreme court of power entities where you have sort of power entities replacing the human beings in the world, we are the supreme court of that. So we look after the regulation, basically see and monitor and we ensure that everything is on the right place and every sort of part of this structure is working as it is required to under the guidelines under the defined codes and under the right regulatory regime.

INTERVIEWER: when new infrastructure and technologies are provided, what in your view are the differences between men and women in terms of who benefits?

RESPONDENT: I think it leads to it sort of depends on the exposure they have. If we just talk about electricity access in our home, I think this is something related to exposure that a gender has in terms of what they can use energy access for example if we see a man if there are two people in a house if a couple is living and the lady is staying at home and the guy is working outside then obviously he has seen a lot more than the lady has in terms of what uses what ways it can use electricity access for and obviously that would lead to the guy would be using more electricity than the girl like if they have got the similar sort of exposure if they have got similar sort of needs they need to use the internet they need to use something for television Netflix or just writing emails sending emails doing research work, so I mean it all depends on the type of work they’re doing and the type of lifestyles they have.

INTERVIEWER: so at the home or the community level, what are your views on who makes decisions about what technologies or appliances are purchased and used in the home?

RESPONDENT: Oh so what I have seen in my house it’s the mother that sort of purchasing wise if we need a washing machine we need a new microwave oven we need an electric stove or we need like the plain regular stove I mean that sort of there is obviously a male dominance part as well but usually sort of comes into play when you’re paying for the appliances like I mean in terms of deciding or sort of indicating the demand or identifying the demand it is I think it primarily comes from the females at home.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so you have already answered the next question that is related to energy finance. So in relation to making decisions about finance, who do you think would be making decisions, men or women.

RESPONDENT: In our society if you’re just sort of restricting it to this part so yeah it’s more on the men’s side.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And is gender equity in energy access different between urban and rural contexts?

RESPONDENT: So different like there’s a huge I mean it is very visible as well so I mean I don’t understand if I’m really linking it with the question we just answered or is it like the first question.

INTERVIEWER: Generally, in terms of gender equity. How is energy access different in terms of urban context and rural context.

MK: I think okay so I think it is a more related to the use of energy after the access is provided in the gender equity in providing access so I think it is almost the same so when they’re providing the electricity connection when they’re providing it to a house not to some guy or some girl it’s an applicant it could be anybody and they just need o make sure that they’re providing the right amount of wire or right amount of space or the capacity in the transformer and they’ll connect you to a grid so it is more after what they do after they get the connection. So, their usage there is difference there is this issue of gender equity in terms of using the electricity but in terms of providing the electricity or I don’t know think it really is there.

INTERVIEWER: Ok. So is there a difference between rural or urban contexts in terms of use?

RESPONDENT: Definitely, lots of difference in use.

INTERVIEWER: So please tell us about that, what is the difference?

RESPONDENT: As I talked about this earlier as well in terms of exposure what role that particular gender is playing at home so in the urban side it’s more like we can consider both of the genders working or both of the genders having the same sort of needs in terms of using smart technologies smart phones, laptops, televisions and microwave ovens and stuff. So it’s more like the same in terms of I mean speaking I mean I might be very sort of optimistic when I talk like this but hopefully in the next 10 or 15-20 years but it is going towards it but obviously there’s a lot difference when you compare it with the rural side where the men are going outside the women are staying at home and they don’t really have a cellphone I mean they cannot even afford. So, the guy who really has the cellphone or the person who has the cellphone is usually the one who goes outside and he needs he or she needs to he usually primarily needs to connect with other people and more energy, driving a motorbike, driving a car using fuel so energy in terms of this thing so yep there’s a difference a clear difference.

**Part 3: Policies and Interventions**

INTERVIEWER: Ok. So lets’ move towards part 3 which is on policies and interventions. So, to what extent does gender equity factor in your own work on energy access?

RESPONDENT: It does, in terms of creating a demand or identifying the need so I think the push needs to come in terms of wanting this thing so it could create a bigger impact for policy makers if this area needs electricity or energy access more or I mean or not so I think it does impact, it does have a huge impact on this.

