**Transcript 12**

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| **Interviewer name** | **XXXX** |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | **ARU** |
| **Interview date** | **XXXX** |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | **49 mins 15 secs** |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | **Virtual** |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | **P12** |
| * **Participant name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Organisation name** | **XXXX** |
| * **Gender** | **Female** |
| * **Stakeholder category** | **NGO** |
| * **Country** | **Pakistan** |

INTERVIEWER: Ok so I have just started the recording and all the information that we will be obtaining will only be for the purpose of this study. And it will only be accessible to the research team. Your name and any other identifying features is not going to be used anywhere in reports and other publications and more or less this interview takes about 1 hour. So let’s get into the questions now.

**Part 1: Introduction**

INTERVIEWER: Can you start a bit by telling me about your current role, your position and the organization that you work for?

RESPONDENT: Okay so um, umm my name is XXXX XXXX and I am XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. So just extending that a bit, can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you got into this line of work?

RESPONDENT:So um my background I’ve a XXXXX.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. And just to sort of recap in terms of energy issues .. specific activities or programs that you have undertaken are more to do with energy efficiency and consumption good practices and also with carbon credits and the associated benefits that the company would get?

RESPONDENT: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: and have you done any work on energy access for example?

RESPONDENT: Umm, no I haven’t. um No I have a little, I have done a little bit of work with an NGO that I um write proposals for and in that we, I specifically um looked at various models um and developed proposals for various models that you could that could be used provide umm um electricity to, in rural areas.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And if you could talk a little bit more about that project that you have developed in terms of what it was like, what were the issues, the technology you were using?

RESPONDENT:So um, no so in that sense um, XXXX

INTERVIEWER: I was just asking, I mean I get the fact that you kind of conceptualized the project yourself but the implementation was somebody else. That’s fine. In relation to the policy context shaping your work, what are the current issues or developments in policies at the state level that influence your work? Or any policies that affect your work, that you have to be aware of or keep in touch with?

RESPONDENT: Um obviously the energy policy is quite important and there is also the renewable energy policy as well that was released last year um I think, was it last year or the year before? And you know, um other than that you know there’s the climate change policy, all of these things affect our work in the sense that we try and identify area.. I mean we try, we get feedback from our member, the member companies of the XXXX and if there is, if that feedback is um relevant to XXXX then we write those recommendations to policy, to the policy makers and in that sort of sense. So that’s an area that it affects our, our work and um basically wa, in a couple of things like um the.. it’s been as I said I was working on carbon credits in 20, 2008 um and then now we want to, um we’ve had a couple of some companies approaches about, to ask about carb, carbon credits but there is doesn’t seem to be a clear clarity from the government side on what carbon credits are, what’s is the role of the government you know things like that so um in the 10 or 12 years there’s been no progress on that so that is something that is quite um um you know, you know that is, you know that is a policy issue. Similarly with the climate change policy um there is um, there is very little reference to the private sector and you know what issues that how private sector should be um you know addressing those issues. And you know since the private sector is the main polluter, it’s very important to you know, you know um rebuild the climate change policy in term of the segs now and you know also have a you know incent, incentives and disincentives of the private sector as well so that is something um that we find very important. And obviously one thing related to private policy that is um quite an issue is that um after the devolution um the local ministries don’t have much interest or are very difficult to contact like the EPA or the climate change. There is also I think a secretary for climate change um as we have you know one one report that we have worked on or one research that we worked on was related to air quality and um the there was no one available from that you know either institutes to comment or you know give their background on what they are doing or let us you know um you know what are important umm parameters related to air quality that they are enforcing on so in that sense there is um um in terms, in terms of policies there local ministries are of no help basically.

**Part 2: Understanding of Issues**

INTERVIEWER: So, I’m just going to move on to the second part of the interview now, which is about understanding the issues. So, what does equitable energy access mean to you? If you are thinking about SDG 7?

RESPONDENT: Okay so, it means that energy k is available um at us you know reasonable price and you know um for everyone and the elec, electricity is available um in the same amount for everyone basically, this is something that it means so um equitable is that um in in posh areas we have electricity 24 hours a day so in the rural areas or um you know the slum areas they should also have electricity available 24 hours a day basically.

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

RESPONDENT: Well it’s um, gender equity in energy access is basically obviously um… the.. there is a need to realize that um women also use electricity or you know use it in the same way as men. They are the household level um they are basically um managing you know their household around um the available energy, so um there is basically a need um for them, for you know any sort of policy to ensure that there is a basically gender, gendered view point to it basically to um to the policy. In the sense that takes into account their needs and uses. That’s one area and the other is obviously, energy access is umm what we’ve seen in rural projects is that women um um, if they are trained and they are um given the sort of um if they are empowered what what we see is that um they are able to perform jobs and take on jobs, routine jobs in a bunch much better way or um than men and they are more because they have interest of their household at heart. And so you know we’ve seen that women are um involved in building houses, they are involved in you know um rearing of their animals and in the similar way if they you know they are trained and entrusted with um managing their own electricity needs or promoting solar energy I think they would be quite a good combination.

