**Transcript 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | **XXXX** |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | **ARU** |
| **Interview date** | **XXXX** |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | **40 mins 42 secs** |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | **Virtual** |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | **P6** |
| * **Participant name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Organisation name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Gender** | **Female** |
| * **Stakeholder category** | **NGO** |
| * **Country** | **Pakistan** |

RESPONDENT: You have my consent regarding the interview.

INTERVIEWER: I am just, I have just started the recording. So all the information we are just collecting its only for the purpose of this study. It will only be seen by the research team. Your name or any other identifying features will not be used in any reports. And any publication emerging from this study will not indicate your name. More or less it takes about one hour for the interview to wind up, subject to, again, your responses, and you know how the discussion goes.

If you are ready then I will move into part 1 of the interview?

RESPONDENT: sure.

**Part 1: Introduction**

INTERVIEWER: Can you start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role and position. Which organization do you work for? Which department are you a part of? What are your job responsibilities?

RESPONDENT: Okay, so I’m working as XXXXwith XXXX Pakistan and in their project XXXX which is abbreviated as XXXX, so my major job responsibility is to umm… XXXX with XXXX change and other XXXX. Currently, I’m focusing on two major projects which is implementation of XXXX and second one is the XXXX which is the XXXX and then we’re also going, um for another project which is based on XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. So can you tell us a little bit about your background and how did you get in this line of work?

RESPONDENT: Okay, so I’ve done my bachelor firstly xxxx

INTERVIEWER: Awesome. So have you.. so any of your projects.. I understand your core focus is climate but have any of your projects been around or do you have any work going around energy issues, because you are a part of XXXX?

RESPONDENT: Well, you cannot.. energy efficiency is the integral part of you know environmental conservation. So, every project I worked on energy conservation, energy you know efficiency renewable that was some of the core areas which has been in the focus. For example, I give you a current example, I’m working on climate change and then we are supporting the XXXX… ambition raising so that ambition raising we are formulating working group and then we also doing reports on the XXXX so that includes energy reporting and then you know next emission raising targets from different sectors. So, energy is you can say it’s 60% of the energy um 60% of the sectoral emissions energy sector encompasses 60% of the emissions. So yes, somehow energy is the main focus of the work and then it’s covered into how we see the impact in climate and mitigation adaptation in that way. So yes, the work includes climate change and energy efficiency and it goes hand in hand in my case. I cannot see if… that you cannot disintegrate energy with environment so they both go hand in hand in that way.

INTERVIEWER: So in your work is there any involvement of energy access? Or any project that you are doing that focuses on energy access issues?

RESPONDENT: Um, not directly but I can say indirectly there you know if we are working, not in my project … but not in my domain but my other projects you may know my other team they are working with XXXX on giving you know net metering and other stuff so I’m not directly supporting them but indirectly whenever they need so we will give our input on climate change and mitigation in that way.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So in relation to policies, this is again I am asking about general policies, which issues or developments in policies influence your work? Or you engage with in policies.. in the context of you are working in?

RESPONDENT: Okay so, there are different you know. One is the Climate Change Act Pakistan, Climate Change Policy then there is new in 2019 there is Alternative Renewable Energy Policy that came into place and then I think Environmental Protection Act and the Act on XXXX on the energy conservation so these are some of the policy documents that we play around and work on it.

INTERVIEWER: Any key challenges that… top of mind challenges in these policies that are there?

RESPONDENT: I see that these policies are very well drafted, very well written but the challenges for me to see, it’s not tweaked and tailor made as per the Pakistan requirement you know. They haven’t taken into account what really Pakistanis for example even in the XXXX of course, yes XXXX as well as I’m majorly working on it so ambition raising and we cannot see that practicality and you know applicability in the, with the local challenge we have. They are more toned like western tone, some of them I feel that they are somehow it’s just the wording being adapted by international policies. So, somehow, I feel the policy which should be at heart and which should interest the local issues and in that language it would be more meaningful for us in this application that’s why every policy and everything is in derivation phase now. So, this is some of the issue I always feel whenever I see any policy related to Pakistan that lucky targets, their performance indicators they are not clearly allocated. They should be more data driven as well, they should be more explicit in their yearly targets, how they will achieve you know these are some of the issues I always see in the policies which comes up every here and there.

