**Transcript 14**

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| **Interviewer name** | **XXXX** |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | **ARU** |
| **Interview date** | **XXXX** |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | **53 mins 43 secs** |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | **Virtual** |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | **P14** |
| * **Participant name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Organisation name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Gender** | **Male** |
| * **Stakeholder category** | **Engineers and others responsible for putting those vision-led plans into action** |
| * **Country** | **Pakistan** |

INTERVIEWER: I have just put on the recording. All the information that we are going to be collecting is for the sole purpose of this study and will only be seen by the research team. Your name and any other identifying features will not be used anywhere in reports and other publications emerging from this study. And the interview will take more or less one hour. Are we clear on this?

RESPONDENT: Yes

**Part 1: Introduction**

INTERVIEWER: I am getting into the first part of the interview which is about your background, work priorities and role etc. So, can you start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role and position and the organisation that you work for?

RESPONDENT: Sure, so I am the XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: In brief, can you tell me a bit about your background and how and why you got into this line of work?

RESPONDENT: Okay, so I have a um XXXX

INTERVIEWER: So you have already told us a bit about how long have you been involved with energy issues and the specific energy related work that you do. But.. umm.. to what extent does energy access feature in this?

RESPONDENT: So um energy access for me right now, look I have been working um in the ways energy project was in a society was a peri-urban society called XXXX and at that point in time, um even that area is has been has had power issues and we are trying to resolve how um you know a negative consequence of the work which was producing cow manure in 3000 tons per day. How do we use that in order to benefit the society in solving their power issues as well so it started from over there um especially distributed generation. Um right now, I am mostly working in urban areas and I would say that people generally don’t know um much about you know clean energy technologies and energy efficiency and they waste a lot of electricity so the energy access I have right now is at… I have got a platform where a lot of these um a lot of these um technologies are displayed. Um as far as um you know rural areas are concerned, which is lack of energy access, um I do have some sort of an experience and we do display technologies and we do sell technologies um which um are um you know off grid, um off grid power system for eg we’ve, we did solar home kits, we do solar home kits which are standalone solar um solar systems which can um plug in stand electricity alight. Previously through some of our clients, we have distributed some of these 200 or more solar home kits to street vendors um and as well as um based on our clients requirements, we send these to a couple of people in XXXX who did not have access to electricity where those provide basic electricity uses like um light and fan and mobile charging especially. So um, I mean we are sitting here urban areas but some of the things that we do um we um display or we sell um are relevant to people in peri-urban and rural areas where there is lack of energy access and not just energy empower um we keep displaying and keep encouraging other technologies like those heat stoves which are very important when it comes to the lack of energy access because it impacts negatively the especially the women over there.

INTERVIEWER: Ok perfect. So what current issues or developments in policies at state or national level influence your work? What are the key policy challenges, if any?

RESPONDENT: Umm I think um the policy um is related to clean technologies obviously um as solar for example has been impacted positively I would say in the past few years based on net metering policies um there are a lot of people are now looking towards clean energy technologies policies such as tax incentives play a big deal in distributing some of these um energy resources for example solar home kits and solar panels are now exempt from taxes um and if they do bring back some of these taxes going to become um you know expensive um to procure some of these things. The biggest challenges, challenge I feel is based on the lack of financing or the financing incentives available so while some these solutions are out there, a lot of people are not willing to take risks on these distributed generation in clean energy technologies and especially where clean energy technologies are need to be deployed especially in rural areas, um so there has to be micro finance coming in and putting in more efforts to um distribute some of these technologies which can impact their energy access part so um and that was solar and I work in waste as well, I mean as far as clean energy and energy access is concerned it’s also about a health issue which is intertwined in energy access um so a lot of, a lot of these things are interlinked and while we, while the government has focused on just some technologies, other are neglected. Battery technology especially will create a big impact in kind of bringing these technologies closer to rural areas because while grid tight systems are okay and net metering policies are good maybe for those who have access to the grid already, you really need to have more off grid solution and micro grid solutions been placed at these rural areas. And I believe the battery technology are still not been you know focused or um is been left behind. It’s a key area which is revolutionizing the um mobility sector especially electric vehicles but also kind of getting some of these micro grid systems in these communities there should be an incentive for battery technology providers to locally produce good quality batteries and the financers especially banks and micro financing and letting institutions to focus on batteries. I know right now they currently stay away and rightly because some of these batteries are also the failure point of the entire system, so we need to solve for that and intervene.

