**Transcript 19**

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| **Sub-contractor organisation** | **ARU** |
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 | **Male** |
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 | **NGO**  |
| * **Country**
 | **Pakistan** |

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much for making time for this interview. So before we start, I would like to take you through a short check list. You can just respond with a yes or no.

So, have you completed and returned the consent form?

RESPONDENT: I am sorry, what was in the consent form? I didn’t read it so can you just repeat, what was in the consent form, I’ll tell you right now?

INTERVIEWER: So the consent is basically for your um willing participation in this interview um with the knowledge that this will be audio recorded and translated and then transcribed for our policy brief. um All the information that you will provide will be based on your experiences and expertise as someone who is working um related to energy as well as your views and opinions on gender equity in energy access. Um It also mentions that um that this will be completely confidential and that you and your organizations name will not be mentioned in any documents. um And the data that we gain from this interview will not be used um anywhere else other than reports and publications um emerging from this specific study.

RESPONDENT: Yes, I agree.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so the interview will be roughly one hour. So let’s start.

**Part 1: Introduction**

INTERVIEWER: So the first part is on the introduction. Can you start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role and the organisation that you work for?

RESPONDENT: Well I am the ‘XXXX’

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. Can you tell me a bit about your background and how and why you got into this line of work?

RESPONDENT: I was, I attended um XXXX and in the process of um working in that organization um in that institution I decided to take up XXXX working with the XXXX in XXXX is where I got my interest in rural development. I came back to Pakistan XXXXX and XXXX and XXXX it seemed to me that really what was needed um was, um what I refer to as XXXX. Now by integrated development I really really keen to say that you don’t just provide one aspect but you provide as many aspect as you can. In other words, there is not much point in providing sanitation if there is no water availability. um And and I really came to the conclusion that providing electricity um through solar power was one of the most important things in the communities because they were able to not only work at night but were able to, to have more social gatherings at night and especially the women, the women were able to do more of their embroidery or what we call in XXXX, “*XXXX*” (patchwork quilt) work um for them to earn more or income from all of this work um so the light, providing the light actually helped children a lot and actually surprisingly the children were, were very keen to, to look at books and things of that nature during the night time. um What brought me to this is as an African experience um and you know I was been, I’ve been very lucky you for the last we, we been now operational for XXXX and we, I’ve been very lucky, we’ve got some um XXXX as our main donor. Prior to that, we were funded by the XXXXand um by the XXXX and XXXX. We are still working with program on solar energy, the XXXX program. Um that’s, that’s what we feel like and not shall of what we are doing, we are working on XXXX villages and we have now through um outreach by the XXXX thousand people and in the two areas that we work in which is XXXX and XXXX.

INTERVIEWER: So you have mentioned briefly, but if you could tell a little bit in detail what energy related activities and programs have you undertaken and specifically focusing on energy access?