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

RESPONDENT: Umm, in terms of equit um table um I am not sure how to answer that, obviously if women needed for at the household level for their you know chores I it is available and it’s equally available to both but um um and I don’t know um because obviously the male members um bread earner I am sure if there is um the same way if a male member of the family is the bread earner the same way is the food is you know given to him first or his there is made an effort made to that he has access to you know food and water first um I am sure it’s same with the electricity as well.

INTERVIEWER: So you haven’t experienced it but it is something you assume to be true in terms of cultural kind of a scenario?

RESPONDENT: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Fair enough. And how does gender affect the way that energy is used in households? I mean you did touch upon this a little bit. But, if for example if we look in the terms of different tasks that use energy, do men and women use energy differently and how does this relate to energy access?

RESPONDENT: Well um in the household um gender um the usage of electricity by women would be more in terms of need or in terms of their um chores um or work related and um… In terms of um men it would be more related to you know lifestyle or you know im, improving their quality of life um in the sense that.. Perhaps the female will be using elec, the light or the fan or you know the sewing machine or the washing machine or um whatever it is it would be more um towards um having an outcome to it. And as for the male unless he, he is involved with some sort of bread earning activity from the home it would be basically the more the lig, the he would he would be using the tv or the radio or the fan or the ac or you know the light for reading or something like that.

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

RESPONDENT: Well um, um in my um work with this NGO that I worked with, the XXXX um what I did was I did document um number of stories about you know life after a village was electrified or was it, was given solar energy. um was.. So one or two things were quite um um a basically quite um um there, there, there were one or two outcomes that you know always comes to mind, one is obviously related to solar power tube wells so it’s um reduced amount of workload for women in carrying water back to their households. And. Because what was that project was you know the tube well would draw water, um the solar powered um pump would draw water from the tube well and then um water would be provided to tacks in that particular village to each um house household. So that time was saved for women.

And the other is that obviously um a women doing the day are are in rural areas or you know low, lower you know lower income communities are basically working on their household chores and they are quite busy so having you know an access to light in the evenings, they can focus on other wor, things like um embroidery or sewing so basically that would basically um increase the um chances of earning the income outside the household as well. So that is something that um is quite, um these were the two stories that came about.

And um In terms of higher income groups um or middle class or higher income groups obviously um during the summer periods when the um when there is less electricity available or there is lots of power cut um a lot of families have to, out of necessity have go for generators or ups obviously they did had an impact on the family budget. Um and obviously have an impact on savings as well, and if they don’t go for these alternate solutions um it is um and they have children in school and you know universities it, it becomes quite difficult for them to um to study and you know in the present covid situation there, there are issues that um or in the during the summer when university and school was still on for some, some students it was very difficult obviously um to connect with working internet and you know um obv how you know electricity available as well through a new computers and things like that so that is something um that impacts middle income households. And it’s um on, I don’t think higher income um ha households are impacted in the sense that obviously um they been able to make do it generators and um others facilities but obviously it it doesn’t impact your lifestyle in sense, obviously continuous running of the generators um obviously it’s quite noisy and you know could impact your health or something like that.

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

RESPONDENT: Can you give an example?

INTERVIEWER: by technology, let’s say you spoke about.. let’s suppose the village actually got that solar tube well or you got that mini-grid installed. Or even in terms of a UPS or genset at home in an urban community. These are all examples of technologies. What would the sort of difference be between men and women in benefitting more from this?

RESPONDENT: Umm if you could give me an example of what new? Um I think women benefit more from this because they are in the household than men so um in that sense obviously the new technologies provide some relief to women in the sense that their tired, their work is on time so there is no um time lag. And um specially in days when it is very hot um or if, if we are experiencing you know heat waves you know it is a relieved, it’s more of relief to women and to men if you look at it um in the sense that um men can go out of the household and in most communities women won’t be able to go of the household and sit on the streets or you know um so or you know sit somewhere where they can get some air or so um in that, in that sense um these new newer technologies have provided you know women with some sort of relief. Umm.

INTERVIEWER: Right. I get that. And who generally makes decisions about what technologies and appliances are purchased and used? I mean is it the men or is it the women?

RESPONDENT: Uh, obviously I don’t know I mean um the women would probably suggest um because they are the primary users and the type of appliance that they want but obviously in terms of the finances um or you know the cost it would be the men that would decide.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And do men and women participate equally in decision making about energy access? Or in making the decision about finance related to energy? Or is it tipped to one side?