**Part 2: Understanding of the Issues**

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. So I am going to move on to part 2, which is about understanding of the issues. So the first question in this regard is, what does equitable energy access mean to you? What would it look like in terms of SDG 7?

RESPONDENT: Umm I would imagine equitable energy access would mean that somebody who um somebody would have access to energy to at least um to at least kind of um cover their basic needs. Um and, and I know the basic needs are just light and fan and a basic things but I think we need to evolve beyond that. Um so technology has played a major part, is now playing a major part in kind of bringing some of these peri-urban and rural areas into the globaliza into the globalization fold as well. We need to make sure that when we define maj, basic access to energy it has to fulfill some of their needs beyond just you know fan and lights, it has to be um access to technology and making sure that there is power to some of these technological devices um as well. Um so I think basic um you know as the energy I think um association says there is 100 unit a year per person should be the access so first I would imagine units which are um basic enough to cover some of these expenses. I also tell you an interesting thing um based on some of the um the feedback that we’ve been gotten from some of these rural areas so when we took our solar kit to a place in XXXX and there was obviously a limitation in back um the battery backup so we asked them would you rather have this battery backup to provide you light or would you want battery backup to provide you fan and they have never had been asked this question before, like would they want fan or would they want um light and they said I want enough access to charge my mobile. So I would imagine that you know we need to evolve our definition of this energy access so basic and basic needs that people require but I would imagine that clean power not only providing them electricity but they providing electricity through traditional fuels and there also their health is been impacted then I don’t believe that equitable access is well. Um equitable access would be having the minimum required electricity or energy in a clean form um where their health is also not been impacted and they are able to do some of their basic need, basic needs as well as enough for them to um to part take in some these economic activities. There’s a small business or they um ya, so I don’t know if that answers the question.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. What does gender equity in energy access mean to you? And do you think it should be a priority for policy and interventions and why?

RESPONDENT: I think it has to be, um as when you, when you talk about um you know inequitable access to energy um somehow um these um vulnerable groups like children and, and women get left behind. Again, most of the reports that I have read and in my teaching experience as well and the UN reports that we have been talking about is how um there is lack of clean you know um cooking stoves, um most of the deaths that are reported are into respiratory um and lack of um you know any clean um cooking um you know technologies available. So when we talk about energies not just about electricity, it’s also about how, what energy is been access to do some of these domestic household chores which unfortunately um are been handled and burned by women and children. Then it’s obviously children, when they spend time at homes with their women they also um suffer the negative health consequences of this. Um so yes I think they are left behind and a very critical I think element is not just you know energy poverty, a major thing for some of these vulnerable groups is time poverty. Because when they don’t have access to these um energy resources they rely on traditional you know energy fuels available like wood and coal and they spend a lot of time in collecting some of these so imagine the time that is being used to first collect these raw material sources and then using these inefficient sources which takes a lot of time to do output that they are desired to do and third they have, they suffer the consequences, the negative consequences of health. So it’s a triple globe when it comes to energy access and the inequitable um energy access so when you talk about, when you drain some of these modern technologies and clean energy technologies to some of these um vulnerable groups and rural periurban areas, I believe that the, um that the segment of society that is impacted the most will be um will be benefited um with this and it’s going to be a um you know multiple um benefit to getting these technologies over there.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect, and does your organization do any energy demand assessments to understand consumer needs?

RESPONDENT: Well yes I mean we do energy audits but right now we are just focusing on the urban areas and industrial and commercial clients, we are, we do energy audits. Before we do any energy efficiency projects we do an assessment of what they require and before um, before proposing any supply side solution for example solar we first say, we first have do an assessment of their demand situation, how much their waste, wasting energy and most people are, are actually wasting energy by continuing with these old appliances um which are not energy efficient and it makes more sense to actually intervene at the demand side rather than the supply side.

