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| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Organization name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | Independent Consultant and Academic – Development authorities/planners /architects (i.e. those responsible for putting the visions into plans) |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

Participant: Hello.

CF: Great. Good afternoon, Madam. Good afternoon. XXXX yes apologies, apologies for putting you through this stress.

Participant: No it's okay It's okay. It's I think it would be rise of online activity he's been maybe a bit more difficult to schedule things I don't know maybe people feel like they can just it's easier to shift meeting. So this thing this thing with my daughter's school, normally it would be it would be a physical event, you know but because of all of this you know, it's a virtual as I was supposed to hold yesterday, and the last minute in the days of physical events no way. They think would have they would have made it happen You know, exactly they just change the last minute and said you know so they know what they're doing something for this time It's not just them it happens even with work meetings It happens all the time so I'm like okay we will just trying to make it work anyhow.

 CF: We can well, I'm sorry about that this year for me also has been quite hectic because of course you know, i work at it on XXXX University somehow this year we managed to complete the session and then we started a new session also virtually so we had the whole of the second semester online we did online exams and I have been in the examination committee also in the core so planning preparing making sure things happen and then jumping from one thing to another I had one day of this year.

Participant: Me too, like tomorrow, I work for the year, but it's not looking likely

CF: Wow, this is well. I'm happy you're here. Thank you very much and it's good to really have this to be having this conversation with you. You've been highly recommended by all different people from different quarters. So that's the one as the one who has been working a lot in this area. So just a bit of a background again just a bit of a background. I of course, I woke up on XXXX University and this project is actually funded by the UK research and Innovation Global challenges research fund. So lead institution is Anglia Ruskin University based in the UK. Of course, we have different people in the Consortium and put in the UK in the Netherlands in India, Ghana, Nigeria and yeah, so and off and Pakistan, so the idea is we are exploring gender equity issues around energy access within the global South context and we are looking at four countries in particular so we look at Nigeria and Ghana for Africa and then India and Pakistan for Asia. So the whole idea behind this conversation is again, we said let us even find out from people who have been involved in doing things around the space to try to have a better understanding really about what is going on the ground. It's lots of qualitative stuff really because it this is one way we can get a lot of insight as to what is really going on the ground. So without further ado I will just begin it, it will last us maybe 45 minutes on average, but it may go beyond depending on how the spirit leads and depending on how much experience you want to share.

Participant: I will keep it short.

CF: So there will be four major sections, introductory section we're going to begin soon which essentially looks at an overview of your role your work, your organization and background the second part has to do with understanding the issues really particularly around equitable energy access and then the third parts we will look more at policies and interventions and then we'll have conclusion parts which are more some concluding areas. So we do we begin can you continue just start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role your position in the organization work for the department you work for and somehow how this whole thing started.

Participant: Okay, so I'm an xxxx lecturer xxxx at the xxxx.

CF: Amazing I just know you are you in UI didn’t know it’s that particular center.

Participant: It is a multi-disciplinary center it’s probably the only center where I could work at the moment It's I've been working there since 2012 as yeah as I said I xxxx lecturer but I also work on a lot of research projects currently leading a couple of research bids but also just being on the team co-peer or named researcher and a few others. So I think my, i sort of cut my teeth in this space with my PhD which was which looked at optic of improved cook stoves in particular in Nigeria and Kenya and the thing about that topic. So, I because I looked at different approaches to dissemination, it came down to market-led versus more context-responsive, you know a bit of the market to burn, no not the liberal type Market approach, and so, you know the whole analysis ended up being almost like it was like a crash course into so many different things. So you know, you had an energy gender because of the subjects but you also had Lively hoods you had nutrition you had agriculture because a lot of the areas where was of most rural, you had health you had climate and interestingly somehow all these areas that I've mentioned areas that I've actually worked in post PhD you know as a research consultant. I also do a lot of consulting work. That one is there. That's the part that stifles me sometimes just because it's quite a lot but in so I said of work across this broad range but just to say that looking at the you know energy issues from that lens of cooking energy but also more traditional sources of energy of clean energy opened up a whole like vista into all this all that different issues you know it was it was amazing for me because I'm so you know you go in thinking you're looking at this one thing but then at the end you come out realizing it's just intertwined with so many different issues and that sets the tone for like I said my posts PhD life has me dabbling into all sorts of things,

CF: which I find very interesting really because I notice that those that tend to look at do PhD’s around some multi-disciplinary issues that that so much connects with energy get their life very interesting afterwards.