RESPONDENT: Well we completed um XXXX ago um mini grids which was funded by the XXXX um by the XXXX um these XXXX mini grids were in 4 separate locations and each one roughly had about 16 kilowatts of power being produced. Whether the program was really to say to communities that this is not just for providing you with light at night, it’s to give you enough energy for you to start your own enterprise where you need to use energy. So you know people open up tailoring shops, they opened up um deep freezer um, um facilities for providing cold drinks um and all sorts of things for where energy was needed. And in some locations they are actually demanding more electricity because their business have improved. Which means if their businesses have improved their income generation has improved um these, these solar systems were all based on XXXX.. all XXXX um product and um it was to provide with the, the facility will now last for another 10 years. Each community has to pay for their electricity. A system has been setup where whatever are these, these are metered, everybody has a meter. So if you are using um 1 kilowatt of electricity, you are charged for that, if you are using more than that then you are charged for more than that. So and the system is such that if you do not pay your electricity bill um we give them a warning, in fact we do 2 warnings. After that if it’s still not acceptable to us we then we actually cut off their electricity. And we found that once we do that the people do realize that it’s not a free service. One thing that I would like to add that we um do not believe in charity, our programs are to do with development, rural development and we insist that communities provide at least 20% of funds either in cash or in kind and most of them provide up to 50%. um The sole purpose of that is so that the community take ownership and ownership comes from the fact that if you are providing your own income um sorry providing money from your own income you are more inclined to look after whatever it is that you are paying for then if it came as a free service. So, where we are very conscious of the fact that ownership means that you will sustain it you look after the product. Um we started this energy program um XXXX years ago and as I said we completed in XXXX time and the moment that we monitored by, by outside um agencies to come up with the um report as to where things have actually perhaps not succeed as much as they should have and as that always happens. um So that’s basically the, the solar system that we worked on. We also worked on a hybrid in XXXX village we did um um wind turbine combined with solar and that you know that was successful up to certain extend but this village was right on the coast and this was about XXXX ago and XXXXX we are not repeating that system, not at the moment anyway so mostly concentrating on solar energy. We also do solar lighting through lamps um system we are now developing is as pay as you go um and these would be induvial lights that will be provided so lamps, these have been rather successful too because it means that especially when the sanitation facilities are provided um some are on outskirts of villages. So when women want to use the facility um they have a solar lantern that they can carry with them to be able to see where they are going and use the facility in light as opposed to the dark.

INTERVIEWER: Ok, so is XXXX responsible for the manufacturing as well as the um planning development?

RESPONDENT: No no. Yes we have vendors, we don’t manufacture the, the product. We’ve been thinking about doing that but we haven’t actually done that as yet.

INTERVIEWER: okay, so XXXX is basically going to look at the planning, development the dissemination of these technologies in rural areas?

RESPONDENT: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: okay. So tell us, in relation to the policy context shaping your work, are there any policies at the national or provincial level that influence your work or that you really have to align your work too?

RESPONDENT: Well as you know now a days the policy very strictly is the Covid um so SOPs have to be followed very carefully. Initially in the beginning of about March last year we had a great problem in the sense that we couldn’t go to the field, we were to be honest we were bit ignorant of what was happening with the covid issue um so some of our work was um postponed. But then a policy was developed with our donor or donors um where the SOPs have to be followed very very carefully and these were been followed you know masks been worn and distances are been kept etc etc. This is obviously, this is the recent policy that they are following. Prior to that we had a policy of making sure that um women were not excluded from any of our development programs in fact donors themselves insisted about doing that. Um so, the policies were both international and national and following through with provincial government and federal government um guidelines as to develop and work in the rural areas, these are all part and parcel of our um sops if you like and so these policies..

INTERVIEWER: Are there any energy policies um at the national level, I mean do you have to work according to the renewable energy policy that has come, come out or I mean are there any such energy related policies that you have to look at when doing your work?

RESPONDENT: Only from point of view of security and safety um we obviously have to make sure that um our projects are within the safe guidelines and that there is no threat of, of any electrification from, from the renewable energy guidelines but there are no we have not been asked to follow through any specific guidelines by either the federal or the provincial government um except for the fact that we, we you know are ordering the work within the security and safe um branches.

**Part 2: Understanding of the Issues**

INTERVIEWER: okay, so let’s move on to the next section which is understanding of the issue. So the first question is what does equitable energy access mean to you and what would it look like?

RESPONDENT: Well as I am saying that equitable energy access means that everybody that is the both the genders and the elderly and the infirm have the access to um energy supply whether it’s light, in the form of a light in the, in the house. By the way we provide light in, in every room and the kitchen and light outdoors. We also have um um street lighting system where the, the communities can walk around in the, in their village because the lights are also outdoors. And this was really rather important in the sense that many community members were anxious not to go out at night because of snakes and scorpions they you know they live in that part of the world. um But now there is light um they, they, they not that afraid to be able to communicate with one you know go to each other’s houses and I think so of that nature.