INTERVIEWER: So what I understand is that most of your statistics are gathered by yourself individually and not relying so much on government reports.

RESPONDENT: Um not much, I mean the um very induvial clients who ask us to do um again we right now haven’t been part of any large scale government efforts where we can put into some of these peri-urban areas. Um can you hear me? Yeah yeah, I was saying that we are limited in our scope of work as a startup over here in urban areas.

INTERVIEWER: and in terms of the work you have done, is gender considered as … or included as a criteria? Especially in terms of audit and understanding energy demands?

RESPONDENT: Umm I think where we work it’s mostly about um no it’s, it’s for us the consumer is the facility which you know consumes energy and look at the facility over there and it’s generally it’s an industry or it’s school or commercial organization or residential organization so over there, there aren’t any um gender specific things but when we go to rural areas obviously, when we try to um try to get some of our distributed um energy products to rural areas we do get um you know feedback from our suppliers and vendors who go out and do installation that mostly um you know the considerations are um based on gender on much they’re um adding values to some of these vulnerable communities but over here in the peri-urban, in the urban areas it’s mostly our consumer is a you know an entity um and they look at facility as a fold.

INTERVIEWER: so how equitable is energy access at community and household level in terms of gender equity?

RESPONDENT: Umm again I think there will be two different answers for depending on where you are um based at again over here and urban areas, um I would believe a family in itself is impacted as a whole when it comes to energy access um the peri urban areas and the rural areas again would not have a gender equity um um element, I mean there would be gender inequity in the sense that some of these um vulnerable segments of the populations especially women and children are impacted the most because they are the ones who um bear the burden of lack of any modern um um energy supply, not just just access to energy, the fact that the um the regularity of energy access so some of these peri-urban areas as well when we go and work with um areas where bear it’s supply but or been face with load sheddings for example some of the low income areas have a higher load shedding and a power outage ratio than the urban areas and so um the gender inequity in those would probably be higher because again the task would always fall umm inequitably on women and children over there so I would in I would assume that um the access to, access to energy and the supply um what would you say the um the, the quality of supply would also impacts the and gender equity over there but over here again now in my, in my scope of work the work with commercial organizations and industries and residential owners in urban areas um I, I don’t know I can’t comment on that.

INTERVIEWER: but even in terms of urban areas, if you have any examples of that, that is also fine. We are not only looking at the rural. But I mean we are generally looking at communities in whichever domain you are working in.

RESPONDENT: Your question was ..

INTERVIEWER: at community or household level… how equitable is energy access at household or community level?

RESPONDENT: So again I then, yeah I would say that there is um um an inequitable dis you know distribution because um obviously those people who are in a lower income background have more quality of supply issues um as I said, I know the utility has policy back even when I was part of that utility that um the urban areas or the um the areas where there is low theft will have zero to no load shedding and then areas which have you know robbery, there recoveries are less, they would have more power load shedding so there is, there is, there’s bias, there is this inequality that you know low income areas will probably have um will probably be impacted as far as there um energy access is concerned either it could be, there is lack of energy or even if there is energy access, the fact that it’s interrupted there also impact energy access so yeah I would say that as far as my utility experience is concerned even with someone where looking for um solar solutions some of these areas are just complaining about lack of access to um grid electricity. Um they have 6 hours, 8 hours of load shedding specially in these summer areas when the urban areas would not be facing them because again um for um utility I look for commercial interest.

INTERVIEWER: Next question is related to gender. How does gender affect the way that energy is used in households? For example, who has responsibility for different tasks that use energy? Do men and women use energy differently, and why?