Participant: Just okay.

CF: interesting in terms of you get called for different things It's in some ways connects with different things, I am experiencing a bit of it in some way it’s a good thing I think it's now getting too much.

Participant: I thing I am at that point now and I just need to focus.

CF: So can you tell me a bit about your background and how you got into this line of work?

Participant: Yeah I mean it's not very mysterious. How far back do you want for backgrounds?

CF: You just tell me how I mean as you as you as it pleases you really?

Participant: Okay. The best is possible I don't want to open the whole can of worms around. So my first two degrees were in architecture. Um so I yeah I basically switch to energy in my dissertation semester while I was doing my Master's just because like first two years ago because of whatever my bachelor's was here and then I was like okay I wanted to do a master's I brought so I went to the UK and then at the time that I was applying for my masters and co I still wasn't sure I thought okay. Maybe I want to do active threats at a higher level. But by the time that I did my first two semesters of architecture in the UK, I realize, you might say belatedly that wasn’t what I wanted to, but it was easy for me because by that time I had actually found what I actually wanted to do. So I've been doing a lot of reading around, you know, sustainable energy and it was also just slightly post Millennium, you know, this old Millennium craze and then the MDG’s and you know, and then to be, you know, it was also a long time about where I was coming from in terms of from Nigeria we've had all this energy issues and problems and I just thought okay It was like this interests, intellectual interest colliding with a real problem. We're from that existed or still exist where I was coming from and I literally schooled myself in my dissertation and my dissertation was my best. I actually had my highest score in the entire masters year and then I thought well I'm too much of weight onto like towards the end and I was like okay actually enjoy this, you know maybe I want to pursue it at like the high level and then my dissertation supervisor basically just you know, just blurts out one day like this almost like confirming in and you know, this work you did is actually of a PhD standard why don't you consider even a PhD in that? And so my PhD was looking at renewable energy, sorry a call came in from XXXX, but it's yeah it was quite broad was a renewable energy options for Africa. So it was it was like the Natural Curiosity to say, okay. I'm coming from this brought this but I want to know I just felt like I I didn't there were so many knowledge gaps and obviously I hope okay that reset was the sort of natural next level to then going to and Sorry let me just text this person taking this and taking my proposed. It was quite broad but I didn't settle on hook on the subject of cook stoves and the particle approach that I took to it which was a sociological qualitative approach until say mid-way to my first year there about you know when I've been doing all the literature review around different, you know so that many possible ways to you know, sort of approach this from it's talking about renewable energy, I mean this the natural for costs or the obvious because many people is all electricity and all of that but just literally in reading around the issues I just realized maybe I would say out of deep reading and also again just reflecting on how to really make a difference and all of that realized that there was this other hidden similarly lower profile issue that many people hadn't been giving a lot of attention, but I was also I also found for those who have been working on it's also found in lots of good literature and good writing on it. They're really just educated the issue. Yeah and I you know, and I just thought okay so many issues of you know energy Justice, access here, so I think I guess in advance you know, if I also just had this sense that there was a lot more to you know, in that without that space was a lot more interesting than say you know, go and focus on some solar project somewhere i'm not saying there's anything wrong.

CF: I understand that feeling

Participant: so that that I guess that's it in a nutshell.

 CF: Interesting! I really like this I mean it's actually getting more interesting now is tell me more about the specific energy access areas that you work on I know you've talked about cook stove which is really your domain. You must give us what you want to do specific things I have worked on and then I mean more or less.

Participant: Specifics as an area's project.

CF: Yes, Yes some specific It was more specific release some specific energy access areas It may be electricity maybe cook stove as you've mentioned. I mean both of those things you've worked on.

Participant: Okay, right so I guess in many ways almost all of the work that I've done has said of it can almost be traced back to this initial PhD work that I did. So like right out of right out of a PhD one of my supervisors got a UK research Council was the engineering and physical sciences research Council grant to look at various to the optical roosters in seven African countries so it was almost like a large much larger scale projects version of my PhD that you know..

CF: Interesting!