Um The equitable part of it is to make sure um there is no discrepancy between a household that says only I am allowed to use this because I have the man of the or breadwinner or whatever… it’s to make sure that the energy supply is provided um so that all the members of a household has access to it. And it is really very simple as there is a light switch that is placed at a height that everybody can reach. um Everybody is informed as to the amount of light available, it starts about 7:30 at night and lasts till about 12:30 in the morning… at 12:30 midnight.. um so they get about you know they get a good um what is that um 5 hours of electricity during the day. But now that we are providing energy for also enterprise that is available and they have separate meters if you starting a tailoring shop and you have an iron, you have a separate meter then um and you have to pay according to what that meter is charging because obviously that will be much more than just using a light. um So that’s, that’s how we, we define it and you know we, we have people in the field we are regional office is in Thatta in so that we can um easily if anybody has a complain to make or needs certain amount of help or understanding we are there available within an hour or two hour drive to take community to assist them in whatever way it’s required.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you, you have already answered the next question that what does gender equity in energy access mean to you. um So do you think gender should be a priority for policy and interventions?

RESPONDENT: Yes absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: In what way?

RESPONDENT: There has to be a policy, it has to be followed and it can’t be for one gender it has to be for the both the male and the female. And as I said earlier on you know we concentrate more on the female. Let me explain why that maybe the case over and above in policy for providing um energies to, to to females. Most of our work is done in fishing communities. Fishing communities means that the men are away for sometimes for the week and sometime for a month um so the, the person that keeps the community together is the, is the women. And as the women is keeping the community together while the men are away they become very important in the, in the day to day management, the outlook of how um a village is, is um you know anything that happens to the village or any emergency. So we you know we train the women, we train the women how to look after this equipment, we also train boys, young boys and they are given specific training as to how to look after the equipment and to see whether things, where things go wrong and how to adjust them, up to certain extent. If you know it is very serious then they phone us and we send our engineers to, to check that.

INTERVIEWER: Ok, so how is demand for energy determined and how does XXXX come to understand consumer needs?

RESPONDENT: Well I think the demand, let me um you know make a statement that the villages that we have provided electricity for have not have electricity for 3 to 400 years and all they look at is um kerosene lanterns or candles. Now kerosene lanterns have proved to be quite dangerous, if it falls, the house has gotten fire people have died um and the, the the the cost of keeping candles and um the kerosene lanterns is just about the same of what we charge for them to have clean energy. So how did we determine, I mean the community came to us and said you know we need electricity um we understand that you are providing for other villages um we go to the village, we estimate the size of a village. Normally we look at villages that are around a 100 households only from the point view that it becomes economical um to provide the facilities for that number of people. If you were to provide the facilities for 20 households become uneconomical.

How did we determine the demand, well I mean women is to tell us that they can only work up to um sunset and the men would be go out in the fishing boats at night but they would be using their kerosene lanterns because you know must be normal but for them to come back in the after they have gone on a fishing trip um you know they, the communities um ability to be able to um socialize has improved, um through, through that socializing the political aspects of um the country how things are happening what are the things happening people are able to read the newspaper they become more aware of the fact of that is the case um yes so that is how we, we were sort of able to understand the needs of the community.

INTERVIEWER: So you mentioned that you talk to the women there is as well so basically are there conversations that are been held with both men and women um I mean is gender something that you specifically focus on when you are doing your research on ground?

RESPONDENT: Oh absolutely, yeah as I said that you know we provide our livelihood programs, 70% of them are women. And the reason for that again is that women are actually there in the community while the men are gone out fishing um so that is you know one of the main reasons why gender is of great importance. In fact in our office we have more women working in our office and we have men so they can communicate with the women, women are very um you know they do observe “*parda*” [veil] so we have to we have to be very careful, sometimes they refuse to speak to men so you know we make sure that the women in our office are the ones that actually do communicate with them.