RESPONDENT: Umm I think again in, in urban areas um I think the most impact that I have seen or read um for the energy access in new areas um has to be the um energy in the sense of cooking fuels um would fall I would imagine on women and children again as I’ve said um most of the um rural areas um and and, and the impact over there on gender is mostly on um energy used for heating and cooking and that again um defaults on um the female community or their and they’re negatively impacted by not having access to clean um and modern access to energies for heating and cooking. Um and as far as you know electricity usage is concerned, over there um again I am not sure, I can’t give you an answer right now but as far as the inequity is concerned I would imagine the heating and cooking part of energy um falls on women and children over there and they are negatively impacted um as far as the decision making is concerned it’s usually the cost and financial bait is always um on the other gender and sometimes they don’t make decisions based on, they are making decisions based on completely different aspects like cost while the people who are burdened um might use differently.

INTERVIEWER: In your opinion, do different groups of women benefit from access to energy differently; for example, does energy use or access differ among older and younger women, income groups, where they are based in the community, or religious, ethnic and cultural groups would use energy differently?

RESPONDENT: Umm.. um, um probably, probably I mean depends if you are um you know if you are part of a community which um which is more entrepreneur, there is some communities which are open to um you know small scale cottage industries for example and over there some of the um energy is used up with women part taking in some of the economic activities like small scale um textile um you know textile based activities so I would imagine those communities would utilize energy for their economic activities um, um a lot of people over here um in urban areas I wouldn’t say that there is much um difference, I mean that doesn’t come from at the top of my mind but I would say over there depends on, um unfortunately rural areas when you go to peri urban and rural areas still um some of these household and domestic chores are still burdened on, on females and women so I would imagine if they’ve use energy for again heating and cooking would be but at least there are some communities um where you know women are also the economic um you know power houses in their households and they part take in activities like as I said textile and weaving and all of these things so I imagine that they would um do it but I don’t have any specific you know steps on that, it’s just in my mind.

INTERVIEWER: you have already spoken about the key energy infrastructure and technology that XXXX provides. But when new energy infrastructure and technologies are provided, what in your view are the differences between men and women in terms of who benefits?

RESPONDENT: Can you repeat, in terms of what?

INTERVIEWER: New energy infrastructure and technology, when it is provided, who benefits more? What is the difference between men and women in terms of who benefits?

RESPONDENT: Umm I think for the new infrastructure I would imagine umm if you look at umm you know utensils and small en, energy appliances, I would imagine that women would be more benefiter uses because at the end of the day they have to use the equipment. Um and over all I would imagine that the cost if this reduces also the cost and the hassle it will also um when you provide some of these new infrastructure technologies focus on.

INTERVIEWER: so you have already spoken a little bit about decision making as well. But just to reiterate, who makes decisions about what technologies and appliances are purchased and used in the home?

RESPONDENT: I think, I think then it would if you are asking me to name a gender so I think by the gender it’s generally male decisions over there um therefore expenses and what technologies to um um you know part take in.

INTERVIEWER: so in that context do men and women participate equally in decision making about energy access?

RESPONDENT: No I don’t think so, so it’s a male dominated in our umm in our experience.

INTERVIEWER: and what about finance related to energy technologies or energy access?

RESPONDENT: I think like the finance, finance um specific decisions generally um males um dominates in making the decision while the usage rate and the benefit always um most probably goes to so that’s why I mean if you are able to feel, if it, if it works the female had the decision making power um I would say that there would be more open to these new technologies um as they are the end of the beneficiaries.

INTERVIEWER: Is gender equity in energy access different between urban and rural contexts?

RESPONDENT: Oh yes, definitely. Um I think there is more equal access over here in urban areas because you have um new technologies, you’ve got options, you’ve got um finances, you’ve got financing options versus rural areas where again um lack of options.

INTERVIEWER: In terms of your knowledge about these issues, what kinds of evidence or knowledge do you draw on?

RESPONDENT: Umm again um we work here in the urban areas um and we go to um residences and households and um you know commercial users, we have gone to um schools which are again um um led by females, we’ve got schools, schools to with led by males so I think over here at the end day they are more savvy in some of these decision makings always opted, always who benefitted, who are knowledgeable about um some of the benefits of these technologies. They have access to finance yet they do versus you know peri urban, urban areas um sorry peri urban and in rural areas they always looking for financing. It’s always been a plant funded you know project which has led through you know somebody um installing some of these equipment but obviously they don’t have knowledge about this um they don’t have access to finance so yeah I mean I’ve limited experience in rural I would have more experience in the urban areas.