Participant: So yeah it's like naturally old without thinking I was full of that. I mean I was back in Nigeria by then but just naturally also co-opted on the team even though Nigeria wasn't one of the countries you know in the started. Yeah, but I paid more of like an analytical role and so it was looking at it was a mixed method project. So they were people looking at the quantitative side, but you know, I was looking at the more the quantity as protective barriers but also any blocks to the object of improved cook stoves in East and Southern Africa, so I mean it was like a classic and academic couple of papers came out of that and then sort of on the back of that. I actually went back. So I applied for this British Council researcher links grant that took me back to Xxxx for that's my for my university for four months to do this Fellowship, so I was a vising fellow there, it was desk base That was that was sort of my first sort of concentrated time looking at specifically at the links between energy access and gender. So I did this desk study on that for four months, so again on the back of that so just really unfolding from that another energy project came up with another my supervisors I had three of them another of us supervisors them straight out of coming back from us when I got involved in this project looking at sustainable charcoal Management in Ghana. So with my supervisor and what now to my supervisors and then some colleagues in Xxxx, so we did that in the UK and Yes, so all of those were more like in a sense International collaborations that really looked at maybe the more of the African context but we're interested in the Nigerian space is this project that I got on with XXXX.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: Yeah, that has been like my first applied, you know set up on the ground project or before of sight before that. Thank you for this whole political economy so you see I've been coming from like the demand side man side in a sense and in 2018, I got this Grant from the international Network for government science advice, Just looking at how to connect some of these more bottom up pieces of research that I've been doing with policy. So it's like an evidence to policy type piece of work. So I did that. So it was a lot of stakeholder engagement policy engagement. So it wasn't now looking because that will had a fairly good idea of how this place works at the bottom and the key, well the problem from where I stood was not enough of those kinds of insights were feeding into policy. Yeah So I did that engagement for a year up until the last year and yeah, so it was set up on the back of that So XXXX and other stakeholders were involved in all of the you know, the deliberations that we had with policymakers.

CF: Interesting! because sorry to throw it because really the things you are discussing now links to my next question really because you can just follow know that trail, which is in relation to the policy context really should be your work what's current issues or developments in policies at State national level for example influential work? You already saying some things I maybe just want to flow into that very well.

Participant: Yeah, so what policy influence my work was more like the lack of policies that influence my work.

CF: Okay,

Participant: I guess in many ways I've maybe sort of evolved over the years from just taking this almost normative stance two things and saying oh, you know, the research says these two should be looking at this look like they are so many more people dying from exposure to harmful cooking fuels than this focus on almost exclusive Focus. Obviously we all we need electricity as well. What is just a more like sellable product for the government and this all neoliberal, I'm sorry. I know you got any business school but you know..

CF: I'm in the engineering school by the way, we have seen the need to also look at all these various dimensions and how they fit in the technical, Of course I mean, we have to ensuring students. It's very important to look at things from this multidisciplinary dimension and that's why I'm enjoying this conversation really?

Participant: Yeah. Okay, that's good because I mean the bias is almost I have to sort of pinch myself and tap myself as if you don't be emotional about it, you just be professional and because to me when you look at it from almost like the human angle, you know in like you see ya, implementing these things you know depend on Technologies for like the human beings that yeah that yeah are making them for either they are not using them or the right people that you know, it's not getting to the it's not getting the hands of the people who actually need them and so there's a problem there. There's a there's a gap there and instead of that gap that you know, the policies that we did that so it's specifically for clean cooking. I find that in the energy space has just been awashed with you know, and for whatever it's worth It's not even like where it's not like we're seeing plenty, you know, the results are not as encouraging as maybe the kind of investment that even goes into it, but let's put let's put that to one side but it's just the relative invisibility, you know of the issues around clean cooking even though so there are policies and things around at what they almost never get implemented. There is zero coordination and beyond policy now is also this private sector participation It's a you know, just as I don't know it's almost like a no, go area for businesses the way it is and so it can then come back physically lands back on the table of the government to do something about that or is the lack of leadership in that but we lack of policy leadership lack of implementation of existing policies. That's actually what drives a lot of the work I do…

CF: Interesting! this is good really, well, I'm about to get to the second we're going now to the second phase really which I think this is more of your domain we want to now try to understand and the issues what does Equitable energy access mean to you?

Participant: Okay, so I see I saw that I mean I notice that use you may decide gender equity as opposed to say gender equality.

CF: Exactly! I'm looking at more gender equity now because it links to first of all I mean what does equitable energy access mean to you and then what does gender equity in energy access?