RESPONDENT: It’s tipped to one side. Um because um there is you know the personal paying the bill will obviously have more interest directly and then you know in um there you know the finance related aspects of the energy access. Um but um ah, I think you know um in the, in the perhaps in the you know rural areas um it would be just the male without any consideration to the female but um in the urban areas as females are more um exposed to appliances and you know different types of um technologies um it would be the females who would you know give the suggestion but then again um the decision, the final decision would probably be made by the male.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And how do you know about these gender issues. I mean in terms of evidence or experience that you are drawing on?

RESPONDENT: Um my experience as I said is that I’ve worked with the Indus, XXXX and um in that sense um that’s the experience that I am drawing on from about you know uses of um energy by a different um genders and you know as you know each of their project would have this um the need to have this village organization or to look after you know the tube well or you know the grid so they would um, we they would you know sug.. um in basically they would educate both the men and women in that village on each of these activities. So this is how I know a lot about this and you know in terms of um other ideas you, you do speak to um women about these things um groups of women um you in terms of um in terms of lower income women we do speak, um we speak to women who are you know home based workers. I’ve, I’ve done that and um I’ve also, obviously we do, we also have domestic staff in our house so we do know what sort of levels of electricity they have and what sort of um appliances they are looking at and um in that sort of things. And then finally um my educational background has also um you know led me to research in these particular areas.

INTERVIEWER: I think there is one question that I missed out earlier. Is gender equity in energy access different between urban and rural contexts? If so, how?

RESPONDENT: Umm I don’t know how different it could be, I think in terms of principals if we look at gender equity needs, gender would, what are the needs of women or what are the needs of men um in both um rural and urban households. Most of them would be the same is that perhaps in the rural areas they might need electricity more for you know the you know larger you know work related activities that they do as well. But in the urban areas it would be more um household related for women and you know for even for men in terms of energy access but um, um .. So I don’t think there is that much of a difference in terms of needs, everybody requires electricity now a days. And um the idea is that everybody should have electricity as is that you know both.

If we look at um, but if we look at you know in terms of um regions and you know over phase perhaps energy access because here we are just talking about you know use of household chores and things like that but now I am just thinking in northern areas obviously they needed for heating as well so over there um, um I don’t have any experience but there would be a greater gendered need for women to have heating and the children to have heating in the household.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah and so you would say that, I mean in terms in the energy needs, they are different but in terms of gender equity is there a difference in terms of energy access or would that be similar?

RESPONDENT: Um I think it should be similar.

**Part 3: Policies and Interventions**

INTERVIEWER: So I am just going to move into the third part of the questionnaire, which is about policies and interventions. The first question is, to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access? So if you could give some examples of the .. in terms of the work you are doing, to what extent does gender equity factor in to it?

RESPONDENT: Well um, my work is not directly linked to access to energy but we in our line of work we foc, focus on a couple of things. We focus on women can be given um you know um equal opportunity for work, working in an um non-traditional jobs which would be energy companies so that is one area that we’ve looked at, um related to women. And um if we look at um barriers and enablers related to um more more women owned business in supply chains, I think energy access will come up. Because obviously if they are working from the home and then um the and if they are home based businesses then um the provision of electricity or gas on time would be an important element of their work basically or input in their work.

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

RESPONDENT: Umm well in terms of gender equity um at this stage we just feel it’s it’s raising awareness um so far um in terms of um policy and um policy, advocacy we haven’t gotten into that stage yet because the organization I work for is just around since XXXX. And 4 years is very short time, um but um we have highlighted that you know women can work in non-traditional jobs in the energy sector and you don’t do well and obviously they do have their background as engineers and you know with other um and on other things as well so if they provided equal opportunities, they could work well so um in that sense um um we’ve done we have a sort of business case but that’s it so far.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And thinking beyond your specific work, do you think energy access policies in your region or sector should be gender sensitive? In what ways?

RESPONDENT: Yes, I, I believe that you know they should be gender sensitive in the sense that any consultation takes place amongst the stakeholders, women of different um, um classes or should be part of that discussion and not only classes but women who with who are, who are different uses as well. So that one could be a home-based business, one could you know commercial business, one could be one would, one or two women should be from the household as well so they all should be part of any sort of discussion which takes place so that you know as they are a main user um of energy access they should be ab, able to they give their view point and in that view point would be very important for the um policy developers.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there are policy gaps around women’s access to energy at local or international or international levels? And If yes, then in your opinion what are these gaps?

RESPONDENT: Umm, obviously um I am not sure about the gaps, I don’t have any experience related to the gaps. um the… There is a lack of awareness um perhaps more in women than men on um the different options of electricity available and that could um produce a knowledge gap um and would lead in a waste of that resource as in energy as a resource but other than that um I am sure there are gaps at the international level and the local level but I don’t know much about them.