**Part 3: Policies and Interventions**

INTERVIEWER: I am going to move on to part 3 of the questionnaire which is about policies and interventions. So to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access?

RESPONDENT: Umm I would say that um we try to, we try to um kind of um get more and more products which speak to um you know the vulnerable, vulnerable um segments of our society, even in not only in energy but from wastage point of view um we are looking towards more um female led business, small households um small businesses who are making some of these products, we are making sure that they um feature specially on our um in our stores um and we make sure that some of these things um some of these products in distributed generation sources are actually pushed out to some of these to these societies where um there is a dis, im, imbalances between this equity of en um energy equity um so we make, we are a market place at the end of the day we make sure that most of these products are over there, we try to um we are still building some projects where most of the um will be access to not only energy but clean water and clean air is not there. Umm we are still trying developing some of these projects with the help of donors and raising finance um and most of our um target is these peri urban areas where this is lack of acc, access to clean drinking water and energy um so yeah, we are building some of these projects, we stand alone um as part of our marketplace we encourage some of these things even though again unfortunately the marketplace that we have, we also don’t even that know how much access you know peri urban and rural areas will have access to these things. It’s just that we can push here, make projects and get donors and you know financiers to kind of build projects in these vulnerable communities. We have um face a few projects made um been trying to for the past couple of years we haven’t implemented as such in any rural areas. just one of projects um that we’ve done but we as far as our thinking is concerned any project that we built and our building right now one element of that is um giving back to their community to solve some of these energies um inequity issues.

INTERVIEWER: In terms of the issues you have already highlight, how effective do you feel these efforts in your work towards gender equity have been in general?

RESPONDENT: I think we still have to um improve on that aspect um ah, we have to um as an organization we also have to um work on the aspect of um getting special aid products for removing this disbalance, I mean as a startup we are again in a very urban area as a startup which is been operating for 3 years um trying to base projects to some of these um urban communities and commercial communities um for us it’s more about sustainability of our organization as such but again since the first day of our existence we’ve said that one element of our um one part of our existence you know has to be about improving these energy in you know equity issues in gender disbalance over here. Um we have that in our e-thoughts, we have not currently push towards that, we are doing in you know isolated phases either that’s energy or that’s a marketplace or those are female led businesses um um as part of our shops um but it’s something that we need to work on as we built some of these projects, we haven’t been very successful in getting some of these projects funded um we have pitch we are pitching for the last couple of years um but you know most of the projects that come to finalization get lost in this globotic process and delays.

INTERVIEWER: Thinking beyond your specific work, do you think energy access policies in Pakistan should be gender sensitive and in what ways?

RESPONDENT: Yes um again, again as the, as I talked about some of the problems in periurban and rural areas there is a, first there is absolutely no um element of environmental in social governance incorporations um there projects are been done in some of these rural community like power projects and other projects which just talk about the material consequences or the apparent consequences of getting power to these communities and jobs but the health impact that they get that you know some, sometimes the water gets contaminated. Again at the end of the day it’s, there’s a disbalance on how some of these communities um get impacted especially through gender as mostly women and children that are impacted through um non clean drinking water and environment and getting to um have access to these conventional fuel sources. So government needs to push impolicy where whatever we do we need to have um an esg score card for the projects that we take um for, for the projects that we implement and there has to be if you know if, if you go and built a project in a rural community that blocks the entire um you know passageway for women to go and collect water and you are increasing their hardships then obviously they are not impacted and these these decisions and considerations till now have not been a part of our project due diligence um so this environmental and social risk management I believe needs to be part of policy um I know the bank and state bank has um has green banking policy but it’s up till now it seems like a formality. The financiers need to be aware about some of these projects um not because up till now everybody just been doing due diligence based on financial aspects of a project but not the environmental and social risks. Um and one of the biggest risk is around current vulnerable community are you impact, are you making it more difficult for them or are you improving their lives. None of these considerations are the part of the due diligence process so I believe that a comprehensive environmental and social risk assessment should be done for the projects in which one sub um you know topic has to be um women um been negatively impacted. How many jobs are been created, are you creating um hurdles to the immediate environment or some of these communities and soci and and you know communities whether it be the environment or the social status um and the everyday lives.