Participant: I mean I guess the concept of equity first and foremost is really is really about creating a level playing field for everyone by you know, making, you know policies and programs, meeting each person or each category, you know in society and where they are and then making in fees to sort of ensure that everybody ends up with the level of resources, you know capabilities that they need, you know that naughty so it's not like we're working towards and absolutely no one is when I'm working from an absolute basis and we are not working towards an absolute Target Equity is more of a relative concept you know so when you when you talk of so just broadly speaking. Now, if you say rural versus urban areas, what would energy I could say look like, you know it would be that you know for the several family archetypal rural farmer is somebody who needs a couple of solar panels to enable him or her to maybe irrigates there small plots so that they're more productive on that plot and all of that in terms of wattage and all of that you may not be more than we know more than a few. You know, you know that what's that they need but what if that is meeting their need for improved agricultural production and it's given energy in there you know on their two light bulbs and or they're fun, and they are small TV, they used to listen to the news that night. It's fine. It's fine with them. Even if I in my urban space I'm using say arguably like three times that amount of energy, but it's also available to me when I need it and for the purposes that I needed you know, and I think that a is sort of subtle implication of that is then the question is what in inputs are needed to enable that that rural farmer is able to access that level of energy that they need just in the same way that I am able to access it. So I am more in the say, you know markets among the commercial Market. Maybe its fine, maybe I can I can purchase you know electricity, you know to the extent that I needed but might mites that Farmer in the in the rural area my might he or she need some kind of impute some kind of concession some kind of you know, yeah some kind of substance concessions some kind of Yeah, I don't see subsidy but some kind of way, you know in which that they would then be able to you know, granted, bear in mind that even though the level of energy that they made in the first place is not even anything close to me, but they may still be struggling to meet that to even provide that that level of access. So it is that yeah I mean what would they need, What sort of supports would they need to be able to achieve the level of many that they want and if you sort of energy that they want and if you apply that to men and women as well. I mean I guess it's a bit for me, the gender dimension is always interesting because so for example, there are studies that have shown that you know, simply say connecting a household to say solar home system is not necessarily the end of the story because you know, it may be that yeah, so if for instance it is the man which is usually the case that is then paying for that service especially when it's that you know, it's not being totally but is like this fee-for-service model for instance.

Participant: Yeah, say another phone call and you have the man been like rationing the energy supply and so sometimes you know, you find like the kitchen where women work is in total darkness while in the name of rationing in well say the living room is well lit where they are watching TV.

CF: I can chip a question because you're touching on some of those aspects now, do different groups of women, I mean benefits from energy access or differently so for example people although we men versus younger women different income groups city versus village and things like that cultural groups ethnic groups. I mean do you think people benefits differently?

Participant: I mean, yeah, I'm not sure about benefits and differently I maybe I'll just start from the point about you know, the main the main issue here, you know from it from a gender perspective is we tied to the roles and responsibilities that have been prescribed for women by society and in many roles and responsibilities have pretty they're pretty even you know across so a woman in a rural area is I don't know in many cases almost expected in a by Society to fulfil same rules as a woman in an urban area are there differences in experience? That's not to say, you know, obviously there are many class intersects with gender to produce so, lower income women for instance are more disadvantaged on the whole than middle and high-income women. So that that is fundamental for just is to say that in the context of energy the kinds of uses that if woman would put energy to I think broadly, you know, probably the same, and said domestically will probably be probably more or less the same, you know as so, you know, for instance just give an example for instance. So doing research in Ghana around the charcoal study, you know, you found those I remember this particular woman, who basically her need for energy increased when she had the baby because she had to be boiling water for the babies bath you know, and so she needed a more efficient charcoal stove that would enable had to do that and I'm you know, you know, and I'm like yeah, what mother doesn't need a warm bath for her baby like at that level it’s just the basics and you know, pretty standard, you know so in terms of the amounts of energy you know that would differ but just because the traditional rules are you know, you know, well in the gender literature women are women play reproductive. They do reproductive rules in addition to productive and you know broader community roles. I guess the in the, instead of productive space, that's the income generation space. There may be some difference in that we regarding so woman in a rural or peri urban area might need more energy for agro-processing and so if they don't have if they don't have energy or some automated kind of system to say process their grains you know, then they would they would actually start you that with human labor so they are only one. I don't know if you've been to where they make traditional palm oil?

CF: No just right here auction.

