**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Interviewer(s): XXXX

Respondent(s): XXXX

**INT: Okay, please, so my name is XXXX, I work with Friends of (unclear 00:00:03). So, we are doing this research in collaboration with Leeds University in the UK. So, basically, it’s about electricity energy access in Ghana. We’re trying to see the difference between men and women who benefits more from electricity and how can we get women more involved in energy decision making. So, can you introduce yourself and what you do?**

RES: My name is XXXX.

**INT: XXXX.**

RES: Yes. I’m a XXXX.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: XXXX.

**INT: XXXX, okay. So, from the perspective of electricity, what government policies do you think benefit your business? Have the government introduced any policy that you think benefits your business?**

RES: I would say due to the poverty they have given us some rates that we should use duty free. So that policy I think we enjoy, so it’s better for us.

**INT: But in terms of government policies, do you think that policy benefits men more than women, or it’s equal?**

RES: Women, it benefits more than men, because after women, we move from the house and go out from the house, by day we are in the house enjoying the power. So, yes, they do go to site and work without electricity. They heat and all those things, they fill, they heat. By day in the house, husband gratify (unclear 00:01:53) I think the woman (00:01:54).

**INT: Okay. Can we talk about equality between men and women? How would you describe equity, or equality between men and women in Ghana?**

RES: (unclear 00:02:18) At times equal, if the woman is well deep than the man. The woman supports the man. Okay. All that depends if the man is really a good way, with a good woman but if the woman has been and gone, the woman (00:02:46). So, it is not fixed.

**INT: Do you think it is the same when it comes to electricity? Making decisions about electricity, buying electricity-- do you think there is any level of equality between women and men?**

RES: Yes. Day in, day out, yes. (unclear 00:03:12) are good for the woman. The woman (taking 00:03:16) the cooking-- how you paying the electricity bill for the house? They look to be doing (unclear 00:03:29) you see.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: So, (unclear 00:03:32) and at times the man takes the house rule and do everything. So, it’s not fixed.

**INT: Okay. On a household level, do you think there are differences between the woman themselves-- like some people-- maybe some women are richer than other women. Do you think there is any difference?**

RES: Yes, it is a difference. Men-- the woman support the man, as I say, if their job working inside is good for the woman, the woman take the whole household and do everything. It doesn’t care that the man is not working. So, it’s this understanding between the man and a woman. Sometimes a woman can tell you that, I don’t want to go to any place that’s (00:04:29). I can’t stop-- suppose (00:04:32). You had a woman like that.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: So, that’s what I’m saying.

**INT: So, let’s talk about infrastructure. Sometimes government provides streetlights and electricity connection to villages. Do you think these streetlights and connection are a benefit to men more than women?**

RES: For that one, yes. That one I can see because I’m working-- it’s not all the time, that women do the hard working by supplying the electricity to villages. At times (unclear 00:05:12) men, we do get jobs, the digging and anything from pulling the wires and (unclear 00:05:19) we are men, we are (unclear 00:05:22). But women cannot do that-- say, carrying the pole like this, women cannot do. So, that’s why men will benefit.

**INT: Okay. How about rural women versus urban women? Women in the city and women in the community, Do you think there’s any difference in terms of energy access? Who has more energy, who has more access to electricity?**

RES: I would say women in the village. I don’t (unclear 00:06:00) much.

**INT: Ah, okay.**

RES: Because (unclear 00:06:05) every day is (unclear 00:06:07). But in (unclear 00:06:09) somebody may be using free for his business, making (unclear 00:06:23) selling. So, all the time, enjoying power (unclear 00:06:21).

**INT: Okay. So, let’s talk about in your business here, do you consider these are the needs of women are the needs of men-- there are some items that women need and some items men need, or do you just buy items in general, you don’t look at gender?**

RES: For that one, yes, we don’t look at all. No, it’s general. Men buy, women (clean 00:06:48), they also buy.

**INT: Okay. But, so, in terms of-- so, let’s talk about government-- we talked about electricity connection to rural areas. Do you think when government is making these decisions, they consider women, or just-- are these policies gender sensitive or do they just provide electricity for the community without looking at (unclear 00:07:23) women or men?**

RES: Women, I would say, before that decision would be taken, normally for women first, you know. A man doesn’t care, he can work in the night and he does, yes, that’s-- a man like this, a woman like this. If they are sleeping, in darkness, that’s when they don’t--

**INT: Ah, okay. Do you think there are certain areas that the government needs to consider women more? Any gaps that they may need to look at, in terms of supporting women in electricity address. Are there any gaps that-- any problems that the government have identified?**

RES: For that one-- hm-- they could consider women--

**INT: More than men, okay. So, let’s talk a bit about finance. Say for your business, for instance, people need money to be able to buy. Do you think finance is a barrier to people being able to access electricity? Whether it is buying equipment or accessing electricity itself?**

RES: (unclear 00:09:08) because if you want to start a business like this, if you don’t have capital you go to the bank. This government invested the money into the bank, so they give you money, (unclear 00:09:21). The government help us.