INTERVIEWER: Ok, please tell us how equitable is energy access at community and household level in terms of gender do you think?

RESPONDENT: Um sorry I think haven’t I answered that question, how equitable in the sense that I am, I am not quite sure what further I can add to that.

INTERVIEWER: I mean with, within a household do you think there is a discrepancy or discrimination between genders and how energy is accessed and used or do you think that it is accessed equally by both men and women within the community and within the household?

RESPONDENT: Um we make sure that it is, our programs are making sure that it is equally accessible to both women and to men and we have explained this to the communities that if it a, at any case if if at any level we find that the electricity supply or the energy supply is been curtailed to women..access to energy right to our.

INTERVIEWER: I am sorry your internet is lagging..

RESPONDENT: I think we are having an internet, we having internet connection problems

INTERVIEWER: Hopefully it will stay connected. Um Actually its basic question, it’s more about the general state of affairs in the country and in you know in urban and rural context so basically um you know what is your general perception of how gender affects the way that energy is used in households? for example, are there different sets of roles between men and women and whether gender has anything to do with how energy is used in domains for example for clean cooking?

RESPONDENT: For clean cooking you said? Yes, yes um in the sense that you know previously the kitchen area which obviously dominated by women um there was no light so they had to cook in the dark but we provide um energy supply in the kitchen so that they can see precisely what they are doing. Now previously women used to get burnt um because they were in the dark and on they, they the fire was such that they couldn’t see um so and, and yes they had various um issues concerning them um cooking aspects of it. And um when it comes to the use of as I said we provide solar lamp to go to the toilets which are on the outskirts of the village. And because then the outskirts of village it makes it easier for them or not easy more comfortable for them to use the solar lanterns is very important.

We are not delighted to be um sorry um the women are delighted to have these lights at night so that they can do their *“XXXX”* work or do whatever it is that they do because during the day they have so many chores to do um looking after young children um perhaps looking after elderly and certainly they you know collecting water from, from distances which we try and um um resolve by providing water supply very close to village is one of the other aspects of the work that we do. We have also used um solar pumps for provision water in to water tanks um in some cases they prove very successful, in some cases the ,the um filled up with sand because the soil in some areas are not as, as good as they should be um no so, I am not sure if I can add anything to that.

INTERVIEWER: Perfect. So, the next question is that do different groups of women benefit from access to energy differently, for example, does energy use or access differ among older and younger women, between different income groups or where they are based in the community, or are there any religious, ethnic and cultural differences in how women access energy?

RESPONDENT: Well that’s, that’s an interesting question because we work in both Hindu and Christian and Muslim religions. um In the I start with the Hindu village, Hindu villages they they, they doesn’t don’t seem to be any issue concerning um access for women to in the past to be able to use energy and neither in the Christian villages. In some of the Muslim villages we have found that the the, the elderly men um sometimes um object um to the fact that these women are meeting each other in the others houses because they travel around to socialize. They sometimes object to the fact that they are socializing too much. See before the had these solar lights um women it it was all dark in the village so most of them used to stay within the house parameters. But now that they becoming more mobile the some men that are finding that I mean they don’t stop it but they do raise their voices, we’ve been told by some of the women that they not happy when they move around a lot. So yes it has affected community which is which is a very interesting aspect um you know socializing um at night prior to having any electricity they weren’t able to do that as much because of the fear of dark or you know whatever um um you know snakes or scorpions maybe around so they were scared of that but now that the village is totally lit up, they can move around you know it’s a very interesting phenomena.

INTERVIEWER: OK, um and are there any differences in age groups or income groups and how different women access energy?