Participant: Okay, Alright okay that they have not seen rights, but I've seen pommel and I'm like okay this that should be a punishable offense you know by because women actually and it's is always women traditionally. They actually they use their feet no to press the oil all day like in the year. So its their feet that get out the oil and you know in this in this pit that's because they know so for instance and intervention in that area might be say, even if it's a diesel powered machine that is able to press the notes and all of that and so that's different from the energy that I as a mermaid in the urban area need for say my computer but mind you even so this is where class and gender also into the because obviously not every woman in an urban area works on the computer you know that the mama puts and exactly food processing food preparation is a major space, you know major area of need that's for me and somewhat that needs a bit more attention, you know because it's women that are affected but it's actually an industry, you know on its own. I know that there have been some projects mostly to look at them what they call institutional cooks stoves like this bigger cooks tools for cooking and not public but it's they're not nearly enough. So those are some of the so in those difference may be different classes. Yes they are there may be differences in the amounts of energy in there to drive the maybe tools of trade, you know, but broadly especially domestically I think the energy profiles that means just broadly the energy use profiles of you know men and of women I need and so for instance women who usually do the cooking need energy for cooking but the ways that it manifests for me say using LPG in an urban area is different from the way that I manifest way a woman using mostly firewood or charcoal in a rural area still but we need for cooking is General.

CF: Hmm now you've highlighted and elaborated on a few things, but I don't know if you still have a few things to say around the subject how equitable is an edgy access as community and household level in terms of gender, I mean, that's one thing I would like to really.

Participant: Based on household level like across the country.

CF: Yeah, I mean based on your own experience, how equitable is gender at community and household level how equitable gender-wise yeah, okay.

Participant: At household level like across the country?

CF; Yea I amen based on your own experience, I mean what you have seen at community level and at household level?

Participant: At household level how equitable gender wise and then at community level how equitable gender wise, let me start with the household level, the household is a private space so it’s a bit more difficult to generalize but I think more broadly know the short answer would be no generally speaking is not as equitable as it should be primarily because the uses this traditional user I've just mentioned like of by men are still venerated in the way above what shall I say, it is the needs of women that are relegated, you know in relation to those of men so and as long as those traditional functions are saying i perceived as being sort of lower in importance or status something, you know, the energy needs of women are not going to be taking us seriously as those of you know, stay men or the rest of the household and that's not to say that's not to say that maybe women don't also say benefit. So for instance if a man uses solar home system like to watch the news at night or something or just for recreation doesn't mean that maybe woman also cannot maybe be part of that. But in terms of what is fundamentally as crying you know, two men versus women those rules and for me you know, I think I teach a gender class and let me that's what I'm always keen for people to understand about gender as long as the fundamental structures remain unequal like the relative weights attached to what men do versus what women do and need the solutions are not you know, never going to be equitable.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: That's that that they household level you know, but I think community level at the community level. I'm trying to search for I'm trying to search for concrete examples to answer that with them. But let's say let's say like a farming lesser like a farming community I would say I would say yes. I mean I think energy access for women still leaves a lot to be desired. If only because you know at that level of those communities you still have men mostly been the ones making the decisions around you know, what Solutions are important or should be implemented or even how they installed systems are managed who gets hired by employed to manage them, you know all of that once around what energy sources are available is still mostly done by men. So not enough women's representation and so almost by design or by default you find that yeah women's needs are not adequately addressed.

CF: Interesting! Thanks so much for thanks really now when you energy infrastructure and Technologies are provided what's in your view the differences between men and women particularly in terms of full benefits.

Participant: New technologies can be tricky. So I'm thinking now just of say mini grids mini-grid installations so first and foremost again back to the basics in a sense first and foremost just because men tend to have like higher level of assets like higher asset based fundamentally find that they are able to they are able to then take better advantage of new technologies that come in than women. So I said even education level of education is one thing is yeah, that's something I found really interesting like for in any given population whatever so if the average level of education they say, I don't know primary 6 you'll find more men that did secondary and so that are above average time you find women you know, so the women are going to be almost always below primary six and then the men above you know, that sort of thing. So it's generally that's with so just in terms of capabilities already, you know women tend to be like more disadvantaged. So why are you doing bringing a new technology that requires just a new different way of doing things of organizing of payment sometimes you find that that's really gets and in many ways It's why it's not enough to just go and do something in a community you know, really just looking at how the end users, because things are not rocket science. You know remember it's not it's not even like it's hard but it's just the existing historical, i don't say versions but you know, just fundamental generally speaking than that of and then in terms of resources in terms of ability to pay in terms of decision-making. Yeah, you have men you know mostly reaping the benefits been able to pay and therefore being able to control what gets done with the energy that they have paid for with the technology that they have paid for, you know. So again there was a study that sort of found that actually solar lanterns may actually be more beneficial for women, than say centrally fixed solar home systems just because for it's a lantern a woman can move it around that is as she can even afford to either pay for it or rent it. So it's like hard morning coats and then she can move it around when she's needs to do something for the kitchen in the kitchen she goes she takes it there by chance to do something for the baby, she texted a sudden to ask for permission. She doesn't you know, so just because there's already such i mean if you ask it's a false. It's a false divide. But because this divide is real is false in principle, but in practice it is real because you know men versus women in terms of what they are required to do and what they are able to do in terms of capabilities and all then you find that yeah men usually benefit more unless a deliberate effort is made, you know to try to control for the wall this gendered effects.