**INT: Okay, okay. But do you think in that context have any (unclear 00:09:36) for women, or they just provide for anybody at all who qualifies?**

RES: Normally, normally. For women like this government considers them their trading and their (00:09:54). But alternatively, if women (00:09:57)

**[10:00]**

They give some women (unclear 00:10:05) it takes some assets for that (unclear 00:10:09) give it to you but maybe it’s like this after (unclear 00:10:11). They don’t care asking them to bring an asset or they want to go and see the asset (unclear 00:10:21). So, that is a difference. I think there are more and more women than men. Because why did-- it’s also like men like this have to use their money, we are free, but--

**INT: The person who is providing the loan is free?**

RES: Yes.

**INT: Ah, okay.**

RES: But women like this don’t all go to (unclear 00:10:47). All the time they are in the business. Suddenly they are (unclear 00:10:52). So, that is coming to the government helping them. So, maybe it’s our own women-- they have access for (unclear 00:11:07).

**INT: Okay, that’s very, very interesting, I didn’t know that. Yes, I didn’t know that. So, like at a national level, do you think there’s any balance between women who are important, like the ministry-- the Energy Commission, is there any balance between men and women who are involved, from your perspective?**

RES: Well, I don’t know how the (unclear 00:11:40) state, but in Africa here I do say that women get (hit 00:11:53) you don’t respect men. So, at times, if they want to give a job to the woman like this, they do criticise by giving them that position. In Africa, it is there, like that.

**INT: Okay. Can women get a position?**

RES: Yes, they get it but it’s few.

**INT: They get it--?**

RES: They get it but it’s few.

**INT: Okay.**

RES: Women get that position.

**INT: You said-- there is a feeling like women get those positions they don’t respect--**

RES: They don’t respect.

**INT: Oh, okay. At a household level? Like, in the house or--**

RES: It is the same. In the house, we say, but does you understand this work? You don’t care about that, no. You don’t care. But some people, I’m telling you, won’t enter the house. You can’t enter the house.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

RES: You can’t enter the house. S,o that means the man didn’t provide. The woman will not allow the man to come to the house, and so you have it before-- that you are certain to come.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

RES: So, I would say XXXXity is now coming so-- it is not opening the eye of people and changing emotions too.

**INT: Okay, excellent. We’re almost done. So, let’s talk about challenges. In terms of women being able to access electricity, being able to buy equipment, what do you think are the challenges for women specifically? I know your business is not so much for women, but from your observation, what do you think are some of the challenges that women face?**

RES: Let me see. As in my business-- if women who works in business at times fixes some things here they find it difficult because not all women that like to. I mean, electricity is (unclear 00:14:18-20) as if (unclear 00:14:21) or something like that, she’s a freak.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

RES: So, they (unclear 00:14:22). But my mind is you can go and then fix everything. You don’t know much about it, but with the carriage, you can do. But maybe can-- women can do. At least some of the time.

**INT: Okay. Is it just they’re feared? It’s also about the knowledge how to do it-- do they--**

RES: I think it’s fear. Because with electricity everybody know, that if you play with it, it will kill you. They don’t know master, or-- so that one, yes, for ladies like this at times, sometimes they fear.

**INT: Okay. Do you think there is a financial challenge for women in particular, or there isn’t?**

RES: For financial problem, yes, everyone has challenges. Women can have and men can have.

**INT: Okay. How about cultural challenges. Are there any cultural challenges that you think prevent women from--**

RES: Yes. (unclear 00:15:40) you know. I must say (unclear 00:15:46), but according to some (unclear 00:15:52) say that women is not supposed to do this job. Something like that. But you know, I tell the woman to feel like (unclear 00:16:03) so that give them some challenges in that fact, you see.

**INT: Can you give any particular examples, because I’m very interested in that.**

RES: Yes. That’s why I’m saying-- is this civilisation is coming now.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

RES: So, people are changing to Islam. But I would say the Muslim ladies, they are (unclear 00:16:46). It’s not for a job that their culture want them to-- XXXXity do the same thing, even our traditions, our traditions too, -- not all the jobs always that some people allowed their wife to do. So, (unclear 00:17:19) understand and leave the (unclear 00:17:29) and do (unclear 00:17:30)

**INT: Thank you very much Sir, I really appreciate your time.**

RES: You’re welcome.

**INT: Okay, thank you very much.**

RES: You are welcome.

**Audio ends: [00:17:53]**