Date Transcribed: 16/03/21

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s): XXXX

**INT: Sorry. XXXX? I have to record so that in case I miss something, so if you can speak a little louder, yeah.**

RES: Ah, okay. I’m XXXX.

**INT: XXXX, okay.**

RES: XXXX

**INT: XXXX, okay. So, can you tell me a bit about your business?**

RES: My business, we sell electricals. Not electronics but electricals.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: Actually, it’s a small family business, my sister--

**INT: It’s a family business. Okay.**

RES: My sister and her husband. She is my younger sister.

**INT: Your sister, okay. So, in terms of policy, recently we have seen that during the Covid era the government makes some policies about electricity, that people are not supposed to pay for claimants and other things, and then recently we’ve also heard about the PDS issue why they wanted to privatise electricity and all of that. What do you think about these policies? Do you think these policies will affect men more than women, or do you think--**

RES: It’s for all.

**INT: It’s for?**

RES: It’s for all.

**INT: It’s for all. Oh, okay. You don’t think because--**

RES: If you’re not supposed to pay electricity bills. Yes, I think it’s all of us. If you go to some homes, in some homes, ladies, or like women, take care of the house. It depends on who takes care of the house.

**INT: It depends on who takes care of the house, okay.**

RES: So, it’s not essentially that it won’t benefit men or women. Who pays the bills.

**INT: Okay. Okay. But since you are in the private sector, I don’t know if you heard about the privatisation of electricity? Why they wanted to give it to PDS. Did you hear about it? Do you think there’s some kind of policies that will benefit your business in any way if they privatise electricity?**

RES: Yes.

**INT: So, it will benefit your business? Oh, okay. Right.**

RES: Because in as much as we do sell electric cars we don’t deal directly with that side. As in ECG or PDS-- we don’t deal with them, no, nothing.

**INT: Oh, okay. So, in terms of energy, electricity access, do you think it is distributed fairly between men and women or do you think men have more access to electricity than women?**

RES: I don’t think so. I don’t think so. I don’t think so, where you’re coming from most of these things are distinguished by the use of men, I say. Maybe a lady has a shop, you know, and she needs to have her own meter would she prefer-- let me-- I rang my husband, let me get my brother. It is this kind of mind. It doesn’t matter who goes there. They are able to (unclear 00:04:10-15)

**INT: Is that they’d be able to mix their requirements, that you just said? Oh, okay. So, can we talk about equality, equity between men and women. How do you understand it? People have been talking about equality between men and women, men and women should be treated equally. How do you understand these things? How do you understand it?**

RES: Yes, it’s supposed to be like that.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:04:58)

**INT: Okay. So, if you bring it to electricity, you think that a woman, whatever access that a man has a woman should also be able too? But do you think that is what is happening, or men are treated differently?**

RES: Men are treated (unclear 00:05:18) but in our, like I speak of (unclear 00:05:22) but I always say that ladies are (unclear 00:05:28) because (unclear 00:05:34-56)

**INT: (five argument, half of seven 00:05:54). Oh, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:06:06) mainly for myself and my sister also.

**INT: Ah, okay, I see. So, when you talk about the benefit, do you think the benefit is the same for men and women, there are benefits equally? Okay. But how about when it comes to-- Okay, so, if we take it at a community level, like sometimes they provide streetlights and other things, we have seen these solar streetlights and others. Do you think this infrastructure benefits women more than men? Or do you think they all benefit equally?**

RES: That I fancy benefits women more.

**INT: It benefits women more. Why is that?**

RES: There was a time-- there was (light outside unclear 00:07:07-20)

**INT: Okay. Because the place was dark? Okay. She was afraid?**

RES: She was afraid. And me being a man, I walk from the same place to the (unclear 00:07:27)

**INT: Without being--**

RES: (unclear 00:07:31)

**INT: It benefits women more than men. Okay, alright. Okay, but in terms of decision making, do you think men make most of the decisions when it comes to electricity, energy-- or do women also make some of those decisions? Who is usually in charge of decision making?**

RES: In terms of electricity?

**INT: Yes, if you look at it at a household-- I mean in your house level.**

RES: It’s men.

**INT: Men make their decisions? Okay. How about like community--**

RES: It’s still men.

**INT: It’s still men. And then at a national level?**

RES: It’s men.

**INT: It’s still men.**

RES: (unclear 00:08:23-36) they can never mention like (unclear 00:08:38)

**INT: Oh, okay. It’s always the men that they call (up 00:08:39)**

RES: (unclear 00:08:44)

**INT: Okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:08:46-50)

**INT: Oh, okay, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:08:52-55)

**INT: But in terms of urban and rural areas, like in their villages and then in their cities-- I don’t know if you’ve ever lived in a village? You’ve never lived-- ? Okay, that’s fine. Let’s talk a little bit about--**

RES: unclear (00:09:28-40)

**INT: In terms of government policies, like reducing electricity bills, increasing electricity bills, providing streetlights, privatising electricity. Do you think these policies take into account or they consider how it affects women?**

**[10:00]**

**Do you think these policies are gender sensitive? Do you think they look for how does this policy affects women before making it, or they don’t consider that? Ah, okay. They just--**

RES: It’s general.

**INT: It’s general, ah okay. Right. But in all of this you think that there are certain gaps that maybe we need to be able to fill, like women have any particular needs that the government need to look at, to address? In terms of electricity. I think you mentioned earlier about the streetlights. Do you think this is a gap that the government needs to address, like some places don’t have streetlights--**

RES: Yes.