CF: Amazing! It really highlights that quite a good number of things around the subjects but and I will just ask one last question connected with this gender issue, so do men and women participate equally in decision-making about energy access in terms of I mean so I look at it in different ways really particularly at the household level local scale, bigger scale also in relation to making decisions about Finance. You've highlighted a few things you put them just if you can put your feet on it again, then we'll move on to the next Point.

Participant: Okay, so that's an interesting one so I'll just but this is just to crack a joke right answer because I was just part of this panel this week for this XXXX projects right, with them which HPS and the ministry of environment and so there were four presentations for four men presentations and then one of my colleagues pointed out to me, you know the day before that we are actually all women on the panel and you know that oh, that's a good thing and I mean like a good thing I was like, oh, well, that's a good thing. But I just hope it's not because we are talking about cooking, you know, and that's right.

CF: It’s a women’s affair since they are the ones that cook, whats our business?

Participant: Do you understand? it’s possible to read that maybe its more disempowering than empowering, I said that to highlight points that came to mind which is generally speaking. No, men and women don't have equal decision-making power as with every sphere of life in the energy space at household and community level except actually and a bit curiously when it comes to this issue of cooking and cooking technology, cooking devices. So, in context after context, you know what we've done research, you know so in terms of trying to trying to decipher you know, the reasons for low adoption of clean cook stoves for instance. So one of the early theories we know that was it was who might it be because you know men are the ones that are making the money and women are the ones cooking and so those two don't overlap and so you know, maybe because men make money and therefore have to make decisions and then maybe they don't make a decision to change the stove to buy a better one or something and that's one reason why that is low but then you know, you got to talk to two women you know in you know and there's so many publications that actually sort of sort of echo that and actually there's not that much of a problem you know around decision making in that area. So you ask the woman who decides what fuel you use to cook. It's like nobody but me I'm the one you know, who decide how much yeah, if you use these me you know, I'm the one that makes it work. I'm the one that decides this is my efficient for me, this is less expensive for me that and that so in that one space is almost like ring-fenced women have a greater decision-making power one relative to other areas of energy and also just of life but also relative to men. So if you had a woman coming up to say, I want a new stove I want you know who genuinely has made a decision that I want to change my cooking technique her husband is not going to say no you can't use that…

CF: Exactly!

Participant: you know problems, he is not going to veto it, you know it that's not the way it works, it maybe that now I don’t have the money to do it now, I'll be saving for it or so, I mean the woman many women said, you know from their budget or households and keeping an expensive even when they don't work. They know how to sort of you know make provision for whatever they have decided is correct. So, yeah broadly men have more decision-making power except in this in this cooking space.

CF: Interesting. So it takes us to the third part of this and then I mean and then hopefully with that we'll start to wind down gradually because the way policies and interventions know to what extent does gender Equity factor in your work on energy access and if so, how effective do you feel these efforts have been towards gender equity?

Participant: Okay, come again?

CF: So to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access and then by extension if you say it thus factors i will even want to know how effective have there been?

Participant: Well, I don't know my work is gender has been a key aspect of my own work like from the beginning but I can't say the same for the real world, I can say the same for, yeah, there's still a long way to go in gender mainstreaming for in energy access in Nigeria whether you're talking about, you know just household energy especially whether you are talking of energy or electricity or what have you. So not a lot has been done in that area. I sort of try to highlight that in my word again like I say in many ways just because I have worked mostly on clean cooking is the most the gender issues even almost implicit in it but I think that more generally I mean that's one thing so that I'm core call me queen beds together in a project that yeah in a project that we're doing at XXXX, actually looking at the assessing the gender impacts of this policy by the rural electrification fund this whole mini-grid thing and really what I mean, not surprisingly you know found that they were the policies currently been implemented is not just because it's sort of gender-neutral it means that it's not going to benefit women because it was not designed specifically to be gender sensitive.