INTERVIEWER: Any related social policies you feel have an impact on energy equity? In your view, what changes are required within these to make energy policies and access equitable?

RESPONDENT: Umm, no I can’t think of any related social policies.

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

RESPONDENT: Sorry XXXX, can you repeat that, you were cutting off?

INTERVIEWER: Sorry. So imagining there are policy or financial constraints what in your view would be best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access for your country or for Pakistan.

RESPONDENT: So I think um prov providing um both the knowledge and um um basically capaci, capacity for installing solar panels to women would um impact um Pakistan greatly because um as solar panels are basically linked to households. um and ..And both in rural and urban areas I think women would be better able to manage you know um the that element of solar energy um provision quite well in terms of the maintenance and the um, um obviously um even perhaps you know other things as well, the maintenance of solar panels and then you know perhaps installing them as well.

There is, they are not that heavy so um in rural areas we’ve seen that women can build houses or the installation of the panels is um you know just as you know um you know I mean they could easily do it because its and it’s not that complicated in the sense that you don’t need to be an engineer to do it so with basic training women could be become you know um managers of that aspect. And as you know we’ve seen that women um females who are um in the dairy chain where women be, women are have been trained as you know sort of semi vets and they are able to manage the um basically the dai.., the animals and um um administer their medicines and everything. So I think then even this thing they could be manage, they could manage these solar panels and the um required maintenance and all of that.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And in your current position, what might you in your current position or your organization play in terms of the role in achieving this?

RESPONDENT: So my organization can basically advocated this aspect that um, us wa.. women should be given equitable accee um access to the energy and the other thing we could do is, we could perhaps um study on the differences that exist in the you know gender deuce of um, of energy and you know um look at the policies and you know look at the um mechanisms available for women to perhaps purchase solar panels or you know become women own businesses related to that.

**Part 4: Topical Questions**

INTERVIEWER: So this is the last part of the interview questionnaire. How balanced is gender representation in various decision-making bodies within energy governance structures? Is there any balance in terms of gender representation?

RESPONDENT: Um, no there is no balance I think. There is no um effort made to be, to be for there to be a balance you don’t see um women from chamber of comm the women chamber of commerce industry been invited or you know other experts been invited on these um consultations so the, there is no balance at present. Actually, I could comment on a um conference that I attended a couple of years ago, the UNFCCC conference and when I went into the roo, the room where there was a discussion about energy um they, I was the only female there and you know um, um once I did made a couple of view-points related to the private sector and also related to my um background but um in terms of, as I have also done a study on coal power plants so um there I felt that there, that there was no interest in hearing what I was going to say basically.

INTERVIEWER: And do you think that renewable energy access finance processes are gender aware or gender sensitive? I mean they could be for example the Green Climate Fund or local finance or from the State Bank?

RESPONDENT: I mean the, the Green Climate Fund is probably gender aware. So I am sure it requires um number of consultations been done amongst the stakeholders… and um and then al, Also um the current um the state banks um policy for green finance um I am not sure, I mean it does look, it look, it does speak about environment and social but it doesn’t specifically use the word gender as I remember so in that sense it’s not gender aware so not implicitly mentioned. It’s implicitly mentioned but not explicitly mentioned in the state bank’s policy as well.

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

RESPONDENT: Umm in terms of access to finance um there are two a coup, one challenge is obviously women will generally not know the options available to them um and the other thing is um as a..as you know they not going out into the market place or to the banks themselves um in accessing finance… um then um…. obviously they will have no idea of if it’s available for these options as well.

And the third thing is that um if they are going to banks, lots of local banks don’t have… are not gender sensitized because bank branches and they don’t really know how to deal with women and they basically think that women don’t know anything about money so they um um they are quite demeaning and then it basically it breaks the women’s confidence in going to a bank…. and um I would give this, this is um and also. Also the fourth thing is that very few women in Pakistan have bank accounts so umm in terms of that um they will have to rely on their husbands to provide them the money to buy a cooking stove or you know or you know they’ll have to rely on a you know, some sort of kitty that they collected or so um there’s a need for financial literacy as well as also in, you need to know the technologies and you also need to know the options for you, for financing those technologies.

**Part 5: Conclusion**

INTERVIEWER: Right .. so now just closing this, I have asked all the questions I had to. Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add?

RESPONDENT: Um no, not right now.

INTERVIEWER: Would you be available for follow-up questions should they arise?

RESPONDENT: Yeah yeah, I am available.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much for your time. When this data is all collected, the research team at the Anglia Ruskin University of Cambridge will be drafting a policy paper with recommendations with regards the subject which is gender equity in energy access. And then of course the focus is 4 countries which is Pakistan and India and then 2 African countries as well. When that is done we will be very happy to share a report with you.. output in the sense of what they have come up with, based on the input of other people. This is done with the interview and I am just going to end the recording now.