INTERVIEWER: but does it factor in your work, for example in demand projections like you said…

RESPONDENT: Not in terms of like this but yeah in terms of identifying the demand or demand projections it will obviously play. There’s a difference in rural demand and urban demand. In urban demand one of the factors is, that females are using as much energy as a male or electricity in terms of restricted towards just the use of electricity they’ve got equal amount of exposure both of the genders and they’re using the same number of appliances they’re using equal number of sort of mobile applications as well. So the use of electricity and so it leads towards the demand creation demand generation so yeah it does affect it in when we talk about demand projections.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. I think you had answered this somewhat but let me ask again. Thinking beyond your specific work, do you think energy access policies in your region should be gender sensitive and in what ways?

RESPONDENT: I think in terms of providing the demand sorry gauging the demand but I would like to sort of take it one step back like the thing I was talking about is how we need to prioritize it right. So if we see a lady in a rural area walking five miles everyday carrying a bottle of water right and then filling it and bringing it back if they don’t see anything wrong with that, if they just see it as something that is going to happen for the rest of her life right, so that it something that needs to be changed. The government that needs to identify that this lady has certain… sort of what we say she requires energy access, it could be in terms of a vehicle that uses oil or I mean that uses petrol or gas or an electric vehicle that she needs in order to carry her bottle even if she has to do that. So this could be an example where the policy makers and everybody who’s working in this line they need to identify as something that needs to be worked up on right, so until and unless there is a behaviour change in terms of them saying it as a necessity in terms of the gender roles that how it happens in our society in terms of the South Asia side for example. So there’s a need for them to prioritize this thing and look into it with the gender aspect as well and that would enable them to see so many more things than what they currently are and it would label them to better prioritize there sort of policies and what the policies and what they want coming out of the implementation of these policies. So for them they need to factor in the gender part as well.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, you have answered the next question about what policy gaps exist around women’s’ access to energy. And how do you think it would benefit the electricity situations in general? Do you think it would benefit by introducing more gender sensitive policies?

RESPONDENT: I mean I’ll go one step further, just let’s just consider that they have sort of identified this thing in their policies and they’re working on it, what it is gonna do it is going to create a demand right so when an issue with the global energy access’s workspace is that people are only looking at providing energy access they’re not looking at jacking up the demand they’re not looking at sustainably increasing demand it is also important it is the end of the day a business space right so there need to be a growing activity in order for people to come and participate in order for people to come and make money out of it right in order for it to be sustainable. So it is also important for us to work on the demand creation why do you think it is important so I think what it’s a huge gap as I just mentioned about the Karachi’s situation in terms of light when we land and how in Pakistan our demand is supressed, it is not a burden if the demand is increasing it is a very healthy sound but we also need to work on I mean on different sort of financial models for people and it is very difficult for the governments they label tis demand growth and there are so many things that need to be done in this space for example the governments they can either by including the gender side their energy access policies they are increasing the demand otherwise they would have to increase so many entities will come work make appliances more affordable in order for people to purchase those appliances and I mean when they purchase those appliances they’d be using more electricity so the demand will increase and obviously the whole power sector business would increase. So this is something that could play a really positive and big role in terms of increasing the demand.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think… I mean are there any social policies that would have an impact on energy equity and that need work?

RESPONDENT: I think anything that sort of enables the females in Pakistan for example to come out and live a life and that I think would be helpful in that.

INTERVIEWER: so are there any specific challenges for women for example with regards to social and cultural setup?

RESPONDENT: There are so many so many of them I mean just wee can talk about it for days like imagine a woman stepping out of her house and it starts from there.

INTERVIEWER: Any specific social policies in your mind?

RESPONDENT: Okay I think there is a need to work on just take an example of gender equity at workplace right, if there’s a social policy if there’s it’s just an example of what you say in terms of power sector so there will be 50% of women in the power sector so we’ll see women just jacking up and sort of more women coming in the power industry and working so yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Ok. Right. So, imagine that there are no financial or policy constraints. In this scenario, what in your view would be best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access?