CF: Beautiful! What you’re saying now leads to my next question really which I didn't is good. I just considered and your line of thought so go to thinking a bit beyond your specific work. Do you think energy access policies in our country is gender sensitive?

Participant: No, they're not.

CF: And in what ways, I mean you have started mentioning them so I just thought you could continue in that line.

Participant: You can just say they are not full stop.

CF: I like that, amazing! I will link it to the next one so that you can answer it all do you think there are policy gaps around women's access to energy, at different levels really local national International level so you can now link it.

Participant: Yeah that there are so again, I think for any policy to actually have any stand any chance of achieving some kind of gender equity It must be explicit about you know what it is doing to mainstream gender and be gender sensitive and he also currently like the programs and policies that we have don't start from that don't start from that position of recognizing that men and women have different energy needs at home and for work, So for instance this mini grids that you know installing, you know all over the place now I mean it would be interesting to have like a meta-study around them to see even just through impact evaluations, you know together It will be like okay who are the groups of people even beyond the gender focus for who are the groups of people that are able to access remember that tariffs are high, Yes, they are lower than they are lower than diesel that people petrol maybe but they are higher than grid electricity. So in that in that sense for mini grid, and so that means that you must be somewhere relatively well of in that rural area to do it, now when you tie that to the fact that many women are generally just poorer than men then it follows that you know, it is the, you know, just in theory follows that is men and men own businesses, maybe like kiosks or to shop so you know beer parlors and things like that that that might have more access, you know? Yes there will be some woman's this is not an all-or-nothing scenario but just looking you know on the whole of its the logic follows that men have more access because maybe know analysis was done at the beginning to find out what you know, the cost implications and then how does that how does that link to say women's incomes and the occupations, you know of women. So for instance might it be possible for a woman to whom around businesses to benefit more from like lower scale technologies….

CF: Hmm

Participant: That are more affordable but will help their businesses be more productive rather than assuming that you know just by providing, you know, like so-called lights to everybody then they will be able to use it. So there's a lot of assumptions that can be uncovered by simple impact evaluation, well maybe not that simple but you know what, I mean the idea of valuation. Yeah to get who is really benefiting from these things. Yeah so there's that gaps in that in that regard and I think that speaks also suggested general gap you know in our policy cycle in Nigeria. We are supposed to implement a policy and then evaluated so to get feedback on how it really works. That's not happening and that's one aspect. I'm actually keen to do some kind of Independence study….

CF: okay,

Participant: On mini-grids specifically, yeah to know who the beneficiaries are will be interesting to know.

CF: Interesting which leads me to the next one. Now what related social policies do you feel have an impact on energy equity?

Participant: That's broad, does it has to be rural, urban?

CF: I mean you can look at it, I mean what's available.

Participant: Yeah, that's a good that's a good question actually because remember that I said at the beginning that you know just looking into energy access made me realize that it's linked is with all these other things. Yeah it's so interlinked and I think that many one main reason why many programs fail or fail to reach people that are their intended for is because all these other things are not looked at so we tend to look at it the energy problem in isolation, but actually it's embedded right in all the sudden things and so again, there have been sort of studies that show that actually like in the early days of trying to promote improved cook stoves for instance, like bundling cook stoves for instance with other with other products or services but actually improve the uptake of that cook stoves that you are trying to so for instance don't lie needs with say water filtration systems or when cell phones came available cell phone ownership that kind of thing, you know but I guess more broadly, Yeah a key one for rural areas would be agriculture interests because agriculture it's a source if you will of productivity and I guess we can extrapolate that also just to even non rural areas to be like okay policies that just enhance productivity in addition to you know just providing energy so people we have provided or supplied energy what's a people going to use the energy for it may only going to use it to watch TV and sleep yeah, they are not going to.. you know, one year later you are going to remain, you would not have moved from where you are, right? And then that also directly influences the ability to pay for that energy so I think that conceiving of energy access as part of a broader suite of policies programs that can enhance productivity in whatever context whether agricultural or otherwise, I think is always is always a good move.

CF: Okay I'm now getting conscious of time now because I want to keep you longer but what's not the next question really imagine for a moment that there are no policy or financial constraints, what's in your view would you think would be the best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access for our country it doesn't exist?