**PART 2: Understanding the Issues**

INTERVIEWER: Fair enough. So I am going to move on to part two of the interview now, which is understanding of the issues. So my first question in this regard is that what does equitable energy access mean to you? If we look at it from the point of SDG 7, what do you think is equitable energy access?

RESPONDENT: Basically, simply, equitable energy access is something that energy is the basic necessity and it should be provided to everyone despite of their social status or despite of their racial characteristics or may be the gender, it should be provided to each and everyone. Um, if you say in Pakistan… in country, doesn’t matter which area they belong to. It shouldn’t be that they belong to Punjab so they are getting energy but people in Balochistan are not getting it. So for me energy access equity is like it should be equally available and in the same amount with the same good infrastructure to everyone.. despite off.. without any discrimination.

INTERVIEWER: And if I probe this a little bit further and ask you what is gender equity in energy access mean to you? Do you think it should be a priority for policy interventions and why?

RESPONDENT: Um gender equity, for this the one I’m explaining that energy should be accessible to everyone… each and everyone. So that includes it should not be discriminated to men and women, it should be available despite of the issue the gender neutral in that way. I don’t think so this is a subject which is been very touch based in Pakistan, that if electricity is not available properly in homes there is a problem that women issues you know when there is heat of load shedding, it impacts women and amongst themselves they feel agitated in that way and then this also cause trouble in their family life. So and also again which I… again if I give into the livelihood way, if women preferably are given access to energy and then you know they can do their businesses, small businesses household businesses in that way. So, I think so in this lens it has not been addressed in Pakistan till now, in my view.

INTERVIEWER: And in terms of being a priority for policy and interventions, you are saying that till now policies do not consider this critically or include it?

RESPONDENT: I don’t think so… it’s been… I’ve heard any debates around those ideas, I haven’t because I’m a more of a person who gained knowledge from day-to-day news and I haven’t seen this type of debate going on anywhere in that particular way.

INTERVIEWER: okay. So in terms of the work that the XXXX program is doing, is there any.. what kind of data do you need to determine the program interventions? At the time of program planning, do you conduct your own survey to gather data or do you look at government data or existing data and you use that as the basis of developing the programmatic interventions?

RESPONDENT: I think that somethings… like XXXX projects, sine I joined them in XXXX but it’s my understanding that the project interventions or project outputs and indicators that’s being planned before that commission of the next phase. xxxx. So that depends on so many factors and it is also data driven, government data driven and international trends and also, what is the priorities of the German government so you know these all the factors that develop the project in that way.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. And is gender a core criteria in this? Or in determination of how the program is working, or not so much?

RESPONDENT: It is, it is the priority but more work is on-going to build this on to further look into it how we can inclusify more gender in other all projects it’s not energy and other clusters as well. So, gender is now another focus which, since it’s also another you know we’re working on behalf of German government so wherever their focus is more… so then our project implementations also go in that way.

INTERVIEWER: So, again… now I am asking you questions based on your experience and information. So, how equitable is energy access at community and household level in terms of gender equity?

RESPONDENT: Well, for this… considering my major work is more with the policy makers or in that regime so in communities I don’t think it is based gender equitable energy access given in communities of Pakistan so there’s a lot work needed to be done in that way. Sorry I don’t have much information I’ve saved on it, but few years back there was a research being done… sorry my friend is a part of it, they have done this research on climate change and energy access and then southern Punjab and then southern Sindh on energy access and how they, women particularly how they feel and see these things and what they really need to do. So I read that and it said that there was a demand and there is an awareness about this idea but this idea really need to be communicated to other people… and to policy makers.

INTERVIEWER: How does gender affect the way that energy is used in the household? For example, to elaborate, who has responsibility for different tasks that use energy, or how do men and women use energy differently and why?