INTERVIEWER: And I think you have already also addressed the policy gaps around women’s access to energy at local level. What related… do you have any idea of social policies that impact energy equity?

RESPONDENT: Umm currently, right now? Um for our, for our government, I don’t think I mean the policy generally to um to kind of incentivize some of these newer cleaner does talk to in a way you know um improving the gender access to electricity, I would imagine if more people are taking up distributed solar, it would benefit these communities as a whole and also um you know the female sec, um the gender but I also believe that a large part of um our energy policy is also moving around electricity um cooking and heating and um other cleaner access to energy has been left behind, it’s not given the due attention. There’s so many other um resources um such as biomass and LPG and getting gas um and moving people away from some of these briquettes and coal and firewood, it needs to be in placed so I don’t think there are policies regarding that, it’s just about clean electricity which is a good start um but it has to be in a very holistic um you know view point.

INTERVIEWER: Imagining no policy and financial constraints for a moment, what in your view would be best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access for Pakistan?

RESPONDENT: Um imagining no you know financial constraint um I would imagine there would be a policy of getting um micro grids which are um which are um primarily on clean energy sources um for example solar or wind um and which improves the electrification rate in Pakistan especially in the rural areas I believe it’s still 75 or 80% so there is lack of electricity um I would imagine you know um improved um heating and cooking arrangements which includes modern um access to modern gas either it be LPG or biogas or it’s improve cooking stoves and the immediate environment. I believe that there should be um um even natural gas and electricity to urban areas um we need to move away from um move away from directly using um these conventional thermal fuels and converting things to electricity so yeah um in a perfect scenario that would um probably the, I mean moving towards modern fumes um is part of our energy mix.

INTERVIEWER: What might you in your current position at XXXX play in achieving this?

RESPONDENT: So we um are improving access to um energy. One thing that we are doing um one thing that we are doing is this um concept of um the sustainability stores um and it feels that it’s a very urban concept, it’s not. We just opened a shop um in an urban area that kind of um display energy, provides access to the clean energy for these surrounding populations. I consider 75 places in pakistan and it’s not just urban areas but peri urban and rural areas um can you hear me? So one of the idea is to get these centers across pakistan in peri urban as well as rural areas, the only way you will be able to mass penetrate some of these energy efficient equipment get to people is that you have some of these, some of these retail stores even in their communities providing not only, not only access to these technologies but there has to be someone who can service these technologies as well. People just go there and leave behind a battery and a suitcase after but who’s going to service it, what about the replacement, what about the follow up so one thing that we are doing is, it’s a small start and we are pitching this idea to other franchises we want entrepreneurs in communities to take our franchise and we have a shop which is a XXXX shop in the areas in providing whatever the community needs toh if somebody say open up a davam like shop in say Hyderabad or an agricultural community, maybe solar water pumps will be provided over there and it’s gona be the hot selling item rather than an organic food over here in Dha or you know solar power, full-fledged solar power system or a water dispenser machine so one thing that we are making access to some of these um technologies easier by making the network of shops and it’s part of our plans to kind of get a network going on in Pakistan um of a retail system which can provide access to not only products but also services.

**Part 4: Topical Questions**

INTERVIEWER: Moving on the next part of the questionnaire. How balanced is gender representation in various decision making bodies within energy governance structures?