RESPONDENT: Well you know the programs that we do for livelihoods give you an example where we have given women um sewing machines and the fact that they have the sewing machines and as their business grows they employee more women in the community so one example that comes to mind is the women that we gave um a simple sewing machine to and she became so keen on making clothes that she now employs 6 women. um Her business has grown enormously and so therefore her supply of energy is need is needed more than say somebody who is just a housewife if I can use that word as oppose to earning an income. And then there are some young girls who are learning the craft of making um making blankets and they, they learning the craft means that they need more energy at night to be able to do that… um and in some situations we have been asked to give light um to give more energy to certain households because of the they the livelihoods program that they are doing which we have granted and we said that it’s not really up to us it’s up to you because you have a meter so if you want to use more electricity you have to pay more for it and if you have to do that that’s fine, we do not have a problem.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, are there any differences in for example I was looking at your website, you mentioned that you’ve worked in rural areas but also in slums in Karachi. So are there any differences in terms of the urban and rural context? Can you please elaborate on that?

RESPONDENT: Oh yes very much so, there is a huge difference, the urban context um is you know they require a lot of energy and while we weren’t able to provide them with the solar system because of the urban fabric is not, we are not able to do that, we have tried to provide solar panels for um an entire building where there was um 6 different um households. But because that was now became a shared facility, everybody else started to blame everybody else when things started to go wrong so we decided that the that really wasn’t good um sustainable model at all. But yes the, the urban situation is such where they they need light more or less throughout the day um because of the work that they do, the enterprises they involved in while in the rural areas the energy requirement during the day is very minimal um maybe for fans to keep themselves cool but certainly there is no need of light and because as I said the men are out in their boats and women are doing the household chores it’s really later on in night that they have a chance to relax and to actually do things which are outside the normal everyday life that they have. And that is transformed that the very fact they have 5 hours of light at night, I am observing I mean I haven’t had a chance to actually get a professional to make this study but I am observing that the whole um whole way of life and whole attitude is starting to change in community.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, very nice. So you’ve already mentioned some of the different type of energy sources that you are making available, so you mentioned that solar, solar panels, lighting, water pumps um so in your view what are the differences between men and women in terms of who benefits?

RESPONDENT: Well I, I again um you know at night um they both benefit, I don’t see any difference between the two quite honestly because um except for the fact that the whoever is running an enterprise in a village, so if a woman is running a vegetable store and she needs to have a fridge um to keep her vegetables like um cool and water to be cool, then obviously her needs are much more, she use energy much more than somebody who doesn’t. And the men as I said are mostly either out of the um fishing and if they if it’s not the fishing season then they are out laboring during the day so they, their requirement within the community for energy is very minimal. um Certainly the elderly and they infirm use um because there is sufficient light during the day, you know you can see what you are doing during the day but certainly the fans… we provide fans um and in some situations people have started to kept small TVs um and they watch tv so but their use of energy increases. Mind you the TV is used for electrically at night um those that have it you know all the children gather around that house and watch tv whatever they are watching um so yes at night it’s mostly both men and women use it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so beyond your specific organisations, what are your views on gendered differences whether at home or community level, in terms of who makes decisions about technologies and appliances, about their purchase, as well as their use in the household?

RESPONDENT: Well um what we do have is a village development organization um radios and we also have XXXX of which um both organizations have men and women elected, this is our policy that if u have um um you know village development organization it must have same number of women as men in it and the XXXX are if you like around more by men but the develop, the work that is needed in village… the requirements that are needed in village is that village level. So the gender aspect um of both men and women is there but I cant deny the fact that men are more um forthright than women are when they are together but when women are on their own they are just as forthright as men um but in some communities women are very forthright in their demands their needs um so yeah it’s you know it’s it changes from community to community, it’s not you know I can’t give you in general um reply to that.

INTERVIEWER: Okay will it matter for decision making, will it matter what type of infrastructure decision is based on or does that not play any role?

RESPONDENT: Infrastructure of the village itself or infrastructure of?

INTERVIEWER: um no, the technology that is been provided I mean is there any difference in type of technology that is being um disseminated whether the women will be making the decision or the men?