RESPONDENT: Definitely women… meaning women remain more at home, so they have more autonomy. They have to use the fridge, they have to wash the clothes, they have to stay at home so they have to use the TV as well. So, they have this more autonomy to using the power. But I would say but then again if the male, because our male setup is such that the male fraternity is responsible for livelihood. So then whoever has to pay the electricity bill, then there is also an issue a debate around that use less electricity. Male also say that use electricity less but you can say that project financers can be male but the implementers and executers are women side because they are using it more if you’re saying on a household level.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And if we look at different groups of women, then for example does energy use or access differ among older and younger women or different income groups or where they are based in the community?

RESPONDENT: Definitely definite, it is it is, it’s different. It is different how, for example from my side I whenever I walk out from my room, I switch off my light I walk out from my office I switch off my light; and but it’s considering my house help she was telling me that I had a very large electricity bill and I asked her why so she said we run the motor frequently. Whenever someone they need to use water so they turn on the electric so I said why don’t you conserve the energy and use it sensibly… so definitely there is a educational way of using energy. We are functioning from a different mindset and they.. from different income.. you can also take it like this that I think I have seen high energy wastage from low income groups, they waste more energy and they also waste more water. And then I have mentioned water because normally they use this motor and that runs on energy as it is an electric motor so they waste more electricity that way. And the.. if it’s a middle-class or more educated class working group, they will use it wisely. But then again, if you may if you can go to higher-income group they’re also energy waster they just left, because they have so much money they just don’t bother. Their AC split… they have their air-conditioners on, they have huge houses so that they have so much lightening and then they don’t consider that these are LED’s or something else. So you know it’s very for in my observation it vary from person to person from educational as well but from in the if you say upper-middle-class and middle-class like we people. We try to save then you know, there is a little pressure (financial) on us so we can say this is the class which save the energy in that way.

INTERVIEWER: In terms of .. does your organization provide any energy infrastructure or is it just like technical assistance focused?

RESPONDENT: It’s the technical assistance.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so there is no investment in infrastructure. Umm… but in general.. ok.. I understand XXXX XXXX doesn’t provide any infrastructure, but if new energy infrastructure or technology is provided, in your view, who benefits more, men or women?

RESPONDENT: I think women do in that way because if you’re only focusing on household so if you have more energy access so it will be easier for them may be it depends on I’m just giving for example if you have cheap electricity you can use electric cooking wares like ovens, stove you know you don’t need to be on gas, this is such an issue like I’m currently seeing in my house that we don’t have natural gas supply all the time but if we have electricity supply but if we have cheap electricity supply or if we have renewable energy something possible electric stoves or something so it would be much, so it would facilitate them in much wider way.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So, again, who would you say makes decisions about which technology and appliances are purchased and used in the home? Does it matter who..

RESPONDENT: It’s a tricky, it could be in some household it would be mostly it’s considered male members do that but I would say it’s 50-50 as well but it’s like in some household it would be demand driven by women that need this. And then there’s a technology intervention that male has to introduce like for example generators, UPS so I think it’s a tricky one its some implementer but again it’s a mutual decision of both members of the household.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And do men and women participate equally in the decision making about energy access?

RESPONDENT: It’s a tricky one, I think more are influenced more to take that decision.

INTERVIEWER: And in terms of finance related to energy technologies, who makes the decisions?

RESPONDENT: I think that’s a call from… mostly from males.

INTERVIEWER: and in terms of urban and rural contexts, does gender equity differ in terms of energy access?

RESPONDENT: I don’t, I think it again depends on, I’m not sure considering not being much into rural context so I cannot comment much on that but I would say that it’s the same in cities and in everywhere so the dynamics are same. You know these dynamics which affect the energy access it’s the same for rural and urban.

INTERVIEWER: And about these issues that you have just shared, what kind of evidence or experience do you draw on?

RESPONDENT: Evidence is I would say some of my personal experience. And evidences we see load shedding whenever there’s a load shedding, we see different news channels they just also report these areas and interviews of household women, so these are some of the, in my observation personal observation as well.

**PART 3: Policies and Interventions**

INTERVIEWER: Right, so I am going to move on to the next part of the interview that focuses on policies and interventions. So, in terms of your work on energy access, to what extent does gender equity factor in?

RESPONDENT: Energy access, I think we currently what we’re working gender is the focus but not particularly in the arena what you are asking me.