RESPONDENT: I think there are no policy constraints and no financial constraints the issue wouldn’t exist.

INTERVIEWER: the issue wouldn’t exist… ok.. but if you take the current scenario but there are no financial constraints, no policy constraints, then how would you go about achieving gender equity then, in energy access?

RESPONDENT: Energy access I mean in energy access it’s gender equity in providing energy access is not the prime issue… how I look at it as I’ve already mentioned but it is what happens after you provide the energy access. This is where the issues I mean there are so many factors I have discussed that lay the role so I think in terms of if there are no policy or financial constraints how it can I think it really wouldn’t make that bigger difference I don’t think that I don’t believe right now I’m unable to see if there’s an issue with this particular thing when it comes to energy access.

**Part 4: Topical Questions**

INTERVIEWER: Okay. That’s fair. .so this is the last part, how balanced is gender representation in various decision making bodies within energy governance structures?

RESPONDENT: Okay so I think it starts from recruiting equal number of females in an organization in the power sector so there’s a lack of representation and it’s a massive issue in our part of the world as well.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any statistics from XXXX?

RESPONDENT: I don’t really have I think if we take just a wide it would be like 80:20. So yeah representation is less so if you just consider the 80-20 ratio, it is the same obviously when it comes to decision making.

INTERVIEWER: I am not sure if you are familiar with any energy access finance processes, but I will ask the question anyway. So, do you think renewable energy access finance processes are gender aware?

RESPONDENT: They could do better on this if for example it could be I have not I think it could be my lack of knowledge on this part but I have not seen a program a finance program that sort of finances for example solar panels for particularly for ladies who are sort of working to start a business right so I don’t see any financing scheme that provides them with a loan of say 2% that is like 4% lower than the State Banks offer which is there for everybody, so yeah I don’t see a lot of activity happening on this side.

INTERVIEWER: okay. And what do you think are the key challenges for gender equity in terms of renewable energy access finance?

RESPONDENT: I think the realization that this thing exists not on the access part but the realization on what this thing could do I mean for example on the business side if we want to encourage more women coming and participating we need to provide them with an enabling environment and providing them with low finance or lower financing rates it could do a lot of good in this side order to encourage them to come and do some business activity and play their role in improving better economic situation of the country.

INTERVIEWER: Any specific challenges that women face in terms of purchasing or decision making, purchasing finance?

RESPONDENT: I think right now one issue that exists is it is hard for people to realize that women can work in the field that women can work in the power sector women can work in the power plants women can go out and purchase solar panels for their household so this is something I consider as a barrier.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think they face any challenges in the decision-making process?

RESPONDENT: Definitely there are. This could be linked to the fact that the majority of households they have a man who’s bringing the finance who’s bringing the money to the house and sort of the women are not completely independent in terms of making decisions taking decisions if they want to install a solar setup a solar panel at their rooftop they can’t because the father who is bringing the money wants a diesel generator at home so this is something that can play a role.

**Part 5: Conclusion**

INTERVIEWER: ok. But in the end do you have any comments, any general comments or anything that you would like to add?

RESPONDENT: Yeah I think for my own good for my own understanding I would really want people to be working more on this thing for I think it is required because right now even in the interview you would’ve seen that I think that I need to know more about this issue in particular when it comes to providing energy access because I saw it as something that doesn’t exist the issue but at the providing energy access point but there are so many more things to it and once this study is finalized would love to read about it and would love to see how it contributes towards the betterment of the overall society and obviously if you’re covering it it is a social issue at the end of the day if it is something that exists so yeah really looking forward and if there is something good coming out of this interview I would also not mine if you can use my name as well so I’m happy to be shown in this study.

INTERVIEWER: thank you so much., that’s very kind of you. Can we ask more questions if we need to? Through email?

RESPONDENT: Definitely you can.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. You gave us so much time. And definitely we will share the transcript and hopefully somewhere down the line the policy brief that is generated, we will share with you as well. Thank you so much once again.

RESPONDENT: You’re welcome, pleasure working with you guys.

INTERVIEWER: Take care. XXXX .