RESPONDENT: Well actually we provide that knowledge, we provide the fact that certain um um types of technologies better for your use because they are not, they are not educated in the use of what type of technology should be provided but we help them to make that decision and as I said within the village organization that is when we talked about it so a lot of questions have been asked as to how much it will cost um and um you know some times they go for a more expensive if a village, if a community is more um more um well treat them another village and some villages are very very poor so they go for perhaps the, the least expensive item um that’s based on both men and women make decision themselves.

INTERVIEWER: ok so technology does not make a difference, what is being given to them… it is irrespective of technology the decision-making process?

RESPONDENT: Yes I would say so. They are not interested in whether it’s a XXXX technology or Pakistani technology they’re interested in just getting the product and their main interest is the the economic solution.

INTERVIEWER: OK um I mean, what we actually want to know is more in terms of for example if it is a cooking technology, will the women be asked more and will they be more involved in the decision-making just because cooking is supposed to be more of a gendered practice anywhere?

RESPONDENT: Yes..

INTERVIEWER: So there will be a difference, so lets suppose we are providing solar pumps or solar lights, will both men and women will be participating equally in the decision making?

RESPONDENT: Yes, yes, yes as I said village development organization has the same number as women and men so this upto community has to how the and we have our own social mobilizer that attends these meetings. And the social mobilizer is both men and a women that goes and attends these meetings so if they find that you know the men are dominating the decision making you know they make it a point to speak women in the community to kept their voices heard too.

INTERVIEWER: and what about decisions related to finances, are there any gender differences when it comes to making financial decisions?

RESPONDENT: yes very much so and if a women is running her own enterprise we open up a bank account in her name and the the men has no access to that account at all so it’s up to her to decide where she wants to distribute the money that she is earning. And naturally that that occurs um you know family disputes between the husband and the wife as to as to access to this fund but I am pleased to say that the women are very strong about this. You know women say that look I am on this money this is my money, I will use it for whatever I want to use it for. So because the men at the end of the day say but he has to accept that if the bank account in her name you cant have access to it. So yes there is a huge discrepancy, what discrepancy but a huge um difference in the way the women handles the finance than the men handles the finance.

INTERVIEWER: ahem, and what happens at the larger scale you’ve talked about the household level but um what about at the community level do financial decisions um are they made more by men or they made by both men and women?

RESPONDENT: Well we have opened in some villages we’ve opened village banks and the village banks have e um the, there is a chairmen, a treasurer and secretary, so the three people that are there are more voted in by the community as to who the maybe. And in some situations the community has voted all three to be men in some situations they voted all three to be women. So, yeah its um and you know these people are responsible for the um village bank you may want to come to them and say I want to borrow some money because my daughter is getting married so the decision is taken by the village bank and if the person can payback the loan they have um so yes on a on a community level this is all and then further down the line we open up bank accounts in banks for, for um communities.

INTERVIEWER: You have answered this before, but if you could respond one more time, is gender equity in energy access different between urban and rural contexts?

RESPONDENT: Um yes I would say it is different, I would say that women who are living in the urban context have access to energy much more than women living in rural context, certainly yes.

**Part 3: Policies and Interventions**

INTERVIEWER: Let’s move to part 3, which is about policies and interventions. So again you can always say that you have answered this questions beforehand I just have to make sure that I asked the question. So, to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access?

RESPONDENT: In our own work, you mean the work that XXXX does?

INTERVIEWER: yes.

RESPONDENT: Yes, well as I said earlier on you know we concentrate more on the um women and there are many reasons apart from the fact that they are ones that look after the community while the mean away. But to be honest I mean the women are more reliable they work harder um they are more susceptible to the fact that they have to, if they are borrowing money that they have to return it. They understand these rules. Women understand it much better than men do, men unfortunately you know as you said earlier on you are going to quote me but men unfortunately spend a lot of their time in tea shop, they drink tea and chatting while the women don’t do that because the culture doesn’t allow them to sit in the tea shop. They stay at home and when they stay at home they make their own tea which is so much cheaper than going to a shop um so you know they, that’s one of the reasons why they say that you know look we work this money, we want to go to tea um go to the tea shop, pay from their own money.