INTERVIEWER: To make it a little bit more specific can you give some examples of a specific project or priority or any internal process that you have?

RESPONDENT: Yes, I mean for example whenever there is a project, we can see there is a gender viability how it will affect more it’s helpful for more women so we take it into account and we can make our work in that way.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, and how effective do you feel these efforts in your work towards gender equity have been?

RESPONDENT: Well, I think this must make a difference so it’s important that we keep on doing so.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. If we move out of your specific work, do you think energy access policies in Pakistan should be gender sensitive? And in what ways?

RESPONDENT: I think so, I think so it should be um, because you know there should be some schemes around that focus and help women in that way and energy access and make them. Also, because they are the one who are the user so there should be some user feedback mechanism. So may be tell them, may be education and awareness how they can conserve the energy and what should be and how they should use it. So yes, there should be some agenda sensitivity in it.

INTERVIEWER: and are there any policy gaps around women’s’ access to energy?

RESPONDENT: Oh definitely! Ofcourse there are. Because you know since you mentioned we don’t have any incentives for you know if women take a connection or something even for their business or may be for the household there’s no such policy and there’s no such mechanism. Even if they if woman has to apply for a connection, there’s no I mean she would be it’s difficult for her to you know even get a connection where should she be able to go. So, you know there should be some mechanism that makes it easier for them to have that energy access.

INTERVIEWER: Right and umm… any social policies you feel are related, that have an impact on energy equity?

RESPONDENT: Umm yeah like, for me like Social Protection Policy that’s really need to be… has to be linked with the energy access equity that would make a difference. Different income support programs where women have been given access it can be connected to the energy access so you know these sort of arrangements which policy makers can see and integrate and then make inter-disciplinary acts and it could help them in a longer run.

INTERVIEWER: Great. And suppose there were no policy or financial constraints, what in your view would be achieving gender equity in energy access in Pakistan. Like what would it look like, how would it be achieved?

RESPONDENT: Well, I really think it would be difficult if we can have gender equity because considering our social net it’s very interlinked. It’s not like women are living independently and men are living independently and then you know all of them they just… comes down to one human and they’re using the same energy in that way. Energy or whatever is there and somehow in decision making it’s also collective decision making so… if… umm…. I don’t know how I put I would frame it in a good words. There’s a lot of that needs to be done to introduce that subject and then there’s a need of clear demarcation, where you want it, what level do you want it to have gender equity in the energy access.

So, you know that’s made that clear and demarcation there’s a clear line that even if you need a gender equity, how the number of girls having the access to energy for example access to water is very easy to calculate but access to energy because females they all live… females and male normally they live in a same household. So, no number of connections, we have least number of electrical connections and in the name of women. Then always there’s a connection by name of a guy male head of the family, so I think it’s a long run and I cannot tell financial thing. Excluding that we need to it’s just we cannot it’s so…. we need to… I don’t know I’m not able to give good words but this is not the task of one day it will take time and then I think capacity building… and awareness generation among the masses that’s really need to be done. This is the topic that really needed to be, it’s also something that need to be looked into a gender lens.

INTERVIEWER: And in terms of your current position or your work at XXXX XXXX, how can you, or what role can you play in achieving this?

RESPONDENT: Well, in the XXXX and also in my personal domain I’m also working as advocate for climate and energy activists for a while. So, I think what I say we need to make a voice over it, we need to raise awareness, we need to do more research we need more vocal about it, we need to tell this to our communities then to our authorities that this is something which needed to be addressed and this is also another way to look into different projects in energy access in a way; so that’s what I’m doing it to make it happen to make a difference wherever I can. For example, I’m working for the XXXX, so we are possibly making it the way we can include or improve and expect in that way.

**Part 4: Topical Questions**

INTERVIEWER: moving on to the last part of the interview. How balanced is gender representation in various decision-making bodies in energy governance structures?