**INT: Okay. But do you think women also need to make some of the decisions? Like you said earlier it’s usually the men who make the decisions. Do you think we need to do something to make sure that women also make some of the decisions? Yes? Okay. But how do you say yes, we do that-- how do we get women to make some of the decisions?**

RES: It needs to start from up there.

**INT: It needs to start?**

RES: It needs to start from up there.

**INT: On a national level, okay. By--**

RES: Because maybe if you have a Minister of Energy as a woman--

**INT: A Minister of Energy as a woman, okay. That would help.**

RES: That would help. The other (unclear 00:11:51) from there she might consider--

**INT: Getting women involved? Okay, right.**

RES: It should be like that, it should start from there.

**INT: It should start from there.**

RES: Because most people that patronise you-- as in electricians, they patronise you, I have only one lady customer who is an electrician.

**INT: Only one is an electrician.**

RES: (unclear 00:12:30) others are all men.

**INT: All the others are men, oh, okay.**

RES: Because you don’t have (unclear 00:12:39). It’s not that you can do it but (unclear 00:12:42-51) it is hard for someone to-- easy to patronise a lady electrician (unclear 00:12:57)

**INT: Oh, okay. If a lady who is an electrician is coming to wire your house, you don’t--**

RES: It’s not a question of they can’t do it, but-- I’m not used to that, it’s important you don’t do that.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:13:12-20) She can’t say.

**INT: Because she’s a woman people think-- okay. But, in terms of buying the items itself, is it men that generally buy the items, or is it a mix?**

RES: No, we have more men.

**INT: More men than women. Okay. Why do you think that is so?**

RES: Because if a lady comes to buy, she will come with someone.

**INT: She doesn’t come alone? Okay. She will come with a man?**

RES: She come with a man, or an electrician. (unclear 00:14:00) Maybe the person I think is an electrician--

**INT: He’s not-- she might treat him--**

RES: So, because of that-- and then she doesn’t know the quality stuff (unclear 00:14:11) feels that maybe a man-- (unclear 00:14:16) electrician as well (unclear 00:14:21-30)

**INT: Do you think it’s also a financial issue-- like men have more money than women? Or-- You think it’s a financial issue. What can be done about that? What do you think can be done so we can get women buying some of the items more as well?**

RES: I don’t know-- like patronising--

**INT: Yes.**

RES: (unclear 00:15:14) men should take care of the house and women-- like if it was your wife and then (unclear 00:15:17) should be fixing your house. Obviously, you have in mind (unclear 00:15:24)

**INT: Yes, take charge of--**

RES: That’s (unclear 00:15:30) more or less (unclear 00:15:35)

**INT: Oh, okay, okay.**

RES: Maybe there is a woman that (unclear 00:15:41).

**INT: Okay.**

RES: A single lady, which is normally (unclear 00:15:45.50). It’s because, obviously (unclear 00:15:53). A woman is (married to 00:15:58) a man.

**INT: Okay, yes. Everything is the man, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:16:05)

**INT: Okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:16:08) supposed to be.

**INT: Sorry?**

RES: (unclear 00:16:17)

**INT: Oh, okay. So, the same way, when it comes to electricity, he can’t tell the woman to go and buy it-- he has to be there. What if, in a situation where the man probably-- the woman has more money than the man?**

RES: There are instances like that. It’s not all the time, that’s what I said. Women come here but it’s more the men.

**INT: Ah, okay.**

RES: But it’s not like 100% men. Women do come by, it’s normally men. (unclear 00:16:58)

**INT: Okay, right. So, in terms of policy-- to help your business, like electrical vendors, what do you think-- what policies do you want government to do, or what would you want government to do to try to help small businesses like yours?**

RES: Tax.

**INT: Sorry?**

RES: Tax.

**INT: Tax. Oh, okay. Reduce it, or increase it?**

RES: Reduce it.

**INT: Ah, okay. They reduce the taxes.**

RES: The duties.

**INT: Ah, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:17:48). That’s what (unclear 00:17:52-18:00). But we don’t deal with governments.

**INT: You buy it from their importers.**

RES: Importers. (unclear 00:18:08). Any time there is an implement, that’s (unclear 00:18:12) duty.

**INT: Ah, okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:18:18-24)

**INT: Okay. So, in that particular case with a case of tax, it doesn’t matter whether you are a woman or a man, you are still paying the same--**

RES: (unclear 00:18:34)

**INT: She would pay the same, okay. Right, so I think I have addressed all the questions that I wanted to address. But is there something that you would want us to look at, maybe as part of this research, because we are trying to see how we can get women more involved in the decision-making process when it comes to electricity access. Is there something that you think we need to look at more? You talk about the issue about culture, you also talk a bit about finance. Do you think something can be done in these areas?**

RES: Education should be more.

**INT: Education.**

RES: Education.

**INT: Okay. By creating more awareness, or we should be--**

RES: Yes, we should understand women can also do it.

**INT: Women can also do it. Okay.**

RES: (unclear 00:19:49- 00:20:04)

**INT: You mean your sister?**

RES: Yes.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: So, she can do it.

**INT: Okay. So, we need to get the women-- we need to create more awareness so that women-- to change the culture or to--**

RES: To change the culture.

**INT: Okay, alright. Thank you very much for your time, I really appreciate it.**

**Audio ends: [00:20:29]**