INTERVIEWER: So, you mentioned some of your projects like the livelihood project, and the training you do specifically for women, so how effective do you feel these efforts in your work towards gender equity have been and have you faced any challenges?

RESPONDENT: Oh yes we face a lot of challenges um the challenges from the male. In some situations the male has been very cooperated towards their wives earning money through livelihoods in some situations the male has been very um annoyed and not happy at all because his role in the in the family structure is been, is been altered.

Because quite honestly sometime women are earning much more than the men are so you know that is a question of role being reversed so the men has sometimes been very um it hasn’t we haven’t come to a place where the men has actually stopped a women from earning but certainly it’s put a lot of obstacles in the way and in some situation the men has been very very supportive um in providing this to so yes there has been a difference between the men and the women.

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

RESPONDENT: Yes of course, they should be gender sensitive, I mean as I am explaining you know a main, if I can use the word beneficiary is the female, is the female of the, of the species. You know gender is perhaps very very important. And I think Pakistan understands that, it is slowly becoming to understand that, the government wants to encourage it, the issue is cultural one. A cultural one that has been there for centuries, you know so change of culture towards a men and women um sorry towards women from a man will take time, it’s a cultural issue it’s not policies, policies they encourage gender um equality and sustainability all the time.

INTERVIEWER: So, do you think there are policy gaps around women’s access to energy at the local or national level?

RESPONDENT: No, I can’t say if any gaps as I said, they both the provincial and the federal government is very very keen that women have access to energy.

INTERVIEWER: So, are there any social policies that you feel have an impact on energy equity?

RESPONDENT: Social government policies you mean or cultural policies?

INTERVIEWER: there can be both really, anything that have an impact on energy equity that don’t fall within the energy limit but they definitely have an impact how equitable energy becomes.

RESPONDENT: Um I can’t think of any government um issues concerning that. As I said earlier its all cultural issues, I think you know it’s not, no I can’t think of any policy that has been made that will have an effect on genders.

INTERVIEWER: um okay. I mean in terms of lets say you mentioned the cultural factors so are there any like social even of its not policies but social norms that you think that do have an effect on energy equity and that should be addressed at the national level or the community level?

RESPONDENT: Well I can think of the you know one of the things that the women have to do and even the young girls is to collect water. And sometimes collecting a water at a distance is, is you know it can take 2 to 3 hours to do that. That the access to water um should be brought closer to communities and you know we are doing that as much as we can. But I don’t think the access to water policy um by both federal and provincial government is adequate. It needs to be more emphasized and the other thing is that the women have to collect the firewood to burn you know their their… so I think what the government should do is to provide um other sources of fuel. And the other sources of fuel can be biogas in communities that have um the animals that can produce the biogas and wood burning stoves you know stoves that are more efficient in the use of the use of wood. Some of these are just open fires you know it’s not a fishing wood at all but we’ve done a program where we provided a 100 wood burning stoves and the women loved it, they thought it was very good that they use certain amount of wood that lasted them to cook the meal.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, imagine there are no policy or financial constraints, in an ideal world, so what in your view would be the best practice in achieving gender equity in energy access?

RESPONDENT: Um I would I would suggest that there should be more um women that are educated in the sense of sorry educated maybe wrong word but given them more training to um understand what they can use what they can do with energy supply um because women are not as well worst in these things than men are they sometimes remain silent but I think there should be a training program specifically organized for women to understand how they can improve their lives by the use of efficient is I think they should do that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you see any specific challenges in this? And in your role, how would you go about achieving this?

RESPONDENT: Well the main challenge is the culture um if you’re talking about the energy um equity is the culture it’s it’s and you know to a certain extend we don’t want to get involved in changing cultures because that’s very its very dangerous ground. And dangerous in the sense that they are very objective of what we want to do would not be achieved because we would be shunned um by the men and it’s a very sensitive issue so it’s a culture that is a very big challenge really.