RESPONDENT: There’s no balance, there are hardly a few women there, so it’s more male dominated, if it’s a clear-cut answer to that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think renewable energy access finance processes are gender aware or gender sensitive or is there…

RESPONDENT: Not at all, again it require a lot of work and I think we need to work together to bring women into this type of regime. And yes, there’s now solar training which women are doing at their end and they I’ve see women who are working it to making it out to their livelihood but there’s a long way to go.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And do you think… what do you think are the key challenges for gender equity in terms of energy access finance so let’s say in relation to purchasing decisions, or finance of cooking stoves or solar home systems?

RESPONDENT: Can you please repeat the question. Sorry I have missed somewhere.

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

RESPONDENT: Okay, key challenges for the key challenges um, I think again accessibility of women to be coming out of their comfort zone and home and having them aware that they can access those finance that’s one of the key challenge. Secondly our social net, sometimes women really wanted to do it but they’re discouraged by all around the area. Education as well how isn’t being you know its reaching out to the you know to the needy who really want to work that’s also a key issue to identify those beneficiaries and also have this monitoring and evaluation after a while seeing them how successful this energy access finance has been doing so sustainability so these are some of the key challenges that come to my mind at the moment, could be that way.

**PART 5: Conclusion**

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So this is wrapping up at least all the questions from my side. Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add?

RESPONDENT: It was a very interesting topic and it’s mind triggering to see it in that way. So just in the questions what it would be interesting to have for example because I see the lens of a woman eye in that way so it would be interesting to have more perspective that how males respond to your questions and that would be really interesting to see so I really wanted to add that. If possible, you have some interviews with men as well around these lines..

INTERVIEWER: you know that so far I have only been able to engage 2 men to respond to this. Like if there is anybody from your team or the XXXX program, that you can recommend because I did not get any response from XXXX.

RESPONDENT: Ok I ill check and I will let you know.

INTERVIEWER: I mean again..

RESPONDENT: Considering our men of the implementing partners at XXXX I think it would be interesting if you…

INTERVIEWER: XXXX hasn’t responded to me as well, I will follow up with him also.

RESPONDENT: Yeah you know they’re more in the policy making, decision making so you know they are more in that way.

INTERVIEWER: Absolutely, no… because I got some input from XXXX, I got response from XXXX, I got response from XXXX. Both of these were gentlemen. Umm.. XXXX and XXXX, I still need to get response from. Let’s see, I will try to get this done. And yes it depends, to respond to your question, it depends which entity you are a part of because based on that your purview changes on that.

RESPONDENT: exactly.

INTERVIEWER: So government will respond very different from how XXXX responds..

RESPONDENT: And I think it would be interesting if you can include a perspective of social protection with the energy access as well, how you can you know for example we have a program like XXXX and you know you are asking about the finance so how you can relate with that so it would be good if you can have some interviews from their side, it would be interesting to see what they have to say in that way.

INTERVIEWER: In that regard (P6) if you could recommend any one that we could reach out too, for the same, that would be great.

RESPONDENT: Sure I will check with my friend working on social protection and they might be able to locate someone. I will check and let you know.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned your friend, who did the research you had read.

RESPONDENT: Yes yes, I mean I’m not that expert on you know coming to gender and climate energy I have more you know studied and seen the case study but she is the one who did those researches and case studies on ground. So I can connect you with her then you can have interview with her because she can give you a very perfect and detailed questions answers in that way.

INTERVIEWER: I just wanted to confirm that this friend of yours is not an academic or not a university. They are working at an organization as a consultant or whatever.

RESPONDENT: She is working as a XXXX but previously she was with XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: May I know her name. maybe I know her. I mean I am just trying to ask do I need you to connect me to her, or I can connect with her directly?

RESPONDENT: XXXX, I don’t know if you know her; I’ll connect you.

INTERVIEWER: so um, right now, thank you so much for your time. And in terms of the review, we will be using the information you have shared and the information you have given to put together a policy paper with a focus on 4 countries, basically with a focus on the global south so Pakistan and India and Nigeria and Ghana including women as part of the energy access process. Actually, gender equity in the energy access process, not just including women but both ways. So thank you for the time. And in case there is anything else would you be okay with me following up on email, if there is anything?

RESPONDENT: Yeah sure, sure. No worries.

INTERVIEWER: Ok great. Then. Thank you so much XXXX. I am looking forward.