Participant: You are asking me for a silver bullet that doesn’t exist, it doesn’t exist, I think several small steps talking to women when you know what they need making decision making more representative. So having more women at also a decision making levels so those are two already? I think third if you are saying, oh don't think of money I think access to consumer finance. So there's a lot of focus on existing policies focus a lot and then I just use a lot on you know improving supply so this whole idea of subsidizing, you know the supply side so that may be tired calm down and things like that. But this is that that's sort of ignores the fact that you know, they actually barriers to access on the demand side that you know no matter how low in terms of you know especially when you're talking about market rates that you want to use for this product there are barriers to people actually accessing those products even when it's available ostensibly. And so yeah, I think those three things talking to women when I said something to me and I know that sounds simple but it's not as simple as it sounds it just find have been a more robust picture of what women need and use energy for having them are represented in decision making and also in supply. So not just you're making also in supply. So as business people in energy as employees of energy companies things like that and also improving access to you know, consumer finance because women so by the way, you know, you probably have experience of this that women are she's some of the best money managers they can find Yeah so basically it's really about who has access to consumer finance. It's like finance that can help them to die some plan with them you know, they already good planners and know how to space this resources and this money so you work with them to snorting, you know, where it is that this thing will fit and how they can make it work with their you know existing budgets their existing financial management plans and things like that so it's actually quite painstaking but you know, when you rewind you sort of take some things as a given you know, just like I said now that you know women will manage literally the money if they are given the space to do so, so basically how can financial products are tied to that pattern of money management make you work for them to acquire, you know energy the energy access that they need.

CF: Interesting! so to begin to wind down, Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add? I know we've talked about many things but in case there's a something you feel we have not touched.

Participant: I am still struggling to remember what we have discussed, I think I think I think maybe just the impression that I got this from your questions is I think it's a broad topic and I'm not sure I'm not sure what the output is supposed to be but I just think maybe some of the things can be broken down it maybe.

CF: Ok.

Participant: Just in my mind, you know, so if one is idea of gender equity is to be further broken down.

CF: Yeah, you know I think one of the key things that we're doing is to make sure that okay we want to try and ensure that we are asking almost like the same set of questions across all the four countries so that we can do some sort of cross country comparing them and learn also see what they all have in common and those differences so we can also share we're going to have a workshop on this sometime next year that we are going to host here in the university and definitely I'm going to get in touch with you then so we're some of the key findings will share and I will also do all this cross-country comparisons and see what exactly the parallels and the parallels and the divergent areas.

Participant: Okay, that's interesting! I got that sense actually that it was sort of high-level issue in away about details.

CF: Yes, you tend to understand things at the micro level and how it's affecting macro.

Participant: Yes. So what but it's that's fine yeah that's alright very good I’m happy, I'm happy to be of help.

CF: Great! Thank you very much and I hope you will be available in case we just got a brainwave and ask some for the customer.

Participant: I like brain waves. No problem.

CF: Okay, thank you very much XXXX, This has been a very nice and interesting conversation. Is there anyone you think by the way that I should be having this conversation with?

Participant: Well, academic or otherwise?

CF: If there is non-academics no problem.

Participant: Academic or otherwise?

CF: every wise really.

Participant: okay.

CF: I've been dealing more with practitioners and people they always say some people in advocacy space. I mean and it's been very interesting. Of course, it was throguh that they asked me to also have a conversation with you.

Participant: Yeah, have you spoken to anyone at the energy Commission?

CF: Yes, I spoke with xxxx, very interesting.

Participant: Right, right Yeah,

CF: Early next year in January I will be having some conversations with fellows in xxxx, I know xxxx in person how we met we were together last week. I was in Abuja and I, on this subject matter, I will prefer to have a conversation with your head of legal who is a woman and she's been signed all the contracts at least he knows this issue. So I met with her and then she told me I mean judge January is fantastic and she'll be willing to have that conversation because I mean they are the major guys under the ministry of power, I've been working on these issues. So that means we could to have their own perspective.

Participant: Absolutely okay, i think that that was the way I was thinking more from a government side. And since you have contacts with those other I mean ECN, REA they are good places I think you find if any one comes to my mind I’ll let you know.

CF: No worries I dropped an email a few minutes before this conversation. It's essentially the consent form, please ask you for your permission to sign and then send it back to me.

Participant: Yeah, that's all right, actually just have it just opened. I'll send it to you now.

CF: Great. Thank you very much It's nice having this conversation with you please enjoy your Christmas, and we should have best in the new year.

Participant: Thank you, you too all right you too, cheers!

CF: Thank you.