RESPONDENT: Umm again um I am not privy to, I’ve never read some of these papers, I have just been following you know what’s going on but there’s hardly any representation of um females in any of these bodies in especially in these energy administration and petroleum especially those people who are at the forefront or um are the limelight of decision making so I, I don’t believe that there is much representation, I know that few um you know gas boards have a couple of um females that are represented but I mean I can’t give you much insights on that more than just you know knowing um very superficial idea of what I see on tv or read on papers at the moments but I don’t see my perception is that there isn’t a very male dominated sector. Even you know the last 10 years that I have been working over here in this field, in the energy field it’s a very male dominated you know um sector. Um I taught one of the things that I missed out from my experience was I did teach um for a year at XXXX and I taught a course called xxxx xxxx school only because I want to get you know the other gender that is left behind to get excited about this field as well, so over all I think that a representation as a policy is what um the representation is sector as a whole.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think renewable energy access finance processes are gender aware or sensitive? Specially when it comes to Green Climate Fund or local finance?

RESPONDENT: Umm Green Climate Fund sure is um green climate, I mean some of these global um energy funds are um keeping in an element again of environmental and social governance which is focusing on um gender um and again but the local financers are absolutely not. Again, the State Bank of Pakistan did um take out this green banking policy and some banks are um incorporating it but it’s just as a formality um and at it means to move beyond just a formality.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think are the key challenges for gender equity in terms of renewable energy access finance in relation to purchasing decisions and energy access finance for cooking stoves; solar home systems; community wind?)?

RESPONDENT: I think the big, biggest challenging challenge is the way we um do the due the way the financers do the due diligence for this project um and there is lack of adm lack of financing for over there. Again um some of these clean energy technologies need to rebuke similar to what other appliances are. I mean to consecrate or so for financers to you know fund um Acs and you know lights and even cars and the same needs to happen with clean energy technologies as well. Um and one stats you know um one stats um that is clear with the financing thing I think it would also be easier for some of these communities as well. I also think we underestimate some of the importance that we believe communities have, they do, they do want to make their lives better and if you give them and especially you know if you give them this thing that they’ll have modern energy and they’ll um um you know life will improve especially you’ve got technology over there that also needs to play apart. But you know an interesting um an interesting anecdote that somebody told me who is working with rural areas, I also believe that whoever works in, in the community needs to understand um the dynamics of these rural areas and not just they savior com you know we have this savior complex sitting in urban areas so there was this guy I don’t know, do I have time to tell this, I don’t know part of? Um there was this gentleman we met recently and he’s a water expert the last 30 years he has a company in the US on he’s an expert on water filtration and cleaning and what not. He is a xxxx and he came back and we working we were trying to build a project for rural the communities and how to get water filtration over there and anybody who comes back and wants to solve, do something for the rural commu, communities they have this image in their head of this women carrying this “*matka*” [clay pot for carrying water] on top of her head and walking long distances and you know our hearts fills with tears and they wanted to do something about them. So this guy said I wanted to do something about you know the community and went to community where you know women had to walk 3 hours and 4 hours in a day just to collect water and they said look I am a water filtration expert and so with these expertise and technologies he built a water filtration system right at the doorstep of those communities right? Um clean drinking water coming out of it and what he thought was you know doing a big favor um he would improve the lives of these communities, after a while when he went back, all the women were not pleased with what he did right? It seems like counter intuitive right, we think that we have saved this women with time poverty and but they said the only time that they had to gather as a community women just walking and talking and get out of their households, you’ve taken away from us that so why did you do this. So point is sometimes we think that we are playing a savior and for us siting in urban areas and policy we are go far and moved from the communities that we don’t know what their real problem and challenges are. We need to sit down and talk to them of what there challenges are because if you go and put up a water filtration like this and if they don’t like it they are not going to use it right? So you have to make sure that these stakeholders are also somehow incorporated in some of these policy decision making and not from government who is sitting in islamabad and making these policies.

**Part 5: Closing**

INTERVIEWER: Just closing this now. Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add?

RESPONDENT: Um no I don’t think pretty much. Again my personal experience as the company has been very limited to all of these um again I hope in a couple of years that I do get to build what we are trying to build as far as project is concerned. We are trying to gather people in this community to finance um yeah imagine I would have more to say after.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. And would you be available for follow-up questions should they arise?

RESPONDENT: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much for that. I am going to conclude now, thank you so much for your time. I am very grateful for you being a part of this. inshAllah, we will be sharing the report with the participants also.