**Part 4: Topical Questions**

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Let’s come to the last part. How balanced is gender representation in various decision-making bodies within energy governance structures?

RESPONDENT: Well as I’ve said we have, we make sure that the women are there and the village development program and um if the as I said if the voices are not been heard, the social mobilizers make sure that the voices are heard um so the men has to listen to what they have to say. So you know we do, we do as much as possibly we can in that to make sure that it is equitable.

INTERVIEWER: and what about more generally in energy sector in Pakistan?

RESPONDENT: Sorry, energy sector do you mean the government energy sector or supply of energy, sorry what do you mean by that?

INTERVIEWER: um primarily yes because the government is responsible for governance of energy but even in let’s say the private sector, what in your opinion based on your experiences do you understand is the gender representation of women in the energy sector in Pakistan?

RESPONDENT: Well if you mean the people that are working within the energy sector I have no knowledge of how many there are, women are than men. But certainly when you supply energy um energy comes in to um household and how the household uses that energy is entirely up to the household. And as far as I can make out the women use more energy in an urban situation um certainly than the men do… um you know the men go out to work wherever but women stays in home using the energy more.

INTERVIEWER: um I am not sure if you’re aware of any energy finance programs and processes, do you have any knowledge of that?

RESPONDENT: Um specifically for gender issues you mean or specifically um generally speaking? Generally speaking, there are financial um.

INTERVIEWER: actually my question is do you think renewable energy access finance processes are gender aware or sensitive?

RESPONDENT: I am sorry I didn’t quite hear you properly, could you repeat the question? Renewable energy access to women?

INTERVIEWER: so do you think renewable energy access finance processes or projects in Pakistan are they gender aware or gender sensitive?

RESPONDENT: Yes, absolutely. Oh absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: um can you give any example of on how they are gender aware or any specific policies or programs that they have for women?

RESPONDENT: Well all the, all the energy projects that we get from donors are very specific. They are saying that this is a genders um issue um sensitive issue and you know it has to they make it really clear. We cant get any money until we agree to the fact that this has to be followed through.

INTERVIEWER: 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 and finance related to cooking stoves and solar home systems?

RESPONDENT: Well cooking stoves um do you mean electric cooking because that’s or he gas cooking stove?

INTERVIEWER: predominantly the focus is on electricity um…

RESPONDENT: Well in urban areas the electric cooking is really not um very popular because of the cost, energy cost is too high so its mostly gas, in rural areas the, the use of energy is um wood and as I said you know we, we encourage wood burning stove so that the efficiency of the stove is improved.

INTERVIEWER: So can you tell us about the challenges in financing and purchasing decisions related to this? Are there any challenges for women?

RESPONDENT: No, actually you know the um there are more donors that are willing to provide finance for women enterprises than for any other sort of enterprises so it’s the women community say that look we want the electricity in our village because we haven’t got any so the chances of them getting that finance to support are much higher, yes definitely much more appreciated.

RESPONDENT: I can’t answer that question, I am sorry I don’t know… how it is reflected I don’t know

**Part 5: Closing**

INTERVIEWER: That is fine. That is the end of the interview. Do you have any final comments or statement that you would like to make in the end?

RESPONDENT: I think the biggest challenge we have is in training um in training um not you know people keep saying that you are talking about education you know while I, I think education has one level of importance. But the other is training how to be more efficient in the use of energy um the way that you use energy um and this applies to both the men and the women. um I think training is of utmost importance and there should be more and more programs geared only to train um communities as to how to use of energy.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. If there are any follow up questions, can we just email them to you?

RESPONDENT: Yeah sure. No problem.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. Once we are done with the transcript, we will send you the written transcript for approval. Ok, thank you so much for making time. It was a pleasure talking to you. And I hope we can stay connected in future as well.